

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
Tuesday 19 March 2024

Present:- Councillor Cusworth (in the Chair); Councillors Pitchley.

Apologies for Absence:- Apologies were received from Browne and Z. Collingham.

134. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 January 2024, were agreed as a correct record.

135. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

136. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Minute 141 (The Leaving Care Action Plan Update) and Minute 142 (The Looked After Children's Council Update) were exempt from the press and public. The Chair moved the following resolution:- That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 (information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual/financial information).

Resolved: - That members of the press and public be excluded for these items.

137. PERFORMANCE ON A PAGE

The Performance and Business Intelligence Manager presented a summary of the submitted report, which included a summary of performance for key indicators across the Looked After Children Services for quarter three, 2023 to 2024. It also included a summary of service performance in comparison to the same period in 2022 to 2023, trend data, graphical analysis and the latest benchmarking data, against national and statistical neighbour averages (where possible). The following was outlined: -

- The report provided a summary of quarter three which covered the period of October 2023 to December 2023.
- In relation to the journey of a child, there had been 122 children entering care, this was a reduction of 25 from the previous year.
- In relation to initial plans that were updated every three months for

three cycles, 76% were up to date, within ten working days of a LAC review.

- In relation to placement stability measures, 63.3% of children were looked after for two years or more, this was slightly lower than the previous year.
- In relation to three or less placement moves in a year, this remained similar to the previous year, at 9.3%.
- In house fostering numbers had reduced by 2, with 111 foster carer families registered with the local authority by the end of the quarter. There had been 15 foster carer approvals in this quarter and 15 foster carer de-registrations.
- There were seven children in care known to the youth justice service and 13 children adopted in this quarter.
- In relation to timeliness and the length of time that children entered care to being placed with an adoptive family, this was 343 days on average, which was 200 days less than the previous year.
- 88.1% of looked after children had a regular updated health assessment, this was a 13% increase on the previous year. 68% of looked after children had up to date dental assessments, this was a 9% increase on last year.
- 89.4% of reviews were on time during this period and 91.4% of visits were up to date.
- 99.1% of children in care had an up-to-date education plan, this was 7% higher than the previous year.
- There were 337 care leavers during this period, this was 15 more than the previous year. 72.7% of pathway plans were up to date and 95% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation. 72% of care leavers were in education, employment, or training.
- There were 136 children discharged from care and 19.9% of those children were moved into permanence.

The Chair thanked the Performance and Business Intelligence Manager for the presentation and invited questions. This led to the following points being raised during discussions: -

- There was a typing error on the Performance on a Page Report (page 20 of the agenda pack), the correct percentage for initial health assessments was 76.9%.
- Delays on initial health assessments were reviewed to identify any causes. An example was provided of how notifications of initial health assessments had caused delays, a new process was created to combat this which had made an impact on the number of delays. There was not a high level of delays, however this was more prevalent with Section 20 children who were placed with family.
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) often faced delays due to requiring a double appointment for interpreters. There were also occasions where interpreters did not attend appointments as planned and the appointment had to be cancelled, this was being recorded by the service and would be raised as a

contractual issue with the provider, if required.

- There were audits completed after every clinic to determine a clearer picture of why there was delays and no-shows. It was advised that the UASC cohort were often fearful of engaging with health partners. It was acknowledged that further thought was required to improve the process of providing health information to young people, to encourage engagement with services. An example was provided of Wakefield Council and their approach to ensuring face to face contact with all UASC as part of the process of settling into provision.
- The overall picture for this period was positive. There were 497 looked after children to date and a budget had been profiled for 545, this included unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- In relation to the stability of placements, it was requested that this data be separated into age ranges. It was agreed that this would be circulated to members of the Panel once it had been obtained and analysed. Placement breakdowns would also be scheduled as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- The service was considering changing the scorecard measurement to every six months, this would align with other neighbouring local authorities.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

138. SUFFICIENCY UPDATE- 16 TO 18 PLUS ACCOMMODATION

Resolved:- That this item be deferred until the next Panel meeting.

139. UPDATE ON AWARDS CEREMONY HELD IN MARCH

The agenda item provided a verbal update an awards ceremony held in March, where a Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council child had a winning entry to the Quorum Voices National Art Competition. It was advised that there was great feedback provided and the child had a great time.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

140. SOUTH YORKSHIRE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY (SYRAA) TERMS OF REFERENCE

This agenda item provided an update to Panel members on the revised South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency Terms of Reference and the following was noted: -

- The Terms of Reference were updated retrospectively and a new three-year contract had been signed by the local authority.
- The Terms of Reference were provided to the Panel for noting what the SYRAA did, why the local authority was part of the SYRAA and

how the SYRAA would be run for the next three years.

- The South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency were in the process of recruiting a new Head of Service.
- The Terms of Reference provided the governance structure for the South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency. The Assistant Director for CYPS was on the Strategic Board. There were Head of Service delegated decisions which would be noted by the Strategic Board. There were many sub-boards which were detailed in the Terms of Reference document.
- The Virtual School was working with One Adoption South Yorkshire and the SYRAA, to complete a piece of work on Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. This included a focus on supporting early identification, supporting parents and children, and supporting training and development in schools across the region.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

141. THE LEAVING CARE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Chair advised that this item contained restricted information and as resolved in Minute 126, the Panel would go into private session for the consideration of this item.

- A draft Leaving Care Action Plan was presented to Corporate Parenting Panel in December 2023.
- The purpose of the Leaving Care Action Plan was to develop an outstanding Care Leavers Service, for all Care Leavers. The Looked After Children Service Manager provided a high-level update to the panel on the Leaving Care Action Plan.
- It was agreed that a further update on the progress of the plan would be provided to Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, in the new municipal year.

Resolved:- That the next Leaving Care Action Plan Update be presented to the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board in June 2024.

142. THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S COUNCIL (LACC) PRESENTATION

The Chair advised that this item contained restricted information and as resolved in Minute 126, the Panel would go into private session for the consideration of this item.

The young people on the Looked After Children's Council (LACC) gave a presentation to the Panel on the work of Rotherham's Looked After Children's Council, drawing attention to the following:

- LACC Voice's Shaping Services, in relation to the Children's Capital of Culture.

- The Dare to Care Animation.
- LACC Contributing to the Foster's Carers Charter.
- Make Your Mark and The UK Youth Parliament Elections 2024.
- LACC Participation Sessions.
- Community Engagement at Holocaust Memorial Day Events.

The Panel thanked the young people for their inspirational presentation and noted the updates provided.

143. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Resolved:- That the future meeting dates be noted.

144. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to consider.

145. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved: - That the next meeting be held on 30 April 2024, commencing at 4.00 p.m. to be held in the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.