

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

16 OCTOBER 2018

Present: Councillor Merry (Chairperson)
Councillors Hinchey, Lent, Lister and Molik

Officers Present: Deborah Driffield (Assistant Director, Children's Services)

Advisors Present: Gillian James (Senior Achievement Leader, Closing the Gap)

These minutes were amended at the meeting of the Committee on 29 January 2019, the amendment is show in bold italics.

20 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bowden, Jenkins and Weaver and from Sureen Kutubi, Jess Brown and Rose Whittle – Committee Advisors

21 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

22 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairperson.

23 : LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN INCLUSION AT ST TEILO'S CHURCH IN WALES HIGH SCHOOL

The Chairperson welcomed Ian Loynd, Deputy Headteacher St Teilo's Church in Wales High School to the meeting. Mr Loynd wanted to share with Members his views as to why St Teilo's was so successful; time and money has been spent on pupil well-being an inclusion agenda. Currently the school has 43 looked after children, however that figures varies on a weekly basis.

The school has a mission and a purpose - pursuing the highest standards by ensuring that all space at the school is a learning space, a healing space and a sacred space. The ethos and culture of school has to be restorative and not punitive. Pupils and staff are encouraged to help and nurture each other and contribute to the mission. The school is trying to work with Social Services to support the looked after children at the school.

St Teilo's does not have forms at school, they have faith families to offer support Mr Loynd provided Members with information provided in poem form by 3 young people, sharing the stories of how they come to spent time in care.

The Committee were invited to comment or raise questions on the information received from Mr Loynd. Those discussions were summarised as follows:

- Members queried what can be done to make other schools as successful as St Teilo's, Mr Loynd stated that St Teilo's is in the fortunate position to be well resourced and is currently operating with a balanced budget. In the circumstances they are in a position to employ staff; it also helps when prioritising where funds are required; for example LEAP is not needed as other support can be provided. In turn, there very little or no spent on alternative provision.

He advised Members that Local Authorities should look beyond the results and encourage and praise those who provide meaningful care to young people. It is important to stress that we are all Corporate Parents and are here to serve our young people.

- Members discussed the number of policies that have to be adhered to and whether there should be some overarching principles or policy or some form of corporate mapping exercise in relation to the various policies.
- Members noted that schools are still obstructive when it comes to the admission of looked after children. There has to be a more robust process in place, which needs to be adequately resourced to ensure that there is no delay in a child being admitted to a school; a delay which threatens the security of a young person.

Members discussed whether there could be some form of Task and Finish Inquiry, with the results going to Cabinet.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Loynd for the attending the meeting and providing a presentation to Members.

24 : CHILD PRACTICE REVIEW

The Chairperson welcomed Alys Jones, Operational Manager – Safeguarding to the meeting to outline the findings of an Extended Child Practice Review which had taken place and had recently been published on the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Board website.

Members were advised that the start date for the scope of the review was between 2011 and 2014. The referral to the Regional Safeguarding Board Child Practice Review Sub Group was in 2014. There were difficulties in appointing a Chair and Panel Members which meant the Panel did not meet until March 2015. There had also been concerns raised about points made in the review, consequently the review has not been published until now. An Action Plan of recommendations were developed and agreed, due to the delays in this case a number of the actions have already been reviewed and completed, for example:

- Out of County Placements;

- Transfer of information;
- Point of contact referrals;
- Role of the missing person co-ordinator;
- Following through assessments;
- Risk assessments in relation to use of mobile phones;
- Keeping family members informed when there is no parental capacity; and
- Review all Wales Protocol

The Committee were invited to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions were summarised as follows:

- Members were advised that a referral can be made by any professional involved in the case where they believe that lessons could be learned from the outcome. The public can also make a referral.
- Members expressed concern at the lengthy delay in reporting and publishing this review. The Officer advised that there has been a vast improvement in timeliness; whilst there is an increased number of referrals they are being investigated and concluded in a more timely manner; a new chair and panel members have been appointed and a new business unit has been set up to support the regional board.

Members noted that in respect of this particular review a number of other force areas and local authorities were involved. There were a large number of defendants involved in a complex case. The Director of Social Services at the time challenged the content and context of the report.

- Members requested further detailed information in relation to the delay and the recommendations made as a result of the review to ensure that the issues have been rectified.
- Members sought clarification as to the number of Child Practice Reviews conducted and outstanding.

25 : EDUCATION UPDATE - PROVISIONAL 2018 RESULTS

The Chairperson welcomed Gillian James (Senior Achievement Leader, Closing the Gap) to the meeting to update Members in relation to the provisional 2018 results, the provisional results having been circulated previously.

Members were advised that the results in St Teilo's Church in Wales High School had really improved and noted that outcomes across the city were still improving against previous results. There is still room for improvement, it is important that there are good lines of communication with young people; the difficulties have to be addressed with support and encouragement being provided.

The Committee were invited to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions were summarised as follows:

- Members noted that whilst it is easy for a school to pride itself its good well-being policy, they do need to be challenged to ensure that they are doing what is best for their children. Officers advised that the virtual tracker does help to be able to understand where the issues are so that they can be challenged.
- In respect of those pupils in Key Stage 4, Members queried what those children are doing now and whether they are being supported. Members were advised that the data on progression was good, the data forms part of the Cardiff Commitment data and can be provided. Members requested whether data over a longer period could be provided.

26 : REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEETING FREQUENCY

The Chairperson welcomed Gill Nurton (Committee & Member Services Manager) to the meeting to present the report which outlines the current terms of reference and frequency of meetings. Members were also advised that the Democratic Services Committee was undertaking a review of Elected Role Descriptions to include developing a Role Description for both the Chair and Members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.

The Committee were invited to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions were summarised as follows:

- Members discussed the frequency of meetings; the amount of business currently on the agenda and further work they wished to undertake and whilst accepting that increasing the number of meetings to 6 per year would require more officer resource, they felt it was necessary.
- Members discussed the terms of reference and the need for those to be reviewed. A sub group would be set up to review those terms of reference.
- Members were advised by Emma Phipps-Magill that there is a Welsh Government event taking place in Llandrindod Wells on 15 November 2018 which will showcase the work undertaken by the ministerial outcome group for looked after children. Voices will be sharing the progress and consultation information on the new guidance for Corporate Parents. That information can be fed back to Members at the time of the next meeting.
- Members discussed the attendance at meetings and the need to ensure that all elected Members have received the required training.

RESOLVED:

1. To review the Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, and that the review is undertaken by a sub group.
2. To note that the final terms of reference will need to be agreed by the Committee prior to submission to Full Council for ratification;
3. To increase the frequency of meetings to 6 per annum;
4. To note that the Democratic Services Committee is undertaking a review of Elected Role Descriptions to include developing a Role Description for both the Chair and Members of the Corporate parenting Advisory Committee.

27 : MEMBER WORK STREAM UPDATES

Councillor Hinchey provided Members with an update. In relation to improving outcomes for Children he advised that there was a lot of working going on across Children's Services at the present time. **Plans are in place to potentially have 5 homes by the end of 2019.**

On the 11 October Cabinet approved a new delivery model for Family Help and Support in Cardiff. It allows a fundamental change of how the Council channels Children's Services enquiries through the MASH.

28 : MEMBER VISIT UPDATES

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

29 : BRIEFING REPORTS

30 : QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE REPORT PRESENTATION

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

31 : QUARTER 1 COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS REPORT

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

32 : CROSSLANDS REGULATION 32 REPORTS

The reports in respect of this item were considered exempt from publication as they contained exempt information of the description in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The public be excluded for consideration of the item; and
- (ii) The content of the report be noted.

(a) Ty Storrie Regulation 32 Reports

The reports in respect of this item were considered exempt from publication as they contained exempt information of the description in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The public be excluded for consideration of the item; and
- (ii) The content of the report be noted.

33 : ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Members discussed the draft Annual Report. It was agreed that the report would be provided to Cabinet for information purposes only.

34 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

There were no urgent items.

35 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is on Tuesday 29 January 2019 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting terminated at 4.25 pm