

MINUTES

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL: 16 March 2011

- Panel Members Present: Councillor Richard Cook (Chairperson)
Councillor Susan Goddard
Councillor Lyn Hudson
Councillor Lisa Ford
Councillor Cathy Percy
Councillor Paul Chaundy
Councillor Lyn Hudson
- In attendance: Maria Michael (Chief Officer Children's Services)
Marilyn Lawrence (Operational Manager Children's Services and Advisor to the Panel)
Angela Bourge (Operational Manager Resources)
Jayne Isaacs (Action for Children)
Richard Hibbs (Operational Manager for Partnership Support)
Dr Meraj Hassan (Clinical Director CAMHS)
Karen Wilkinson (CPP Panel administrator)
- Apologies: Councillor John Dixon
Councillor Jane Rogers (Resigned)

109. **MINUTES OF 19 JANUARY 2011**

AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2011 be accepted as a correct record. Cllr Cook noted a typing error to be corrected.

RESOLVED: Panel administrator to correct minutes.

110. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

111. ***Cllr Percy advised she had a declaration of personal interest in respect of this item as her step niece is a newly employed speech therapist and unsure if she is working with adults or children.**

DISABLED CHILDREN'S STRATEGY

Jayne Isaacs Action for Children and Marilyn Lawrence Operational Manager Children's Services provided a presentation highlighting key aspects of the draft inter-agency strategy, its development and plans for its implementation.

The Children and Young People's Partnership is expected to endorse the draft Strategy at its meeting on 30 March 2011.

Implementation of the strategy will take place within the context of current resources.

Inter-agency commitment to the implementation of the strategy is expected to create opportunities for improved services for children based on more efficient and cost effective approaches to assessment, care planning, service development, commissioning and evaluation.

The action plan for implementation of the strategy is designed to:

- improve co-ordination of services and information
- further develop early support and engagement
- meet assessed need
- improve experience of transitions
- improve access to play and leisure
- improve awareness/understanding of disability
- raise aspirations of disabled young people and foster independence
- support carers
- develop local facilities to avoid out of county placements

Cllr Cook thanked Jayne and Marilyn for their presentation.

In the discussion that followed the committee was informed that disabled children in Cardiff include 40 who are looked after and that this figure excludes children receiving overnight respite care.

RESOLVED: Copy of the Disabled Children's Strategy to be circulated to Members

112. **DRAFT PLACEMENTS STRATEGY**

Angela Bourge Operational Manager Resources presented the draft strategy which seeks to take account of research findings that highlight the importance of stable placements and the development of attachments as being significant to child development

Development of the draft strategy has used an RBA approach that identified the outcomes the strategy is expected to achieve for Looked After Children, including:

- appropriate and timely placements that meet their assessed needs.
- good health and education outcomes.
- placement stability, security and opportunity to form attachments with carers.
- placement in or close to Cardiff unless it is assessed that the child will benefit from being placed out of area.
- To be cared for by carers who are appropriately trained and have the necessary skills and experience to meet their needs.

The strategy identifies the key partners we must work with, that have a role in supporting us to meet the needs of the LAC population and achieve the desired outcomes that have been identified. Particular reference is made to the role of :

The delivery plan for the strategy is expected to be completed by the end of May 2011.

Cllr Richard Cook thanked AB for her presentation.

Councillor Cook asked if the draft strategy replaced an old strategy? AB explained that it replaced the Draft Accommodation Strategy. Cllr Percy asked what happened if a child expressed preferences and AB explained that these would be taken into account. Cllr Hudson asked about the availability of nurses to support the achievement of health outcomes and AB referred to role of nurses in the LAC Health team.

Resolved – Copies of the strategy and presentation to be circulated to members.

113. **BETTER OUTCOMES**

Marilyn Lawrence Operational Manager Children's Services gave a brief verbal update on the project which will incorporate the implementation of the Placement Strategy referred to above

114. **CURRENT ISSUES IN ADOPTION SERVICES**

***Cllr Percy advised she had a declaration of personal interest in respect of this item as she sits on the adoption panel with Michele Long**

Cllr Richard Cook requested that this item be deferred in view of the time constraints on the meeting. Apologies were conveyed to the officers who would have presented this item.

RESOLVED: This agenda item to be deferred to another CPP meeting.

115. **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011-14**

Richard Hibbs Operational Manager Children and Young people's Partnership provided a verbal update. Panel members had received copies of the Plan in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Richard Cook thanked RH for his presentation.

Cllr Lyn Hudson asked how could a thriving prosperous city be affected and suggested that it was important to identify the right performance indicators so that implementation of the delivery plan is not unduly aspirational..

Cllr Richard Cook commented on some of the statistics, for example that a quarter of children have a reading age of 9 and a half and are functionally literate, and that it would be interesting to see the implications of this for Looked After Children included in the plan but the figures don't mention this group. Cllr Chaundy added that the plan included limited mention of LAC and that Careers Wales could be mentioned also.

116. **MEMBER TRAINING**

Cllr Cook gave a brief update explaining that the anticipated publication of materials has been delayed until June or July 2011 at the earliest. The Panel Administrator offered to circulate a link to the publisher's website, which seemed to offer training.

RESOLVED: Panel administrator to circulate the link to publishers website

117. **STANDING ITEMS:**

NEW DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING NEW LEGISLATION CONSULTATION

- **National Minimum Allowances of Foster Carers –_Angela Bourge**

OM Resources gave a verbal update on some of the implications of the Welsh Assembly Government's introduction of a national minimum allowance

- **Circular 2011-2012 on Social Care Workforce Development Programme** – Briefing by Maria Michael Chief Children's Services Officer – The grant funding for 2011/12 is less than in previous years but nonetheless represents a significant resource to support training for social care agencies in the Cardiff area. The programme that is being developed to support the claim for the grant includes specific training for staff of children's homes, foster carers and social workers and other staff who work with looked after children and their families.
- **"My Planner"** – A resource for looked after children and young people moving towards independent living has been issued by the Children's Commissioner for Wales. A copy of the covering letter, dated 28/02/11, is attached. Copies of the planner will be made available at the next panel meeting.

118. **NEXT STEPS**

The panel reviewed and agreed and updated its work programme.

The panel agreed a provisional agenda for its May meeting.

119. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Panel Membership

Cllr Richard Cook informed the panel that Cllr Jane Rogers had resigned with immediate effect from the panel leaving three vacant Member Panel Posts. The usual recruitment process will take place.

Nominations are also being sought from members interested in joining the Fostering Panel and the Fostering Advisory and Consultative Board (FACBO).

120 **Briefing on Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for Looked After Children**

Dr Meraj Hassan, Clinical Director CAMHS & Angela Bourge OM Resources gave a verbal presentation that outlined the purpose and composition of the specialist CAMH service including:

the availability from 1 April 2011, of specialist CAMH services to young people aged 16-18.

The availability for specialist CAMH services for learning disabled children & young people who have mental disorder form a date to be confirmed by WAG.

A summary of Dr Hassan's presentation will be circulated to members.

Cllr Richard Cook thanked Dr Hassan for attending and proposed inviting

him to provide a similar presentation in a year's time to update the panel on progress..

Resolved that Dir Hassan be invited to make a presentation to the Corporate Parenting Panel as part of its 2011/13 work programme.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 4.00pm 18 May 2011 in Committee Room 4 County Hall.