

**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY
PANEL
14 DECEMBER 2018
11.00 AM - 1.15 PM**



Present:

Councillors Mrs Birch (Chairman), Ms Hayes, Mrs Temperton and Ms Gaw (Substitute)

Observer:

Councillor Dr Barnard

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Mrs Ingham and Peacey, and Doug Jennings

30. Election of Chair

Following Cllr Dr Barnard's resignation from the Chair of the Panel since the last meeting, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Birch be elected chair for the remainder of the meetings in the municipal year 2018/19.

31. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

32. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minutes, the following points were noted:

- Public Health colleagues were promoting Kooth, however members suggested that further promotion could be done in partnership with local secondary schools. It was suggested that the Children Looked After nurse could be invited to discuss the use and impact of Kooth with Children Looked After.
- A report would be submitted to the Leader of the Council to co-opt Debbie Hartrick and other relevant colleagues to the Panel.

33. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

34. Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and having regard to the public interest, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following item which

involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act:

(1) Information relating to any individual (Items 7 to 14)

35. Annual Report - Virtual School

Kashif Nawaz presented the Virtual School Annual Report 2017/18.

The focus of this year's report had been on developing partnerships between the Virtual School and the schools and organisations working with Children Looked After.

Kashif explained the new Electronic Personal Education Plan approach, which enabled the Virtual School and other organisations remote access to the Plans. This was particularly useful for children who were placed out of the area.

Kashif explained that the remit of the Virtual School was being extended to include those who were previously Looked After as well as current Children Looked After.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- Audits on the quality of Electronic Personal Education Plans should be assessed by the School Improvement Accountability Board.
- All EPEPs were signed off at Quality Assurance stage by the Virtual School head.
- If a Child Looked After moved to another Local Authority, their new school would instantly have access to their EPEP.
- There was scope to deliver EPEPs for those children under Special Guardianship Orders.
- Members requested that future reports include details of those care leavers who were not in employment, education or training.
- The use of Pupil Premium Grant funding was a standing item on the Designated Teacher Forum agenda to encourage good practice.
- Adopt Thames Valley was undertaking a review of Special Guardianship Orders and the support made available to Special Guardians.

Members thanked Kashif for his report.

36. Foster Carers Conference 2018

Peter Hodges updated the Panel on the Foster Carers conference which had taken place.

Foster Carers had been asked to suggest items for discussion this year, and the key theme had been chosen to be 'Managing Difficult Behaviours'. Michelle Higgs, Deputy Headteacher at Kennel Lane had attended as keynote speaker, and a choice of workshops on the Virtual School, Life Journey Work, Family Safeguarding Model and ADHD had been chosen.

The event had been a success, and next year's event would be co-produced with Foster Carers based on this success.

37. SiLSiP Summer Activities: CLA Achievement Awards and Kerry's Fund

Louise MacLennan gave an update on a number of areas of work with SiLSiP and other Children Looked After Participation work.

Louise explained that SiLSiP gave Children Looked After direct input into the Executive Member and Directors about their lives, and about being Looked After. SiLSiP was also a good way for Children Looked After to meet children in similar situations.

The summer activities had been held over 9 days, and had included sports activities, performing arts, a trip to Heroes Farm, watersports, a baking and afternoon tea, and a day at Oakwood activity centre. The 'Do You Know' training had also been developed over the summer by recruiting and equipping new trainers.

SiLSiP had done a poetry workshop and made animations to support the recruitment of foster carers. A drawing from SiLSiP had also been used on the back of the Council's parking tickets to promote foster caring.

SiLSiP had hosted the Achievement Awards held in November, which had been a great success and included some performances from the children and young people.

Two members of SiLSiP had been involved in Takeover Day in Whitehall, working with Sir Mark Sedwell and MP Nadhim Zahawi. This had been a great opportunity and a very successful day.

Louise reported that 'Kerry's Fund' had been set up arising from a £1000 donation to support young people interested in Performing Arts. Young people had been able to bid for £150 to go towards music or drama lessons.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- Members discussed the best way to encourage other Councillors to engage in their Corporate Parenting responsibility, and it was suggested that the Do You Know training could be included in the induction package for the new Council following the elections in May 2019.
- It was suggested that for the Awards ceremony next year, a hotel might be approached to sponsor the event and provide food for the adult attendees as well as the children.

Members thanked Louise for her update.

38. Performance Management Information Noting

Members received and noted the latest Performance Management Information.

It was commented that all datasets should be amended to read Children Looked After rather than Looked After Children.

It was noted that there were a number of reasons why a child may be placed out of area.

Assurance was given that all care leavers were currently in suitable accommodation.

An audit on Children Looked After re-entering the system was currently ongoing.

39. Workshop Planning Update (from session on 2 November)

Members were reminded of the outcome of the workshop held in November, where the role of Corporate Parenting and relationship with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny work had been discussed.

40. **Review of Terms of Reference**

The Panel considered a revised terms of reference draft and made the following amendments:

- An Annual report of the Panel would be submitted from its Chair to Council.
- Any recommendations from the Panel would be referred to the Leader of the Council for delegation to the relevant Executive Member.
- The Executive Member should sit on the Panel as a voting member.
- Annual report to Council, any recommendations to Leader of Council.
- It was agreed that the voice of the child be included in the key objectives.
- It was agreed that all membership should have full DBS disclosures.

41. **Panel Announcements**

There were no Panel Announcements.

42. **Date of Next Meeting**

22 March 2019

CHAIRMAN