

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15 MARCH 2022

Present: Councillor Merry(Chairperson)
Councillors Ford, Hinchey, Jones-Pritchard, Lent and Naughton

Advisors
Present: Gillian James and Rose Whittle

202 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jenkins and Lister.

203 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A personal declaration of interest was received from Councillor Sarah Merry in respect of item 5 as the Assessment Centre referred to is in her Ward.

204 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18 January were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

205 : NYAS CYMRU ADVOCACY SERVICE UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Candice Lloyd (Service Manager and Committee Advisor) and Sylvia Lucano (NYAS Advocacy Officer) to the meeting to provide Members with an update on the work undertaken by NYAS between the 1 April and 31 December 2021.

Sylvia Lucano provided Members with a presentation which had been circulated previously. The presentation outlined the types of issues addressed by NYAS, referral figures, engagement with children and young people during Covid, a case study, feedback from young people, parents, carers and other professionals on the service.

Members RESOLVED to note the report.

206 : COLUM ROAD ASSESSMENT CENTRE UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Betsan Evans, Principal Social Worker, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children's Team and Rosanna Taylor, Supporting People and Commissioning Manager, who manages the support grant, to the meeting.

Betsan Evans provided Members with an update in relation to the newly refurbished Colum Road Centre which was due to open in March 2022 for unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16 and over who have arrived via the Home Office' mandatory transfer scheme. It is hoped that the opening will not be delayed for much longer, and is likely to take place in the next couple of weeks.

The accommodation would be provided for an initial period to enable a wellbeing and age assessment to be undertaken which will in term enable a more longer term appropriate placement be found in line with their identified support needs.

Members were provided with information in relation to the range of needs which will be met by the Centre, including emergency accommodation, health, educational, linguistic and cultural needs, legal advice, independent living skills, activities and community integration and advocacy support.

Members were advised that there is a video of the premises, although at present it cannot be provided to Members.

Members wished to express their thanks to the teams involved in the setting up of the centre.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

207 : VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Emma Phipps-McGill, Operational Director, Voices from Care to the meeting to provide members with an update and overview of their work over the last 6 months and work planned with Cardiff as the Local Authority.

Members were advised that the Corporate Parenting charter is now in draft format and will be shared with stakeholders at a series of national conversation events taking place in the forthcoming months.

Welsh Government have committed to the delivery of a Basic Income Pilot for care leavers turning 18th on or after the 1st of July 2022. It is proposed this will support care leavers in Wales to thrive, be financially independent and overall raise life aspirations.

Influencing work has continued over the last 6 months with young people driving forward the need to remove the stigma related to the care experience community, challenge the language used and call for ministers to listen to 1000 voices of the care experienced community. Our young people have met with ministers to discuss the changes needed, launched our care community "kindred knot" pin badge and are currently working on a time capsule to measure and make accountable Welsh Government in the progress of their promises.

Emma outlined the information contained in the presentation which had been circulated to Members.

The Chair invited questions from Members:

Members sought confirmation as to when the 3 year funding period ends and were advised that the funding was specifically for the national wellbeing and mental health project and actually ends in 2024; however, it is hoped that it can be maintained bearing in mind the numbers of young people who have linked with that project.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

208 : CPAC DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Members had been provided with a copy of the draft report which outlined the Committees activities from November 2020 to January 2022. It was noted that the report would not go to Full Council until after the Local Elections in May.

Members were advised that feedback has been received and incorporated into the report.

The Chair invited questions from Members:

Members sought confirmation as to whether the Corporate Parenting Protocol is to become part of the Undertaking which is signed by Members and whether it will be included in the Induction for new members after the Local Elections. Members were advised that it would certainly form part of the training however further information would be obtained as to whether it is to form part of the Undertaking.

Members asked that further information be obtained from NYAS in relation to Democracy Week and would be added to the report.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To note the draft report;
- 2) To delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Chair, to finalise the Annual Report, having regard to comments provided by Members of the Committee and Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee; and
- 3) The Chair to present the Annual Report to full Council in June 2022.

209 : CORPORATE PARENTING - LOOK TO THE YEAR AHEAD

Leigh Vella, provided a presentation outlining the development of the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021- 2024, the progress made in its implementation and future plans.

The Chair was pleased to see that Cardiff University were more involved in supporting young people across Wales; and asked whether consideration would be given to ensuring that any bags supplied to children and young people when moving into a home be different for each child or young person.

The Committee RESOLVED to note there report.

210 : PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD QUARTER 3

Members were provided with Quarter 3 2021-22 Dashboard which provided the performance information.

211 : COMPLAINTS & COMPLIMENTS REPORT QUARTER 3

The Committee were provided with details of the complaints and compliments concerning children looked for the Quarter 3 period, 1 October 2021 – 31 December 2021.

212 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

There were no urgent items.

213 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed. The Chair confirmed that it was the last meeting of the administration and wished to extend her thanks to all those involved in the Committee over the last 5 years.

The meeting terminated at 3.30 pm