

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18 MAY 2021

Present: Councillor Merry(Chairperson)
Councillors Hinchey, Jenkins, Lent and Naughton

Advisors Deborah Driffield (Direction, Children's Services)
Present: Gillian James (Achievement Leader (Key Groups), Education)

144 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bowden and Lister, and from Ely Jones (NYAS) and Rose Whittle (Cardiff & Vale UHB, Child Health) (Committee Advisors). Councillor Lent advised that Chair that she would be late in arriving.

145 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

146 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March were approved as a correct record.

147 : CORPORATE PARENTING PROTOCOL AND CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair welcomed Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services, to the meeting to present the Protocol and the revised Terms of Reference for feedback to be provided prior to submission to Council for approval and inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

Members noted that the Terms of Reference also identified the need for each member of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee to undertake relevant training, to enable them to properly discharge their duties.

Members referred specifically to having the confidence to ask questions and an understanding of the work of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

- To provide views on any relevant learning and development opportunities which should be undertaken by the members of the committee to ensure that they are properly able to discharge their Corporate Parenting responsibilities;
- To authorise the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Governance and Legal Services to amend Appendices A and B to reflect any relevant feedback received from CPAC members or during the consultation with the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, prior to submission to Council; and

- That the Corporate Parenting Protocol (Appendix A) and revised draft CPAC Terms of Reference (Appendix B) be submitted to Council for approval and inclusion in the Constitution.

148 : REGIONAL HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The report provided Members with an update in relation to the newly established Starting Well Partnership and the revised governance arrangements of the Regional Partnership Board.

The Chair welcomed Cath Doman, Director of Health and Social Services, who provided the Committee with a presentation.

The Starting Well Partnership was formally launched this month with a series of meetings to follow in June and July in establishing arrangements and forming a set of recommendations for presentation to the RPB with a view to agreeing priorities for the Starting Well Partnership. It brings together two major programmes, together with previous work and projects. The ambition is to improve the impact of the Regional Partnership Board, and joining up services to wrap around the need of both children and their families.

Members considered the work of the RPB very complex and discussed the need for it to be finessed.

RESOLVED:

- Note the development of the Starting Well Partnership
- Receive updates on the progress of work streams at regular intervals

149 : RESILIENCE PROJECT UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Amy Brown, Resilience Project Practitioner, to present an update on this project. The project aims to build greater capacity, expertise and mental health resilience for children and young people in educational settings across Cardiff and the Vale. The Committee were provided with details of the work of the project over the last 18 months.

The Chair thanked Amy for her presentation and invited questions from Members.

- Members were advised that the project works closely with partners such as CAMHS and 3rd sector services to ensure continuing support. Mental Health intervention is often required, but it is engagement with youth services and other activities that will continue to build resilience for young people. Members noted the importance of smooth and timely transition between different interventions.
- Officers advised which schools were involved in group work within the project. Members were also advised that the project has been extended to March 2022 and is fully staffed. In Cardiff the project works alongside the Emotional Wellbeing Service and specialist teachers in schools, but is gradually being introduced into individual schools. A report by the Mental Health Foundation

covering the first part of the project up to March 2021 is being published and will be circulated to Members.

- Members were advised about how direct intervention works. It is led by developmental psychotherapy with the involvement of teachers. There is a focus on supporting parents to support children with things such as therapeutic parenting, especially if there has been a trauma in the child's early life, and looking at how that might impact on their development. Different models and strategies are used such as PACE, regulation strategies, anxiety management, CBT, DBT, ELSA. The key is making sure home and school support the child in ways that match.
- Members were advised that the project is expanding into 3-4 schools every half term. Staff are identified for training. The project facilitates the 1st round and it is then expected that the staff will continue with further rounds to build resilience in that school.

RESOLVED:

To note the update.

150 : BRIGHT SPARKS/PARTICIPATION UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Samantha Anderson, Participation Officer, National Youth Advocacy Service, Cymru (NYAS Cymru) to the meeting to provide Members with an update on Bright Sparks and the progress that has been made on addressing the first two of the five priorities identified after consulting with care experienced children and young people in Cardiff.

The Chair thanked Samantha for her update and invited questions from Members.

- Members sought information about the why children and young people felt they were overly consulted and how this could be addressed. Members were advised that there was duplication in surveys and there was a need for more partnership between organisations to reduce the number of surveys. Young people also need to feel that the information they supply is important and the benefit and impact of surveys need to be explained.

RESOLVED:

To note the update provided by NYAS

151 : ASSESSMENT AND THERAPY PILOT UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Marie Reed, Commissioning Manager, to provide Members with a high-level overview of progress on the Assessment and Therapy Pilot. The pilot is conducting gap analysis, quality assurance and market engagement to identify commissioning needs and possibilities.

The Chair thanked Marie for her update and invited questions from Members.

- Members were advised that updates on the pilot could be provided on a 6-monthly basis if required. Members endorsed the requirement to programme further feedback in 6 months.
- Members were advised in relation to outcomes of the pilot that within 6 months the pilot would have a handle on the data and the process would be fully embedded and aligned with the Health Board. Within 18 months it would be possible to report back on the themes coming through from the data.

RESOLVED:

- To note the update
- Receive an update in 6 months time

152 : CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Jade Harrison and Leigh Vella to provide Members with an update on the Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan.

The committee were advised that the Action Plan is not finalised, the draft will be considered by the Steering Group. There is buy-in from partners with strategic leads identified. A meeting has been scheduled to ratify and finalise actions. There is room for further adaptation of the Plan, which has a focus on understanding outcomes.

The Chair thanked Jade for her update and invited questions from Members.

- Members were advised that challenges were expected in setting up another steering group, but key partners have already committed the staff and resources to attend including Health, Police, Education, and other partners. It is proposed to hold quarterly meetings to drive things forwards. Without a strategic lead there is a danger partners won't work together to achieve the strategy.
- Members noted that David Melding who was leading the Young Persons Ministerial Advisory Group had stepped down and queried who was taking on the role. Mary Ellen Jones had been expected to take over but has announced as the Presiding Officer.

RESOLVED:

To note the update.

153 : KPI DASHBOARD PROPOSAL

The Chair welcomed Jade Harrison and Leigh Vella to provide information on the KPI Dashboard Proposal. The dashboard is a draft and will be refined. The aim is to support the Council to understand outcomes for children and veteran care leavers across lifetimes and agencies, in terms of CPAC's oversight and driving forward the work of Corporate Parenting, and will feed into annual reports and plans.

The dashboard is critical to understanding the impact of services and to provide strong, robust and forward facing corporate parenting. Various partners are providing input, and Health is working with us to develop the dashboard.

The Chair thanked Jade for her update and invited questions from Members.

- Members were advised that Health do not collate data in the same way but are working proactively to populate the dashboard. They have appointed a manager who will driving this forward. Other partners are working to supply data.
- Members queried whether it would be possible to compare young people in schools in Cardiff and those out of area. They were advised there is little that can be done this year. Going forward it will be possible to do more comparisons.
- Members wished to commend Officers on the work done on the Proposal.

RESOLVED:

To note the update

154 : CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE INFORMATION REPORT

RESOLVED:

To note the information contained in the report.

155 : COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS INFORMATION REPORT

The Chair welcomed Deborah Driffield (Director, Children's Services) to the meeting to answer any questions Members might have on the report.

Members noted that complaints were down in the first two quarters but had returned to normal in the last two, and queried whether this was down to Covid. They were advised that this appeared to be the case and the understanding was that they would not continue to rise but would plateau. There has been an increase in complaints related to Covid. Now things are returning to more normal conditions people are making retrospective complaints.

RESOLVED:

To note the information contained in the report.

156 : FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair welcomed Leigh Vella, Corporate Parenting Officer, to present the Forward Work Programme.

Members considered it made more sense to have a programme of interesting subjects and to move away from individual projects.

RESOLVED:

To approve the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

157 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were received.

158 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Corporate Parent Advisory Committee is on Tuesday 20 July 2021 via MS Teams.

The meeting terminated at 3.30 pm