

Minutes of the meeting of the CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL held on  
MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2012 at 9.30 am

- Present:** Councillor Miles (Chair)  
Councillors Bradburn, Brock, O'Neill, Small and Zealley
- Officers:** G Tolley (Director of Children's Services), N Rayner (Assistant Director [Children's Social Care]), C Greer (Head of Delivery Corporate Parenting), M Grinyer (Head of Delivery - Setting and School Effectiveness) and S Muir (Committee Manager).
- Also Present:** Councillor Dransfield (Cabinet Member for Children and Learning)

**CP66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**CP67 MINUTES**

With reference to Minute CP61 Members noted that that the Safeguarding Members Training Session had taken place and requested that future training sessions are specifically about the role of Members as Corporate Parents and not combined with Safeguarding training.

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 24 September 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**CP68 VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEAD TEACHER'S PROGRESS REPORT**

The Panel received details of the Virtual School (VS) Head Teacher's Progress report from the Head of Delivery - Setting and School Effectiveness who summarised the progress made by the virtual school following the Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked after Children 16-20 July 2012.

He advised the improvements to the educational outcomes data compared with the year 2011/12 and confirmed that these only related to those children continuously looked after by Milton Keynes Council for over six months up to 31 March 2012

The Panel welcomed the improvements and looked forward to receiving Virtual School Head Teacher's Progress report on a regular basis in order to challenge the findings. They commented that it was important that Members be made aware of the virtual school.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning felt that the governing body of the virtual school seemed to be the Virtual

School Management Committee but he was not sure how the members of this had been appointed; the model could be for parents to be appointed and in this case the Corporate Parenting Panel would fulfil that role.

The Corporate Director Children's Services explained that the virtual school was not a constituted school with a DFE registration number therefore the term "governing body" did not strictly apply, however it was important that the Panel fulfilled its role by acting as the governing body.

The Panel commented that:

- Data tracking systems had been improved and schools had agreed to submit regular progress data, enabling the VS to target interventions effectively.
- "Management Committee" would be a better name than "Governing Body"
- the statistics were skewed due to the low numbers of pupils concerned.
- all designated social workers and teachers were present at PEP meetings to discuss individuals progress.

RESOLVED:

1. That the virtual school progress report be reported to the Panel on a regular basis.
2. The Panel acts as a Governing Body to the virtual school, using the virtual school team plan and Virtual School Management Committee reports, to hold the school to account for progress against agreed actions
3. That the educational outcomes of the virtual school and the challenges faced in increasing attainment be noted.

## **CP 69 CARE LEAVERS CHARTER**

The Panel received details from the Head of Delivery (Corporate Parenting) who clarified that the purpose was to raise awareness and highlight the implications of the Care-leavers' Charter for Milton Keynes Council which was launched during National Care Leavers Week on 19 October 2012.

The Panel noted that there were two national performance indicators in relation to care leavers currently collected on the young person's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday:

- Care leavers in suitable accommodation (100% on 30 September 2012)
- Care leavers in education, training or employment (57.14% on 30 September 2012)

The Head of Delivery (Corporate Parenting) confirmed that the Milton Keynes current Care Leavers Grant of £2000 compared favourably with those nationally and if a minimum of £2000 were imposed by Central Government as recently reported in the press, this would not create a budget pressures. MKC had been applauded for its Care Leavers Grant at a national event.

The Panel queried whether it was appropriate that young adults who were disadvantaged when leaving care should be referred to Adult Social Care as “vulnerable adults”. Officers reflected that this is dependant on the individual needs of the young people concerned.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the adoption of the Care Leavers Charter is supported by Milton Keynes Council.
3. That a programme of “care proofing” policies and practice across relevant service areas within the Council to ensure that Looked after Children and Care Leavers are prioritised be followed.

**CP70**

### **FOSTERING SERVICE REPORT - REGULATION 35 REPORT**

The Panel reviewed the Fostering Service Report and noted that following an inspection of the service by Ofsted in October 2012 the Service was found to be “Good with outstanding features” and was required to change to a three monthly reporting cycle from an annual cycle.

With regard to para 14 “Allegations” the Assistant Director (Children’s Social Care) confirmed she had read the minutes of the Review who were satisfied with the outcomes that were reported.

The Panel requested that any changes to the legislation in Housing Benefits that may adversely affect those who foster should be investigated; the Director of Children’s Services advised she would raise this anomaly with the South East Directors of Children’s Services Council for them to report to Central Government.

Assistant Director (Children’s Social Care) advised that the definition of “missing” would be clarified, the figures checked and reported to the next meeting

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

**CP71 ADOPTION SERVICE – NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD 25 REPORT**

The Panel received an update on the Adoption Service – National Minimum Standard 25 Report from Head of Delivery Corporate Parenting who clarified that:

- following an inspection of the service by Ofsted January 2012 the Service was required to change to a six monthly reporting cycle from an annual cycle.
- That the budget figures quoted referred to three different reporting periods and were reported quarterly.

RESOLVED –

That the reports for April – September 2011, October 2011 – March 2012 and April – September 2012 be noted.

**CP72 RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES – REGULATION 33 REPORTS**

The Panel received details of the monitoring arrangements in place within Milton Keynes' directly provided children's homes in relation to Regulation 33.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

**CP73 MEMBER REGULATION 33 REPORTS**

The Panel Members advised that at recent visits previous concerns had been addressed although there seemed to be two reporting methods which was impractical and could be open to error.

The Panel Members found support with interactive systems good and were impressed with the actions of staff handling of an incident during a visit.

The Panel requested that the word "absconding" was changed as this was an incorrect interpretation, to "missing from care"

Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) advised that she had visited young people at Walnuts, Furze House and Westminster Drive and that staff were handling issues well. There were some physical difficulties with one group of young people at Walnuts therefore there was a need to use de-escalation with this group; there was some difficulty over the meaning of physical intervention and the difference between "restraint" or "guiding someone".. This will be discussed with the manager in the context of Residential Managers Meetings

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

**CP74**

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

Head of Delivery (Corporate Parenting) gave a verbal update:

- There had not been a minuted TCTF meeting since September 2012
- There is an event being held on Saturday 1 December 2012
- The event planned for 12 December 2012 has been cancelled due to a diary clash.

**CP75**

**FORWARD PLAN**

Head of Delivery (Corporate Parenting) circulated a forward planner for future Corporate Parenting Panel meetings and the Panel noted:

- Regulatory Reports had been mapped in
- The Health Service report from the statutory body would be brought to the 14 January 2013 meeting.
- The Chair requested an effective means of electronically circulating information; i.e. not email.

The Panel were asked to bring suggestions of items to the next meeting; all agreed it was a good way forward and that the new report templates is focussed and helpful.

**CP76**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Panel noted that the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday 14 January 2013 at 09.30 a. m.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10.45 AM