

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
Wednesday, 2nd July, 2014

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillors G. A. Russell and Sharman.

Also in attendance were: - S. Wilson, C. Sneath, C. Pyper, Yvonne, L. DuValle, J. Rabbite, M. Barton, L. Grice-Saddington, P. Dempsey.

D30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

**D31. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING
HELD ON 10TH APRIL, 2014.**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 10th April, 2014, were considered.

Resolved: - That the previous minutes be agreed as a correct record.

D32. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S COUNCIL.

Councillor P. Lakin, Deputy Leader, welcomed representatives from the Looked After Children's Council, along with Lisa DuValle, to the meeting.

The LAC Council and Lisa provided some background into the 'Have Your Say' survey that had taken place, along with visits to Children's Homes. The LAC Council had collated and analysed all of the responses and communications and had pitched to Joyce Thacker and Cllr Lakin the idea of having a 'proper' holiday. The LAC Council had costed their idea and had thought about the risks involved and how to mitigate them.

The pitch was successful and extra funding was secured.

A presentation about the holiday, showing what happened on each day was presented by Abbey, Zoe and Henry. The presentation covered a lot of the holiday, what the group did, what they enjoyed and did not enjoy, the weather, the celebrations that were thrown for Mark and Paislie on their birthdays, the shopping, the volunteers (Reece, Dale and Zoe).

The presentation was brilliant and really energetically and positively presented. All in attendance really enjoyed listening and looking at the pictures. Councillor Lakin thanked Abbey, Zoe and Henry for their presentation and said what a worthwhile trip it had been. Some of the young people who attended had never been abroad before or experienced a holiday.

Discussion and questions and answers followed between the LAC Council and the CPP about the holiday and the young people's experience of it.

The main comment was how well the young people had represented Rotherham. Special thanks were made to the volunteers within the group, slightly older/past members of the LAC Council.

Zoe asked for the extra funding to be made available again so that a second holiday could be planned. As this was a fantastic investment, it would be good to repeat the experience.

All thanked the young people, Abbey, Zoe and Henry, and Lisa, for attending the meeting and for their informative presentation.

Resolved: - (1) That the information shared be noted.

(2) That consideration be given to securing funding so that members of the LAC Council could take another holiday.

D33. CORPORATE PARENTING PROTOCOL AND CORPORATE PARENTING TERMS OF REFERENCE.

Items 7 and 8 were considered together. The documents had been created to outline and confirm the functions and responsibilities of Rotherham's key strategic partnership for Safeguarding Children and the Local Authority's Corporate Parenting Panel in relation to the services and outcomes for Rotherham's Looked After Children; and the relationship between them.

The documents outlined the role and responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Resolved: - That the Corporate Parenting Protocol and Corporate Parenting Terms of Reference be agreed.

D34. CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT - QUARTER FOUR PERFORMANCE.

Sue Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, presented the Quarter Four performance report, which was the Annual Report and showed the performance during 2013/2014 to 31st March, 2014.

The report illustrated: -

- The total number of LAC and the direction of travel;
- The balance between independent and in-house foster placements;
- Rotherham was working to improve the range of in-house foster carers for older children;
- Key pieces of work around leaving care and voice and influence;
- The next steps a- the work plan, a LAC Strategy, the relationship with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Personal and Education Plans, Voice and the Pupil Premium;

- The development of the in-house Leaving Care Service;
- Launch of the pilot to ensure that the children placed furthest away were supported well;
- Missing from Care and children going missing.

Resolved: - (1) That the 2013/2014 Annual Performance Report be noted.

(2) That the list of items to be included in the performance reports be accepted.

D35. FOSTERING TO ADOPT.

Consideration was given to the report presented by Paul Dempsey, Service Manager for Residential and Family Placements, that outlined the new Government led Fostering for Adoption initiative and the progress being made implementing it in Rotherham.

The report and discussion outlined the benefits and risks of the Fostering to Adoption approach with regards to outcomes for children, less placement disruptions for the child/ren and earlier age bonding and attachment in the family.

The report outlined the process that would be followed under the proposed scheme.

Progress in Developing Fostering for Adoption in Rotherham: -

A policy for and process about the implementation of Fostering for Adoption has been drafted and agreed. As at 23.6.14 one child had been placed with Fostering for Adoption carers, with the case having followed the process set out in the submitted report. Also as at 23.6.14 three additional adoptive families had expressed a desire to offer a Fostering for Adoption placement for a child.

Discussion ensued and the following points were raised: -

- Risks of the process – could children be adopted that would eventually have been able to return to their birth family?;
- Potential for keeping sibling groups together in the Fostering to Adopt scheme.

Resolved: - (1) That the report be received and its content noted.

(2) That the overall aims, benefits and risks of Fostering for Adoption be noted.

(3) That the good progress being made in developing Fostering for Adoption in Rotherham be noted.

D36. REGULATION 33 UPDATE.

Paul Dempsey, Service Manager for Family Placements and residential, gave an update on the new Regulations that came into force on 1st April, 2014 regarding Regulation 33 visits.

In accordance with the new Regulations, Rotherham had an Independent Person undertaking the visits on a temporary three-month contract, who was visiting the five homes every month.

Resolved: - (1) That the information shared be noted.

(2) That the Corporate Parenting Panel continue to receive updates on the Regulation 33 visits.

D37. MEMBER VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Councillor P. Lakin, Deputy Leader and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel, reiterated his expectation that every Elected Member be participating in their Corporate Parenting duties.

He also expected every member of the Corporate Parenting Panel to attend the scheduled visits to Children's Homes where appropriate.

Resolved: - That the information shared be noted.

D38. LAC SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

Clair Pyper, Director for Safeguarding Children and Families, presented the report that outlined a LAC Service Improvement Plan, 2014/2015. The report outlined the progress to date and the initial feedback from staff.

Discussion covered: -

- Ensuring wishes and feelings were recorded on childrens' records.

Resolved: - That the information shared be noted.

D39. PUPIL PREMIUM.

Claire Sneath, Virtual Headteacher for Looked After Children, provided an update on the actions she had been putting into place as part of her work:

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- The use of the Pupil Premium Plus: -
 - Expectations from the Local Authority to Schools;
 - Deployment/release of funding;
 - Use of funding centrally – options.
- Role of LAC Designated Teachers;
- Using the Pupil Premium to support LAC who were high achievers;

- Raising aspirations and helping to make them achievable.

Resolved: - (1) That the information shared be noted.

(2) That the Corporate Parenting Panel continue to receive updates from the Virtual Headteacher at future meetings.

D40. COLLEAGUES LEAVING AND RETIRING FROM ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL.

All noted that this would be the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel that Clair Pyper, Claire Sneath and Joanne Rabbite attended before they left the Local Authority.

All wished them well in their future endeavours and thanked them for their contribution and commitment to Rotherham's children and young people.

D41. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING -

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel take place on Tuesday 23rd September, 2014, to start at 9.30 a.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.