

Minutes of the CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL held on TUESDAY
21 MARCH 2017 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Miles (Chair)
Councillors Betteley, Cannon, Clancy, Crooks, Green, V Hopkins and Nolan

Officers: N Rayner (Service Director [Children and Families]), J Hooper (Head of Safeguarding), K Lockwood (Head of Corporate Parenting), J Roberts (Safeguarding Team Manager) and T Milner (Committee Manager).

CP23 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None received.

CP24 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 15 November 2016 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CP25 DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

The Panel considered the draft Corporate Parenting Panel's Annual Report.

The Panel heard from Councillor Miles, who expressed his appreciation to the Head of Corporate Parenting for the work undertaken in preparing the report and welcomed comments on how the Corporate Parenting Panel could be even more effective during 2017/18.

The Panel heard from Councillors Cannon and Crooks during consideration of the item, namely in respect of:

- looking at opportunities along the similar theme of 'Take your daughters & sons to Work Day' Link to 'Take our daughters & sons to Work Day' and ways to promote across Milton Keynes;
- considering how best to update Councillors more regularly in respect of the Corporate Parenting Panel and not just via the annual report; and
- to look at ways in which all Councillors can actively promote the needs of Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Milton Keynes within their Council work and activities. The foundation for this being the role of all Councillors as "Corporate Parents" for Looked After Children.

The Service Director (Children & Families) provided a presentation on Milton Keynes' Looked After Children and Care Leavers key data for 2017/18', and indicated that the key year-end data would be incorporated within the final report, including percentages as requested by the Panel, and any further updates received by the Service Director (Children & Families). Members suggested that the "slide" format used in the presentation be retained, rather than a more traditional report format.

The Panel heard that there was a need for the Council to liaise with other Local Authorities about specialist areas, to see if there were opportunities to place children and young people who were from Milton Keynes being placed closer to Milton Keynes.

Councillor Miles suggested that the Service Director (Children & Families) investigate if the annual report could also be provided in a more accessible and user-friendly version for the public.

RESOLVED -

1. That the draft Corporate Parenting Panel report subject to minor amendments being made and the inclusion of verification of data in respect of Milton Keynes Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers be noted.
2. That the work undertaken on behalf of children and young people in Milton Keynes during 2016/17 by members of the Corporate Parenting Panel be noted.
3. That emerging agenda for the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel for 2017/18 be noted.

CP26

FEEDBACK FROM PIZZA PARTY

The Panel considered the report and feedback received from the Pizza Party, which was hosted by Our Voice in collaboration with the Corporate Parenting Panel, and held on 17 January 2017.

The Panel heard from Councillor Miles, who indicated that although the format worked well, that if desired, a different approach could be considered for future events. However, the general consensus of the Panel was that the session was good fun and very well organised. More importantly, the event provided young people an opportunity to interact in groups with the Panel. Feedback was provided in respect of what changes and improvements young people would like to see changes during 2017/18, namely:

1. Health Assessments;
2. Social Workers; and
3. Dreams and Aspirations.

The Head of Safeguarding reported that overall, the feedback received from the young people who attended was very positive, and that the activity element was key to the events success. The

opportunity was much appreciated and it was felt that a similar event would be worth repeating.

RESOLVED -

That the report and oral updates be noted.

CP27

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

The Panel considered a report in respect of the Future Development of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

The Panel noted Councillors Crooks and Nolan comments, particularly in respect of the following points being looked into as part of the Corporate Parenting Panel's future development:

- young people to become more involved in the Panel's work;
- to look at possibly organising something around Easter or arrange a Team bake-off for later in the year;
- to look at the comments about Social Workers, particularly in respect of Social Workers staying longer in the job and providing for better stabilisation for young people and being treated in confidence and as individuals;
- to look at organising a similar event to the session held at the Buzsy at Christmas 2016, which was very joyful and more importantly, the children and young people enjoyed the session;
- to take into consideration Councillors Case Work and the possibility that not all work may be completed whilst trying to meet outcomes; and
- dealing with the Dreams and Aspirations of young people and looking to have the outcomes for specific themes.

The Panel heard from the Head of Safeguarding, who commented that Milton Keynes and other Local Authorities were currently taking part in the "Bright Spots" (Bristol University & Coram) 'Emotional Wellbeing and Perceptions Survey', which was being completed with Looked After Children in schools. Subsequent feedback would be provided to the Council, in addition to a friendly version being provided for children and young people. The information will additionally provide the Council with an opportunity for further benchmarking. The Service Director (Children & Families) informed the Panel that in last year's 'Bright Spots' Survey, some of the children had commented that they felt much better in care than they had when they were at home.

The Panel welcomed the news that the new Momo (Mind Of My Own) App had been purchased and would enable young people to communicate more easily with their social workers and the council.

The Head of Corporate Parenting indicated that the Panel should look at identifying how best to move forwards whilst also considering one of the themes as a start and to progress work that would help identify the outcomes. Additionally, the Panel may want to consider connecting to an external source not linked to the organisation to help gain a different perspective.

The Service Director (Children & Families) reminded the Panel about the importance of putting measures in place and looking to deliver against agreed outcomes, whilst also looking to challenge the proposals being put forward.

Councillor Miles, on behalf of the Panel expressed his thanks to the Head of Corporate Parenting, for her dedication and hard work and particularly on her future travels after leaving the Council on 19 April 2017.

Councillor Miles expressed his thanks to the Panel for all the work undertaken during 2016/17 and for attending the Panel meetings.

The Service Director (Children & Families) reported that following recent interviews, she was hopeful to appoint a new Head of Corporate Parenting and that she will be in place prior to the departure of the current incumbent. The Head of Safeguarding informed the Panel that young people had assisted with the interview process, and that she was very impressed with the way the young people got involved and interacted.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING 7.33 PM