

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
Tuesday 5 January 2021

Present were Councillor Watson (in the Chair), Councillors Cusworth and M. Elliott.

Apologies were received from Councillor Jarvis.

73. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 03 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 November 2020, were approved as a true and correct account of the proceedings.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

75. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair confirmed that there was no reason to exclude members of the press or public from observing any of the items on the agenda.

76. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report which included performance data for corporate parenting through October of 2020. The report included information about LAC caseloads, education, health, fostering, and adoptions. Progress in respect of various performance measures was described in relation to targets and to prior performance.

In discussion on this report, officers noted that agreements and approvals were in place about foundational dentistry being offered as a priority for children and young people in care, with provision set to begin in the middle of February. Toothbrushes and toothpaste were also being distributed to young people in care as part of resource packs. Case tracking systems had been updated to require inputs around dental checks.

Members also requested clarification of how many placements had been allocated to how many foster carers. Members requested more information around how many children might be placed in a given placement. The response from officers indicated that as of the meeting date there were 141 registered foster carers, not including family and friends placements. It was noted that a few foster carer placements are on hold, which can occur for a range of reasons. It was also noted that while there is a desire to see multiple children in a placement, this is limited by space and skill level of the foster carers. The number of children who could be placed into a foster carer's home sometimes changes over time, as these factors are considered in order to ensure the number and age

range of children in a given placement is appropriate.

Regarding adoptions in the Borough, Members asked for more information about possible court delays due to the ongoing pandemic. Assurances were provided that court delays are being reduced by the fact that much court work is being provided virtually now, as robust systems are in place for this that were not previously operational at the beginning of last year. A further update on this topic was offered to be brought to the next meeting of CPP.

Members requested clarification around educational PEP numbers for the autumn, and assurances were provided that autumn PEPs had been completed, and that, while there is a lag in data gathering, the numbers are consistently at or above the 95th percentile, with outliers having current data entered in the system to show that the PEP has been completed but not yet reported as part of these numbers.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.

77. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent matters for consideration at the meeting.

78. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chair announced that the next virtual meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel will be held on 2 March 2021, commencing at 3.30 pm.