

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MONDAY 17 JUNE 2013

9.30 AM

**ROOM 2, CIVIC OFFICES
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES**

A G E N D A

Councillors: Bradburn, Brock, Miles, O'Neill, Small and Zealley

For more information about the meeting please contact Shelagh Muir on Tel: (01908) 254271 or e-mail: shelagh.muir@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Health and Safety

Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of an alarm sounding during the meeting you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by the fire evacuation officer who will identify him/herself should the alarm sound. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent or is switched off completely during the meeting.

Agenda

Agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings can be accessed via the Internet at: <http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic/> Wi Fi access is available in the Council's meeting rooms.

Recording of Meetings

The proceedings at this meeting may be recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes of the meeting.

Comments, Complaints and Compliments

Milton Keynes Council welcomes comments, complaints and compliments from members of the public in order to make its services as efficient and effective as possible. We would appreciate any suggestions regarding the usefulness of the paperwork for this meeting, or the conduct of the meeting you have attended.

Please use the slip below by detaching it and passing it to the Committee Manager. Alternatively the slip can be returned by post to Democratic Services, Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ, or you can e-mail your comments to meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk

If you require a response please leave contact details, ideally including an e-mail address.

A formal complaints / compliments form is available online at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/complaints/> or is obtainable at the meeting from the Committee Manager.

Please detach the slip below and return it to one of the officers attending the meeting.

Meeting Attended: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of Meeting: 17 June 2013

Comments:.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Disclosures of Interest

Members and officers to advise any disclosable pecuniary interests, or personal interests, (including other pecuniary interests), they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in an item to be considered.

3. Minutes

To approve, and the Chair to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 29 April 2013 (Item 3) (**Pages 4 to 11**)

4. Children's Homes Regulation 34 Reports

To Consider Item 4 (**Pages 12 to 28**)

5. Members Regulation 33 Visits

To Consider Item 5 (**Pages 29 to 31**)

6. Fostering Regulation 35 Report (01/01/13 – 31/03/13)

To Consider Item 6 (**Pages 32 to 41**)

7. Adoption Service Report (01/10/12 – 31/03/13)

To Consider Item 7 (**Pages 42 to 47**)

8. Out of Borough Area Placement

To Consider Item 8 (**Pages 48 to 52**)

9. Care Leavers Charter Update

To Consider Item 9 (**Pages 53 to 54**)

10. Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report

To Consider Item 10 (**Pages 55 to 63**)

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2 September 2013 at 09.30



Minutes of the meeting of the CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL held on MONDAY 29 APRIL 2013 at 9.30 am

Present: Councillor Miles (Chair)
Councillors Brock, O'Neill, Small and Zealley

Officers: G Tolley (Director of Children's Services)(Part) N Rayner (Assistant Director [Children's Social Care]), C James (Safeguarding & Quality Manager) and S Muir (Committee Manager).

Also Present: Cllr Dransfield (Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Life Long Learning).

Apology Councillor Bradburn

PC86 MINUTES

With reference to Minute CP82, the Panel noted that the appropriate training would be arranged separately to the normal Training Programme.

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 4 January 2013 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the word "Strategy" being deleted from the title to Minute CP84.

PC87 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None

PC88 UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Director of Children's Services advised that the Director of Children's Services at Central Bedfordshire Council had written to ask if it would be possible for two elected Members of its Corporate Parenting Panel, together with a Senior Officer from Children's Services to attend a future meeting of this Council's Corporate Parenting Panel on an observational basis. It was suggested that a reciprocal visit to Central Bedfordshire Council could be arranged at a later date.

RESOLVED –

The Panel looked forward to welcoming visitors from Central Bedfordshire Council to a future meeting.

REGULATION 33 REPORTS AND MEMBERS VISITS DECEMBER 2012 – FEBRUARY 2013.

The Panel received details of the Regulation 33 Reports for the period December 2012 – February 2013 and noted that all visits undertaken for the reporting period judged the homes to be good or very good.

The Panel noted that all visitors had reported observations of good interaction between staff and the children with evidence of happy, settled and content children in the homes. Visitors had noted that the appropriate interventions to manage behaviours and respond to both children's individual needs and the needs of the group, had taken place.

The Panel also noted that health and safety was considered to be good and evidence of risk assessments being completed had been noted. Fire checks and drills were up to date in all units. However, in January 2013 the fire check had been overdue at The Walnuts, although this was immediately undertaken once identified.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

CHILDREN'S HOMES – INTERIM INSPECTIONS RECOMMENDATION (REGULATION 33 AND MEMBERS VISITS)

The Panel discussed the report which highlighted the recommendation relating to the effectiveness of the current Regulation 33 visiting arrangements, emerging from the recent Interim Ofsted Inspections of the three children's homes. It was reported that work had been carried out to improve quality assurance work in the homes and Member contact with young people and their parents

The Panel noted that that Member visits should now have a different focus and reporting format to that used by officers when undertaking inspections. It was suggested that current visiting arrangements should be replaced with twice yearly "events" at each home (6 in total) using a pre planned "Coffee Morning/Surgery style" arrangement. This approach would enable young people who were using the service, their parents, relatives and relevant professionals to be invited to talk directly to councillors.

The Panel further noted that with regards to Member visits:

- These were undertaken within statutory timescales and reports produced in a timely manner;
- Period of reporting by Members had been increased from 7 to 14 days.
- In the last reporting period one Member visit had taken place in January 2013 to Furze House;

- Officers were awaiting a response from Ofsted as to whether copies of the Regulation 33 reports should be supplied to Ofsted;
- Members were encouraged to be shown around the homes by young people and their parents and this would continue under the new arrangements;
- Member visit dates had been booked until April; dates for June onwards were currently being worked on and Panel Members would be notified in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the proposed changes to Member visits endorsed.

PC91 MILTON KEYNES FOSTERING SERVICES REGULATION 35 REPORT, 1 OCTOBER 2012 – 31 DECEMBER 2012

The Panel received the Milton Keynes Fostering Services Regulation 35 report, 1 October 2012 – 31 December 2012.

The following issues were highlighted in response to issues raised in the report:

- Paragraph 4 - The Assistant Director [Children's Social Care] to provide a separate response on the impact data about the effectiveness of the 12 month advert in MK Hospital magazine for Foster Carers.

It was suggested that "LINK" could be another advertising channel.

- Paragraph 10 – Family and Friends

It was explained that children were placed under Regulation 24 Care Planning, Placements and Case Review Regulations (England) 2010 (Temporary Approval of a Connected Person as a Foster Carer) whilst full fostering assessments took place. Often these cases involve the Courts and ultimately resulted in a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), to secure permanence for children within their extended family.

In connection with this the Panel heard that:

- In some cases relatives needed ongoing support by sharing parental responsibility with Children's Social Care.
- Some "temporary approval for connected persons" cases did not succeed for various reasons.
- It was rare for Children's Services to oppose the Court's intention for the child to be homed with a relative.
- The requirement for viability assessments to be provided to the court quickly, put a pressure on the service. However,

assuming children and carers were properly assessed, the placements tended to have good success rates as they kept children within their extended family; any disruptions were tracked and monitored.

- Paragraph 16 – Child missing from a Foster Home; the Committee noted that a child had been missing on two occasions.
- Paragraph 20 – Fostering Team Staff matter; the Committee noted that an interim arrangement had been in place. An Assistant Manager had been recruited with a start date in late May 2013.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

PC92

TODAY'S CHILDREN, TOMORROW'S FUTURE (TCTF)

The Panel considered the report outlining activities relating to Milton Keynes Council's Children in Care Council.

It was noted that the Panel had met with the Children in Care Council in March 2013 and reviewed the progress of actions agreed at the September 2012 Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future meeting.

The Panel heard that there were difficulties for young people in finding suitable housing accommodation when they moved to independent living. Currently the young people were given a list of street names and 2 alternative homes to look at by Housing Services which they felt was not sufficient. The young people had stated that they had difficulties in affording to equip and furnish accommodation. This was being addressed by the use of purchasing cards by officers and support with accommodation issues would be raised with Housing Services.

The Panel were reminded that they had endorsed the national Care Leavers Charter in October 2012 and work to develop this locally in the Milton Keynes context was taking place with Care Leavers.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That support with accommodation issues be raised with Housing Services

PC93

STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE 2013-2016

The Panel considered the draft Strategy for Children in Care 2013 – 2016.

The Panel noted that the draft Strategy addressed feedback from various consultation workshops carried out since the January Panel meeting and that the streamlined priorities would be valid for the next three years.

The Panel raised various minor drafting issues and noted that some data would be revised when 2012/13 figures are available.

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft strategy be agreed
2. That the final version be sent to the Chair before submission to Cabinet.

PC94 MISSING CHILDREN IN MILTON KEYNES

The Panel considered the Missing Children in Milton Keynes report and heard that The Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board had identified missing children as one of three key priority areas for its 2013/14 business plan.

It was reported that Thames Valley Police would be adopting the newly approved Association of Chief Police Offices (ACPO) definition of a missing person.

It was reported that a number of actions were being undertaken to improve the accuracy of the data. However, there had been difficulties following up and obtaining background information about patterns of behaviour of some Looked after Children (LAC) from out of the area that were placed in care in Milton Keynes.

The Panel heard that in cases where a child went missing from school the school would immediately contact the child's carer. Additionally, the virtual school programme enabled monitoring and tracking of a child's whereabouts. Schools worked very hard to support Children in Care and would follow up immediately if a child was missing.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

PC95 IMPLICATIONS OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL ADOPTION DEVELOPMENTS FOR MILTON KEYNES CHILDREN IN CARE

The Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) presented the Milton Keynes Adoption Service's Improvement Plans which had been produced in the context of national policy and performance information and outlined plans to deliver a "step-change" improvement agenda, that utilised the recently announced 2013/14 one-off Milton Keynes Adoption Reform Grant.

The Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) explained that the grant would be used to move "hard to place young people" into "permanence placements" and to review the system, for working with other local authorities in the South East and Eastern Regions. Improvement models used in other local authorities such as Camden had demonstrated that by broadening the scope, e.g. by involving the local judiciary, outcomes for young people had been improved.

It was reported that the Reform Grant included provision to fund the national harmonisation of interagency fees. Currently, when Milton Keynes children were placed with non-Milton Keynes adopters from within the local adoption consortium, the interagency fee for such a placement was £6,000.00. Placement with adopters from another Local Authority outside the consortium arrangement was £13,000.00. The fee for placement with adopters approved by a voluntary adoption agency was currently £27,000.00. The Government was committed to implementing a single interagency fee which had not yet been set, but would likely be at or greater than the voluntary agency fee level. The ring fenced element of the Reform Grant included provision to cover this increase.

In addition, tailored home-finding for individual “hard to place” children, which include post-adoption therapeutic support, could be commissioned from specialist agencies for e.g. £65,000.00. Whilst a high one-off cost, this last option would be explored for a few individual children as it would deliver the benefits of adoption and be far less costly than on-going care costs to age 18.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Milton Keynes’ Children’s Services work to date to improve adoption performance be noted.
2. That the Panel receive regular updates of further progress during 2013/14.
3. That the one-off 2013/14 Adoption Reform grant be noted.
4. That the Panel receive regular updates on the level of expenditure and impact of the 2013/14 adoption reform grant.

PC96

SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

The Panel considered the progress of the Safeguarding and Looked After Children Performance Improvement Plan: 24 August 2012 – 24 February 2013

The Assistant Director (Children’s Social Care) reported that there were 3 points at “Amber”:

- Action 8 - Freeing, Discharging and Placement Orders.
The time frame had proved more challenging as it was dependent on court processes and some young people needed extended support before this could be addressed, but progress was being made. This was linked to the Adoption funding Item, as in the future, there should not be a ‘group of older’ children with adoption plans remaining in the care system.
- Action 14 - Ensure that the needs of children and young people in relation to their racial and cultural identity, religion and

disability are fully incorporated in assessment care planning and recording.

MK Children and Families to consider the diversity needs of and practice in response to Looked After Children (LAC), and, a report to be submitted in evidence by Children's Social Care to the MKC Children and Families Partnership Diversity Commission.

It was noted that this had been delayed as the Commission had been delayed.

- Action 15 - Improved Health outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC)
Promoting the Health of Children in Care: The Health Assessment Protocol for Health & Social Care Professionals was being revised and the process re-mapped.

It was noted that the Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) had met with partners in Health to progress this.

The Panel noted that the report referred to Looked After Children but this should now be Children in Care.

The Panel also heard that there were some areas of performance with partners that were being challenged. Some of the issues such as training records had been addressed and work was ongoing to address the remainder. Issues highlighted in the Improvement Plan had been included in the draft Strategy for Children in Care 2013 – 2016.

The Panel commented that there were a number of issues which it wished to monitor, including "Children Out Of Area" which was an issue highlighted in the meeting with the Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection inspector. The Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) responded that Milton Keynes was a small geographical area in comparison to others in the region and it was difficult to compare like with like. However, the Head of Delivery Corporate Parenting was carrying out a detailed analysis of "Children Out of Area" and would bring the results to the next Panel Meeting

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the detailed analysis of "Children Out Of Area" be brought to the next meeting.

PC96 PROPOSED VISIT TO WESTMINSTER HOUSE.

The Panel heard that the newly built Westminster House had been approved by Ofsted and that Panel Members were invited to visit the completed building before it was occupied.

It was noted that the dates would be agreed direct with Members.

PC97

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Panel noted that the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday 17 June 2013 at 09.30.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10.38 AM

DRAFT

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Panel Date: | 17 JUNE 2013 | Agenda Item Number | 4 |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|

**RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES
REGISTERED MANAGERS REGULATION 34 REPORTS**

1 OCTOBER 2012 to 31 MARCH 2013

Author: Anne Roberts /Rosemary Cooper/Estea Fourie
 Title: Residential Children's Home Team Managers
 Service Group: Children & Families Integrated Support and Social Care

Report Summary

Purpose:

This report provides the Corporate Parenting Panel with the opportunity to review and comment upon the monitoring arrangements in place within Milton Keynes' children's homes in relation to Regulation 34.

Background:

Regulation 34 states that the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring all the issues identified in Schedule 6 of the Children's Homes Regulations. The registered person is responsible for providing the placing authority a report on a 6 monthly basis.

Corporate Priorities:

Improving the quality of care provided in the Authority's children's homes contributes to good outcomes for Milton Keynes' Looked After Children and Children in Need. This is in line with the council's Children and Families' 2012/13 priority 4: to develop and maintain effective services and interventions that prevent the most vulnerable children and young people in our community from experiencing additional difficulties and prevent them from suffering significant harm.

Performance Information

The homes are inspected twice a year by Ofsted against the National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes. All three homes Westminster Drive Furze House Walnuts and Westminster Drive have been rated as providing a **good** service in their main inspection, with Westminster Drive and Walnuts making **satisfactory** progress and Furze House **good** progress in their interim inspection.

Equality and Diversity Impact:

Each home provide a service for children with disabilities from across the MK community.

Recommendations:

Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to note and comment upon the reports.

FURZE HOUSE

1. Management Information

Annual budget and Placement information

The annual budget for the home is £1,060,088 and the spend for this 6 month period was £585,072.

The service worked with 47 children and their families within this period of time and provided a combined total of 1106 overnights stays and day care sessions.

2 new children have started to use the service.

4 are in the process of being introduced.

Ofsted Inspection Rating

Full Inspection Grading: This was undertaken on 25th September 2012. The overall effectiveness of the home was described as Good. The interim inspection took place on 4th March 2013. The service was judged to be making good progress. The requirements of the previous inspection had been fully met. There were no requirements and only one recommendation.

Recommendations:

Ensure Regulation 33 visits include scrutiny of how the home is supporting young people to enjoy and achieve and that compliance with regulations is inspected.

Actions: In conjunction with the Head of Delivery undertake review of the current process and develop a new policy, process and training for future visitors.

Notifications of events listed in schedule 5

There have been no schedule 5 notifications with this period.

Fire drills, tests of alarms and fire equipment

There have been 27 bell tests. There have been 2 planned fire evacuations which included young people. There was an additional mock night time fire training scenario for staff which involved evacuation. Staff also undertook two further written training exercises.

Risk assessments for health and safety purposes and subsequent action

Risk assessments are in place to ensure the personal safety of the children. There are also general risk assessments to cover specific eventualities and a Business Continuity Plan.

Medicines, medical treatment and first aid administered to any child accommodated in the home

Prescription medication was provided by parents with written consent to administer. No medication was ordered direct from the GP. All medication is returned home at the end of the child's stay. Calpol was the only homely remedy dispensed within the period.

There is an updated MKC policy for the Administration of Medication in Residential Children's Homes. Staff have been involved in a training session

to look at implementation and the updating of the Furze House policy. This is underway at present.

All members of staff hold a current emergency first aid certificate for children. Detailed care plans are consulted prior to first aid being applied to check for allergies and intolerances. A member of staff completed her distance learning Certificate in Safe Handling of Medicines.

Dates of checks

Date of gas installations check: 30.10.12

Date of Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) check: January 2013

Date of health and safety risk assessment: February 2013

Date of last health and safety check of the premises: February 2013

Date of fire risk assessment: Written in May 2012, reviewed and updated in December 2012

Date of last fire drill: 11.1.13

Date of protocol with the police regarding missing children: MKSCB protocol December 2010

2. Children

Compliance with the placing authority's plan for care of the child

All young people using the service have a detailed care plan which is agreed and signed by parents and Social Workers. This is formally reviewed every six months. 36 such review meetings took place with families (some joint with education) during the reporting period.

Deposit and issue of money and valuables

Children are not provided with pocket money by Furze House. A small number bring money to spend during their visit. All personal money was recorded into individual record books at the beginning of the visit and signed out at the end by a senior worker. All personal monies were stored in a metal cupboard in the small office. A management check of the pocket money cupboard and record books was undertaken once per school term.

Accidents and incidents relating to children

There were 63 entries into the accident incident book for this period. The entries also include near misses and marks on children of unknown origin. Monitoring of all accidents and incidents was undertaken by a deputy manager.

Illnesses of children accommodated

There were no significant illnesses within the home

Number of referrals to children's social care teams

There were no referrals to children's social care teams.

Number of times when children went missing and the number of children involved

No children went missing within this period.

Visitors to children's home

There were:
 19 social work visits to children
 1 psychologist visit to observe a young person
 1 occupational therapy visit to undertake individual assessment for equipment
 15 child care reviews, the remainder were undertaken as joint at schools
 2 placement meetings
 2 council member visits
 10 visits from the tutor supporting staff undertaking the level 3 and level 5 Diploma
 1 training session provided by a community matron
 1 visit from the community superintendent pharmacist
 1 student on work experience placement.

Measures of control and restraint including the number of incidents of restraint and the number of children involved in these incidents

Physical intervention was used once within the period.

Number of sanctions given since the last inspection

Sanctions were used on 7 occasions. Children were usually removed to a quiet area often the den to have time to calm and reflect on their behaviour. Sometimes apologies were requested if physical harm or spitting had been involved.

3. Complaints ,compliments and consultation

Complaints in relation to children and their outcome, including the number of children involved

- There were no complaints received from young people within this period.

Complaints in relation to families, social workers and their outcome

- There were no complaints received from parents within this period.

Compliments

3 compliments were received:

- Thanks from a social worker for the speedy support for a family at the time of an emergency.
- Thanks from parents of 1 young person for the help and support provided over the years and in transition into adult services.
- Thanks from a carer for the additional support for their young person whilst undergoing acute health problems and treatment.

Consultation with parents

Consultation was sent out to parents on the following topic:
 Does Furze House adequately support children with specific health needs
 Parents were sent a single sheet with a question relating to the topic with room for tick box answers and narrative. The response so far has been poor in terms of quantity but has provided positive feedback.

Consultation with Social Workers

Consultation was sent out to social workers on the following topic:
 Does Furze House adequately support children with specific health needs.

The formal response was poor in terms of quantity but comments were

positive. We will raise low response rate with the Team Manager CWD and seek to improve number of returns.

Consultation with children

Children took part in staff interview sessions in February 2013. They assisted showing the candidates round, took part in a craft activity and had lunch with them. Those who were able to express a preference were helped to choose with the use of photographs taken during the day. For those children who were not able to contribute in this way observations of interaction, verbal communication and body language were assessed through staff observation.

Community Involvement

A young person was supported to have their two week work experience placement at Furze House

We have also requested further support from Santander to help develop a fruit garden to supplement the raised vegetable bed they helped us get underway last year.

4. Staffing

Staff structure, vacancy levels, recruitment records and checks, number of staff who have left and been recruited since the last inspection

Staffing structure with people in post:

1 manager
4x part time deputy managers,
2 full time senior residential workers,
5 part time senior residential workers,
1 full time residential workers,
10 part time residential workers
2 part time senior residential workers
4 part time residential workers undertaking waking night shifts.

We interviewed for 1 full time residential worker post and further annualised hour posts. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful and a new advert will be placed shortly. Interviews will be held in June. Full recruitment records are held centrally although copies of key documents are kept in supervision files.

Staff Training since last inspection

All staff exceeded the minimum standard of 5 days training per annum, pro rata for part time staff.

Nominated staff accessed the list of courses below

- 1 person is in the process of completing the level 3 Diploma in Child Care
- 3 people are in the process of completing the level 5 Diploma in Management
- Emergency First Aid for Children – 15 people
- Food Safety – 18 people
- Team Teach – 9 people
- Induction to Family Group Conferences – 2 Health and Safety –

Whole Team Training

1 session on Food and Nutrition

1 session on Epilepsy and emergency medication administration.

Number of staff at the children's home who have a first aid qualification

All staff have a current certificate in Emergency First Aid for children. Those who were new to the team are required to attend this course and gain the certificate within 12 months of their start in post.

Monitoring of duty rosters

Informal monitoring of duty rosters take place on a daily basis by senior residential workers to ensure relevant staffing ratio for the children attending at any one time. A spreadsheet was maintained recording an overview of all staff absences and the balance of relief and agency staff used to cover.

Records of appraisals

Appraisals are scheduled to take place in May and early June 2013. Each member of staff has a Personal Development Portfolio which links to their appraisal and records formal and informal learning

Minutes of staff meetings

There were 13 full staff meetings. There was a further meeting focusing on the waking night workers

Date compiled: 17.5.13
Anne Roberts

1. Management Information

Placement information

The Walnuts residential home offers 52 week provision, 38 week & short break respite provision to young people who have an autistic spectrum disorder &/or communication difficulties. Each young person accessing the service has a care plan which identifies achievable individual targets around developing their independence. We currently have 3, 52 week children and 27 children accessing the weekly boarding service.

Ofsted Inspection Rating

Current Ofsted inspection rating is **Good** with a **Satisfactory** progress following an interim inspection.

Statutory Requirements

To ensure all fire door guards are working correctly

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendations;

- Ensure the regulation 33 visits include scrutiny of how the home is supporting young people to enjoy & achieve & that compliance with regulations is inspected
- Provide a comfortable and homely environment that is well maintained and decorated.
- Ensure that decisions about the use of locks is based on a careful risk assessment that allows children as much freedom as possible, consistent the need to keep them safe.

All these recommendations have been addressed.

A programme of maintenance has been implemented & is on-going.

Notifications of events listed in schedule 5

Two notifications have been sent during this period:

- One young person was very agitated was trying to abscond, the police attended at his request.
- The other occasion was when a young person dropped something onto his toe. He attended A & E for the toe to be checked.

Fire drills, tests of alarms and fire equipment

Fire alarm testing between October 2012 – May 2013

October 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, 7th, 23rd, 30th

November 7th, 14th, 28th

December 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

January 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

February 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 28th

March 5th

Fire drills occur on a regular basis.

| |
|---|
| A night time evacuation took place 26.2.13. |
| Risk assessments for health and safety purposes and subsequent action |
| We have a premises fire risk assessment in place. All young people accessing the service have a behaviour and community risk assessment in place to ensure their personal safety at all times. |
| Medicines, medical treatment and first aid administered to any child accommodated in the home |
| We do have several young people who take regular medication. All medication administered has a pharmacy label clearly stating the dose, time and amount, two staff administer medication. Medication is kept in locked cabinet's in the two staff offices. A few of the young people have had minor scrapes & bruises whilst playing, these had all been recorded & appropriate treatment given. |
| Dates of checks |
| Date of gas installations check: 17.10.12 |
| Date of Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) check: September 2012 |
| Date of health and safety risk assessment: Review November 12 |
| Date of last health and safety check of the premises: January 13 |
| Date of fire risk assessment: January 2012 |
| Date of last fire drill) 26.2.13 |
| Date of protocol with the police regarding missing children: Lost child policy protocol in place. (all policies & procedures are in the process of being updated) |
| 2 Children |
| Compliance with the placing authority's plan for care of the child |
| We comply with the local authority with regards to the plan of care for all 52 week children. Each child has a placement plan which is reviewed on a regular basis. |
| Deposit and issue of money and valuables |
| All 52 week children are entitled to the following monthly monies; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. pocket money £ 24.00 2. Life chances £16.28 3. Clothing £60.00 4. Birthday/Christmas monies £230.26 <p>The home pays for all young people's school uniforms, school activities, residential holidays and dinner monies. The weekly boarders bring in pocket money to pay for activities; all monies are kept in the locked safe which is located in the main office.</p> |
| Accidents and incidents relating to children |

| |
|--|
| <p>There have been a few accidents relating to young people during this period, these have ranged from cuts / grazes to minor bruises. All accidents are recorded in the incident report log and incident report book.</p> |
| <p>Illnesses of children accommodated</p> <p>There were no significant illnesses with in the home during this period.</p> |
| <p>Number of referrals to children's social care teams</p> <p>None The 3, 52 week children all have social workers allocated to them.</p> |
| <p>Number of times when children went missing and the number of children involved</p> <p>None</p> |
| <p>Visitors to children in the home</p> <p>Two of the 52 week children receive regular visits from members of their families. There have been monthly regulation 33 visits to the home, 2 councillor visits, 2 governor's visits. Voiceability have visited on a half termly basis to host young people's meeting & social workers regularly visit.</p> |
| <p>Measures of control and restraint including the number of incidents of restraint and the number of children involved in these incidents</p> <p>There have been 42 incidents where young people have had to be restrained, these involved 10 children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A - Had to be restrained 13 times; mainly to protect him from self-harming. • B - Had to be restrained 10 times; mainly to do with toileting issues & transition.. • C- had to be restrained on 2 occasions to stop her from hurting others • D – had to be restrained on 2 occasions when he assaulted staff. He is now under the CAMHS team. • E – had to be restrained on 5 occasions when she assaulted staff. • F – was restrained on 2 occasions when he assaulted staff. • G – was restrained on 1 occasion. • H – was restrained on 2 occasion when was aggressive towards staff. • I – was restrained on 1 occasion when self-harming. • J – was restrained on 4 occasion when aggressive towards staff. |
| <p>Number of sanctions given since the last inspection</p> <p>5 sanctions were given since the last inspection and were due to negative behaviour. 9 rewards were given.</p> |
| <p>3. Complaints ,compliments and consultation</p> |
| <p>Complaints in relation to children and their outcome, including the number of children involved</p> <p>No complaints have been received during this period.</p> |

| |
|--|
| Complaints in relation to families, social workers and their outcome |
| No complaints have been received during this period |
| . |
| Compliments |
| 3 compliments have been received from parents during this period. |
| Consultation with parents |
| Parents are consulted on a regular basis and fill in an annual questionnaire about the service. The information received from the questionnaire is then looked at closely and where areas need improving they are included in the residential development plan. |
| Consultation with children |
| Young people are consulted on a regular basis & hold half termly meetings. These are hosted by the advocacy service Voiceability. |
| 4. Staffing |
| Staff structure, vacancy levels, recruitment records and checks, number of staff who have left and been recruited since the last inspection |
| We currently have twenty seven staff working over three different rotas; seven staff are employed on a term time basis working on a split shift system Monday to Friday. Twelve staff are employed on a fifty two week contract working on a rolling four week rota. Seven staff are employed on a night time contract. Structure consists of; |
| 1 Head of Care. 2 Deputy Heads of Care 2 Senior residential care officers 22 Residential care officers including night staff. |
| We have had one member of staff returning from maternity leave & another member of staff now on maternity leave. We have appointed 3 new members of staff on full time contracts & 2 bank staff |
| Staff Training since last inspection |
| Team Teach, safeguarding, Common induction standards, fire awareness & medication training have all taken place. 2 staff have also commenced their NVQ 4 in care. |
| Number of staff at the children's home who have a first aid qualification |
| 17 staff have an Emergency First Aid one day certificate. Three staff have the four day First Aid at work certificate. |
| Monitoring of duty rosters |
| Staffing levels vary depending on the needs of the young people. These levels are regularly assessed to ensure that everyone's safety is paramount. |
| Records of appraisals |
| Appraisals take place on an annual basis. |
| Minutes of staff meetings |
| Staff meetings take place on a weekly basis during term time; these consist of |

full staff meetings and team meetings. The night staff have a meeting on a half termly basis. Areas covered at staff meetings are Diary dates, child updates, key worker feedback, enrichment activities, Health and Safety, training opportunities and AOB.

Date compiled: 22.5.13
Rosemarie Cooper

| |
|--|
| 1 Management Information |
| Annual budget and Placement information |
| Budget for fiscal year 2012 /13 £484,066 there has been an overspend this financial year of £61,691 relating to agency staffing and replacement furnishings in anticipation of move to new premises. This is offset by under spends in other areas of the service and recruitment of Annualized hour posts. The budget has been increased next financial year to accommodate the increase in capacity and staffing. The home has been fully occupied for the majority of the year by 6 young people. |
| Ofsted Inspection Rating |
| Full Inspection Grading GOOD (Westminster Drive) All requirements had been adhered to Interim Inspection: Satisfactory (Westminster Drive) All requirements had been adhered to: The only outstanding requirement related to safer recruitment practices. They requested more robust evidence of verbal reference checks. This has now been fully addressed. Notice has been served for voluntary closure of Westminster Drive |
| Westminster House: Successfully registered as a service on the 13/05/13 |
| Notifications of events listed in schedule 5 |
| There have been no notifiable events during the reporting period. |
| Fire drills, tests of alarms and fire equipment |
| Fire alarm tests: October to March 2013: 5/11/19/26 of October 2/9/16/23/29 November 6/14/21/30 December 6/11/18/26 January 1/9/17/22 February 4/7/15/21 March Fire drills: October to March 2013: 3/10 8/12 |
| No current problems experienced. Fire equipment tests are carried out weekly, and fire drills are quarterly. |
| Risk assessments for health and safety purposes and subsequent action |
| <i>Health and safety risk assessment: completed 13/05/13</i> |
| No outstanding issues to report. Risk assessments are in place to ensure the personal safety of the children. There are also general risk assessments to |

| |
|---|
| cover specific eventualities and a Business Continuity Plan. |
| Medicines, medical treatment and first aid administered to any child accommodated in the home |
| No emergency medication or First Aid administered. |
| The young people all have routine medicines, taken daily. There have been no problems to report. A new 'administration of medication' policy has been implemented, focussing on residential settings. |
| Two staff members had 'Emergency First Aid' training in February and further training courses have been identified, scheduled for later in the year, including 'safe administration of medication'. |
| Dates of checks |
| Date of gas installations check: 25/01/2013 |
| Date of Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) check: January 2013 |
| Date of health and safety risk assessment: 13/02/2013 |
| Date of last health and safety check of the premises: week commencing 18/03/2013 |
| Date of fire risk assessment: 10/05/13 |
| Date of last fire drill: 10/05/13 |
| Date of protocol with the police regarding missing children: MKSCB protocol December 2010 |
| 3. Children |
| Compliance with the placing authority's plan for care of the child |
| 5 x 6 -monthly Child Care reviews held |
| No matters outstanding. All the young people have a clear placement plans and are likely to remain at the home until the age of 19. All placement plans, detailed care plans and relevant paperwork have been updated to reflect their move to Westminster House. |
| A young woman (sec20) is currently in the midst of her transition to us. Her official move in date is 25/05/13 with the plan to remain with us until the age of 19. |
| Deposit and issue of money and valuables |
| All young people are entitled to the following monthly monies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pocket money: (weekly) £ 10.50 2. Activity money: (weekly) £ 10.00 3. Clothing allowance: (monthly) £ 65.00 4. Toiletries: (weekly) £ 10.00 5. Birthday/ Christmas monies |
| The home pays for all the young people's school uniforms, school activities, residential holidays and dinner monies. |
| Our commitment is to ensure all young people are in receipt of DLA and any other forms of benefit. They all have bank accounts where these monies are saved for adulthood. |

| |
|--|
| Accidents and incidents relating to children |
| 'Incident Report Book' |
| Most of the accidents and incidents are minor ranging from grazes to light bruising. Two recorded in total: 30/10/12 and 21/11/12 |
| One incident involved a young person accidentally hitting his head on a wall – light bruising and no medical intervention |
| The other incident involved a staff member hitting their head on a cupboard door – light grazing and bruising – no medical intervention required |
| Illnesses of children accommodated |
| None |
| There were no significant illnesses within the home. |
| Number of referrals to children's social care teams |
| None |
| Our young people are all Children in Care and have allocated Social workers upon admittance. A young woman has been referred to the home and will move in when we transfer to the new provision. |
| Number of times when children went missing and the number of children involved |
| No children went missing within this period. |
| Visitors to children in the home |
| 120 visitors to the home (Westminster Drive) |
| Visitors to the home are required to fill out the 'visitor's register'. Visitors included various inspectors, care professionals, friends and family. |
| Measures of control and restraint including the number of incidents of restraint and the number of children involved in these incidents |
| One incident involving one child |
| 03/04/13 at 16.30 |
| A young woman became very anxious during an outing to the local supermarket and during her agitated state, failed to respond to staff's encouragement to enter a shop. She then started walking blindly towards traffic. Staff members held her on both sides and discreetly escorted her to the bus for the sake of safety for both her and the public. |
| Number of sanctions given since the last inspection |
| Quantitative Evidence: 16 entries (Rewards: 11) |
| Appropriate sanctions are given to young people when it is deemed an appropriate behaviour modification tool. The home has clear sanction guidelines and it never punishes a young person. It is the withholding of treats items for a limited and agreed-upon period. Rewarding the young people is of greater essence and occurs daily at the home. Rewards could range from 'Star of the week', verbal praise, celebration of achievement to purchasing of small treat items. However, most rewards are inherent in our daily practice. |
| Since the last report, where the manager noticed how few rewards were recorded in comparison the sanctions, the service had been encouraged to record and evidence more of the praise given. There's been a marked |

difference and an increase in the numbers of overt rewards given. 'Rewards' had also become a fixed agenda item at staff meetings.

Since the last report, we now cross-reference all sanctions handed out with one: one session. When a sanction is given, the incident is followed up with a one: one session, discussing behaviour and possible patterns emerging. We would explore triggers, reasons, external factors and try to come to a practical solution to minimise further behaviour that result in sanctioning.

4. Complaints ,compliments and consultation

Complaints in relation to children and their outcome, including the number of children involved

None

Complaints in relation to families, social workers and their outcome

None

Compliments

There has been three formal compliments

Compliments include emails from social workers/ schools/ parents and family members. We also receive, 'thank you' cards and flowers from family members. These compliments are circulated to senior management and shared with all the team members. Compliments to specific staff members are widely circulated and acknowledged. It is all kept in the 'Complaints and Compliment book.

Consultation with parents

Feedback forms had been sent to family, friends and other professionals, asking whether they had felt included in the transition to the new service – whether they had opportunities to contribute and add to the quality of the current service.

By consulting with parents, there had been two major developments. One of our young people had been reconciled with her mother, after years of no contact, having received four visits from her in the past 6 months. Also, a young man's mother had formed a close bond with her son after a very difficult few years (almost no initial involvement), and her participation has been invaluable. She even managed to send letters to various companies - to donate sensory equipment for young people.

Parents / appropriate family members are continuously consulted about the day to day arrangements concerning the young people. We have an 'open-door' policy which welcomes all significant others to visit the young people. Invitations are sent to all review meetings, planning meetings and consulted about medical routine checks and so forth. We consult significant others about hair cuts, clothing, activities and all aspects of personal choice. The feedback is generally very positive, as evidenced in attendance, family relationship building and feedback to OFSTED. Our compliment book illustrates their gratitude to the home and specific workers on many occasions.

Consultation with children

Fortnightly resident meetings, 'compliment and complaint' box, clear complaints procedures, rules, reward systems, advocates and key working sessions. Furthermore, young people are given support in filling out

| |
|--|
| <p>consultation paperwork prior to review meetings and privacy to able to converse with their allocated social workers and visitors/ inspectors to the home. Evidenced participation work involves recruitment of staff and the new build. Our young people reaching adulthood are consulted about their choices of appropriate accommodation, the support they would require and their future career paths, if appropriate and possible.</p> |
| <p>Westminster Drive's main ethos is to listen to our young people. We value their views, cultures, religions, individuality and endeavour to assimilate them as equals – both within the home and wider community. We consult young people about their choice of personal appearance, choice of food, activities, and development of independent skills, their dreams and opinions.</p> |
| <p>Consultation with placing authority</p> |
| <p>The home is a Local Authority run establishment and is in constant contact with Social workers and managers within the service. Evidence to be found in: Weekly reports; ICS updates; notifications; visits to the home and meetings at the Placing Authority, clear minuted planning of referrals, discharges, CIC meetings, joint family visits and information sharing on various subjects significant to the daily life of our young people.</p> |
| <p>Building good relationships and open communication channels with professionals within the Placing Authority is, in our view, of great importance. Westminster Drive has successfully managed to maintain and build good relationships with other professionals. Consistent approaches with regard to behaviour modification and re-building family relations has been particularly successful in the past year.</p> |
| <p>5. Staffing</p> |
| <p>Staff structure, vacancy levels, recruitment records and checks, number of staff who have left and been recruited since the last inspection</p> |
| <p>Westminster House has a staff group of 17. The structure comprises of a manager (1), two deputies (2), shift leaders(4), residential workers (6), waking night (3) and a cook(1). We have recently successfully employed three residential workers who are currently working through their induction. A vacancy for a domestic worker would soon be advertised.</p> |
| <p>Residential workers (5 hour per week contracts) have been appointed on annualised hours. It gives the home the opportunities to avoid excessive agency costs and to provide staff members with valuable aspects for further professional development. The new recruitment policy and procedure were used to great success. It lends credibility to the screening of applicants, young people participation and thoroughness of pre-employment checks.</p> |
| <p>Staff Training since last inspection</p> |
| <p>Team Teach'; 'Health and Safety,' Culture and diversity' and 'Food Hygiene'.</p> |
| <p>The home has a robust training system, which allows staff members to undertake statutory training, as well as courses for both personal and professional development. One of our new senior staff members recently gained her MA Degree in Social Work. Our deputies have both completed their management awards and the manager is currently undertaking a Level 5</p> |

| |
|--|
| Diploma in Residential Management, soon to be completed |
| Number of staff at the children's home who have a first aid qualification |
| 13 staff have a certificates in Emergency First Aid for children |
| Monitoring of duty rosters |
| We have a roster for day staff, waking night staff, on-call allocations and a cook and cleaner roster. The roster is the allocated responsibility of a deputy manger. Roster arrangements, changes and cost saving alternatives are discussed with the manager on a weekly basis. It is then checked again during monthly manager's checks. Time sheets are checked against the roster to ensure consistency with shifts and hours worked. |
| Our roster is a set fortnightly roster to allow all staff members the opportunity to organise their lives around unsocial working hours. Even though it could subject to change, staff members to have alternate weekends off. Staff work with various staff members and have the opportunity to plan shifts effectively. With a set roster, management are able to implement cost-saving strategies. |
| Records of appraisals |
| Appraisals have been booked – to be completed end June 2013 |
| Each member of staff has set objectives and a development plan |
| Minutes of staff meetings |
| Staff meetings are held every week, during term-time. The meeting is minuted in the 'staff meeting book' and signed by all staff present. Furthermore, it is required for all other staff members to read and sign it. |
| Structured staff meetings are held every Wednesday. It is minuted, and at times chaired, by various members of staff. All staff members are encouraged to attend staff meetings, if possible. Staff meetings are generally divided in five categories:1) Diary dates and discussions about practicalities, such as staff ratio and transport 2) Health and Safety checks and reports 3) Individual young people 4) Any other business 5) Guests or training opportunities. |

Date compiled: 22/05/2013

Estea Fourie

ELECTED MEMBER REGULATION 33 VISITS

Author: Carolann James

Title: Safeguarding and Quality Manager

Division: Children and Families: Integrated Support and Social Care

Report Summary**Purpose:**

This report summarises the feedback and reports from the three elected member Regulation 33 (2) (b) visits to our three residential children's homes during April 2013.

- a. Councillor Small – Furze House
- b. Councillor Zealley – Westminster Drive and The Walnuts

Background:

Elected member visits are currently part of a wider programme of monthly Regulation 33 visits which are summarised and presented to Corporate Parenting Panel.

Visits under regulation 33 of the Children's Homes regulations 2001, and as amended in the Children's Homes (amendment) regulations 2011, are a statutory requirement for the Local Authority. Visits take place at least once each month, usually by an Officer independent of the management of the home and may be unannounced.

Corporate Priorities:

Improving the quality of Milton Keynes residential services and their contribution to improved outcomes for Milton Keynes children. This is in line with the Council's Children and Families 2012-13 priority 4: To develop and maintain effective intervention that prevent the most vulnerable children and young people in our communities from experiencing additional difficulty and prevents them from suffering significant harm.

Performance Information:

All three children's residential homes are subject to regular Ofsted inspection and all have been found to be of good standard.

Equality and Diversity Impact:

The residential service is provided for disabled children from across the Milton Keynes community. It therefore needs to provide services that can meet the diverse needs of the children and young people in the Council's care.

Recommendations /Proposals:

Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to note and discuss the report.

Full Report:

a. Furze House:

Strengths:

- Overall impression of this visit was that Furze House was a well run home with 'plenty of dedicated staff'.
- All record and log books viewed were deemed to be up to date and in good order.
- All rooms were deemed to be safe, clean and secure from switches, windows and doors.
- The overall condition of the home was considered to be as expected to reflect the usage from the children and redecorating was underway and due to finish in a few weeks.
- Meal planning considers the children's needs and wishes and all meals are freshly prepared on premise and the appeared to be enjoyed by all.
- Children's care plans viewed appeared clear and reflected the monitoring of targets set.
- A wide varied programme of activities is available for the children providing opportunities for them to further develop and to help enrich their lives.
- The children and young people have planted a vegetable garden with the support of staff.
- Staff were deemed to be extremely well trained and meeting the children's welfare needs.
- Children and young people presented as relaxed and content in their environment and were observed watching TV, enjoying music and playing in the garden.
- Children and young people spoken to were happy with the care they received and the time they spent at Furze House.

Areas for further development or clarification:

- A couple of motors on the beds at the time of the visit were broken and needed replacing
- The manager has confirmed that redecoration will be completed by June 2013

b. Westminster Drive:

Strengths:

- The overall impression of the quality of service provided at Westminster Drive was deemed 'very good'
- All record and log books viewed were deemed to be up to date and in good order
- The physical environment was considered to be clean and tidy
- No concerns about the health and well being of the young people resident.

Areas for further development or clarification:

- No areas for further development other than a recommendation that if the move to the new home (Westminster House) didn't go ahead in the timeframes anticipated that redecoration of the home would be required

c. The Walnuts:

Strengths:

- The overall impression of the quality of service provided at Walnuts Drive was deemed 'very good'
- All record and log books viewed were deemed to be up to date and in good order
- The home environment was considered to be clean and tidy however the colour scheme for the corridor walls was in the view of the Member 'rather depressing'
- Good ratio of staff to young people evident
- All doors and gates were locked and secure
- The Member joined the young people for their 'evening meal' and observed the young people to be enjoying their meals and having appropriate levels of support from staff

Areas for further development or clarification:

- The member observed two separate incidents with the young people and the staff managing these in what she observed to be an appropriate manner by 'diffusing' the situation.
- The Head of Care of The Walnuts has confirmed that they have plans to refresh paintwork within the home and to make 'improvements'. She confirms that the young people will be involved in the colour choice and making suggestions for the 'improvements'.

Carolann James
May 21st 2013

MILTON KEYNES FOSTERING SERVICES REGULATION 35 REPORT 1 JANUARY 2013 – 31 MARCH 2013

Author: Jane Partridge
Title: Team Manager
Service Group: Children and Families-Integrated Support and Social Care

Report Summary

Purpose:

This report details the activity of the fostering service during the quarter 1st January 2013 – 31st March 2013. It provides a brief summary of the work delivered and undertaken by the service and the fostering panel.

Background:

This is a report required under The Fostering Service (England) Regulations, Part 6 Review of Care Regulation 35. The registered person is required to provide a 3 monthly report to the Local Authority's executive.

Corporate Priorities:

Improving the quality of the Fostering Service and the related fostering panel contributes to good outcomes for Milton Keynes' Looked After Children. This is in line with the council's Children & Families - Priority 4: To develop and maintain effective intervention that prevent the most vulnerable children and young people in our communities from experiencing additional difficulty and prevents them from suffering significant harm.

Performance Information:

The fostering service was inspected by Ofsted between 8th October – 12th October 2012. Three of the areas inspected were judged to be 'good' and a fourth was judged to be 'outstanding' giving the service an overall effectiveness judgment of "Good".

Equality and Diversity Impact:

The fostering service is provided for children from across the Milton Keynes' community. It therefore needs to provide foster carers who can meet the diverse needs of the children and young people in the Council's care.

Summary

- The panel membership has grown as 2 new professionals have been recruited and 1 new application has been received.
- During this period, 2 mainstream carers and 1 Family and Friends carer and 2 supported lodgings carer were approved
- 28 assessments are in progress, including mainstream foster care, family and friends supported lodgings and special guardianships.
- Approved number of fostering, family and friends (+R24) and supported lodgings households =**167**
- Fostering panel had increased its frequency to 3 weekly to meet the demands of a continually growing service.
- On average 76.46% of Milton Keynes children in foster care are placed in house and 74% of placement requests were met in house.

* denotes information required to be included in Regulation 35 Schedule 6 reports for the fostering agency executive.

- 3 children gained permanence: 1 by being permanently matched with foster carers where the child had lived from first becoming a looked after child. 2 via SGOs being granted, taking them out of the care system. Both of these children were placed with family members.
- The work presented to panel was maintained to a high standard.
- The fostering service continued to meet the high demands of Family and Friends assessments by commissioning an independent social worker to assist with the workload in meeting very tight timescales.
- 2 allegations were made against foster carers and investigated under safeguarding procedures. Ofsted were notified in line with Schedule 7.
- Two new members of staff were recruited and it is expected that they will be in post during the next quarter
- The service is experiencing a significant pressure with the increase in Family finding referrals and Family and Friends viability and assessment work. The Family and Friends work is a particular pressure due to the immediacy of required action dictated by the courts.
- Foster carer questionnaires analysed and action plan devised as a result.

Recommendations:

Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to note and comment on the report.

Full Report

1 Introduction

This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Panel to meet the requirements set out in Regulation 35 and Schedule 6 of the Fostering Services Regulations 2011 and point 25.7 of the National Minimum Standards.

The aim of this quarterly report is monitor both the effectiveness of the service and to ensure the service is achieving good outcomes for children. To meet this requirement, this report offers a brief summary the work undertaken by the fostering service.

2 Fostering Panel *

As the number of approved foster carers continue to grow it has been necessary to increase the frequency of the fostering panels from 4 weekly to 3 weekly. This increase commenced from 1st January. During this period the fostering panel met 4 times where each panel sat for a full day.

The increase in panel frequency ensures timely presentation of case work.

3 Fostering Panel Membership*

During this period the service has broadened its recruitment of panel members to better fit the diverse population of Milton Keynes and broaden the skills set of the panel as a collective body. Two successful appointments were made during this quarter. One being a white female employed as the nurse for looked after children and the other a white male employed as the primary mental health worker for children in care.

An application has also been received from a black male who is employed as an educational psychologist. He will be interviewed during the next quarter.

These appointments begin to address the Ofsted inspection recommendations to ensure the numbers, skill, knowledge and experience of the persons on the central list are sufficient.

4 Panel member's annual appraisals*

During this period the Chair of the panel and the Panel Advisor (team manager) undertook positive annual appraisals with 2 panel members.

The panel Chair also had her annual appraisal. This again was positive and was undertaken by the Agency Decision Maker, the Head of Delivery and the Panel Advisor.

5 Foster Carer Recruitment and Approval*

The fostering service has continued actively to recruit carers and undertake fostering assessments. During this period the service used local radio advertising for the first time. A 3 week campaign ran from 25th Feb – 17 March. This generated the highest level of interest and we saw the hits on the fostering website double from 400 to 800. 6 applications were received as a direct result.

Other recruitment activity included a generic advert in the MK News and a 'drop in' evening. Adverts are also continuous on the TV in the Civic offices as is the advert in the MK Hospital magazine.

In this review period the Fostering Panel has approved 5 fostering households as follows,

- 2 Mainstream foster carers
- 1 Family and Friends carer
- 2 Supported Lodgings provider

Of these fostering households, the ethnicity of the carers is made up of:

* denotes information required to be included in Regulation 35 Schedule 6 reports for the fostering agency executive.

- 4 white British households (inc the Family and Friends carers)
- 1 black Caribbean household

One of the above households came over from an independent fostering agency. This carer has 2 MK children in placement. The move to MKC fostering service offers a significant saving to the council as agency fees are no longer paid. One of the supported lodgings carers was approved specifically for a young female in care. This female is placed in mainstream foster care with the parents of the now approved supported lodgings carers. The family have offered this young female continuity of care as she moves into independence.

| Fostering households 2013 | January | February | March |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Mainstream | 148 | 148 | 146 |
| Regulation 24 | 7 | 8 | 11 |
| Supported Lodgings | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Total | 163 | 165 | 167 |

The service continues to positively increase the numbers of fostering households. The service is experiencing particular pressures in meeting and managing the demands of family and friends viability assessments and subsequent court work and further assessment work.

Terminations of Approvals

During this time, the fostering service terminated the approval of 5 fostering households, these were made up of:

- 1 Family and Friends carer.
- 3 mainstream foster carers.
- 1 Family Link carer.

The family and friends carer obtained a SGO on the child. Of the main stream foster carers, one resigned due to their own business growing and them no longer being available to foster. One couple resigned due to a disagreement with the services recommendation to approve for older children, as the GP reported a back problem and recommended no lifting. These carers had requested to care for 0-4 year old. For the first time we have experienced a carer resign to join an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA). These carers were originally approved by MKC when living locally. They moved to Birmingham but continued to foster for MKC for a further 5 years. This did pose a number of difficulties when children were placed in their care, not least because the children were displaced from MK. The moving of there approval to Birmingham is a positive move, and the carer will now be available to provide a local resource for have children from their area.

5 Record of Ongoing Fostering Assessments*

As of the 31st March 2013, the service are engaged in undertaking **25** assessments

- **Supported Lodgings:**
4 supported lodgings assessments.
- **Mainstream Foster Care:**
8 assessments are currently being undertaken
- **Family and Friends:**
2 Family and Friends carers
11 Regulation 24 carers (Family and Friends assessments where children are already in place)
- **Special Guardianship Assessments: Total 4**

* denotes information required to be included in Regulation 35 Schedule 6 reports for the fostering agency executive. 4

2 SGO assessments – family and friends (1 where an ex foster carer already has 3 of the child’s siblings placed on an SGO and 1 where a family member has put themselves forward for a child currently in care).

2 SGO assessments – mainstream foster carers (foster carers wishing to gain PR for the child and to take the child out of the care system).

6 Permanent Matching and Family Finding

During this period 1 child was positively matched with permanent carers. This child had been with carers since his reception into care and following the care proceedings where his best interest was deemed to be permanent foster care, the carers put themselves forward.

Since the introduction of the Permanence Tracking Meetings designed to improve placement stability for children in care the number of children being referred to the service for family finding for permanent foster homes has grown significantly. Whilst this is very much embraced and seen as a positive move in reducing delay for children requiring permanence through fostering, it does present the service with added allocation pressure. The need for this service has more than quadrupled in the last year and more than doubled from 2+ years ago.

| Number of family finding referrals | Total |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2012 -2013 | 25 referrals |
| 2011 - 2012 | 6 referrals |
| 2010 - 2011 | 10 referrals |

7 Foster Carer Household Reviews

During this period, the fostering panel considered and made recommendations on the continued approval of 19 fostering households:

- 1st Household Review with no change to original approval – 5
- 1st Household Review with a change of approval – 1
- Household Review following a complaint – 1
- Household Review following permanent match - 2
- Other Household Review with a change of approval – 10

The Agency Decision maker (ADM) reviewed and continued the approval of 7 fostering households.

8 Quality of Work Presented

During this period 27 reports were presented for consideration to panel and were given the following quality score:

- 9 – excellent
- 15 – good
- 3 – satisfactory

The panel members continue to be impressed by the quality of reports submitted by the presenting social workers. The fostering panel collectively contribute to the panel feedback forms and comment on the quality of reports, note any additional information required and highlight any practice and policy matters to be followed up by the Panel Adviser (team manager) and matters to raise at the monitoring group.

9 Timescales

The Fostering standards (2011) give an 8 month time scale for a fostering assessment to be completed from application to presentation at panel. During this period 3 fostering assessments were presented to panel. The average time to complete a mainstream fostering assessment took 6.1 months.

* denotes information required to be included in Regulation 35 Schedule 6 reports for the fostering agency executive. 5

10 Family and Friends – Connected Persons*

During this period, the fostering team have undertaken **12** viability assessments of Family and Friend carers. **5** of these families went on to have children placed under Regulation 24 and full fostering assessments are taking place.

The request for Family and Friends viability assessments and children placed under Regulation 24 continues to put a particular pressure on the service. This is primarily due to the speed in which courts are requesting the assessed information. To meet this demand the service has commissioned an independent social worker to assist with the assessment work and to meet the time scales directed by court.

In producing literature for family and friends going through a fostering assessment the MK Grandparents Association were asked to contribute to the draft literature. They did so with their usual enthusiasm and offered good feedback which was then incorporated into the final draft.

A meeting between senior managers, legal services and the fostering service has taken place to review the draft professional procedures and information for Family and Friends carers. This will now come out of draft and fostering staff will make presentations to the child care teams to discuss process and flow.

11 Special Guardianship Orders

The fostering service continues to work with family and friends carers in undertaking SGO assessments to secure permanence for children within their extended family. In this period, **2** children were placed within their extended family where Special Guardianship Orders 's were granted; taking them out of the care system and where they were placed in culturally matched family settings.

12 Children placed in foster care

On the 31.03.13 the fostering service had **169** children placed within the service.

During this reporting period the fostering service received **50** placement requests, of these **37 (74%)** children were placed within the 'in house' fostering service.

| Children placed with MKC carers during 1 st January – 31 st March 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Age in years | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Number placed | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

| Children placed with IFA carers during 1st January – 31st March 2013 | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| Age in years | | | 9 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 17 |
| Number placed | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 |

13 placements were made with an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA). This amounted to 10 children (as 3 of the same children moved placements). Almost all of these children had experienced placements with in house carers, but their placements had ended and the service was not able to offer a suitable alternative placement.

* denotes information required to be included in Regulation 35 Schedule 6 reports for the fostering agency executive. 6

| | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan 2013 | Feb | Mar |
|---|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|----------|------|------|
| Number of children in foster placements | 216 | 218 | 220 | 217 | 215 | 217 | 208 | 206 | 204 | 209 | 215 | 213 |
| Of which number are MKC carers | 170 | 169 | 168 | 168 | 166 | 165 | 157 | 153 | 155 | 162 | 163 | 160 |
| % of foster placements which are MKC carers | 78.7 | 77.5 | 76.4 | 77.4 | 77.2 | 76 | 75.7 | 74.3 | 76 | 77.5 | 75.8 | 75.1 |

During 2012-2013 the average number of children placed within the 'in house' fostering resource was **76.46%** of those children in foster care. As a comparator to neighbouring Local Authorities this percentage is high.

13 Child Care Reviews*

During this quarter 146 child care reviews took place of which 95.6% were in time scale. Our data management system ICS is not currently able to disaggregate the figures for children placed in Milton Keynes Council foster placements. This is being addressed.

14 Allegations, Complaints and Significant Events*

During this period, the fostering service has received **2** allegations against foster carers which have been investigated under safeguarding procedures by the Local Authority Designated Officer - LADO. The allegations fell into the following categories:

- Likely or Actual Sexual Abuse – **1 – Unsubstantiated (historical allegation)**
- Likely or Actual Physical Abuse – **1 - Unfounded**

Following the conclusion of each of the allegations a foster carer household review was undertaken as presented to fostering panel, in line with the fostering service policy and procedures. Both sets of foster carers remain approved.

*Notification of Events listed in Schedule 7

Ofsted were notified of each of the above cases as required.

15 Complaints and compliments*

During this period the service has not received any formal complaints or compliments. The team work closely with carers and professionals to address issues as they arise. The manager is exploring ways of aggregating this lower level feedback.

16 Child missing from a foster home*

During this period, 4 children placed in the 'in house' fostering service have been recorded on ICS as missing.

| Gender | Age | Number of occasions missing | Less than 24 hours | 1 to 6 days |
|------------|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Female (a) | 13 | 2 | | 4 days 3 days |
| Female (b) | 15 | 1 | | 3 days |
| Female (c) | 16 | 4 | 1 day 1 day 1 day | 8 days |
| Female (d) | 15 | 1 | | 2 days |

These young girls all have a pattern of behaviour where they are regularly absent without consent due to issues with their birth mothers, carers are usually aware of their whereabouts.

* denotes information required to be included in Regulation 35 Schedule 6 reports for the fostering agency executive. 7

However during this period they had been reported as missing on a number of occasions. On each occasion the foster carer has acted in line with policy and procedure. Safeguarding procedures were followed on each occasion with strategy meetings taking place as required.

Female (c) and female (d) are sisters. This period presented with significant trauma for these girls as they learned that their youngest sibling was to be placed for adoption.

All the females above are not part of a friendship group and are not deemed at risk of organised sexual exploitation. It is also good to note that since this time missing episodes have significantly diminished for each of the females.

17 Use of any measures of control, restraint or discipline in respect of children accommodated in a foster home*

During this period, there have been no recorded incidents of a child being restrained whilst being cared for within the fostering service.

18 Medication, medical treatment and first aid administered to any child placed with foster carers*

Foster carers record all the above processes in their weekly or monthly logs and this information is passed to child care social workers to be held on the child's file.

The Specialist Nurse for Looked After Children now delivers specific training on the administration and storage of medicine as part of the foster carers core training under Safer Caring. The nurse has been commissioned to provide this training to experienced foster carers in line with Ofsted recommendations.

19 Accidents, injuries and illnesses of children placed with foster carers*

All minor accidents, injuries and illnesses are recorded by the foster parent on their weekly logs and are passed to the child care social worker. During this period no significant accidents, injuries or illnesses were reported.

20 Fostering Team Staffing Matters*

Recruitment of new staff *

Two new members of staff were successfully recruited during this period. A full time fostering social worker was recruited from within the team. (Social work assistant qualified as a social worker). This now leaves a social work assistant post to recruit to. The deputy team manager post was interviewed for and the successful applicant will be in post by 1st May. All necessary references and checks were completed in line with MKC HR processes and met the requirements of the fostering regulations and standards.

21 Business Planning/Development*

The annual fostering team business planning day is booked for the 8th May. Here the team will review the previous year against the set targets and will collectively contribute to the team plan for the coming year. The annual team plan will be available at the end of May 2013.

The foster carers bi-annual questionnaire was analysed and an action plan devised. Of the 150 households 25 forms were returned. There were 3 main areas of development identified

- Seven foster carer reported that they did not receive adequate information to care for the child - Two separate (3 months apart) audits of the fostering service 5 and 14 day checks will ascertain what information foster carers are receiving and in what time scale and any management action required.
- Nine Foster carers reported that they were unaware of the Camhs Support Group - Camhs support group information to be part of paper based welcome pack (currently only held on foster carers website).
- Five foster carers reported feeling unsupported and under valued by CSC staff. Work on this is required as we know this is a significant factor in carers decisions for leaving the service – Foster carer mentors will be tasked in collaboration with the team

* denotes information required to be included in Regulation 35 Schedule 6 reports for the fostering agency executive. 8

manager to devise a training programme for new CSC where the roles and responsibilities of the foster carer will be discussed as well as the need to form a collaborative professional relationship.

During this quarter a number of foster carers have raised a concern that they had been left vacant for a time. The total number of children in foster care had reduced from **220 in June 2012** to as low as **204 in December 2012**. In order to retain our foster carers the team manager offered placements to neighbouring authorities. Currently we have **8** children in placement from neighbouring authorities. This retains our carers for when the numbers increase again and brings in a small revenue to the team.

22 Team Meetings and Staff Appraisals *

Staff appraisals will commence and be completed by June 2013. All eligible staff within the fostering team will undertake an appraisal and targets will be set against the 2013-2014 team plan.

The team meetings continue to take place each Wednesday morning except for the first Wednesday of the month. Team meetings are minuted and are well attended by the staff group.

23 Action and service development set at December 2012

- **The service has an action plan for meeting the 6 recommendations from the Ofsted inspection.**

4 of the 6 recommendations are met. 2 are part met, of which the following demonstrates how these are being addressed.

We have recruited panel members who offer a range of skills, expertise and diversity but we have not recruited a person who has been in care or is a care leaver. However we do have the details of an interested party which will be further explored during the next quarter.

We continue to offer a range of educational training and resources to enhance the educational attainment for children and young people. However a collaborative strategy with the education team will offer a more coherent approach to meet this aim.

- **Conduct an audit of 5 and 14 day checks to ensure foster carers and children consistently received information and resources at the earliest opportunity.**
- **Manager to meet with Corporate Parenting Team, IRO team and TCTF to gather and offer views on common matters to enhance service delivery.**

The team manager met with all three groups during this period. General information was given in respect of the service and all questions raised by the groups were satisfactorily answered. More specifically the main practice issue raised by the Corporate Parenting Team (CPT) was that there had been a few occasions where a social worker had not been informed of a child's move to respite. As a response to this the team manager raised this as a practice matter with the team and as a consequence the dedicated duty worker will as a matter of course, ensure the social workers are informed. This will be reviewed during the quarterly meeting the team manager has with the CPT.

In respect of the IROs their main issue was the role of the fostering social worker in the child care review. This has been raised as a practice matter within the fostering team meeting and practice will be required to improve where necessary. This will be reviewed during the quarterly meeting the team manager has with the IROs.

The team manager's main practice matter with both professional groups was the need to improve the return of their comments in relation to the foster carers annual household review. This has had a positive impact and a recent audit has shown an improvement in these returns which gives professional feedback on foster carers performance.

See below for TCTF comments.

* denotes information required to be included in Regulation 35 Schedule 6 reports for the fostering agency executive. 9

- **Foster Carers currently record all medication medical treatment administered and this is shared with the child's SW. The service to consider ways to capture this information collectively to provide overview for the service and ensure compliance with regulations.**

This has not progressed during this period and will move to next quarter.

- **Fostering team manager will attend TCTF to discuss directly with young people how the placement process can be improved.**

The team manager met with young people at the TCTF on 13th March 2013. This was a very positive meeting where the team manager spoke with the young people about the families that become foster carers, the assessment process, the training the carers are offered etc. Further to this the young people discussed what information was important to them when being placed. It was good to note that the young people had seen the MKC fostering Children's Guide supplied to them at the point of placement. They were also aware of the foster carers 'welcome book' produced by foster carers as a colourful introduction for the foster child as they as placed within a family. However the team manager also agreed to highlight the need for these books to be reviewed to make them age appropriate for the child placed. This will be raised as a practice matter for foster carers in the next edition of the foster carers newsletter and was shared with staff at a team meeting.

- **The service will continue to deliver the team business plan.**

The service is on target to meet the team business plan set for 2012-2013. This will be fully reviewed by the team at the team business planning day set for the 8th May

24 Action and development for next quarter

- Explore initial interest of adult who was in care as a child becoming panel member.
- Finance policy 2013-2014 to be operational.
- Funding of £50K to secure permanence for a sibling group of 3 to be requested by presentation to Finance Board.
- New foster carer agreement to be distributed to all carers.
- Family and Friends flow chart and literature to be shared with child care teams.
- 2013-2014 Team plan to be devised and operational.

May 2013

MILTON KEYNES ADOPTION PANEL AND PERMANENCE REPORT OCTOBER 2012 – MARCH 2013

Author: Carol Noble
Title: Team Manager
Service Group: Children and Families-Integrated Support and Social Care

Report Summary

Purpose:

To detail the activity of the adoption panel: to give a brief summary of the work undertaken by the panel; to highlight the practice and policy matters raised; to feedback on the monitoring role of panel, in particular in relation to the quality of the reports which the panel receives.

Background:

As required by regulations, the registered person is responsible for providing a six-monthly report to the Local Authority's executive.

Corporate Priorities:

Improving the quality of the Adoption Service and related panel contributes to good outcomes for Milton Keynes' Looked After Children. This is in line with the council's Children & Families 2012/13 priority 4; To develop and maintain effective intervention that prevent the most vulnerable children and young people in our communities from experiencing additional difficulty and prevents them from suffering significant harm.

Performance Information

A national data set for the adoption service is provided through the introduction of the adoption scorecard (previously reported to CPP). Milton Keynes Adoption Service has continued to improved its performance against the scorecard's key threshold measures.

Equality and Diversity Impact:

The service is provided for children from across the Milton Keynes community. There are targets for ensuring a focus on those children who are often more difficult to place, who include: children with complex needs and disabilities, children from black and minority ethnic groups and older children.

Recommendations:

Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to note the reports

FULL REPORT

Introduction:

This is a six month report detailing the activity of the adoption panel. The aim of this report is to give a brief summary of the work undertaken by the panel, the practice and policy matters raised and feedback in relation to the monitoring role of panel, in particular the quality of the reports presented to panel.

Panel Membership:

The panel now has a central list of 11 panel members which includes the Independent Chair, Vice Chair, Medical Advisor, Education Representative, Two Social Work Representatives from Luton Adoption Team, Elected Member, three Milton Keynes Social Workers and three Independent Members who have direct experience of adoption. One social work representative has resigned.

We plan to recruit two additional panel members to increase diversity and expertise within the panel.

Panel appraisals:

Between October 2012 and March 2013 there have been 3 appraisals completed.

Observers

There have been seven observers; SGO worker (Adoption Team), Higher Specialist Trainee MKPCT, Consultant Paediatrician/Named Doctor for Safeguarding, Child Health Dept., Core Trainee MKPCT, Social Work Student, CiC Team, Social Worker, Adoption Team and Senior Practitioner, Adoption Team.

Panel administration

We have a dedicated Business Support Administrator who is meeting the timescales for completing panel minutes.

Details of Agency Decision Maker:

Nicky Rayner, Assistant Director of Children's Services is the Decision Maker, and Charles Greer, Head of Children in Care Services is the Deputy Decision Maker. Nicky Rayner has made all the decisions in this review period.

Training:

A full day training course was facilitated by BAAF on 22.01.13 for panel members and the Adoption Team joined the training in the afternoon. The training focuses on the way in which the panel functions and the new Perspective Adopters Report (PAR).

A half day training course was provided to panel members on 08.03.13 which covered assessing Gay & Lesbian adopters, matching children and the adoption reform.

A full day's training at Adoption Plus was offered to panel members entitled 'Developmental Re-parenting'. Three panel members attended this course.

Information from feedback forms

No feedback was received during this period. We will take the feedback forms to each panel to encourage attendees to complete and return the forms.

Adoption Overview Meetings

These have taken place at least quarterly and are chaired by the Adoption and Fostering Service Manager and attended by Adoption and Adoption Support Team Managers, a Manager from Children's Services, the Agency Adviser to Panel, and the Panel Coordinator and Administrator, and both Panel chairs.

Panel activity

Adoption Orders October 2012 – March 2012

Number

15

Ethnicity of children

White British (13)

Any Other White Background (1)

White Irish (1)

Ages at adoption

| AGE | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-6 | 6-7 | 7-8 | 8-9 |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |

Sibling groups

There were three sets of sibling groups, two sets of two children and one set of three children.

Placements for adoption October 2012– March 2012

Number

14

Ethnicity

White British (13)

African (1)

Ages at placement

| AGE | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-6 | 6-7 | 7-8 | 8-9 |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Sibling groups

There were no sibling groups.

Panel Business October 2012 – March 2013

Number of panels held 7; two panels were cancelled in March 2013 as the paperwork was not ready within the timescales. Long term sickness to three of the team required reallocation of cases. These were prioritised by staff and presented at April Panel, no significant delay in meeting adoption time scales resulted.

The decisions that a child should be placed for adoption are taken outside of the panel by the Agency Decision Maker unless the child is relinquished for adoption, then the decision is made at the panel.

Recommendations that a child should be placed for adoption

10

Ages

| AGE | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-6 | 6-7 | 7-8 | 8-9 |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Ethnicity

White British (7)

Any Other White Background (1)

Any Other Mixed Background (2)

Siblings

One set of two siblings.

Adopters approved

7 couples were approved.

Ethnicity

White British (6)

White British/White Any Other (1)

Matches during this period

12

8 children were matched with in house adopters

1 child was matched with adopters from Voluntary Adoption Agency

2 children were matched with adopters from two Local Authority Adoption Agencies

Ages

| AGE | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-6 | 6-7 | 7-8 | 8-9 |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Ethnicity

White British (14)

Any Other Mixed (1)

Rescind of Adoption Decision

Number 2

Ages

| AGE | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-6 | 6-7 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Ethnicity

All children are White British

Permanent Placement via other Orders

Inter-country adoptions

One inter-country adoption order was made within this period.

Residence Orders

None

Special Guardianship Orders

Number

7

Ages

| AGE | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-6 | 6-7 | 7-8 | 10-11 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |

Ethnicity

White British (5)

White and Black Caribbean (1)

Any other Black Background (1)

Budgets

| Profit Centre | Actual | Budget | Forecast | Variance |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 433709 Adoption Panel | 25,567 | 23,768 | 23,063 | 1,799 |
| 440104 Residence Allowances | 164,496 | 182,392 | 168,414 | -17,896 |
| 441101 Adoptions | 655,511 | 661,040 | 639,246 | -5,529 |
| 441102 Adoptions | 665,907 | 606,011 | 639,596 | 59,896 |
| 441105 Special Guardianships | 426,696 | 384,533 | 434,000 | 42,163 |
| Totals | 17,389 | 0 | 20,000 | 17,389 |
| | | | | |
| | 1,955,566 | 1,857,744 | 1,924,319 | 97,822 |

Policy and Practice Issues

- High quality of assessments including evidence/observation of child care and that most applicants are being matched promptly.
- Very positive feedback received about Adoption Team.
- Panel welcomed the detailed feedback from Agency Decision Maker.
- Strong matches presented to the panel including additional work as part of matching and more robust support plans.
- Staff and panel have developed their focus on strengths and vulnerabilities.
- The quality of Child Permanency Reports (CPRs) is improving.

Service Developments relevant to Adoption Panel

- To ensure that the monthly highlight report is presented to panel members on a quarterly basis.
- To ensure the quality of matching reports improves and reflects on individual children's needs.

- To ensure that policies to support 'foster to adopt' scheme are implemented.
- To ensure that the panel are involved and take part in the steering group for the 'concurrent placement scheme'.
- The adoption team to implement the new PAR.
- The panel advisor to inform panel about the detail and learning from the rescinding of adoption decisions.
- The panel advisor to inform panel members about progress in relation to the revocation of Freeing and Placement Orders.

How and by when will these be achieved?

- The panel advisor will devise a timetable to ensure highlight reports are discussed at the panel.
- The panel advisor will monitor the quality of matching reports and will share feedback with social workers.
- The panel advisor to arrange a meeting with the fostering team manager and the chair of the panels to devise and implement the new policies and procedures.
- The panel advisor to invite the chair to take part in the steering group.
- The new PAR will be implemented from the 01.04.13.
- The panel advisor to write a memo to the panel detailing the learning from rescinds decisions.
- The panel advisor to write a memo to the panel detailing the learning from the revocation of Freeing and Placement Orders.

Carol Noble
Team Manager
21.05.13

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Date of Panel | 17 JUNE 2013 | Agenda Item Number | 8 |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|

OUT OF BOROUGH PLACEMENT

Author: Charles Greer Head of Delivery Corporate Parenting
 Title: Children Placed Out of Borough

Report Summary

Purpose:

The report seeks to present an over view of the placements of children in care whose placements were outside the Borough of Milton Keynes during the financial year 2012-13.

Background:

This report was requested by panel members in relation to the July 2012 SLAC inspection, that highlighted the numbers of young people placed outside the borough and in relation to current national concerns about the vulnerabilities of young people placed far from home.

Corporate Priorities:

The activities of the Corporate Parenting Panel are covered by the Council's Children and Families - Priorities "To develop and maintain effective intervention that prevent the most vulnerable children and young people in our communities from experiencing additional difficulty and prevents them from suffering significant harm"

Performance Information:

The number of children in the council's care rose from 278 to 282 during 2012/13. This represents a slight fall in the rate per 10,000 under 18 Milton Keynes population and is a lower rate than the England or statistical neighbour average. The report highlights improvements in the distance those young people are placed from Milton Keynes.

Equality and Diversity Impact:

The placement service is provided for children from across the Milton Keynes' community. It therefore needs to provide placements that can meet the diverse needs of the children and young people in the Council's care.

Recommendations /Proposals:

Members are asked to consider and discuss the content of the report .

Full Report

Introduction

Children and young people in Milton Keynes' care are placed in a range of placements according to their individually assessed needs and circumstances. We generally seek to place children locally, but for some children a move away is a positive choice for safeguarding reasons or because the specialist resource they require is not locally available.

2012-13 Placement Analysis

The total number of unique children in care placed by Milton Keynes council through out the period 01.04.12 to 31.03.13 was 398, in a total of 454 placements. These placements amounted to the provision of a combined total of 14,842 weeks' care. The length of stay in these placements ranged from as little as 24 hours to many years.

The gender split of the care population throughout the period was 48% Female and 52% Male with the following age range.

| AGE | Under 1 | 1- 4 | 5- 9 | 10 -15 | 16+ |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Female | 7 | 47 | 37 | 52 | 49 |
| Male | 8 | 37 | 41 | 63 | 57 |
| Total | 15 (3.8%) | 84 (21.1%) | 78 (19.6%) | 115 (28.9%) | 106 (26.6%) |

In broad terms, 61.5% of placements used to accommodate these children were inside the local authority boundary and 38.5% were outside. On the 31st March 2013, 164 (58.2%) of the 282 children in care were placed within the geographical boundary and 118 (41.8%) were placed outside.

There is a clear correlation between the child's assessed need, their placement type and its location. The following table provides a breakdown of the 118 children classed as out of borough by placement type.

| Out of Borough by Placement Type | |
|---|------------|
| Placed for Adoption | 19 |
| Fostering | 67 |
| <i>Friends and Family</i> | <i>14</i> |
| <i>With MK carers</i> | <i>27</i> |
| <i>With IFA carers</i> | <i>26</i> |
| Residential & schools | 20 |
| Placed with Parents | 6 |
| Independent Living | 1 |
| Youth Offending Institutions | 4 |
| Mental Health Provision | 1 |
| Total | 118 |

Of the 118 young people placed outside the borough, 16% are matched with suitable carers and placed for adoption and 26% are placed within their own family in either Connected Persons Foster Care or placed with birth parents on an order. These can be considered positive placement choices but are outside the borough.

A further 20 children are placed in residential care for children with special or high level needs, such as children with disabilities and those with challenging behaviour. This includes provision such as residential schools, secure units and therapeutic children's homes that are not available within the borough boundary.

All new external residential placements are made with units which are assessed as either good or outstanding by OFSTED. The placements are closely monitored by the commissioner to ensure that they deliver the level of care which they are contracted to provide. Allocated social workers regularly visit each individual child. The appropriateness of the placement is regularly reviewed by an independent reviewing officer.

The remaining 51 children are placed in foster care. Whilst geographically out of borough, 53% of these are placed with foster carers who are recruited assessed and supported directly by Milton Keynes Fostering service and 47% are commissioned from independent fostering agencies.

There are changes in legislation and practice that since November 2012 require local authorities to regard young people in various forms of custody as looked after children. This has seen a small increase in the children in care numbers in placements relating to custody. Of the 118 out of borough placements on 31st March 2013, 4 young people were in custody or secure accommodation that is not available within the borough boundary. 1 young person is living independently with support in a location of their choice.

Distance from Central Milton Keynes

The relatively small geographical size of Milton Keynes means that the term "out side the boundary" can be misleading and some young people placed "outside the boundary" are relatively short distances from home. For example, a child placed at Newton Longville is out of borough but only 4.7 miles from Central Milton Keynes

An additional proxy measure is the distance from Milton Keynes in miles. The following table provides a quarterly breakdown over the last two years of placement distance from Central Milton Keynes.

| | 2011 | | | | 2012 | | | | 2013 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Mar | Jun | Sep | Dec | Mar | Jun | Sep | Dec | Mar |
| 0-20 Miles | 207 | 217 | 229 | 224 | 227 | 239 | 238 | 228 | 220 |
| 21-50 Miles | 23 | 19 | 21 | 22 | 19 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 20 |
| 51-100 Miles | 24 | 19 | 19 | 17 | 21 | 23 | 29 | 28 | 35 |
| 101+ Miles | 17 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| % 0-20 Miles | 76.1 | 80.4 | 80.6 | 81.5 | 81.7 | 83.6 | 82.1 | 81.1 | 78.0 |
| Number of LAC | 272 | 270 | 284 | 275 | 278 | 285 | 290 | 281 | 282 |
| | | | | | | | | | |

There has been a reduction in young people placed out side the 20 mile radius of MK. This was at its best in June 2012, when 83.6 % of Milton Keynes children were placed within the 20 mile target. This has fallen over the latter part of the year to 78%, which, while remaining better that March 2011, requires consideration.

A combination of factors contributed to this change, many of which can be viewed as positive. The increased activity of the adoption team, with more children being placed for adoption, has increased the numbers of those placed outside Milton Keynes, as has the increased use of family and friends carers as an alternative to stranger fostering. This is in line with the council's family support ethos and has the advantage of not only retaining children within their birth families but also of providing a potential route out of care through permanency options such as Special Guardianship Orders.

Changes in legislation within youth justice have required a broader range of young people to be regarded as Children in Care. It is believed this will provide better outcomes for these young people, but such placement options are not available locally.

Of the 118 children classed as placed out of borough, 48% are geographically placed within 20 miles of central Milton Keynes in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire or Northamptonshire. The following table provides a breakdown by placement type of the remaining 62 who are placed more than 20 miles away. These figures suggest that 44% of these placements relate to adoption or placement with wider family. A further 29% are in children's homes, residential schools, secure units or health provision that is not available locally and the remaining 27% in fostering or independent living.

| CIC Placed 20+ miles from Central MK | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------|
| | Placed for Adoption | 14 |
| | Friends and Family Carers | 9 |
| | Residential | 14 |
| | Placed with Parents | 4 |
| | Fostering | 16 |
| | Independent Living | 1 |
| | Youth Offending Institutions | 3 |
| | Mental Health Provision | 1 |
| | Total | 62 |

Sufficiency Plan

The council in implementing its "sufficiency plan" has been able to provide a greater range of local placements for children and young people in our care. Our commissioning of external foster placements has been targeted on providers who are able to provide local placements and the council's in-house fostering service has achieved a net increase in the number of foster carers over each of the last three years. We have been able to reduce the numbers and percentage of children in care who are placed outside a 20 miles radius of Milton Keynes. On March 31st 2011, 23.9% of children in Milton Keynes' care were placed beyond this radius. This reduced, by 31st March 2012, to 18.3% and 22% in 2013.

There has been a significant decrease in the numbers of children placed extreme distances (101+ miles) from MK. On the 31st March 2013, 2.5% were placed 101 miles or more away, compared with 6.25% in 2011. This is largely due to the implementation of the sufficiency plan and to our commissioners seeking to source more local provision for young people with special needs.

Conclusion

The above analysis leads me to suggest that we are not placing large numbers of children far from Milton Keynes and that, for the majority who are placed at a distance this is as a result of positive placement choices. We have succeeded in increasing our local placement capacity and continue to work with providers to improve that further.

For those that are placed out of borough in externally commissioned placements, there is a commissioning focus upon delivering good outcomes for the young person and good value for the council, in addition to the quality assurance oversight provided by statutory reviews. Each of those placements are reviewed monthly by a Head of Delivery at either the External Placement Panel or the Permanency Forum.

Charles Greer
Head of Delivery Corporate Parenting

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Date of Panel | 17 JUNE 2013 | Agenda Item Number | 9 |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|

MILTON KEYNES CARE LEAVERS CHARTER

Author: Carolann James
 Title: Safeguarding and Quality Manager
 Division: Children and Families: Integrated Support and Social Care

Report Summary

Purpose:

To update Corporate Parenting Panel on the progress of Milton Keynes Council adoption of the National Charter for Care Leavers and work undertaken with our Children in Care Council (TCTF) to help embed its principles in day to day practice.

Background:

On the 30th October 2012, Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families wrote to all Director's of Children's Services in England setting out his ambitions and expectations for improving outcomes for Care Leavers. Included with this letter was a Charter for Care Leavers which had been produced by Care Leavers themselves was published on the 29th October 2012 and all Local Authorities were invited by the Minister to sign up to this Charter and to work with their Children in Care Councils (CICC) to identify what needed to be done to help embed its principles in day to day practice.

Corporate Priorities:

TCTF represents a central plank in the Council's participation agenda through which we seek to provide responsive and effective services. Through active engagement with and listening to service users we aim to ensure that services meet the expressed needs and wishes of young people and improve outcomes for children in care and those who have left the care of Milton Keynes Council in line with the Council's Children and Families 2012-2013 priority 4: To develop and maintain effective intervention for those experiencing additional difficulty and to prevent them from suffering significant harm.

Performance Information:

N/A

Equality and Diversity Impact:

Corporate Parenting service is provided for children from across Milton Keynes Community. It therefore needs to provide interventions that can meet the diverse needs of the children and young people in the care of Milton Keynes Council.

Recommendations /Proposals:

Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to note and discuss the report.

Full Report:

We have agreed to sign up to this National Charter for Care Leavers and then undertake further consultation with our children and young people through their Children in Care Council (TCTF) to determine whether they would wish to adopt this National Charter within Milton Keynes or alternatively to develop their own proposal for a Care Leavers Charter.

The consultation with our children and young people is in progress but was delayed until after GCSE examinations. We anticipate having the young people's proposal for a Milton Keynes Care Leavers Charter in mid July 2013 and would anticipate agreeing to the final Charter in September 2013 after having presented the final draft to both TCTF and CPP in September 2013.

We will also discuss with our children and young people what further, if anything, Milton Keynes Children's Services needs to do to embed the principles of the agreed Milton Keynes Care Leavers Charter within day to day practice.

We will ensure that all children in care and care leavers are aware of the Charter once agreed and that they know how to challenge or complain if they believe that the Charter is not being delivered as agreed.

Carolann James
22nd May 2013

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Date of Panel | 17 JUNE 2013 | Agenda Item Number | 10 |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------|

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

Author: Carolann James, Safeguarding and Quality Manager
 Title: Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2012 - 2013

Report Summary

Purpose:

The Corporate Parenting Panel presents an annual report of its activities to the Children and Young People's Select Committee. The attached draft report is for approval, and for panel members to identify any required amendments.

Background:

This Annual report covers the period from January 2012 to the end of March 2013. Future Annual reports will be produced to cover the fiscal year (1st April to 31st March) in line with all other Annual Reports produced.

Corporate Priorities:

The activities of the Corporate Parenting Panel are covered by the Council's Children and Families - Priorities "To develop and maintain effective intervention that prevent the most vulnerable children and young people in our communities from experiencing additional difficulty and prevents them from suffering significant harm".

Performance Information:

The number of children in the council's care rose from 278 to 282 during 2012/13. This represents a slight fall in the rate per 10,000 under 18 Milton Keynes population and is a lower rate than the England or statistical neighbour average. The report contains demographic details of the 282 children and young people.

Equality and Diversity Impact:

The activities of the panel have included member visits to the council's residential facilities for disabled children and receiving and challenging outcome data for children in care. The annual report includes information about the ethnicity of the council's care population.

Recommendations /Proposals:

That the draft report be approved with any amendments identified.



Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2012 - 2013

DRAFT

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/service

Date issued: April 2013
Review date: April 2014
Prepared by: Safeguarding and Quality Manager
Approved by: Assistant Director, Social Care

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL: INTEGRATED SUPPORT AND SOCIAL CARE

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - ANNUAL REPORT (2012/13)

Contact Officer: Nicky Rayner - 01908 253121

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This is the Annual Report of the activities of the Corporate Parenting Panel, which is presented to the Children and Young People's Select Committee.
- 1.2 This Annual report covers the period from January 2012 to the end of March 2013. Future Annual reports will be produced to cover the fiscal year (1st April to 31st March) in line with all other Annual Reports produced.
- 1.3 This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to review the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel in 2012/13.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the Annual Report.
- 2.2 That the Committee recommends any further areas which they feel should be considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel in 2013/14.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel was first established on an equal political party basis in 2003.
- 3.2 The Children and Young Persons Act 2008, which was fully implemented in April 2011, underpins the key role of 'corporate parenting' in shaping services to children in care. The Local Authority has a responsibility as a 'Corporate Parent' for all children in the care of Milton Keynes Council (sometimes referred to as Looked after Children (LAC)). 'Corporate parenting' emphasises the collective responsibility of the Council and its members to ensure good parenting and good outcomes for all children in their care.
- 3.3 The Children and Families Bill 2013 is scheduled to receive Royal Assent in autumn 2013. The Bill seeks further to reform legislation, including areas in relation to:
 - adoption and children in care
 - aspects of the family justice system
 - children and young people with special educational needs
 - the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England
 - statutory rights to leave and pay for parents and adopters
- 3.4 Milton Keynes Council aims to ensure that all children in its care experience excellent parenting: nurturing, supportive and ambitious care which provides stability promotes resilience and respects children and young people's cultural heritages.

4. Milton Keynes' Children in Care

- 4.1 The number of children in Milton Keynes' care has increased from 278 in March 2012 to 282 in March 2013. Milton Keynes has a growing population of under-18s. There has been a slight decrease in the Milton Keynes' rate of children in care per 10,000 children.

This rate remains below the national and “statistical neighbour” comparator average rates (comparative data is currently only available for the year 2011/12).

| | England 31.3.12 | Statistical neighbour 31.3.12 | MK 31.03.12 | MK 31.03.13. |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Number of children looked after per 10,000 under 18 population | 59 | 62 | 47.8 | 47.3 |

- 4.2 On 31st March 2013, of those 282 children in Milton Keynes’ care:
- 213 (76%) were in foster care placements (160 with MKC foster carers);
 - 20 (7%) were in adoptive placements awaiting an adoption order;
 - 24 (8%) were in residential provision (including 5 in MKC provision at Westminster House);
 - 12 (4%) were at home with parents;
 - 6 (2%) were in various independent living arrangements;
 - 3 (1%) were in a residential family centre or special school;
 - 3 (1%) were in a Young Offenders Institute;
 - 1 was in a health secure environment.
- 4.3 The legal status of those 282 children included:
- 214 (76%) children and young people in compulsory care arrangements ordered by the family courts (mainly interim or full care orders)
 - 67 (24%) in voluntary care and 1 temporarily remanded until criminal trial.
- 4.4 The ethnicity of those 282 children included:
- 225 (80%) of white British, white Irish or other white background. The 2012 Milton Keynes school census identified 70% of children in MK schools with this ethnicity.
 - 21 (7%) of white/black Caribbean, white/black African, white Asian or other mixed background. Schools: 6%
 - 17 (6%) of black Caribbean, African or other black background. Schools: 11%
 - 11 (4%) of Asian background. Schools: 9%
 - 8 (3%) from another ethnic group.
- 4.5 Of those 282 children:
- 13 (5%) were young asylum seekers
 - 126 (45%) were female
 - 156 (55%) were male
 - 67 (24%) were aged 0-4
 - 58 (21%) were aged 5-9
 - 99 (35%) were aged 10-15
 - 58 (21%) were aged 16 or over
- 4.6 The council applied for 65 interim care orders (the start of care proceedings for children suffering neglect or abuse) in 2012/13, compared with 49 such applications in 2011/12. 20 children in Milton Keynes’ care were adopted in 2012/13, compared to 13 in 2011/12.

5. Review of Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) Meetings

- 5.1 The Panel met on 6 occasions. Following the Safeguarding and Looked After Children Ofsted inspection in July 2012, the panel reviewed its scope, responsibilities and ways

of working to further develop its impact and effectiveness and ensure enhance its links with other agencies to improve outcomes for Children in Care (CiC). This development work has included:

- the monitoring and development of the CiC strategy
- receiving reports generated by improved local systems for reporting outcomes for CiC
- providing a robust virtual 'governing body' for the MK virtual school,
- further enhancing elected Members' understanding of the needs of CiC and their corporate parenting responsibilities, and strengthening the visibility of elected Members as champions for CiC,
- improving the panel's understanding and oversight of arrangements for young people in care placements outside Milton Keynes
- developing working arrangements with Officers to ensure that the necessary resources are in place to deliver improved outcomes for CiC
- further improving CPP members' levels of engagement with CiC.

5.2 Councillor Norman Miles has continued as Chair of the Panel. Councillor Gerald Small was elected as Vice Chair. All members have been CRB checked and trained to undertake member visits to Children's Homes and to work with the borough's Children in Care Council. All have undertaken and reported on visits to the borough's Children's homes.

5.3 The Panel considered a number of reports and service areas, including:

- The Educational attainment of Children in Care (CiC) – comparative data with other LAs
- The Virtual School's progress report
- Children in Care Pregnancy and Sexual Health
- The National Charter for Care Leavers –adopted by Milton Keynes for our care leavers
- Annual Reports in relation to Corporate Parenting Panel, children in care, adoption services, fostering services, residential care, the Independent Reviewing Service, Milton Keynes Community Health service for CiC and the CiC annual health report;
- Ofsted inspection reports for Safeguarding and Looked after Children, Adoption and Fostering Services, residential units and related improvement plans;
- The Adoption action plan and Adoption score card;
- Commissioning plan for sufficiency for children in care 2011-2013;
- Performance indicators 2011/12 and LA data on LAC, including Milton Keynes' performance;
- CiC strategy review report and the developing CiC strategy for 2013-2016;
- Regulation 33 visiting;
- Today's children, Tomorrow's Future (TCTF) reports;

5.4 Panel Members meet quarterly with the children in care council, which is called 'Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future' (TCTF) and have ensured that issues raised by

TCTF are acted on by officers. There is also an annual 'get to know you' event for elected Members and TCTF.

5.5 The young people set the agenda for TCTF meetings with CPP Members.

The following issues were raised by the young people, considered and agreed:

- To review and update practice in relation to child care reviews to ensure that they are more child centred and take place in venues where young people feel most comfortable. This includes enabling and providing increased opportunities for young people to chair their own child care reviews. A meeting between young people, supported by a participation worker, and Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) took place in July 2012 to consider the views of the young people and ensure that improved practice to address all these issues was put in place. Young people, with the support of the Participation Worker, are developing guidance for young people about chairing their own child care reviews. Training and support will be provided to young people to support this;
- Young people, supported by the participation worker, are developing a 'young people's guide' to the leaving care financial policy;
- In March 2012, young people suggested developing a 'care leavers' pledge for consideration. They later chose to adopt the national Care Leavers Charter, launched in October 2012, which has now been adopted by Milton Keynes Council. The young people plan to meet after the 2013 Summer exam period to review and apply the charter in Milton Keynes;
- To explore ways of improving the method of communication and speed of response between young people, social workers and independent reviewing officers;
- To improve communication with all young people in care to ensure they know of developments in practice and services in a timely manner as well as knowing what they are entitled to and their rights;
- To support young people in developing 'young people's guides' to key strategy and policy documents where necessary;
- To ensure that all elected Members are more aware of TCTF, of young people's experiences of care and of other areas of work which impact upon children in care and care leavers. To support this, it was agreed that the Lead Member for Children's Services and Members of Parliament for Milton Keynes would be invited to the annual 'getting to know you' TCTF event;
- An elected member from the CPP, accompanied by an officer, joined two of our young people in a national 'corporate parenting' event in Birmingham in March 2012 where ideas to improve lives for CiC were highlighted;
- MK to continue to participate in the Local Government Association (LGA) annual national corporate parenting week in the summer and, where appropriate and possible, to highlight corporate parenting experiences and achievements in the LGA corporate parenting publication;
- To develop training for elected Members in relation to corporate parenting. Young people agreed to participate in developing training for Corporate Parenting Panel members and other elected members;

- Young people requested opportunities for mentoring/ shadowing Elected Members and/or MKC Officers in their work. The young people felt this would be a good opportunity for them to get to know more about the roles and responsibilities of elected members and officers in addition to offering our young people opportunities to know more about employment/career options available to them;
- Young people would like MKC to provide work experience/ apprentice opportunities to children in care and care leavers to help with their opportunities for employment. This is being explored as part of wider council work to develop employment opportunities for Milton Keynes' young people;
- To consider what further supports, if any, can be made available to young people making the transition from school to college/university or work;
- At the request of young people, we developed and introduced groups for children in care aged 14+ to offer opportunities to learn life skills, develop cooking skills, manage budgets, learn DIY/decorating skills, look at how to stay healthy and offer employment/career planning;
- To ensure that all social workers, managers and IROs ensure that the policy in relation to passport availability for children in care is adhered to, and to ensure that where there are legitimate reasons for delays in obtaining passports, social workers ensure that the young people are kept informed about these;
- TCTF members organised (with support from the participation worker) a 'party' for children in care to allow other young people to learn more about TCTF and the opportunities and benefits of participation in TCTF. The young people invited elected members, senior managers, foster carers and IROs to this event, held on December 1st 2012. This successful event raised awareness of TCTF with our young people and more have come forward to participate in TCTF ;

5.6 Panel Members have undertaken quarterly visits to the Council's three children's homes and have made recommendations for improvement as appropriate. Panel Members have produced member guidance for future Councillors in relation to such visits.

6. Future Work Programme

6.1 The Panel will continue its work on those standing items included in their terms of reference.

6.2 The current CPP work plan for 2013/14 includes:

- the finalisation and implementation of the updated Milton Keynes children in care strategy for 2013/16;
- a focus upon the stability and the educational attainment of children in care, and services to care leavers;
- receiving reports on the quality and sufficiency of residential and fostering placements, with a particular focus upon placement location (within or outside Milton Keynes);
- monitoring the on-going delivery of the Pledge - CPP will continue to work with young people, both those living in MK and those out of area, to deliver a clear and effective pledge that does what it says and achieves real improvements to the lives of our children in care;

- monitoring the implementation and impact of changes in regulations and guidance;
- monitoring adherence to the charters for children in care and care leavers which the council has adopted;
- quarterly meetings with TCTF young people and participation in other TCTF events and opportunities;
- considering priority service areas, such as the council's progress in delivering further improvements in its adoption performance and the impact of the one-off 2013/14 adoption reform grant.

Background papers

Minutes of Corporate Parenting Panel – 2011/12 and 2012/13 and CPP – Terms of Reference

DRAFT