

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on Wednesday, 26 July 2023 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 4.33 pm
Concluded 6.30 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN
Duffy Thirkill Alipoor	Pollard	Sutcliffe

Also present: Charlotte Ramsden, Ruth Terry, Jude McDonald, Picklu Roychoudhury

Apologies: Phillipa Hubbard, Amandip Johal, Sue Lowndes

Councillor Duffy in the Chair

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made relating to matters under consideration.

2. MINUTES

Update on actions arising from meeting of 8 th February 2023		
Action No.	Action	Status
1	iAD/SRCP to circulate the savings policy to panel members – Amandip by 17/02/23.	Completed
2	iAD/SRCP to circulate to panel members an update on steps towards completion of the entitlements document for young people in care. Trust have agreed to implement the policy and will take forward but not a major priority at this time. CR/RT are unsure of what foster carers, independent fostering agencies understanding of the savings policy is but will bring update to next formal panel.	Completed New action

3	<p>Chair to keep the panel informed of plans to hold a cross-agency event to develop the Corporate Parenting Strategy – Sue Duffy 29/03/23.</p> <p>Event has been agreed by Exec</p>	
4	<p>LA to demonstrate the entitlements flowchart on the website to the corporate parenting panel.</p> <p>Young people did not understand entitlements and a piece of work was being undertaken to look at flowcharts in relation to making simpler. AJ to provide update on flowchart for children's panel.</p>	New action
	iAD/SRCP to circulate the report of the National Implementation Advisor on Care Leavers (Mark Rydell) to the panel.	Agenda item
6	<p>iDD/CSS to arrange training/QA for panel members on engaging effectively with young people.</p> <p>Panel did not feel this training was necessary as there have been no issues engaging the young people at children's panel.</p>	Closed
7	Police and health colleagues to consider how to ensure that the role of their agencies as corporate parent is reflected in their own strategies and systems.	Ongoing
8	Governance Officer to resolve the issue of the CPP agenda and papers not reaching all regular attendees.	Completed
9	<p>Dr Murray and iAD/SRCP to identify solution to issue of non-attendance at Initial Health Assessment and report to panel.</p> <p>Some work has been done but more needed to help understand non-attendance. Trust and health meet regularly to review what work is needed moving forward. JM to provide update at next formal meeting.</p> <p>Discussed some of the reasons why children may miss IHA, for example transport may be an issue however social worker would be aware of the appointment so could support attendance.</p>	New Action

	Trust will work closely with parents to encourage attendance.	
10	<p>HT/VS to liaise with P Briggs, Bradford Youth Justice Service on barriers to CLA returning to education.</p> <p>Cllr Pollard will liaise with Jonathan Cooper regarding CLAs returning to education, especially the younger children.</p> <p>Work done has been positive, agreed would invite back to give an update. To be invited to future meeting</p>	<p>New Action</p> <p>New Action</p>
11	<p>iAD/SRCP to circulate to the panel the Terms of Reference for the national leaving care programme in which she had been invited to participate.</p> <p>Update to be provided at next formal meeting.</p>	Ongoing
12	iAD/SRCP to provide assurances that the Council has a single system that records all CLA with disabilities and complex health needs who are placed in residential special schools registered as children's homes.	Completed
13	<p>Jude MacDonald, Dr Murray and Amandip Johal to meet to review the recommendations and actions arising from Phase 2 of the work of the National Panel on the care of young people with disabilities and complex needs residing in special schools registered as children's homes and report to next ordinary Panel meeting on the development of a cross-agency strategy – J MacDonald, C Murray, Amandip – date of next ordinary meeting to be confirmed.</p> <p>Meeting has been arranged, will update at next formal meeting.</p>	Outstanding
14	<p>Chair to keep the Panel informed of plans to hold a cross-agency event to develop the Corporate Parenting Strategy.</p> <p>Event has been discussed a few times. Would be looking at Autumn to deliver the event, although aware of monitoring visit in November. PR to negotiate date across Trust and Council</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>New action</p>

**Update on actions arising from meeting of 29th
March 2023**

15	Email to children and young people the link to the entitlement's information on Coram Voice – <i>Emily Rhodes by 15/04/23</i>	
16	Ensure that the link to the entitlements information on Coram Voice are easy to find – <i>H Thomas by 15/04/23.</i>	
17	Participation Team to gather feedback from young people on the entitlements information on Coram Vice and pass to the Care Leavers Service to arrange for the information to be more easily found – <i>Emily Rhodes by 30/04/23 and H Thomas by 31/05/23.</i>	
18	Virtual School to review drop-in sessions for children and young people to separate them from sessions for adults and make them available at times when they were not at school – <i>Jonathan Cooper by 31/05/23.</i> This will be added to the Virtual Schools Governing Body as a standard agenda item and feedback to Corporate Parenting panel.	New Action
19	Children and young people to let Emily Rhodes or Mike Nolan know if they wished to attend the Virtual School consultation at 10am on Friday 14 th April 2023 – <i>Children & YP by 13/4/23.</i>	Closed

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meetings held on 8 February and 29 March be held as a correct record.

3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

No requests to view documents were received.

4. NATIONAL ADVISOR FEEDBACK

Mark Riddell had been in Bradford for 2 days and met with a variety of staff and children and produced a report with feedback and recommendations. Looked at champions models where Executive who had responsibility across the Council had a link to this group and linking themes across all portfolios.

There had been limited progress due to various reasons, i.e., Trust and board

members had changed since initially discussed. **Agreed** an action plan with timeline was needed to move this forward.

Discussed strengthening the Board as membership but would need to look at link to board Regulatory and Appeals, a review of membership would need to go to full Council to be agreed. Board needed to have members with different backgrounds and strengths.

Action:

AJ to produce action plan with timeline to move report forward.

All to discuss/suggest who should be members of corporate parenting panel.

Strengthening of the board recommendations can be made from people here and if we do the proposed training, they may have recommendations the help strengthen board and ensure making a difference.

Discussed constitutional process, Cllr Duffy has spoken with Asif to ask how move forward at pace and to see where best fit and compare in relation to other authorities. Corporate Parenting previously did not have minutes just recommendations which did not follow through as no names against recommendation and a process has been put in place to allow minutes. There should not be verbal reports and moving forward will ensure there is a written report for each agenda item.

Asked whether a number of apprenticeships could be ring fenced. **Response** discussed with local authority HR, there are several apprenticeships within the Council, however, it needs to be local businesses not just the authority. Health has a new post looking at opportunities for care leavers. **Raised** a range of opportunities were needed, not all care leavers will be ready for a fulltime apprenticeship or know what they want to do and may need some work experience.

The report raises dental care and optician costs. Health currently looking at prescription charges which hopefully will be able to achieve a positive outcome.

Action:

Update to be provided at next formal meeting on apprenticeships.

No resolution was passed on this item.

5. REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Cllr Duffy met Helen Goran-Bell from LGA. The training and peer review would require a self-assessment completing, interviews with partners, Trust and Council and attending meetings. They would be on site for a 3 day period, suggesting February due to upcoming monitoring visits for SEND and Trust also the Trust embedding. LGA and a lead member would provide the training. **Agreed** February for training/peer review and would also be a good way to show our aspirations for children.

Resolved –

That the Panel accept option ‘B’ for a review and training of the Panel.

Action: Strategic Director, Children’s Services.

6. FORWARD PLAN

Needed to be done jointly with Council and Trust. Timescales needed for annual reports. There was a duplication of reports between Corporate Parenting and Overview and Scrutiny, needed an agreement to stop duplication and use different panels in the most effective way. Forward Plan could be provided for Overview and Scrutiny and would also be looked at as part of DMT.

There were statutory reports to be tabled at Corporate Parenting, they don’t need to go to Overview and Scrutiny they just need to know the meetings have been held.

Action:

Cllr Pollard to look into scrutiny for Corporate Parenting Panel and to agree which reports will be tabled at September’s meeting.

Meeting with respective parties needed to agree scrutiny for Corporate Parenting Panel

Resolved –

That CPP Members and Officers will liaise with the Chair, Deputy Chair and Scrutiny Lead of the Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that work and subsequent reports are not duplicated in order to formulate a Work Plan for CPP.

Action: Chair, Members and Officers

7. VIRTUAL SCHOOLS GOVERNING BODY FEEDBACK REPORT

Governing body met on 17th July 2023. One paper tabled has implications on aspirations and extension of the role of virtual school’s head. CIN review in 2019 recognised the role of the Virtual head was raising aspirations and the role is now extending to children who have ever had contact with a social worker. Therefore, the Virtual school head and deputy head will have extended role looking at these children. DfE will fund the additional work for 2 years. **Query** whether funding is in place.

Actions:

**Cllr Pollard to check funding is available with Jonathan Cooper
Roy to check funding is available with Sue Lowndes**

There is a further proposed extension to include care leavers 18-25 within the remit of Virtual school. Charlotte was in favour of the proposal; it will be additional burden and have to be funded but going into adulthood a lot of care leavers do their best education at 19 as they have matured.

Amanda Dutton-Taylor had been given a remit to look how virtual school can increase PEP. The report highlights previous confusion over who does what and an issue of engagement from social workers who are supposed to lead the process not the teachers. Ruth raised these are done differently in different areas but need to get to a place where they are done together. Teachers are the experts in education and social workers the care plans. The PEPs will be electronic. With Social Workers changing the teachers/teaching assistants know the children the best.

The meeting generally takes place after a care review and those that need to remain at meeting, might be helpful if the social worker pulls the meeting together.

Discussed the churn of social workers and know it is the biggest issues for children in care the change of social worker and having to repeat their story.

To support the improvement of PEPs, Post-16 and support children in care placed out of area there will be an increase in staffing, which will bring in line with national averages. There is national government funding and an increase in pupil premium uplift which will fund 2 x PEP support officers, a post-16 lead teacher and an out of area link teacher.

Discussed whether Skills House or Virtual School should be on Corporate Parenting panel. Cllr Pollard chairs virtual school governing body and Sue Lowndes, Education attends Corporate Parenting. Other partners could provide periodical report/annual report when invited to do so.

Action: Cllr Pollard to ask Jonathan Cooper to link with Pamela Stanyon-Carr and have conversation and agree who leads PEPs.

No resolution was passed on this item.

8. TRAINING AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DATES

Review and peer review agreed.

Number of dates for training have been sent to Amandip and Helen, may need to review dates and what training is offered. The training needs to be done in a way it embraces people, do not think people understand corporate parenting. Any training identified can be organised for the panel.

Action:

Cllr Duffy to email Ruth and Roy dates for training.

Shani to arrange meeting with Roy and Cllr Sutcliffe for overview of Corporate Parenting.

Resolved –

That the training plan will be shared with the CEO of Bradford Children's Trust for review.

Action: Chair

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER