



Minutes of the meeting of the CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL held on TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2021 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor M Bradburn (Chair)
Councillors Balazs, K Bradburn, Brown, V Hopkins, Lancaster, McQuillan, B Nolan and Rolfe

Officers: M Heath (Director - Children's Services), S Heer (Head of Corporate Parenting), N Phillips (Adoption Team Manager), N Sankey (Interim Fostering Team Manager), C Sneddon (Deputy Manager - Children and Families) and J Crighton (Committee Manager)

Also Present: Councillor Z Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families), M Parks (Clinical Commissioning Group) and two members of the public

CP03 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

CP04 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 16 March 2021 and the special meeting held on 19 May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair as correct records.

CP05 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL TRAINING

S Heer (Head of Corporate Parenting) provided a brief summary on the role of being a corporate parent.

RESOLVED -

That the presentation be noted.

CP06 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED -

That the public and press representatives be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 2 (Information likely to Reveal the Identity of an Individual) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local

Government Act 1972, in order that the Panel consider participation from a young person and foster carer.

CP08

VOICE OF THE CHILD AND FOSTER CARER

The Panel received a summary from a young person on the experiences of being in foster care and the transition from being in care to independence.

RESOLVED -

That the participation of the young person and foster carer be noted.

THE YOUTUBE BROADCAST WAS RECOMMENCED.

CP09

ADOPTION ANNUAL REPORT

The Panel received the Adoption Annual Report.

N Phillips (Adoption Team Manager) informed the Panel that, within the last six months, 22 children had had a plan for adoption approved and 24 children had successfully been matched and placed with prospective adopters.

The Panel noted that recruitment activity had improved with 28 families being recommended for approval.

It was reported there had been an increase in those who had requested access to adoption records; 47 applications had been completed for support funding; and virtual events had continued.

The Panel were informed that adoption panels would continue virtually for the foreseeable future. It was also noted that a minimum of 30 applications for adoption was a target for the forthcoming year together with a key focus on prospective adopters who could care for siblings and those with complex needs.

RESOLVED -

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Panel receive a report from 'Connect Teens' at its meeting to be held on 8 December 2021.

CP10

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The Panel received the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2020/21.

RESOLVED -

1. That the report be noted, and officers be thanked for the detailed report.

2. That the Annual Report be presented to Full Council at its meeting to be held on 14 July 2021.
3. That feedback from the Pathway Plans audit, held in May 2021, be provided to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at its meeting to be held on 9 September 2021.

CP11

VIRTUAL SCHOOL UPDATE - ANNUAL REPORT

The Panel received the Virtual School Annual Report.

S Heer (Head of Corporate Parenting) informed the Panel that, after a difficult time for young people due to the pandemic, the Government had decided to award centre assessment scores to GCSE subjects.

The data provided for Milton Keynes had shown an improvement in the numbers of young people who had achieved GCSEs in English and maths combined.

The Panel noted that, during the pandemic, it had been difficult to monitor fixed term exclusions as some schools had encouraged those young people with behavioural issues to remain at home and undertake online education provided by the school.

It was noted that a percentage of children and young people had been placed in schools outside the Borough and there had been concern if the same provision of support was being offered to those placed in schools in Milton Keynes.

RESOLVED -

1. That the report be noted.
2. That data on how many Milton Keynes children and young people are placed in schools outside of the Borough be provided to the Chair.

CP12

FOSTERING RESTRUCTURE BUSINESS CASE - MAY 2021

The Panel received a report on the fostering restructure business case.

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

CP13

FOSTERING RECRUITMENT REPORT 2021/23

The Panel received the fostering recruitment report 2021/23.

N Sankey (Interim Fostering Team Manager) informed the Panel of the following:

- (a) the majority of carers were in the 50+ age bracket;
- (b) there had been a significant increase in the number of carers within the 40+ age bracket;
- (c) the number of carers were predominantly white;
- (d) the carer diversity had been increasing annually but the figure was still disproportionately lower than compared to white carers; and
- (e) there was a low representation from the LGBTQ community.

The Panel noted that, due to the impact of the pandemic, the number of children and young people being placed in care had decreased and there had also been a delay in Court throughputs.

It was reported there had been an increase in placement breakdowns as children and young people had struggled to adhere to Covid restrictions. There had also been carers who had been required to shield for periods of time which had resulted in an increase of placements outside the local authority.

The Panel noted 18 complaints had been received in the last year ranging from allegations, communication and finance concerns, of which:

- (a) six had been upheld;
- (b) six had been partially upheld; and
- (c) six had not been upheld.

Furthermore, 16 complaints had been dealt with at Stage 1 and two had been escalated to Stage 2.

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

CP14

CHAMPION MODEL UPDATE

The Panel received an update on the Champion Model.

S Heer (Head of Corporate Parenting) informed the Panel the Model had been established to make a difference to children and young people. However, there was a need to re-introduce and promote the Model in order to maximise its full potential.

RESOLVED -

1. That the update be noted.
2. That an online meeting to discuss the Model be held with Panel members.

3. That Panel members be informed of forthcoming events, particularly Corporate Parenting Week.

CP15

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel would be held on Tuesday 8 December 2021 at 6.30 pm.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.24 PM

DRAFT