

**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY  
PANEL  
26 SEPTEMBER 2012  
5.10 - 6.38 PM**



**Present:**

Councillors Mrs McCracken (Chairman), Mrs Barnard (Vice-Chairman), Ms Brown and Ms Hayes

**Also Present:**

Councillor Dr Barnard

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors Mrs Birch

**14. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**15. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2012 be agreed as a correct record.

**16. Matters Arising**

**a) Leading Improvements for Looked After Children (LILAC) Presentation to Council**

Further to Minute 9 of the previous meeting, the Chairman reported that seven members of SiLSiP (Say it Loud Say it Proud) had attended the Council meeting on 19 September to present the Council with a certificate of accreditation against all seven LILAC standards. The SiLSiP members explained the process of the inspection, quoted some of the findings and thanked the Council for the invitation to attend the meeting.

Members praised the young people for the way in which they had handled the occasion and the Executive Member suggested that the event illustrated the Borough's family friendliness.

**b) Letter to Bev Searle, Health Authority**

Further to Minute 3 of the previous meeting, the Chairman reported that she was still awaiting a response from the Health Commissioners to her letter.

The Director of Children, Young People and Learning reported that, as Bev Searle had been seconded, she would provide details of the person to contact regarding this matter.

## 17. **LAC and Care Leavers Exam Results**

Kashif Nawaz, Assistant Virtual School Head, EAL and Diversity Team Leader, tabled updated information on the summer 2012 examination results for looked after children and those who had left care since taking the exams to replace the provisional information previously circulated. The ability range of the group was unique each year, which made comparisons difficult year on year.

As compared with last year's results:

- 8 out of 9 pupils had achieved 1 or more A\*-G grades (78%) compared with 73% last year:
- No pupils had obtained 5 A\*-C grades compared with 4 out of 11 pupils last year.
- A number of pupils had taken on entry level and college based courses and qualifications which had enabled them to seek an alternative way into further education.

There was also one pupil who had obtained 4 "A" level passes and had undertaken an accountancy internship.

In response to Members' questions, Kashif reported that:

- all the pupils had performed at least as well as predicted .
- in order to make further improvements it was necessary to build on the relationship with schools and develop even more effective monitoring systems.

Kashif tabled a summary of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers' recently published report on education for the Panel's information.

## 18. **Six Month Report on Life Chances Team**

Sheila McKeand, Head of Service for Looked After Children, presented a report which set out the impact of the Life Chance team (LCT) over the first six months in operation. Its first annual report would be submitted to the next meeting.

She reported that the LCT was a virtual team established in October 2011 comprising of representatives of all the agencies and specialist services who had a responsibility to looked after children. Its overall aim was to improve the outcomes of all children and young people in preparation for adulthood.

The team has met five times between November 2011 and March 2012. Over the six months the team has made some remarkable progress in developing a common understanding of the needs of looked after children, and using existing professional knowledge, skills and creatively to develop plans and working practices.

The commitment and enthusiasm of all team members was evident through the high attendance at meetings and contribution to discussions. Members had identified the benefits of this forum for the individual children discussed and for their own professional development and that of the services they represent.

The impact of the team on the outcomes of looked after children was yet to be evaluated through performance data. However on the basis of the subjective data available, over the next year there will be a measurable impact by the Life Chances Team on the outcomes of children and young people who were looked after.

In response to Members' questions, Sheila reported that:

- the RAG (Red, Amber and Green) system used by the LCT would also be applied to Family Focus work.
- Panel members would be invited to the conference hosted by the LCT in February 2013.
- she would provide further information to Councillor Ms Brown regarding the LCT's work with one of the looked after children.

#### 19. **Performance Management Information**

Sheila McKeand tabled and presented performance management information up to and including July 2012.

The Panel considered data relating to the following:

- The number of looked after children
- NI 63 – the stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement: It was noted that, over the past three years, there had been a significant improvement in the stability of placements.
- NI 62 – the stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements: It was noted that the majority of unplanned moves related to decisions made by teenagers to take themselves away from their placements.
- C23 – adoptions of looked after children: It was anticipated that, during this financial year, two infants under the age of one would be made the subject of Adoption Orders. This was remarkable given that nationally there were only 60 children with Orders granted within this timeframe.
- NI 61 – Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following decision to place for adoption: It was noted that the requirement for the Adoption Panel to make recommendations for the "Best Interest" of children had been removed.
- Placements of looked after children by placement type.
- Ward data of originating home address of looked after children: It was noted that the majority of looked after children had originated from homes in Bracknell "town" and relatively few from outlying communities.
- Number of children becoming and ceasing to be looked after: During the year to July 2012, 15 young people had become looked after and 13 ceased to be so.
- After care services: The After Care and Over 11s team had been amalgamated to optimise the transition arrangements for young people into leaving care services. The number of young people eligible for leaving care services was projected to rise as the number of 16 and 17 year olds became accommodated under S20 due to their vulnerability as homeless.
- Annual health assessments: It was noted that the % of assessments was improving steadily.
- Dental checks
- Emotional and behavioural health
- NI 147 – care leavers in suitable accommodation
- NI 148 – care leavers in education, employment or training

The Panel welcomed the improvements in performance but requested that, in future, the data be circulated in advance so that Members could give it more detailed consideration.

20. **Dates of Next Meetings and Forward Plan**

12 December 2012

SiLSiP Annual Report  
IRO Annual Report  
Adoption Half Yearly Report  
Coram Concurrent Planning  
LCT Annual Report

It was also agreed that the Director of Children, Young People and Learning submit a report on the potential implications of current budgetary pressures on services to Looked After Children.

**CHAIRMAN**