

Minutes of the meeting of the CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL held on WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2021 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor M Bradburn (Chair)
Councillors K Bradburn, Brown, D Hopkins (substitute for Councillor V Hopkins), Lancaster, B Nolan and Rolfe

Officers: M Heath (Director - Children's Services), J Cooledge (Interim Virtual School Headteacher), M May (Group Head - Children's Social Care), K Connolly (Team Manager - 16-25 Team), J Roberts (Team Manager - Children and Families), R Lee (Participation and Engagement Team Leader) and J Crighton (Committee Manager)

Also Present: Councillor Z Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families), E Matthews (Deputy Manager - Children and Families), M Park (Designated Nurse [Clinical Commissioning Group]), N Davies (Manager [Westminster House]), R Jefkins (Interim Residential Manager [Furze House]), M Gower (Foster Carer) and one member of the public

Apologies: Councillors Balazs, V Hopkins and McQuillan

CP16 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor D Hopkins declared he was a Chair of Governors at St. Mary's C of E Primary School, Wavendon, and a Vice-Chair of Governors at New Chapter Primary School, Coffee Hall.

CP17 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 22 June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CP18 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED -

That the public and press representatives be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 2 (Information Relating to an Individual or 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 young people during Item 5.

THE YOUTUBE BROADCAST WAS PAUSED.

CP19

VOICE OF THE CHILD AND PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED -

- (a) Care Leavers' Week Summary
That the presentation be noted.
- (b) Views and Activities of our Care Leavers Forum
That the presentation be noted.
- (c) ConnecTeens
That the presentation be noted.
- (d) Residentials Activities
That the presentation be noted.

THE YOUTUBE BROADCAST WAS RECOMMENCED.

CP20

OFSTED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

RESOLVED -

That the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Panel to be held on Tuesday 15 March 2022.

CP21

THEMATIC AUDIT REPORT - PATHWAY PLAN

RESOLVED -

That the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Panel to be held on Tuesday 15 March 2022.

CP22

UPDATE FROM THE 16-25 TEAM

The Panel received an update from the 16-25 Team.

K Connolly (Team Manager - 16-25 Team) informed the Panel of the following:

- (a) that Care Leavers Week, held between 25 and 31 October 2021, and the Opportunities Fayre, held on 1 December 2021, had been well attended;
- (b) a 'Safe Day' was in the process of being developed;
- (c) that, due to the pandemic, there had been an increase in overdue dental appointments;
- (d) one young person had applied for the Mortgage Deposit Grant Scheme; and

4. That data on the waiting list for CAMHS be provided at a future meeting of the Panel.

CP24

RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES SERVICE SUMMARY

The Panel received a presentation on the services provided by Furze and Westminster Houses.

R Jefkins (Interim Residential Manager [Furze House]) informed the Panel of the following:

- (a) Furze House provided services for children with special needs aged between 5 - 19 years;
- (b) strong relationships had been built with families; and
- (c) since the pandemic, they had supported young people into the home whilst managing the transition of one young person to their adult placement.

N Davies (Manager [Westminster House]) informed the Panel of the following:

- (a) Westminster House provided long stay residential care for children and young people with special needs aged between 10 - 19 years; and
- (b) there were currently five young people residing at the home.

The Panel noted that, since the beginning of the pandemic, both homes had maintained a good level of resilience and had continued to deliver services to the most vulnerable children and young people.

RESOLVED -

That the presentation be noted.

CP25

ADOPTION CONNECT SIX MONTHLY REPORT

The Panel received the six-monthly report on Adoption Connect.

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

CP26

CHAMPION MODEL UPDATE

The Panel received an update on the Champion Model.

RESOLVED -

That an update on Corporate Parenting Week, to be held between 21 and 25 February 2022, be provided to the next meeting of the Panel.

- (e) housing options for young people had improved.

RESOLVED -

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. That an update on the Mortgage Deposit Grant Scheme be provided to a future meeting of the Panel.
3. That dates of future events be provided to Panel members.
4. That an update on the Care Leavers Offer be provided to Panel members.

CP23

UPDATE AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

The Panel received the Children in Care Annual Report 2020/21.

M Park (Designated Nurse [CCG]) informed the Panel that, since the beginning of the pandemic, there had been collaborative working between partners to continue providing a quality service for children in care.

The Panel noted that initial health assessments were to be completed within 28 days of a child coming into care, however, only 62% had been achieved within the statutory timescale.

It was noted that health assessments had been delayed due to the following:

- (a) non-attendance within the teenage age group;
- (b) young people who had gone missing from placements;
- (c) young people who had moved placements; and
- (d) foster carers who had cancelled appointments.

The Panel were informed that review health assessments for the under-5's were held every six months with the over-5's held annually, and immunisation and dental performance had been significantly impacted due to the pandemic.

The Panel noted the BLMK achievements for 2020/21 and the Workplan and priorities for 2021/22.

RESOLVED -

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. That the results of the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) be provided to a future meeting of the Panel.
3. That the SDQ be opened to the Voice of the Child and feedback be provided at a future meeting of the Panel.

CP27

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel would be held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 6.30 pm.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.23 PM