

## CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11 FEBRUARY 2015

Present: County Councillor Lent(Chairperson)  
County Councillors Joyce, Magill, Sanders and White

Apologies: Councillors De'Ath and Evans

Also: Tony Young (Director Childrens Services, Gillian James (Achievement Leader, Closing the Gaps, Education), Bethan Davis (Complaints Manager, Children's Services), Debbie Martin Jones (Operational Manager Looked After Children,) and Andrea Redmond (CPAC Administrator)

### 1 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dan De'Ath and Jonathan Evans.

### 1 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

### 3 : ADVOCACY REPORT - NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCACY SERVICE

The Chairperson welcomed Elly Jones, Project Leader, National Youth Advocacy to Committee.

Members were provided with a presentation on the National Youth Advocacy Service which included information on the Project Criteria; How services are delivered; Ways in which contact or referrals to NYAS can happen; Independent Visiting; Quality Assurance & Outcomes; Participation and Added Value;

The Chairperson thanked Elly Jones for her presentation and invited questions and comments from Committee Members;

- Members asked when children raise issues with their independent visitor; who does the child interact with. It was explained that the young person would raise their issues with their advocate who would advise them who to contact, usually a social worker, there would be open dialogue where issues would be identified and resolved. Teachers could sometimes be involved and there was also a formal complaints process.
- Members noted that reports were brought quarterly on thematic issues and asked whether these issues were resolved in a timely manner. It was explained that themes are identified, taken to the quarterly meeting which enable staff to work closely with local authorities and monitor progress of the themes. It was added that NYAS is relatively new but it does work closely with local authorities. NYAS does have some issues with mental health and have advocated in CAMHS systems, NYAS provides support and makes sure voices are heard. They are also looking at Education and how advocacy

could help with school exclusions as social workers are finding it difficult to get excluded children back into school; it was considered that it would be useful to have an independent person to represent them at School Appeal hearings.

- Members asked what definition of Advocacy NYAS works to. It was explained that they work to an issue based model; young person defines a concrete issue that the advocate works with them on over a period of time, making sure their voice is heard. Members sought clarification that the child raises the issue, social worker does the referral so there is no filter through another professional. It was stated that this was correct, its Children and Young Person Led.
- Members asked what forums there were to enable children's opinions to be heard. Members were advised that issues and key themes are picked up at quarterly meetings, complaints meetings, Looked After Children newsletter groups and care leavers consultation group. Officers advised that they uphold the notion of listening to the voice of the children and therefore consultation with them was of utmost importance.
- Members asked whether information from these forums was formally pulled together and if they informed the business planning process or business review. Officers stated that the information was not pulled together as well as it could be in some areas; whereas other areas do it well. Information is collated more effectively in Adult services; however NYAS have now agreed to be involved so it was important that what we say we do stacks up.
- Members asked when peer advocacy in Cardiff would start. Members were advised that it was difficult to say at the moment; it was well established in other authorities such as Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen but it needs a lot of work in Cardiff, it's a service and is not commissioned by the local authority but officers were confident they had the capacity to provide the service as added value.
- Members requested that they be sent a copy of the Looked After Children Newsletter.

The Chairperson thanked Elly Jones for her presentation to Committee and for answering Members questions.

#### 4 : CHILDREN'S SERVICES - COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS REPORT

The Chairperson welcomed Bethan Davis Complaints Officer Children's Services to the meeting.

Members were provided with an update on Cardiff's Children's Services Complaints and Access to Records.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

- Members noted that in the Rotherham enquiry issues were flagged up to middle management and stayed there, not reaching senior management and Cabinet level and asked how this would be avoided in Cardiff. Officers explained that monthly meetings were held where issues were outlined and these were then fed back to the Director. The Director added that previously there had been no line of sight to Members; now the Complaints Manager was involved in the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and other forums and he hoped that this

gave Members reassurance. It was further added that with regards to Child Sexual Exploitation, information and feedback from Senior Officers and the Police had been that when children are identified the level of cooperation between police and social workers is very good.

- Members discussed the children that are ‘below the radar’ and the need to undertake further work on obtaining data from the attendance section and third parties to gather intelligence and pick up concerns. Members noted that this was also a recent recommendation in Human Trafficking Task and Finish Inquiry.

Members considered that a joint paper with Education should go through Cabinet and discussions should be had with Welsh Government over this issue.

- Members asked whether any ‘themes’ would be brought to committee in order that Members can be reassured that they are identified and resolved. The Director explained that it was a requirement of the Director of Social Services to produce an annual report and that would be the best place for these themes to be outlined; however he added that there were a low number of themes and the Complaints Manager would bring them to committee on a quarterly basis.

## 5 : CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE AND CHILDREN SERVICES

The Chairperson welcomed Rose Whittle Head of Operations & Delivery, Community Child Health Directorate, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to the meeting.

Members were provided with a presentation on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; which included information on Current Cardiff and Vale Services; Drivers for Change; Cardiff and Vale CAMHS Programme; Key areas of work; Primary Mental Health Support; Risky Behaviour; Specialist NHS CAMHS and Service User Engagement.

The Chairperson thanked Rose Whittle for her presentation and invited questions and comments from Members;

- Members noted the Directors comments that he couldn’t emphasise enough the scope and scale of the sea change that was coming with these services. He stated that the services had been unfit for purpose for years as they were too medically based, so the changes were very much welcomed. Emotional wellbeing of Children and Adolescents was an imperative issue to understand. The new service was challenging the commissioning basis, University Health Board was taking on the challenge for children in Cardiff; working along with the local authority and a joint post had been funded to this end.
- Members asked whether established Places of Safety were almost established. It was explained that a clear solution hadn’t been found as yet, although not ideal there was always a place for a child to go if they were at real risk, such as a hospital bed.
- Members enquired who commissioned services for Primary Mental Health Support and Risky Behaviour. It was explained that the Health Board

commission these services; they are looking for a multi agency model which will require resources. Members stated they would be concerned if a reduced diagnosis happened due to lack of support or stigmatisation.

- Members noted that young people had been identified in the risky category, and looked after children should also be included in it; it was important to look at the numbers in the whole so that the level of need could be determined before the level of resource is established. There was agreement to this, it was explained that currently the Community and Mental Health team would deal with data and groups would be divided up, and consequently people could not then access CAMHS. Now Public Health and others were involved, who all give information on the population. GP's were unsure that they would have the data and it was suggested that it would be those they refer but are not taking on by CAMHS.
- Members were pleased to note the move away from a medically based model and asked who would be the gatekeeper of a multi agency model. It was explained that assessment/support/signposting would be the rapid response to move away from the many different routes into the system; this would need to be clearly communicated.
- Members asked for further information on the Tier 4 looked after children 'step down'. It was explained that Tier 4 was the discharge liaison, a link to community intensive support teams at a secondary level. Members further asked whether Cardiff had adequate capacity for Step Down. It was explained that Cardiff does have the team who were looking at capacity and planning their work. The team only get appropriate referrals; one key hold up is CAMHS role in diagnosis of i.e. Autism/ADHD and whether this is a developmental disorder or CAMHS business.

The Chairperson thanked Rose Whittle for her presentation and answering Members questions.

## 6 : LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN TRAINEE PROGRAMME

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

## 7 : PAYMENT BY RESULTS - NEW PROVIDER UPDATE

The Chairperson welcomed Angela Bourge Operational Manager Resources & Commissioning and Bethan Jones Category Manager Commissioning to the meeting.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Payment By Results Contract which included information on The Procurement Process; The Enhanced Fostering Service, Models 1 and 2; the Referral Process; Young Person's Indicative Pathway; Outcomes and Implementation Plan. Members were also advised that Core Assets had been the successful tenderer.

The Chairperson thanked Officers for their presentation and invited questions and comments from Members;

- Members enquired as to how many placements could be made. Officers advised that the contract arrangements say 6-12 and the actual number was likely to be around 6. Tony Young stated that 12 placements per year (although not expected) would save around £2m over a few years.

- Members were advised that the contract length was 5 years; this was to attract tenders and allow time for the process to bed in.
- Members considered that 'Core Assets' was not a very friendly name and asked whether there was any scope for changing it. Officers explained that it was a National Company but that they would look to determine a name for the scheme itself, involving the Looked After Children themselves and possibly the National Youth Advocacy Service.

## 8 : REGULATION 32 REPORT

This item was not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended and pursuant to paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A. It was RESOLVED that the public be excluded for consideration of this item.

Debbie Martin Jones Operational Manager Looked After Children was in attendance to present this item.

The meeting was 'closed' to review the confidential information regarding residents at the Childrens Home.

## 9 : EDUCATION MATTERS

The Chairperson welcomed Gillian James – Achievement Leader, Closing the Gaps, Education to the meeting. It was noted that Gillian was attending the meeting in place of Carol Jones Assistant Director Education who had sent her apologies.

Officers advised Members of the current Welsh Government Consultation document on 'Raising the ambitions and educational attainment of children who are looked after in Wales'. Members were also provided with an overview document which detailed the current situation, cases for change, what is currently in place and what needs to be done.

Members were encouraged to respond to the Consultation and it was noted that responses from a variety of sectors was important. To this end, Debbie Martin Jones Operational Manager Looked After Children had organised an event in order that Young People had an opportunity to contribute and respond. Officers were pleased that some of the suggestions received so far Cardiff were already working on.

Members discussed how best to collate and feed back results to Officers.

RESOLVED – that the consultation document and questionnaire be sent to the Educational Development Board along with an invitation to a workshop to be held after Easter; with a view to collating a combined response from Social Services, Education and the Education Development Board.

## 10 : PROGRAMME OF MEMBER VISITS

Members were provided with an update on Member Visits. Tony Young advised the Committee that there has been previous visits to frontline teams by Members, Senior Management and the Chief Executive.

Member visits would be programmed into the workload. The Chairperson considered it sensible if the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee took responsibility for managing Member Visits and noted that to keep visits manageable 2 or 3 Members at a time should attend. It was also noted that DBS checks would need to be undertaken for those Members attending visits.

RESOLVED – that a programme of visits would be organised and brought to the next scheduled committee meeting.

#### 11 : NEXT STEPS FORWARD PLAN

A draft Forward Plan was circulated to Members. The Chairperson advised Members that if they wanted any other work items added to the forward plan they should contact her directly.

#### 12 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting terminated at 2.20 pm