



Minutes of the meeting of the CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL held on MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2013 at 9.30 am

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

Officers: N Rayner (Assistant Director [Children's Social Care]), C Greer (Head of Delivery Corporate Parenting), G Shurrock (Head of Delivery - SEN and Disability), J Bellamy (Virtual School Head-teacher) and S Muir (Committee Manager).

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

Apologies: Councillors Bradburn and Brock

CP19 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 2 September 2013 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CP20 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None

CP21 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL; TODAY'S CHILDREN TOMORROW'S FUTURE

The Panel received details of the Children In Care Council: Today's Children Tomorrow's Future (TCTF) report from the Head of Delivery Corporate Parenting.

The Panel noted that ground rules would be introduced for the conduct of meetings and were concerned that young people had issues around mutual respect and consideration; the Head of Delivery (Corporate Parenting) clarified that there weren't currently issues but that a refresh of the ground rules would be timely.

The Panel also noted that young people had expressed a wish that social workers had more experience of being part of a foster family to improve their understanding of the needs and everyday issues that young people face. The Panel recognised that whilst this was not possible, the Council's Independent Review Officers' (IRO's)

were very experienced and that the social workers understanding would be developed to give a better understanding of this.

The Panel indicated that representatives of Children In Care Council: Today's Children Tomorrows Future be invited to a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

The Panel also heard from the Cabinet member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That that representative from the Children In Care Council: Today's Children Tomorrows Future be invited to a future Corporate Parenting Panel.

CP22 REGULATION 33 VISITS – JUNE TO AUGUST 2013

The Panel received Regulation 33 Visits report for June to August 2013 and noted that visits to Furze House, Westminster Drive and The Walnuts had been carried out during the period.

The Panel noted that the intention of changing to surgery meetings from 2 - 4pm might need to be amended and indicated that they would advise times and dates to the Head of Delivery (Corporate Parenting). The Panel also noted that a review after a few months was required to ensure that surgery type meetings added value to the process.

The Panel indicated that following the Ofsted Inspection at Furze House last year, improvements had been made both cosmetically to the building and to activity plans and interaction with young people. The Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) advised that other improvements included social workers carrying out Regulation 33 reports on a deeper level. It had been highlighted in a previous Ofsted that to achieve better inspection results the building layout would need to be changed significantly. The Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) advised that in light of this, the School Governors were currently considering future options for Furze House but this could take some time to resolve..

The Chair indicated that any monitoring visits by Officers be reported to the Panel and the Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) confirmed that in Milton Keynes the format of the visits for Panel Members followed that for Regulation 33 as this added value. All Members were invited to visit the children's' homes with officers, on completion of the appropriate Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks.

The Panel also heard from the Cabinet member for Children's' Services and Lifelong Learning

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

CP23 MILTON KEYNES VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2013

The Panel received a very detailed Milton Keynes Virtual School report from the Virtual School Head Teacher and noted that the educational attainment of Children in Care (CiC) was identified nationally and locally as being lower than that of their peers which was a limiting factor to their future opportunities as successful adults.

The Virtual School Head Teacher reported a number of plans for improvement were being put in place that included:

- To ensure that CiC attend schools graded by Ofsted as good or outstanding.
- Careful monitoring of the progress of CiC in schools.
- Increased interaction between the Virtual School and other schools.
- A strong governing body for the Virtual School in place to support the Head Teacher in driving up standards.
- Support for CiC leaving school through Connexions and Jobcentre.
- Monitoring of Tutors
- Increased shared learning with other local authorities e.g. Bexley homework club and the letterbox club (a form of communication with CiC out of the area)

The Panel noted that the Virtual School carefully tracked CiC educated out of area and was currently investigating all CiC placed out of area, to judge whether they were in the best place depending on their specialist needs.

The Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) clarified that all Milton Keynes CiC living or at school outside the area were included in the Milton Keynes statistics together with CiC from other authorities at school in Milton Keynes and those who were on remand at Oakhill Detention Centre. She explained that those who had been sentenced were classed as not being within the care system.

The Panel indicated that there were a large number of children in care identified as having Special Education Needs (SEN) and requested a briefing with the relevant Cabinet Member to discuss the individual SEN provisions for the young people at the Central PEC.

The Panel noted that a new OFSTED inspection regime started during November 2013 and that a new copy of the inspection framework and evaluation schedule would be circulated to Panel Members

The Panel also heard from the Cabinet member for Children's' Services and Lifelong Learning.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a briefing be arranged with the Cabinet member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
- (b) A copy of the inspection framework and evaluation schedule for the new Ofsted regime be circulated to Panel Members

(c) That the report be noted.

CP24 RESIDENTIAL HOMES REGULATION 34 REPORTS

The Panel received the Regulation 34 report from the Head of Delivery (Corporate Parenting) who summarised that the formula based report came to the Panel on a six monthly basis and that there were no major concerns to report to the Panel. The Head of Delivery advised that the Ofsted explanations contained in the report would be reviewed.

The Head of Delivery clarified that the Manager comments for measures taken for control and restraint at The Walnuts were subjective and reminded the Panel that this facility handled young people with more extreme behaviours.

The Panel suggested that checks on valuables and pocket money should be carried out more than once a school term.

The Panel also heard from the Cabinet member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

CP25 ADOPTION STANDARD 25.6 REPORT

The Panel received the Adoption Standard 25.6 report from the Head of Delivery (Corporate Parenting) who summarised that the report came to the Panel on a six monthly basis as required by the regulations and that the Milton Keynes Adoption Service had continued to improve its performance against the scorecard's key threshold measures.

The Panel indicated that in future where statistics of activity were reported, the previous years figures to be included as a comparison and requested that the previous report be circulated with the minutes.

The Panel noted that the ethnicity of approved adopters would be wider in future and recognised that the feedback supplied by newly appointed adopters would almost always be positive because they had been appointed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

CP26 MILTON KEYNES CHILDREN IN EDUCATION BOARDING PROVISION

The Panel received the Milton Keynes Children in Education Boarding Provision report from the Head of Delivery (Special Education Needs and Disability) who clarified that:

- (a) children in 52 week care were considered as in permanent care.
- (b) there were two schools in Milton Keynes that provided boarding provision: Romansfield School and The Walnuts.
- (c) Romansfield School had 10 beds for boarding Monday – Thursday nights, the School Governors carried out their own inspection and it was not a registered children's home

compared with the Walnuts which was dual registered as a school and a children's home because it supplied 52 week care.

- (d) Panel Members were welcome to visit Romansfield School although there were no Children in Care currently attending.

The Panel noted that Ofsted Inspections of the boarding arrangements at the Walnuts were sometimes included with the School Inspection although this varied and that as the outcome of the last inspection was not "good", an improvement board had been put in place to support the school governors and met on a ½ termly basis.

The Panel also noted the differences in the needs profiles between the full time and part time groups.

The Panel also heard from the Cabinet member for Children's' Services and Lifelong Learning.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

CP27

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 1 (Information Relating to any Individual) and Paragraph 2 (Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that the Corporate Parenting Panel may consider the following report:

Milton Keynes Fostering Regulation 35 Report 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013

CP28

MILTON KEYNES FOSTERING REGULATION 35 REPORT 1 JULY 2013 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

The Panel considered the Milton Keynes Fostering Services Regulation 35 report for the Period 1 April 2013 – 30 June 2013 from the Assistant Director, Children's Social Care who noted that in future only those parts of the report that contained information relating to any individual or were likely to reveal the identity of any individual, would be supplied in an Annex to the main report.

The Panel noted that the Fostering Service was inspected by Ofsted during October 2012. Three of the areas inspected were judged to be 'good' and a fourth was judged to be 'outstanding' which gave the service an overall effectiveness judgment of "Good". Additionally the service had been the subject of an internal audit during this period; the findings of which to be reported on in the next quarter.

The Panel also heard from the Cabinet member for Children's' Services and Lifelong Learning.

RESOLVED:

That the report be approved.

CP29

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Panel noted that the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday 13 January 2013 at 09.30.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11.50 AM

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