

Progress report on Work Programme for CPAC

Since the last meeting of the CPAC I have been concentrating on finding out more about the Council's role in supporting the young people in its care. I have been given the area of education as my work stream for the committee.

To date :

1. I have visited the Crosslands Home for Children with Debbie M-J & found the visit very insightful.
2. I have met with Debbie M-J & Irfan Alam.
3. I have met with Gill James to discuss the issues which affect the outcomes in education of our young people in care; and what we could do to improve them. I was pleased to hear that work is in progress to make provision for girls that is similar to that at Greenhill School & that it will be brought into County. We looked at the data on the performance of CLAC 2016/17 & discussed the difference in achievement between those young people being educated within County, and those Out of County; the latter performing significantly less well. Looking at the KS4 results revealed the percentage of young people with SEN was very high, needs were complex, and results needed to be set within context. I am looking forward to seeing the 2017/18 results and analysis however, I feel it's important that we focus our attention on establishing baselines & the progress from them.
4. I have met with Sarah Woelk & been given an introduction to the work of her team. I was struck by the vast range of cases that her team has to deal with. I have visited with SW the SWAN centre & had a cursory visit to Ty Storrie.
5. I sent Cllr Merry an article about what another LA was doing in association with its local universities in terms of mentoring, and providing summer schools to enable young people in care to 'catch up' with their peers in mainstream education. Cllr Merry has asked the Director of Education to investigate whether we could organise something similar – we have the opportunity to work with all 3 universities in Cardiff & I would be keen to see this happen. I need to follow up on progress with this.
6. I am planning to meet with the Lead within the CSC Consortium, Siriol Burford. This will be organised by Gill James for me. The issue of governors, (including Chairs of Governors) not attending training on CLA is a concern & I have suggested that it is made a Mandatory Training Course for all Governors. There is the opportunity to undertake training in CLA from Level 1-3. I shall investigate doing this training as well. I shall be undertaking a visit with Cllr Merry to St Teilo's & Rumney Primary School to look at the good practice in supporting CLA after half term.
7. I am hoping to arrange a meeting with Ameila Trust Farm to see for myself the work that they are doing with young people who are not engaging well with

Education, some of whom are CLA. I am hoping that Cllr Merry will be able to join me on this visit.

8. I am planning to meet Cllr Lee Bridgeman to talk about the role of the consortium, and what improvements can be made to ensure that CLA are being given greater attention in terms of progress & attainment. I will also enquire about why the T&F for the Out of County Report did not interview anyone from the Achievement team in Education.
9. I have raised concerns about the issue of some School Breakfast Clubs in Cardiff not operating a comprehensive eligibility criteria, and which could adversely affect CLA.
10. I have written to David Melding about the issue of inequality between those young people leaving residential care at 18 & those in foster care being able to remain until they are 21. I have received a copy of the report from Cognition that was published in April 2018 & some very useful background & timescales from David Melding's office. Further work will be commissioned in the autumn to develop options for working with residential providers on new models of follow-on support. This work will be completed by April 2019. Consideration will then be given to how best to support implementation of those options.
11. I am in the process of arranging a meeting with Kate Hustler to get some understanding of the work that is being done with CLA who are in the justice system, & what impact this has on their education. According to the Terms of Reference for CPAC we should be receiving regular reports on this aspect of CLA. Cllr Lister will be joining me for this meeting as it crosses over into his own Work Programme.
12. On behalf of CPAC, I did raise the issue at Democratic Services Committee of the absence of a Role Description for the Chair of CPAG & that of Member for CPAC. All other Role Descriptions for other roles had been included & I felt that in view of the Council's commitment to being a child friendly city that CPAC, on behalf of corporate parents & its commitment to CLA, should be among them. Cllr Merry is in agreement with my view on this.

Fenella Bowden
6 October 2018