

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8 OCTOBER 2014

Present: Councillor Susan Lent
Councillor Daniel De'Ath
Councillor Jonathan Evans
Councillor Heather Joyce
Councillor Eleanor Sanders

Apologies: Councillor Susan Goddard
Councillor Julia Magill

Officers in Attendance: Debbie Martin Jones, Operational Manager
Looked After Children
Tony Young, Director of Children's Services
Gillian James, Achievement Leader, Closing the
Gaps, Education
Angela Bourge, Operational Manager Resources &
Commissioning
Bethan Jones, Category Manager, Commissioning
& Procurement
Karen Wilkinson, CPAC Panel Administrator

1 : WELCOME

Full Council on 24th July 2014 approved the report establishing Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. Karen Wilkinson Committee Administrator welcomed the attendees to the first meeting and invited Members to elect a Chair and a Vice Chair.

2 : TO ELECT A CHAIR OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED - That Councillor Susan Lent be elected Chairperson of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee for the 2014/2015 municipal year.

3: TO ELECT A VICE CHAIR OF THE COPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED - That Councillor Jonathan Evans be elected Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee for the 2014/2015 municipal year

4: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Sue Lent Chair welcomed the new Committee Members:

Members were advised that there remained two vacancies at the present time.

Cllr Lent Chair extended thanks to past Panel Members for hard work and commitment including Councillors Chaundy, McKerlich, Murphy and C Davis.

5 : DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members had no declarations of personal interest in matters pertaining to the agenda.

6 : TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee was invited to study the new Terms of Reference (ToR) which have been developed in line with the recommendations of the approved report to Full Council in July.

Tony Young, Director of Children's Services advised Members that when the ToR were developed it was felt important to have a very clear line of structure to the Committee and that it was felt that the first four points A) – D) of the ToR were the most important.

He requested additional text be inserted into point G) to read "6 monthly report in relation to Safeguarding". Also in point L) he emphasised to Members that the intention is for this to be a working committee which visits listening events and takes part in informal discussions.

Cllr Eleanor Sanders referred to the performance monitoring systems in point F). As a consequence it was agreed that the text be altered to read "promoting good outcomes". It was agreed that a regular Quarterly report on performance as evidence to the Committee would be made available.

Cllr Jonathan Evans felt that the Committee would need to develop the relationship with the Children and Young Peoples Committee and make recommendations to Cabinet.

Another piece of work discussed for the future was the Committee's Participation Strategy which could be timetabled in to be developed after the Committee had been operating for a year.

7 : MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee on 9 July 2014 were approved as a correct record.

8 : MEETING DATES AND TIMES AGREED BY COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the scheduled meeting dates and times forthcoming year. It was agreed that the meetings should remain bi-monthly and the Committee also agreed on an earlier meeting time of 2.30pm. The Committee requested that the next meeting be scheduled in December 2014.

RESOLVED: That the start time of meetings be revised and the previous proposed dates of the 21 January, 22 April and 15 July 2015 be rearranged and Karen Wilkinson, Committee Administrator liaise with Democratic Services to schedule new dates and to inform the Committee.

9 : CSSIW INSPECTORS REPORT FOLLOWING LAC INSPECTION MAY 2014

Tony Young advised the Committee that following the scandals in Rochdale, Oxfordshire and more recently in Rotherham, which were cases of dreadful abuse and exploitation, a National Inspection was proposed and the safety of children across Wales was paramount. The Inspection did not raise any new issues.

Tony Young praised Debbie Martin-Jones Operational Manager Looked After Children's Service for her work; Young People were very well engaged and the Inspectors were very impressed. Comment was made about the ability of the young people to articulate themselves and the strength they take from their personal advisors. Credit was given to the social workers involved also.

It had been revealed at Committee yesterday that arrangements in Cardiff for safety were Reasonable to Good however there is still work to be done on assessment. Tony Young mentioned the areas of improvement highlighted by the report namely quality assessments; strengthening the role of PA's; and strategic planning for LAC. He emphasized that there is strength to build on in this report with good quality risk assessments, a strong and child centred focus on safeguarding and an improving recruitment position.

Debbie Martin-Jones was invited to advise the panel about the creation of the LAC Service. The purpose of the creation is to affect significant change within the service.

The LAC Service became operational on 1 July 2014 There is now a 0-14 dedicated team and a 14+ team and the managers are all in place. Opportunities have been provided to upskill social workers who were looking to specialise in that area. 8 best practice training dates have taken place for all LAC staff on exemplars and on the client data system. The training was Practitioner lead. .

Tony Young wanted to offer his thanks to the Members present during the inspection for their assistance, including Chair of CPP, Cllr Jonathan Evans, Chair of the CYP Cllr Sue Lent and Cllr Daniel De'Ath who at that time was the Cabinet Member for Childrens Services.

Cllr Heather Joyce congratulated Tony Young on the Inspection Report. It was pleasing to note that this report reflects a big improvement from 2 years ago and that the significant re organisation of the LAC Service is good for the morale of the staff.

Cllr Sue Lent Chair expressed her wish to meet with the LAC team in the future. Tony Young recommended that the panel 'get alongside' social workers to see the work first hand.

He referred to "The Pledge" in the Inspection report and acknowledged that CS has more work to do on this and the Committee may want to review this at a later date.

The Committee thanked Tony Young, Debbie Martin-Jones and their teams for their hard work.

10 : LEAVING CARE AND TRANSITIONS SCRUTINY REPORT

Cllr Jonathan Evans advised that the Task and Finish group had been chaired by Cllr Siobhan Corria who at that time was the Cabinet Member for Children's. He wishes to express thanks to all the Members who contributed and especially Cllr Paul Chaundy as a faithful Member. Jonathan read the Foreword to the report which summarised the most salient points:

1. Care Leavers allowance
2. Providing individualised pathway plan for people, they need to feel they can return to us to discuss.
3. Seeing progress – most do more particularly on domain of health and can do more partnership working.

Tony Young referred Members to Section 38 stating that it would be helpful if someone from Committee Services was present at these Committee meetings to offer constitutional advice on how to support and take this piece of work forward. Discussion took place on this matter.

Debbie Martin-Jones advised that the leaving care setting up grant is £11,000 and the while this authority did not pay as much as some other LA's this one was the largest.

Cllr Jonathan Evans queried whether LA's could work together with the Welsh Government but that quite clearly the recipients are disadvantaged. Cllr Eleanor Sanders advised that we as a Committee should recommend it.

Cllr Lent thanked Cllr Evans for his attendance and agenda item today.

11 : SOCIAL IMPACT BONDS/PAYMENT BY RESULTS

Angela Bourge, Operational Manager Resources and Commissioning and Bethan Jones, Category Officer were in attendance to present this report.

The meeting was "closed" to review this financially sensitive information.

The Committee had received prior notice of this in the agenda which states:

‘Appendix A (Page 13) of the SIB Feasibility Study Final Report and Business Case, attached as Appendix 1, is not for publication as it contains exempt information of the description contained in paragraphs 12 to 14 of Schedule 12A Part 4 and paragraph 21 of schedule 12A Part 5 of the Local Government Act’.

12 : NEXT STEPS

The Committee considered its work programme and proposed agenda items for future meetings. Discussion centred on Members Visits, Induction Training for CPAC Members, Health to attend on CAMHS developments and support to this Committee

13 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed for December 2014