

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: Councillor Merry(Chairperson)
Councillors Bowden, Driscoll, Hinchey, Hopkins and Lister

90 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jenkins and Lent and from Committee Advisor, Rose Whittle.

91 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

92 : MIND OF MY OWN APP

The Chairperson welcomed Matt Osborne (Service Manager, Mind of My Own) to the meeting.

Members were provided with a presentation outlining the usage of Mind of My Own App and services, and their integration into the Social Services sector in England and Wales.

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

- Members sought clarification as to what would happen should communication be made via the App late at night or that the communication was urgent and were advised that there is a process whereby reports are screened. Contact will be made thereafter. There will be an implementation plan for the training of staff.
- Members discussed the age of children able to use the App. It was noted that younger children and those with additional needs sometimes struggle to express their views. The app helps them share their views, wishes and feelings via images whilst using Mind of My Own Express.
- Members noted that feedback had been sought from other authorities using the App - Gloucester and London which as positive.

93 : FOSTERING WELLBEING PROGRAMME PRESENTATION

The Chairperson welcomed Colin Turner (Director, The Fostering Network in Wales) and Elizabeth Bryan (Programme Manager, The Fostering Network in Wales) to the meeting.

Members were provided with a presentation, which also included a [video](#), outlining information about the programme which is funded by Welsh Government and deliver

by 'The Fostering Network'. It was noted that a programme pilot was run in the Cwm Taf region between 2017 – 2019. There will be a roll out phase across Wales,

The Fostering Network in Wales was awarded nearly a million pounds of funding by the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government raised concerns about the number of children in foster homes. A pilot programme in conjunction with Cym Taf Social Services is currently in progress to determine the best support practices and Fostering Wellbeing Pioneers, however an evaluation report will not be ready for several years.

The Fostering Network in Wales are rolling out the programme in phases by across Wales and the establishment of a Programme Board is the next stage for Cardiff. It is hoped that this will be established before Christmas with Masterclasses arranged for the spring. The objective of each masterclasses will be to enable foster carers and supervising social workers to gain the skills, competence and confidence needed to help inspire and equip children and young people to fulfil their potential.

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

- Members confirmed their support of the programme.
- Concerns were raised about the financial pressures on schools who have a number of children who are looked after; schools cannot afford to do the work they would like to do. Members were advised that there would be investment in the programme.
- Members discussed the nature of the masterclasses to be provided and were keen to ensure that that knowledge will be widely shared. Foster Carers will be recruited as programme pioneers, as well as the skills and experience they have, they will receive training and support to help them cascade learning. This will aid sharing resources and understanding local issues.
- Members expressed concern that Foster Carers are still not feeling valued and queried whether involvement in this programme could lead to some form of recognised qualification. Members were advised that Foster Carer Pioneers would receive some payment and whilst there is not a qualification at the moment but they are trying to provide a mapping document.

94 : LOCALITY WORKING PRESENTATION UPDATE

The Chairperson welcomed Natasha Hilderley (Interim Operational Manager, Specialist Services) to the meeting.

Members were provided with a detailed presentation outlining the new locality model for Children's Services. Cardiff will be split into three areas, with each area having an operational manager; Cardiff North, Cardiff East and Cardiff South.

The goal is to deliver excellence and to improve a child's journey by aligning services to the model. The areas were analysed; looking at deprivation, policing, education and health as a result the three key areas were established.

Currently Cardiff North has 718 cases, Cardiff East 877 cases and Cardiff South 791 cases.

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

- Members expressed their support and for the model and locality model regions that have been created.
- Members discussed the need for joint working, particularly between Social Workers and Education. Members were advised that the change in model was a new start, the three areas are as big as some authorities.
- Members raised the need for funding for children who are looked after, it was noted that the PDG for looked after children is administered by the consortia. Members welcomed the opportunity of hearing from the Consortia as to how that funding is allocated.

95 : NYAS RESIDENTIAL REVIEW

The Chairperson welcomed Elly Jones (Service Manager, NYAS) to the meeting.

Members were provided with a presentation - an update on the NYAS participation service – 'participation means listening to children and taking their views meaningfully into account. All children should be supported to freely express their opinion; they should be both heard and listened to'.

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

- Members discussed the involvement of young children and the feedback provided. It was noted that small focus groups were formed with young people to discuss the service provided by Social Workers, the quality of the support provided, the contact provided and the aftercare support for care leavers. It was also noted that young people have been taking part in the interview process with in the service.
- Members queried the nature of changes as a result of the participation and were pleased to note that there were tangible outcomes and that the listening events provided a good source of feedback.

96 : CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Members discussed the draft Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2017 – 2018.

RESOLVED: To approve the draft Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee's Annual Report subject to two slight amendments in relation to attendance and the number of Care Proceedings concluded.

97 : MEMBER VISITS

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee in January 2020.

98 : MEMBER WORK STREAMS

Members were provided with some brief information about topics for Member Work Streams, which coincide with priorities from the Strategy.

99 : FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Members noted the updated Work Programme.

100 : QUARTER 1 CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT

Delayed for next month's agenda.

101 : QUARTER 1 CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMPLAINTS REPORT

Delayed for next month's agenda.

102 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were tabled at the meeting.

103 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting of the Committee is on Tuesday 28 January 2020 at 2.00 pm

The meeting terminated at 16.30