

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
28th August, 2018**

Present:- Councillor Watson (in the Chair) and Councillor M. Elliott.

Also present were Tracy Arnold, Catherine Hall, Karen Holgate, Peter McNamara, Mel Meggs and Rebecca Wall.

AnneMarie Lubanski was in attendance for Minute No. 17 (Looked After Promises).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cusworth, Elliot and Jarvis, Lisa DuValle, Ian Walker and the LAC Council.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH JULY, 2018

Arising from Minute No. 10 (Corporate Parenting Performance Report May, 2018), it was clarified that the Rotherham CCG had requested that the 2 providers, the Acute Trust and Mental Health Trust, to look at favourably at applications from Looked After Children for apprenticeships. It was not possible for the CCG to follow the same practice as their application process was carried out by The Source.

Resolved:- (1) That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th July, 2018, be approved as a correct record of proceedings subject to the above clarification.

Arising from Minute No. 4 (EID Party and Foster Care Matching for Muslim LAC), whilst no progress had been made with regard to recruiting Muslim foster carers, progress had been made in a number of Muslim families agreeing to host Muslim LAC for the 2 EID festivals.

It was suggested that information be supplied to various organisations, particularly Health, whose employees would practise a range of religions.

(2) That the Children and Young People's Service's Marketing Officer contact Rotherham CCG with regard to a publicity campaign highlighting the different religious festivals and the importance of LAC attending those of their faith.

16. LAC COUNCIL AND LIL LAC CLUB ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2017/2018

The Panel noted the LAC Council annual report summary for 2017/18 which highlighted some of the LACC's work during the period including:-

- LAC shaping services
- LAC community engagement
- Internal residential destination Poland April 2017
- Award winners
- Corporate Parenting Panel
- Looked After Children's Club (aka 'Lil' LACC)

Resolved:- That the Panel's appreciation be conveyed to the LACC for their very productive year.

17. **LOOKED AFTER PROMISES - ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

AnneMarie Lubanski, Strategic Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, gave the following verbal report on the areas of her responsibility and how they impacted in terms of the LAC Promises:-

Transitions

- Everyone wanted to get the pathways right
- The Interim Assistant Director was working with Children's Services to produce an agreed data set that everyone worked to particularly aiming at the 14 year olds to attempt to ascertain their plans
- An All Age Autism Strategy was being produced

Commissioning

- An area for improvement was the 16-25 year old commissioning where LAC used a particular service. There was a commitment for Adults and Children's to revisit the commissioning and hopefully involve the young people in it

Housing

- This also included the issue of housing which was a specific commissioning element around where people lived and getting it right. The learning for the Service was about making sure the tendering process was solid about the consequences of young people living together in groups
- From a Housing Service point of view, the housing element was fundamental at the crossover with Children's Services and meetings had taken place to ensure learning
- The Homeless Team was very sensitive to LAC and the processes in place were working well and sensitively to individuals
- Trying to put housing at the heart of some of the plans rather than an add-on
- Getting the narrative where people thought of housing first rather than health and social care

Public Health and Sexual Health

- There had been concerns around the closure of the clinic held on a Sunday but there had been a lack of footfall; the 25 year olds were

attending other appropriate places to seek sexual health advice

Adult Care Offer for LAC

- This was a more difficult issue as an individual tended not to come into mainstream services at the same time as they did care
- A lot of work had taken place and as the Services grew over the next 12 months there would be a better understanding
- There was much more collective communication between the Services than there was previously

Vulnerable Persons Team (VPT)

- The relationship between the VPT and Children's Services was much better and stronger than it had been a year ago
- Clarification was required as to the role of VPT Team rather than it being a "catch all"
- The Doncaster model included complex/counselling team because it appeared that the key factor when things started to go wrong was if the housing was not right for that individual

AnneMarie was thanked for her attendance.

18. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE REPORT - JUNE 2018

Consideration was given to the report presented by Rebecca Wall, Independent Reviewing Officer, on behalf of Deborah Johnson, Performance Assurance Manager, which provided a summary of performance for key performance indicators across Looked After Children Services for June, 2018. This was read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data report at Appendix A detailing trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages where possible.

A Service overview and context was provided which indicated a continual increase in the Looked After Children profile. Between March 2017 and March 2018 the number of LAC had increased by 29% (488 to 628). As at the end of June this had increased further to 648.

This increase in LAC numbers and the consequential shortage in available placements, had had an increase in the number of young people placed outside of the local area which in turn had had a negative impact on Social Work capacity. However, despite the additional capacity pressures, in general performance remained sustained across a number of areas.

Rotherham continued to have an increasing Looked After Children profile. The 648 children at the end of June equated to a rate of 114.5 per 10,000 population; this was significantly high when compared to the statistical neighbour average of 81.3.

Overall Rotherham's LAC age profile followed a similar distribution to that

of the latest national comparator. The most notable differences being the higher rate of children aged 5-9 years (23% compared to 19%) and a lower proportion aged over 16 (18% compared to 24%).

The percentage distribution by legal status remained consistent with 53% of children subject to full Care Orders, 31% on an Interim Care Order, 10% on Placement Orders with Care Order and 6% were under Section 20.

After a period of consistency, compliance on plans at the end of June had increase to 90.1%. This area still remained under close management scrutiny in performance meetings and had increased further to 91%.

In recent months there had been a decline in the timeliness of LAC Statutory Reviews (96.1% March 2018 to 80.3% May 2018)). The timeliness had significantly improved by more than 11% in June 2018. This could be attributed to a number of Independent Reviewing Officers returning from sick leave. Performance in respect of Statutory Visits had declined slightly with long term sick leave continuing to be an issue. Due to this and the continuing high demand, Workers had been directed to prioritise visits to meet the national minimum standard over the local standard.

Despite the overall increase in numbers, the proportion of children placed in a family based setting remained stable at 81.1%. The increase towards the end of 2017/18 in the number and proportion of children experiencing multiple placement moves had continued into the new financial year (14% - 89 children – May 2018) but had seen a decrease in June 2018 to 12.9% (83 children had 3 or more placements in 12 months. June 2018 had seen an improvement in the proportion of long term LAC who had lived in the same placement (63.3% - 95 out of 150 children). This measure had been impacted by the increasing number of long term LAC and the directorate's desire to bring children closer to home and into family placements.

The first analysis of the Intensive Intervention Programme (IIP) had been completed. This evidenced that whilst 14 of the LAC had 2 or more placement moves prior to them accessing the IIP, this had reduced to 4 since their IIP intervention. Similarly, the numbers in the group who were going missing from care had reduced from 7 to 3.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- For future reports in Table 1 (age description of LAC at the end of the month), there should be inclusion of the number of properties in Rotherham and, as well as knowing what age the LAC were now and what age they were when they had come into care
- The target for the number of LAC with 3 or more placements was a national target

- A review was planned for September to look across agencies to ascertain what was working and not with regard to Initial Health Assessments
- It was a data inputting issue rather than an actual decrease in the number of dental assessments
- The need to review performance given the new statutory duty of the Learning Care Service to offer support to care leavers up to the age of 25. The Authority had been given extra funding for the additional responsibilities for the 21-25 age set and it was extremely important to account for how much care leavers required support between those ages and what type of support was provided
- The proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation remained strong but it was queried whether this included those in custody
- A review would be carried out of the resignations and de-registrations of foster carers

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the report and accompanying dataset (Appendix A) be received and noted.

(2) That future reports include the number of properties in Rotherham and, as well as knowing what age the LAC were now and what age they were when they had come into care.

(3) That clarification be sought for the next meeting on the proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation and the percentage of those in secure accommodation.

(4) That Anne Marie Banks, Service Manager, Adoption and Fostering, be invited to the next meeting and report on the age and profile of foster carers who had resigned/deregistered.

(5) That Sharon Sandell, Service Manager, be invited to the next meeting and present the Contact Review.

19. ROTHERHAM SIF IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Rebecca Wall, Independent Reviewing Officer, presented correspondence received from Ofsted in relation to their post inspection action plan and drew attention in particular to how the Panel would address action 6:-

“The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel in monitoring and challenging schools to reduce the number of fixed-term exclusions of children looked after, as well as reducing the number of these children who are persistent absentees from education”.

The LAC Service would be subject to a Peer Review in October; when completed it was suggested that the Panel may wish to consider each of the schools and ascertain if there was evidence to provide assurance that work was taking place.

Peter McNamara, Interim Head, Virtual School, reported that attendance and exclusion reporting was a standing item at the Virtual School Governing Body. A report could be submitted at the end of each term to the Panel.

Resolved:- That the Virtual School submit a report at the end of each term showing an analysis of persistent absenteeism and exclusions as the Virtual Schools' actions and strategy.

20. INTENSIVE INTERVENTION PROGRAMME - PILOT PHASE

Rebecca Wall, Independent Reviewing Officer, presented a report on the outcome of the pilot phase of the Intensive Intervention Programme (IIP).

The impact of the Programme on outcomes for some of the most challenging and high need looked after young people was beginning to be clearly evidenced. In addition, it was reasonable to assume that increased placement stability would have a positive impact on the demand for out of authority placements and, therefore, contribute to reduced budget pressures.

The pilot phase of 5 cases had finished in March 2018 with some further cases which started later due to complete in October, 2018. Evaluation of the successes and limitations of the Service were being reviewed and changes to the protection being agreed to further the effectiveness of the work moving forward.

However, despite the positive impacts, there was a risk to the sustainability of the Programme given that funding was only agreed for the IPP within the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 3 years and was due to end on 31st March, 2020.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The Virtual School would be running the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant again in January 2019 which now had 30+ schools engaged with the initiative
- The majority of the costs associated with the Programme was staffing
- Work was taking place as to how the Service could be structured to embed the ethos of the Programme into the normal practice of the Social Work pathway

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a further report be submitted in 3 months on the next stages of the Programme.

21. CHAMPIONS' FEEDBACK

Housing/Educational Attainment and Access to Higher Education

The Chair stated that he would arrange for any Panel member interested in visiting the accommodation provided by Future 19 in September.

Employment with Training Opportunities within Council Departments and with Partner Agencies

(a) Councillor M. Elliott reported that he had met with the HR Director of Liberty Steel on 4th July. It had been a positive meeting where there had been the suggestion that they may be able to offer some work experience for a limited number of LAC in their training centre. However, a few weeks later Councillor Elliott had been notified that the training centre was full committed for the year and therefore not able to offer work experience but had offered work visits for LAC, maximum 20 at a time.

(b) Councillor Elliott was to meet with Meers Domiciliary on 4th September.

22. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES - LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

Peter McNamara, Interim Head, Virtual School, presented the 2017 report.

The purpose of the Rotherham Virtual School for Looked After Children was to raise educational achievement, promote emotional wellbeing and improve the life chances of children and young people in care and care leavers.

The report highlighted:-

- Small but welcome improvements in attendance during 2017/18
- Good or better attendance had increased by 5%
- Persistent absence had increased by 1.4% based on the DfE figure for 2017
- Comparing and contrasting persistent absentees with those with 100% attendance the key correlations were in relation to the type and number of care placements, special educational needs and whether or not the young person was in a mainstream or non-mainstream school
- Fixed Term Exclusions
 - had fallen 15% from 15% to 12.8% (11 from Rotherham schools – 5 primary and 6 secondary)
 - 50% had 3 or more exclusion but fewer exclusions at KS4
 - Significantly more were excluded from out-of-authority schools
 - Pupils from black or other minority groups made up 25% of

- excluded pupils
- By days, BME pupils received over a third of total exclusions
- Significantly fewer with multiple placement moves than the previous year
- Placement stability was a much stronger predictor of exclusion than length of time in care
- Unacceptable, threatening or otherwise disruptive behaviour accounted for the overwhelming majority of days lost to exclusions
- Best outcomes in Year 1 Phonics for 3 years
- Some improvements at Key Stage 1 reading, writing and maths compared with 2017
- Best results over the last 3 years in Key Stage 2 reading, writing and maths with 42% achieving all 3
- GCSE Results – Full cohort
 - 4/43 achieve 5+ at Grade 4+
 - 4/43 achieved 4+ including English and Maths at Grade 4+
 - 6/43 achieved 4+ GCSE at Grade 4+
- GCSE Results – Mainstream Schools
 - 5/19 achieved 5+ GCSE at Grade 4+
 - 8/19 achieved 4+ GCSE at Grade 4+

Peter advised that there were 10 Year 11 LAC who, based on prior attainment only (at KS2), would have been expected to make far greater progress than they actually had. The quantitative information with regard to the cohort was available i.e. type of school, placement type, placement moves, SEN status etc. which helped to explain the lack of progress. However, following discussion, the Panel felt that it would be beneficial to look at the story of each of the 10 in an attempt to help answer:-

“what could we have done differently at different points in their Looked After lives to have made far greater progress”.

It was pointed out that it was not to point blame but to assist with learning for all agencies.

The newly appointed Virtual School Head Teacher, with the assistance of secondary Virtual School Advisers, was asked to gather the following relevant information for brief case studies which included:-

- Age and school year on entry to care
- Reasons for admission to care
- Number of schools attendance and reasons for changes – were the changes linked to placement moves
- Number and type of placements and reasons for changes – were the changes linked to school moves
- Emotional and mental health
- Did the Looked After Child have ready access to the relevant specialist services

- How many Social workers
- Personal knowledge gained through the PEP process
- The main statement of category on their EHCP

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the case studies be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

23. PETER MCNAMARA

The Chairman reported that this would be the last meeting that Peter would attend.

On behalf of the Panel he thanked Peter for all his work and contributions to the Panel meetings.

24. DATE AND TIME OF THE FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved:- That further meetings of the Corporate Parenting Panel be held as follows all commencing at 5.00 p.m.:-

Tuesday, 16th October, 2018

18th December

12th February, 2019

9th April