

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19 OCTOBER 2021

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

176 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hinchey, Rose Whittle and Deborah Driffield.

177 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

178 : MINUTES

The Committee approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 20 July 2021, as proposed by Councillor Lent and seconded by Councillor Naughton.

179 : CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair welcomed Leigh Vella, Corporate Parenting Officer, and Jade Harrison, Operational Manager, Service Improvement and Strategy, to the meeting.

The Chair invited Leigh Vella and Jade Harrison to present the report which provided an update on the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

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

- Members welcomed the development of Falconwood House and expressed their gratitude for the work of Officers and staff members involved. Members were advised that there had been significant progress in the work over recent months.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

180 : CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS PARTICIPATION SERVICE

The Chair welcomed Samantha Anderson, Participation Worker, NYAS to the meeting.

The Chair invited Samantha Anderson to present the report which had been prepared to provide the Committee with an update on the Bright Sparks Club and the activities it has undertaken in relation to the third of the 5 Priorities outlined in the

Corporate Parenting Strategy – A comfortable, safe and stable home whilst in care and after.

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

- Members enquired as to whether children and young people were being provided with information in relation to the forthcoming local elections. Members were advised that there had been sessions on the Senedd earlier in the year and young people were supported in registering to vote and voting. Information has also been shared about the Youth Parliament.
- Members sought clarification on the building of links with the higher and further education sectors. Members were advised about a forthcoming talk to young people to be delivered by a speaker from Cardiff University. Discussions were planned about opportunities for care experienced young people to attend university. Links are being made with First Campus, a collaboration between Cardiff Met, Cardiff University and University of South Wales. A First Campus outreach manager has recently been appointed and is looking at developing pathways for care experienced young people to enter university.
- Members were further advised that a proposal for Lottery funding had been presented for near peer coaching. Discussions have taken place with Cardiff University to train care experienced young people to coach young people and develop aspirations to enter university. Further conversations about the appropriate funding stream are under way. Investigations are also underway into how young people who have done well in their GCSEs can access the Seren programme.
- Members sought clarification on return home interviews. Members were advised that interviews take place either between the social worker and the young person or the Police, Barnardo's and St Giles Trust. If there are concerns for exploitation either sexual or criminal, either Barnardo's or St Giles will also complete the return home interviews, which are tasked out by the Police.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

181 : FOSTER WALES LAUNCH

The Chair welcomed Amy McArdle, Regional Marketing Officer, (External), to the meeting.

The Chair invited Amy McArdle to present the report on the launch of Foster Wales, national partnership of local authority fostering services.

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

- Members sought clarification on whether there had been any specific targeting in the social media campaign. Members were advised that the campaign had been generic on a national level. The marketing had been aimed at raising awareness on a broad level. As the campaign progresses more work is being undertaken on identifying specific opportunities for targeting.
- Members enquired as to whether there were plans to produce publicity material in other community languages besides English and Welsh. Members were advised that where specific opportunities for targeting were identified material in appropriate languages would be produced.
- Members sought information on the percentage of foster carers from BAME backgrounds. Members were advised that the precise figures were not available but the percentage was understood to be low.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

182 : YOUNG PERSON GATEWAY

The Chair welcomed Stephanie Rogers Lewis, Accommodation Manager, to the meeting.

The Chair invited Stephanie Rogers Lewis to present the report, which included data on outcomes and information around expansion plans for the Gateway.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

183 : NATIONAL TRANSFER SCHEME

The Chair welcomed Jade Harrison, Operational Manager, Service Improvement and Strategy, and Rebecca Brockway, Project Manager, to the meeting.

The Chair invited Rebecca Brockway to present a report informing the Committee of the National Transfer Scheme along with an update on the developments thus far in its implementation.

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

- Members sought clarification on the frequency and duration of periods on the rota. Members were advised that it had been planned to be on rota once a quarter, but that the pressures on the service meant that the rota cycle had gone round more quickly. It had been said that there would be a pause for reflection when the regional commitment of 20 young people in Cardiff and 30 across the region had been reached.

- Members discussed how advocacy could support and connect with the scheme so that young people have their voice recorded. Officers advised that there had been contact with NYAS. Advocacy can be involved in 2 ways: supporting the young person on arrival; and in addition where children who arrive require an age assessment, using the NYAS Advocacy Service and the Ictid service to offer the advocacy support and the appropriate adult support as required. This needs to be developed further but the key people are in place.
- Members were further advised that the young people are entitled to the Active Offer, and will be referred in line with processes. There have been discussions about how NYAS support and whether they should be in the Operational Group.
- Members sought clarification on whether the Operational Group included members from the Health Board. Officers advised that there were representatives from Health from both Cardiff and Newport and there was representation from Health on both the Operational Group and Strategic Board.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

184 : INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER REPORT

The Chair welcomed Matthew Osbourne to the meeting.

The Chair invited Matthew Osbourne to present the report providing key updates and trends on Children Looked After during the last period.

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

- Members enquired as to whether there was evidence of more children coming into care due to the lockdown and the consequent pressure on families. Members were advised that there had been a large increase in the number of children on the Child Protection Register during the lockdown and that there were a number of reasons for the rise. Work was being done to ensure children were receiving the right services and there was the right level of scrutiny. Reviewing will be extended to children on the Care and Support plan.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

185 : PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD - QUARTER 1

The Chair welcomed Jade Harrison, Operational Manager, Service Improvement and Strategy, to provide Members with a synopsis of the Performance Monitoring as it relates to Children Looked After for Quarter 1 2021-2022.

186 : FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021 - 2022

The Chair invited Leigh Vella, Corporate Parenting Officer, to report on the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED:

To approve the Forward Work Programme 2021-2022.

187 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were received.

188 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is on 18 January 2022 at 2.00 pm via MS Teams.

The meeting terminated at 4.00 pm