

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

20 JULY 2021

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

159 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bowden and Lister.

160 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

161 : APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that Council, at its Annual Meeting on 27 May 2021, appointed Councillor Sarah Merry as the Chairperson and the following Members to the Committee for the municipal year 2021/2022:

Members of the Committee:

Councillors Bowden, Hinchey, Jenkins, Lent, Lister, Naughton and Parkhill (and one vacancy).

162 : TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee noted that Council, at its Annual Meeting on 27 May 2021 agreed the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

163 : MINUTES

The Committee approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 18 May 2021, as proposed by Councillor Lent and seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

164 : ENFYS SERVICE UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Dr. Libby Erin and Dr. Matthew Lewis from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to the meeting.

The Chair invited Dr Libby Erin (Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Cardiff and Vale UHB Child Psychology) and Dr Matthew Lewis (Clinical Psychologist, Cardiff and Vale UHB Child Psychology) to report on the current work undertaken by the Enfys service. Enfys is an NHS-based service for children and young people looked after, adopted or on the edge of care in Cardiff and the Vale. The team is based in open-plan offices and team members are unable to meet families and children on site.

The number of children becoming looked after has increased during the pandemic. In addition, many of the children and families supported by Enfys are in crisis. Increasingly the service is seeing a need to support children still residing with their

birth families. Most posts are funded in the short term which impacts on service development and staffing.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members enquired how many core positions are funded into the next financial year. Members were advised that half the team is permanently funded including 5 core members of staff. The team started with a small amount of core funding from the NHS and a small contribution from Cardiff Council. The team has been built up using ICF funding which ends in March. The service is looking to secure sustainable funding.
- Members enquired about the issues young people present with and whether service users were aware of the funding issues. Members were advised that presentations are wide-ranging and include behaviours that challenge people, aggression, absconding, withdrawal, self-harming, depression and anxiety. Enfys works with CAMHS to provide wraparound support. Its goal is to upskill adults to better understand young people's behaviour. Healing comes with the relationships young people have with adults. It is a challenge to make long-term plans but the team is working hard to ensure things become permanent.
- Members enquired whether there was anything Cardiff Council could do with regards to funding. Members were advised that there was a need to work with colleagues in the local authority to discover how much Enfys had saved across agencies, comparing what was previously being spent and now is not because of the service. The service cannot continue to run on a provisional basis.
- Members asked for a further update at the next Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

165 : VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU - WELSH GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF CORPORATE PARENTING UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Christopher Dunn, Programmes Manager, Voices from Care Cymru, to the meeting and invited him to provide the Committee with an update on Voices from Care Cymru's involvement with Welsh Government's Review of Corporate Parenting.

Voices from Care Cymru is working with Welsh Government on extending the duties of corporate parenting to all public bodies in Wales and enshrining this in legislation. They will produce a Corporate Parenting Charter which will enable stakeholders to sign up to a common statement of improved support and action when working with care experienced children. Voices from Care Cymru would welcome support during the consultation phase on Corporate Parenting, and referrals from care experienced young people in Cardiff.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members were reminded of the forthcoming operational group looking at Corporate Parenting Strategy. Investigations were underway to see how the efforts of different bodies could be linked to avoid duplication.
- Members were advised that a new chair is required for the Cross Party Group on LAC.
- Members enquired as to the responses from local authorities across Wales to the Corporate Parenting Charter. Members were advised that responses were similar and there was a widespread recognition that an extension of duties was needed.
- Members were advised that the members of the Directorate Management Team had committed to various actions that would benefit young people.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

166 : MIND OF MY OWN PROJECT UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Leigh Vella and James Agutu, Account Manager, Mind of My Own, and invited them to report on the Mind of My Own Project (MOMO) which is being implemented across Children's Services.

Mind of My Own is a set of accessible digital apps that allow children to express themselves and communicate with Social Workers and other professionals. It has recently gone live in Cardiff. Currently training has to be delivered online via Microsoft Teams rather than face to face. Initial feedback from other local authorities has been that this has been successful.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members were advised that around 150 languages are available on the app.
- Members were advised that data from Mind of My Own is only visible to the local authority client and not to the company.
- Performance data will be managed within the Children's Management Team. The Committee will be updated on uptake and usage.

RESOLVED: To note the report and accept the recommendations contained therein.

167 : VALE, VALLEYS AND CARDIFF ADOPTION COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020-21

The Chair welcomed Natasha Hilderley, Operational Manager, Children's Services, and invited her to report on the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff (VVC) Regional Adoption Collaborative Performance Report 2020/21.

The adoption services had performed well given the adaptations that had been necessary during the Covid-19 pandemic. Figures were given for the number of

children referred to services, placing orders made, children successfully placed, children adopted and children matched who had significant complex needs. 45% were able to secure orders within 6 months of a court order. There had been a year-on-year increase in the number of adopter enquiries and adoption approvals.

There had been significant increase in adoption support services and significant pressure on adoption services from complex care packages. Overall services continue to provide placements of sibling groups and diverse family make-ups in a timely way.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

168 : BRIGHT SPARKS PARTICIPATION UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Samantha Anderson, Participation Officer, National Youth Advocacy Service Cymru (NYAS Cymru) and invited her to report on the activities of the Bright Sparks Club in relation to the 2nd of 5 priorities outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy, Emotional Wellbeing, as well as other activities.

Young people's stories are being collected for 'What's Your Story', which will challenge media stereotypes and stigmatisation of children and young people in care and will be on the NYAS website later in the year. A review into the recruitment of volunteers to the Independent Visitor Project has been carried out. Bright Sparks members have been involved in new developments regarding Advocacy work in Cardiff and ensuring that NYAS complies with RISCA (The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016). Feedback on the draft Cardiff Anti-Bullying Guidance has been provided to the Child Friendly Cardiff Team.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members were pleased to hear that young people were becoming more interested and involved in politics and noted that there is a forthcoming public event during Democracy Week in October which will examine the role and responsibilities of Councillors.
- Members noted that Julie Morgan MS was being invited to talk to young people about their experience of elections and asked if, in the interest of political balance, members of opposition parties could be invited too. Members were advised that it was intended to do so.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

169 : DELIVERING A CHILD FRIENDLY RECOVERY

The Chair welcomed Suzanne Scarlett (Operational Manager, Partnerships and Performance) and Philip Norton (Youth Service) and invited them to report on the recent Cabinet report entitled 'Recovery & Renewal: Delivering a Child Friendly Recovery' of 20th May 2021.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members enquired about attempts to engage with Children Looked After regarding summer activities. Members were advised that young people who are care experienced as well as other vulnerable young people are given priority access to activities. An Early Bird booking system allowing vulnerable children and young people to be given priority access has been effective.
- Members were advised that there has been extensive engagement with young people through the Youth Service website and social media. As well as the Summer of Smiles the Youth Service is providing its usual summer programme through Youth Centres, as well as Roadshow events and pop-up youth provision. Youth mentors are supporting Year 11s at risk of disengagement.
- Members were advised that capacity had been added into the pre-16 CLA education team to ensure additional mentoring capacity. Teams are being joined up across Education, Children's Services and People and Communities to engage in a life coaching programme entitled Compass for Life.

RESOLVED: To note the report and the recommendations accepted by Cabinet.

170 : PERFORMANCE REPORT (DASHBOARD)

The Chair welcomed Jade Harrison and invited her to report on the Performance Report (Dashboard).

The Dashboard has developed since the last meeting and is still in development. A fuller Dashboard with health information will be available by October. Data still to be added includes children missing, placement breakdowns, number of children open to health services, community dentist registrations, children open to Emotional Wellbeing services, information around medicals for Children Looked After and children adopted, and data on the Specialist Nursing Team for Children Looked After.

Information was also provided about the latest developments in into work services and housing placements, and in education.

RESOLVED: To note the content of the report.

171 : COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS REPORT

The Chair welcomed Deborah Driffield (Director of Children's Services), to the meeting and invited her to report on complaints and compliments received.

There has been an increase in the number of complaints over the last 4 quarters, but there has also been a significant rise in referrals during the same period coinciding with the pandemic and lockdown.

Members enquired whether it would be possible to have comparative numbers for complaints over the last 4 years. Members were advised that the Performance Team

would be asked to look at the figures for preceding years and provide percentage comparisons.

RESOLVED: To note the content of the report.

172 : FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair invited Leigh Vella to report on the Forward Work Programme.

For the next meeting agenda items will be based on Priority 3 of the Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy, and there will be a biannual report on the progress of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

RESOLVED: To approve the Forward Work Programme.

173 : QUALITY OF CARE REVIEW REPORTS

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded from the meeting at this point during consideration of this item as the Committee discussed exempt information of the description contained in paragraphs 12 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The public may be excluded from the meeting by resolution of the Committee pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during discussion of this item.

RESOLVED: To note the content of the report.

174 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were received.

175 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is on Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 2.00 pm via MS Teams.

The meeting terminated at 4.10 pm