

Corporate Parenting Panel

2nd March 2021

Feedback from Ofsted assurance visit October 2020

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Children and Young Peoples Services**

Purpose of the visit

- The visit place from 20 to 22 of October 2020 – 6 inspectors on site – one specialist interest in Education
- Methodology in line with the ILACS inspection framework, with a focus on how RMBC had delivered child centred practice and care in the context of Covid.
- The visit looked at the quality and impact of key decision-making across help and protection, children in care and services for care leavers, together with the impact of leadership on service development.
- While there was no overall graded outcome, the letter with its feedback has been published highlight areas of strength and some areas where practice may need to be strengthened.
- This presentation will highlight the areas specifically linked to the corporate parenting role.

What's working well in relation to Looked after Children

- Ofsted noted that there had been a rapid and effective response with strong leadership and dynamic assessment around Covid.
- Senior leaders have oversight of children who need to be safeguarded and supported
- The voice of the Child is evident in Care planning.
- Pre-proceedings work is effective and support siblings to remain together where ever possible. For most children plans for Permanence are considered at an early stage
- Family time has continued to be promoted
- Additional support via RTT in place to support LAC emotional needs
- Good partnership working with schools has supported children's learning through Covid
- Risks around Child Exploitation are well understood and risk assessments reviewed regularly
- Robust political oversight of performance linked to Covid and its impact for children

What's needs to be strengthened in relation to Looked after Children

- Quality of written plans is not consistent for all children
- Shortage of Local Authority placements – can lead to placements out of area and contribute to use of unregistered placements
- For some children who move placement there is a delay in accessing education
- This delay is sometimes linked to their SEND need

What activity is in place to ensure service development

- Care planning – embedding signs of success and trajectory planning for all LAC.
- Sufficiency of local placements – Growth of local offer within RMBC and borough, with further plans to build on this.
- Education access for LAC -Virtual School are working closely with fieldwork teams to plan education and placement moves where possible. A specialist post has been created to support getting these children back into fulltime Education.
- Strengthening of recording around LAC reviews; PEP's and ensuring these feed through to Care plans – refresh and refocus on key recording to be included in service and broader partnership LAC development sessions

Questions?

