



Agenda for a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on Wednesday, 26 July 2023 at 4.30 pm in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Committee – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN
Duffy Thirkill Alipoor	Pollard	Sutcliffe

Alternates:

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN
Humphreys Shaheen Parsons	Davies	Russell

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Claire Smith Chair of Children in Care Council Jude MacDonald	West Yorkshire Police Bradford District Clinical Commissioning Group
Sue Lowndes Nagina Javaid	Bradford Education Programme Director for Children, Young People and Families - NHS
Phillipa Hubbard Grainne Eloi	NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board NHS (Phillipa Hubbard)

Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.

From:

Asif Ibrahim
Director of Legal and Governance
Agenda Contact: Su Booth
Phone: 07814 073884
E-Mail: susan.booth2@bradford.gov.uk

To:

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

The Director of Legal and Governance will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

(Su Booth – 07814 073884)

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(Members Code of Conduct – Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) *Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:*

Type of Interest	You must:
<i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i> OR <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Affects)</i> OR <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being</i> <i>(a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward, and</i>

(b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest; in which case speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not do not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

- (2) *Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (3) *Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (4) *Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

3. MINUTES

1 - 20

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023 and the Young People led meeting held on 29 March 2023 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Su Booth – 07814 073884)

4. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Su Booth – 07814 073884)

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

5. NATIONAL ADVISOR FEEDBACK 21 - 32

A verbal report relating to the report (**Document “A”**) from Mark Riddell, National Advisor for Care Leavers and the response from the Bradford Children and Families Trust on progress and way forward.

(Amandip Johal – 01274 431620)

6. REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL 33 - 38

The report of the Strategic Director, Children’s Services (**Document “B”**) will be submitted to the Panel and outlines the offer from the Local Government Association (LGA) to review and support Corporate Parenting Panels.

Recommended –

That Members accept option B

(Picklu Roychoudhry - 07811 088617)

7. FORWARD PLAN

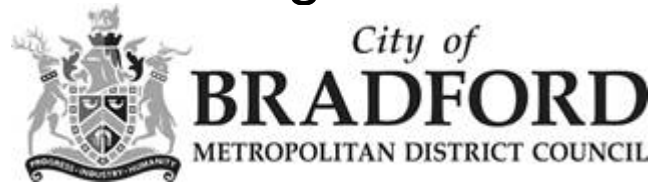
This item will take place as a verbal discussion for Members to agree items to be presented to the Panel for the remainder of the financial year and will be led by the Chair.

8. VIRTUAL SCHOOLS GOVERNING BODY FEEDBACK REPORT

The Chair of Virtual Schools Governing body will provide a verbal overview from the Virtual School Governing Body meeting held on 17th July.

9. TRAINING AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DATES

Members will discuss and agree dates for training and other matters as required.



Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on Wednesday, 8 February 2023 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 4.36 pm
Concluded 6.14 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Duffy Thirkill	Pollard	Knox

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Claire Smith
Jude MacDonald
Sue Lowndes

West Yorkshire Police
Bradford District Clinical Commissioning Group
Bradford Education

ALSO PRESENT

Phil Briggs Bradford Youth Justice Service
Su Booth Governance Officer, BC Corporate Resources
Jonathan Cooper Head, Virtual School (HT/VS)
Ali Jan Haider Bradford District and Craven Integrated Health and Care Partnership
Andrea Haley Bradford District Care Trust
Amandip Johal Bradford Council Interim Assistant Director Safeguarding and Review, Commissioning & Provider Services (iAD/SRCP)
David Johnson Bradford Council Interim Deputy Director, Children’s Social Services (iDD/CSS)
Dr Catherine Murray Consultant Paediatrician and Designated Doctor for Children Looked After
Helen Osman Helen Osman Governance Services (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Margaret Alipoor

Councillor Duffy in the Chair

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Summary of outstanding actions arising from this and previous meetings				
Action No.	From (meeting of)	Action	Person	Timing
1	19-10-2022	iAD/SRCP to advise the Panel on the date of publication of the savings policy for young people in care.	A Johal	31-10-2022
(1)(i)	08-02-2023	iAD/SRCP to ensure that the savings policy is on the Executive Committee Forward Plan	A Johal	17-02-2023
(1)(ii)	08-02-2023	iAD/SRCP to circulate the savings policy to panel members.	A Johal	17-02-2023
2	19-10-2022	LCS to provide to the Panel the <u>timeline</u> of steps towards completion of the entitlements document for young people in care.	L Kay	31-10-2022
2(i)	08-02-2023	iAD/SRCP to circulate to panel members an <u>update</u> on steps towards completion of the entitlements document for young people in care.	A Johal	17-02-2023
4(i)	08-02-2023	Chair to keep the Panel informed of plans to hold a cross-agency event to develop the Corporate Parenting Strategy.	S Duffy	29-03-2023
5 (i)	07-12-2022	LA to re-circulate e-mail to young people regarding the Care Leavers Days.	L Kaye	31-12-2022
5 (ii)	07-12-2022	LA to include on the agenda for the next Panel meeting with Young People a demonstration of the entitlements flowchart on the website.	A Johal	28-02-2023
5 (iii)	08-02-2023	LA to demonstrate the entitlements flowchart on the website to the Corporate Parenting Panel.	A Johal	31-03-2023
5 (iv)	07-12-2022	Virtual School to organise an annual session involving universities, colleges, Skills House, employers etc to talk to young people age 15+ about their ambitions; options such as jobs, college and university; and the support available (eg bursaries and other funding).	J Cooper	2022-23
5(vi)	08-02-2023	iAD/SRCP to circulate the report of the National Implementation Advisor on Care Leavers (Mark Rydell) to the Panel.	A Johal	24-02-2023
Take-away themes	07-12-2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ensure all YP know about their 25 hours entitlement and the availability of additional tutoring. 2) Establish the proportion of Bradford's young people in care that achieve the grade 5 "good pass" threshold in English and Maths GCSEs. Narrow the gap between this proportion and the proportion of non-looked after children who achieve this standard nationally (40.1% in 2021). 3) Minimise the need for children to switch schools when they move house and, where a change in school is unavoidable, make the change at the start of the school year. Mid-term changes of school should be avoided at all costs. 	J Cooper	16-03-2023
6	19-10-2022	Young people to be asked at their next meeting with the Panel for feedback on the additional activities	A Johal	07-12-2022

		they would like to promote their physical and emotional health.		
7	19-10-2022	Panel members and officers to consider how to develop the Panel's relationships with young people in its care.	All	07-12-2022
7(i)	08-02-2023	iDD/CSS to arrange training/Q&A for panel members on engaging effectively with young people.	D Johnson	31-03-2023
7(ii)	08-02-2023	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	J MacDonald C Smith	31-03-2023
8	19-10-2022	Chair to liaise with iAD/SRCP to identify major issues expected to arise in each Theme and advise the Lead Panel Members accordingly.	Cllr Duffy	18-11-2022
9	08-02-2023	Governance Officer to resolve the issue of the CPP agenda and papers not reaching all regular attendees.	Su Booth	Ongoing
10	08-02-2023	Dr Murray and iAD/SRCP to identify solution to issue of non-attendance at Initial Health Assessments and report to Panel.	Dr Murray A Johal	August 2023
11	08-02-2023	HT/VS to liaise with P Briggs, Bradford Youth Justice Service, on barriers to CLA returning to education	J Cooper	31-03-2023
11	08-02-2023	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.	A Johal	28-02-2023
12	08-02-2023	iAD/SRCP to report on the progress of the national Leaving Care programme in which she had been invited to participate.	A Johal	August 2023
13	08-02-2023	iAD/SRCP to facilitate contact between a young person who spoke to the Panel of difficulties securing employment due to a criminal record and P Briggs, BYJS.	A Johal	28-02-2023
14	08-02-2023	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.	A Johal	28-02-2023
15	08-02-2023	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 A Johal	Date of next ordinary meeting tba

40. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

41. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meetings held on 19 October and 7 December 2022 be signed as a correct record.

42. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

No requests to inspect reports or background papers were received.

43. WEST YORKSHIRE DIVERSION PATHFINDER - BRADFORD PILOT

The Programme Lead for the Child First West Yorkshire Diversion Pathfinder – Youth Justice Board gave Members a presentation informing members of the initiative to create a diversionary model to divert children away from the criminal justice service.

Phil Briggs, Team Leader, Bradford Youth Justice Service (BYJS), said that research demonstrated that children who were taken to court for serious or multiple offences resulting in a criminal record had less positive outcomes than those who were diverted away from the courts. Using Outcome 22^[1], Chance To Change, the Child First West Yorkshire Diversion Pathfinder initiative enabled children and young people who engaged with the process to avoid a criminal record for low level offences, often committed through accident or poor judgement, and be supported to learn from what they had done and make amends. The process was not a soft option: it included opportunities for restorative justice in all its forms and every effort was made to consult the victim, where the offence had a victim.

The Chance to Change model, which was being piloted in Bradford with the aim of rolling it out across West Yorkshire, recognised that children and young people might make more than one mistake. It also recognised the particular vulnerability of Children Looked After (CLA) in light of the trauma they might have experienced and that, if they had been placed out of area, they might have no support in the Bradford area. Each case was considered independently on its merits and on Child First principles. Children were triaged to determine the best route to support their individual needs: in the case of CLA, this included working with the agencies that were supporting the child and identifying a single lead practitioner. Effective liaison with all agencies involved with the child, and discussion with the child in question, were critical elements of the diversion model: this was not something that YJS could do on its own.

The Chance to Change model was currently in the Quality Assurance phase of its pilot, in which young people, carers and residential homes were being asked for feedback on their experiences. The Panel was interested to hear that one care home had said that an incident between two staff members had been stopped by the intervention of a young person who had a history of challenging and violent behaviour: the young person had said that they did not think that the staff were making good choices.

Referring to the presentation, **members asked** about the reference at the bottom of the first substantive page to addressing disproportionality. BYJS explained that, in a number of areas across the country, some communities of children – including CLA – were over-represented in the criminal justice system. As found in the Lammy review^[2], some communities lacked trust in the police and authority figures or would not engage with them. A person who did not admit to the offence could not be given an out of court disposal. Chance to Change could work with children and young people to develop trust and help them to understand and engage with the process so that they could be diverted away from the courts.

Replying to questions, BYJS confirmed that all who were involved in the process of a child or young person reaching court had been briefed on the diversion pathway with the aim of interception:

- the decision to refer a child who did not admit to an offence to BYJS was made by the individual police officer;
- all custody staff had been briefed on the diversionary model and were issued with regular reminders;
- where a child or young person slipped through the net the YJS followed the matter up with the officer concerned to check that they understood the system;
- Youth Justice Court officers had been briefed;
- BYJS worked closely with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), so they too understood the system; and
- A common IT platform had been launched in the January 2023 to support the interception of children and young people before they reached court.

Noting that a number of types of case were considered sensitive and required inspector-level sign-off, **members queried** the reference to “*possibly politically sensitive offences that may have gained media attention*”: members hoped that political sensitivity or media attention would not influence how cases were managed. BYJS agreed: the requirement for inspector-level sign-off for such cases was intended to address the fact that this was a new model and ensure that the process was robust in every aspect.

Asked whether a CPS lawyer would consider whether the Chance To Change process had been followed, BYJS said that the Head of CPS had been briefed and had notified CPS staff. BYJS was preparing a briefing paper for CPS staff and had offered to provide training.

ADS said that the DfE position was that children in the youth justice system were entitled to an education and a fresh start. HT/VS agreed that a swift return to education was critical for CLA, though the barriers were many – he would discuss this with BYJS outside the meeting.

Action: HT/VS

iAD/SRCP said that she had been invited to participate in a national leaving care programme and was ensuring that Youth Justice and the police had also been invited. Members agreed that this programme needed to be aligned with the Chance To Change initiative and welcomed her offer to report on it at a future meeting. They asked that she circulate the Terms of Reference for the programme.

Action: iAD/SRCP

Asked whether there were any particular considerations that affected how Chance to Change worked for CLA, BYJS said that CLA tended to suffer from different levels of stress from other young people. The decision-making panel considered the extent of any trauma in the background of the child to help it to understand the child's behaviour. It also took account of the skills and learning styles of the child. Compliance was managed slightly differently for CLA than for other children and young people: while CLA needed to abide by the Chance to Change requirements, this would take account of the context from which the child came.

Asked whether the police were able to check with social care at the initial point of contact whether a child was a CLA, WYP said that this would form part of a project on which she would shortly embark to look at the criminalisation of CLA. She reminded members that, whereas most parents would not call the police if their child caused damage to their property, a child in care might well be arrested.

-

Asked how the various projects relating to the criminal justice system and CLA related to each other, iAD/SRCP said that the national programme in which she had been asked to participate would focus on upstream preventative work, including preventative mechanisms to support children who were struggling. BYJS said that he worked closely with the manager of the police officers who were linked to Bradford's care homes to ensure that they were aware of Chance to Change and that their knowledge of CLA was fed into the triaging system.

-

Asked whether the Chance to Change programme complemented the national leaving care programme, iAD/SRCP said that the YJS would be part of the working group, which would also include education, health and the police.

Asked whether this meant that Chance to Change would be part of the national leaving care programme, she said that it did.

-

Replying to questions, BYJS said that the Chance To Change programme was open to children and young people between the ages of ten and seventeen.

The Chair thanked BYJS for this helpful report and discussion. At a consultation meeting between the Panel and young people in the summer of 2021, a young man had said that, despite having good qualifications, he was unable to secure employment because he had fallen in with the wrong crowd during a period of stress and confusion when he had entered care and had a criminal record. The

Chair had discussed this with BYJS and was pleased with the progress that had been made: **she asked** whether there was scope to provide feedback to the young man who had raised the issue. BYJS said that he would be happy to contact the young man in question to provide this feedback and offer advice and support: iAD/SRCP would facilitate contact.

Action: iAD/SRCP

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

Action: Programme Lead - Child First West Yorkshire Diversion Pathfinder

^[1] Outcome 22: See National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Briefing note (v1 March 2019):

- Outcome Type 22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further action.
- Detail required for Outcome 22: Decision making should be clearly documented as to what education and diversionary activity has been put in place to address the suspects offending behaviour and why the OIC believes this is a more effective outcome than out of court disposals or charge.

^[2] The Lammy Review: An independent review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System, September 2017

44. ANNUAL REPORT FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2022

The report of the Director of Quality and Nursing West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (Bradford) (**Document "D"**) was submitted to the Panel and was taken as read.

Dr Murray, Consultant Paediatrician and Designated Doctor for Children Looked After, said that many Children Looked After (CLA) entered care with multiple and complex health and care needs. The number of children entering care continued to increase more rapidly in Bradford than in its statistical neighbours, causing significant issues for the provision of care.

The remit of the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board in relation to CLA health included carrying out Initial Health Assessments and reviews, completing adult fostering forms and providing adoption medical examinations. Initial Health Assessments comprised the majority of the work and were intended to identify any health needs that had not been diagnosed prior to the young person entering care.

Initial Health Assessments must be carried out by a registered medical practitioner, traditionally a paediatrician. Appointments lasted for one hour and were followed up by conversations with social workers and a substantial amount of paperwork. As the number of children entering care increased, the NHS faced significant challenges in managing the load. To address this, from March 2022 a cohort of General Practitioners had been trained up to undertake Initial Health Assessments. The model was working well. Weekly meetings were held with the nursing team to triage every child entering care, RAG^[1] rate their needs and determine who should see them.

In common with their counterparts elsewhere in the UK, the service was not

meeting the statutory 20-day timeframe for conducting Initial Health Assessments. However, through the increased capacity provided by training GPs to undertake the assessments, it was improving.

A major concern was that 42% of children missed their appointments for Initial Health Assessments, which then had to be re-arranged. The service was working with iAD/SRCP to identify and address the reasons for this.

Discussion

Replying to questions, health colleagues present said that the children and young people who missed appointments for Initial Health Assessments tended to be those placed at home with their parents and older young people who simply did not choose to attend. A process was in place to remind young people, their carers and social workers of appointments, but a cohort still did not attend.

Asked whether failure to attend an Initial Health Assessment blocked other services for the young person, Dr Murray confirmed that it did: referrals could not be made and screening could not be arranged until the Initial Health Assessment had been completed.

Asked whether social workers and doctors made the importance and benefits of the Initial Health Assessment sufficiently clear to young people and their families, iDD/CSS said that there were a number of reasons why a child might be placed with their parents: for example, this might be done for a trial period following a period in care, or the courts might place the child back in their home when the local authority requested a supervision order. A child should not be placed with the parents unless it had been confirmed that the parents would take responsibility for matters such as attendance at health appointments.

Asked whether social workers accompanied the young person and their carer to appointments where the young person was placed at home with their parents, Dr Murray said that social workers did not usually attend Initial Health Assessments. The service was seeking to understand the reasons for this and to encourage social workers to attend for at least part of the appointments. The Panel recognised the wide-ranging pressures on the time of social workers but considered that they had a critical role to play in ensuring that children and young people placed with parents did in fact attend their Initial Health Assessments.

The Panel asked that Dr Murray and iAD/SRCP identify a solution to this issue and report back to the Panel by August 2023.

Action: Dr Murray, iAD/SRCP

Referring to page 38 of the agenda paper, members noted that the average number of working days for an Initial Health Assessment to be undertaken was sixty-six at the end of March 2022, compared with the twenty working days specified in the statutory guidance. **Replying to questions**, Dr Murray confirmed that the time to completion of an Initial Health Assessment had increased since March 2022 due to the increased number of children entering care and staffing pressures: this was a major concern. Efforts were being made to recruit and short term work arounds were being used, but capacity to meet the demand was a real issue.

Asked about trends in the number of children and young people entering care, iDD/CSS said that an increase had been seen across Bradford in the number of contacts and a reduction in the number of referrals to the Front Door in two of the four areas. If current trends continued, a small reduction could be expected in the

number of children entering the system and a small increase in the number of care leavers.

Resolved –

That Members consider the information provided and the report be noted.

Action: Director of Quality and Nursing West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (Bradford)

RAG rating: Red, Amber, Green ratings - a visual representation of progress

45. NATIONAL REVIEW - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND COMPLEX HEALTH NEEDS PLACED IN RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS

The report of the Strategic Director, Children's Services (**Document "E"**) was submitted to the Panel to inform Members in relation to the review undertaken by The National Safeguarding Panel following the very serious abuse and neglect suffered by a number of children with disabilities and complex needs whilst living in three private residential settings and the actions to be taken by every Director of Children's Services.

iAD/SRCP referred to the national review into how and why a significant number of children with disabilities and complex needs came to suffer serious abuse and neglect whilst living in three privately provided residential settings in the Doncaster area. In Phase 1 of its work, the panel undertaking the national review had asked every Director of Children's Services to provide urgent assurances in relation to the progress, care and safety of children with disabilities and complex health needs who are placed in residential special schools registered as children's homes. The agenda paper set out the information that Bradford had sent to the National Panel on the three children who fell into this category in Bradford. The information had been gathered from conversations with Independent Review Officers (IROs) and social workers to ensure that the young people in questions were happy in their settings, that their voices were heard, their needs met and any concerns addressed. A response was awaited from the National Panel before any further action was taken.

Noting that the agenda paper indicated that it had been necessary to consult three separate systems to identify the three children in Bradford who had disabilities and complex health needs and who had been placed in residential special schools registered as children's homes, **members asked** why it had not been possible to identify all such children through a single check. iAD/SRCP said that this was a consequence of how establishments were recorded on the Council's system. This had been picked up and addressed through the placement team. **Asked** whether there was a single system that drew together all establishments, iAD/SRCP said that there was but that the team had cross-

referenced it with other systems to ensure that all children had been identified and, though this cross-checking, had identified gaps. **Asked** what action had been taken to plug these gaps, iAD/SRCP said that they had stemmed from how the educational element of the homes' provision had been recorded. Panel members observed that the IRO would know the educational provision offered by the home and so, presumably, had failed to record it on the system. iAD/SRCP said that the IRO would not be expected to record this information: that was the responsibility of the placement team.

Members asked why a child with a disability, who lived in a home that addressed that disability, was not recorded on the same system as other children with disabilities living in homes that addressed their disability. It did not inspire confidence that the Council had to interrogate three different systems to identify three such children. iAD/SRCP undertook to provide the panel with the details. The Panel asked that, instead, she provide an assurance that the Council had a single system that recorded every child with disabilities and complex health needs who was placed in a residential special school registered as a children's home.

Action: iAD/SRCP

Asked whether it was the case that Bradford was only able to identify the three children with disabilities and complex health needs who were placed in residential special schools registered as children's homes because it had been asked to do so in the wake of the Doncaster case, iAD/SRCP said that every child was reviewed every six months. **Asked** how, in that case, it had been necessary to use three systems to identify these children, iAD/SRCP said that this had related to the records of their homes, which had not affected the fact that their health and educational needs were being met. IRO knew about the educational provision of each child's home but it was not the responsibility of the IRO to record that information on the system.

Jude MacDonald (Bradford District and Craven Integrated Health and Care Partnership) offered the help of the Partnership in the health aspects of actions arising from the work of the National Panel. The health needs in care homes were significant.

Members observed that the agenda paper represented the response of a single agency to the National Panel Phase report. iAD/SRCP undertook to broaden it out to form a broader cross-agency strategy, reflecting the discussions to be held at the meeting referred to at paragraph 41 above. The Panel agreed that, in the first instance, Jude MacDonald, Dr Murray and Amandip Johal should meet following completion of Phase 2 of the work of the National Panel at the end of March 2023 to review its recommendations and actions and the contributions that they and other CPP members could make. They would report back to the next ordinary meeting of the Panel.

Action: J MacDonald, C Murray, A Johal

Referring to Finding 6^[1] on page 122 of the document pack for this meeting, **members asked** how homes could be held to account and weaknesses resolved if the record-keeping was inadequate or misleading. iAD/SRCP said that the IRO would review the child's care plans and arrangements and would meet the agencies involved with the child. Those agencies also needed to work

consistently together outside the IRO meetings so that emerging issues could be identified and dealt with at an early stage.

Asked whether the Virtual School would have an insight into such issues, HT/VS said that the VS would be involved through the child's Individual Education Plan.

Asked whether Joint Panels would be involved, iAD/SRCP said that they would.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

Action: Strategic Director, Children's Services

¹ Finding 6: The settings demonstrated significant weaknesses in their compliance with statutory reporting requirements under the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015. Inaccurate and inconsistent record keeping and statutory reporting by the settings meant that OFSTED and the placing local authorities often had a false picture of the care, safety and progress of the children.

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on Wednesday, 29 March 2023 in the View Room, Margaret McMillan Tower, Bradford, BD1 1NN

Commenced 4.40 pm
Concluded 6.33 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Duffy Thirkill Alipoor	Pollard	Naylor

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Sue Lowndes

Bradford Education

Observers/others in attendance:

Claire Bonner	Bradford Council – Independent Review Officer
Lisa Brett	Bradford Council – Head of Service, Early Help
Gemma Caroll	Bradford Council – Children’s Social Care
Helen Cliffe	Bradford Council – Service Manager, Safeguarding and Review, Commissioning & Provider Services
Jonathan Cooper	Head, Virtual School (HT/VS)
Caroline Dolan	Virtual School
Amandip Johal	Bradford Council – Interim Assistant Director Safeguarding and Review, Commissioning & Provider Services (iAD/SRCP)
Mick Nolan	Bradford Council – Participation Team
Filiz Osman	Bradford Council – Children in Care Service Manager
Helen Osman	Helen Osman Governance Services (Clerk)
Emily Rhodes	Bradford Council – Participation Co-ordinator, Safeguarding and Reviewing Team
Heidi Thomas	Bradford Council – Care Leavers Service

Apologies:

Councillor Susan Knox and Jude MacDonald
Louisa Kay – Service Manager Care Leavers Service
Ali Jan Haider – Bradford District and Craven Integrated Health and Care Partnership
Jude MacDonald – Bradford District and Craven Integrated Health and Care Partnership
Catherine Murray – Consultant Paediatrician and Designated Doctor for Children Looked After

Councillor Duffy in the Chair

Summary of actions arising from this meeting

Action No.	Action	Person	Timescale
1	E-mail to children and young people the link to the entitlements information on Coram Voice	E Rhodes	15-04-2023
2	Ensure that the link to the entitlements information on Coram Voice are easy to find	H Thomas	15-04-2023
3	Participation Team to gather feedback from young people on the entitlements information on Coram Voice and pass to the Care Leavers Service to arrange for the information to be more easily found.	E Rhodes H Thomas	30-04-2023 31-05-2023
4	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.	J Cooper	31-05-2023
5	Children and young people to let Emily Rhodes or Mike Nolan know if they wished to attend the Virtual School consultation at 10.00am on Friday 14 April 2023.	Children & young people	13-04-2023

46. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures were received.

47. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

No requests were received to inspect reports and background papers.

48. BUSINESS ITEMS - AGENDA

Introduction and welcome by Young Person

Emily Rhodes welcomed participants to the meeting, which would focus on contact time. Discussion of contact time could sometimes be intense, so she asked children and young people to look out for each other and to approach her, Helen Cliffe or Amandip Johal if anyone became distressed.

Feedback regarding outstanding actions

Entitlements – Heidi Thomas Service Manager Care Leavers Service

Emily Rhodes said that a paper on entitlements was ready to be presented to the Council Executive Committee. She introduced Heidi Thomas from the Leaving Care Service, who would explain how Coram Voice was being used to make information about entitlements more user-friendly.

Heidi Thomas showed a slide that set out the Financial Offer for different categories of children and young people. The categories (Eligible, Relevant, Former Relevant etc) were not easy for most people to interpret, so the information had been embedded in Coram Voice, which would take young people through it in a more user-friendly way. Attempts to demonstrate the link to the information were unsuccessful but she assured young people that the link was easy to find and use. Emily Rhodes said she would e-mail the link to children and young people.

Action: Emily Rhodes

Heidi Thomas said she would make sure that the link was easier for other children and young people to find.

Action: Heidi Thomas

Heidi Thomas explained that the Coram Voice link took users through a series of questions and then showed which category they belonged to for the purposes of the Financial Offer (eg Eligible, Relevant, Former Relevant etc), so that they could look up the entitlements for their category in the Financial Offer document.

Asked what a young person should do if they went through this process and found that they were not receiving everything to which they were entitled, Heidi Thomas said that they should raise it with their social worker, IRO or carer so that their pathway planning could be reviewed.

Young people said that the process of finding this information needed to be more straightforward. It seemed that the system, once they had the link and had answered the questions, would only tell them whether they were Eligible, Relevant, Former Relevant, etc – they would then have to find the Financial Offer to look up the entitlement for members of that category. This was over-complicated: the system needed to show their entitlements directly, without them having to move back and forth between different documents.

Young people **asked** how the information on entitlements would be made available to young people who did not have access to the internet. Heidi Thomas said that they would all have personal advisers, who would make sure that they had the information they needed.

. Amandip Johal informed children and young people that all websites were being transferred from the Council to the new Children and Families Trust. Her team was looking at developing a Young People's app to provide information on the local offer and eligibility criteria. The Trust website had sections for children and young people, adults and professionals – children and young people should find it a lot easier to find the information they needed once this website was up and running. **Asked** whether the website would work in the same way when the Trust took it over, she said that it would: some of the logos would change, but navigation would remain the same.

. Heidi Thomas said that young people should try out the link to the entitlements information and let the participation team have notes and questions on how it could be improved: that feedback could then be passed on to the people who could make the system easier to use.

Action: Participation Team

Savings Policy

. This policy was now ready to be presented to the Council Executive Committee.

Takeaway themes from previous meeting

1 **Ensure all Young People know about their 25 hours' entitlement and the availability of additional tutoring.**

- . Caroline Dolan from the Virtual School showed slides on the educational offer for children and young people in care, which included tutoring, and described the steps that the Virtual School had taken to ensure that they knew about their educational entitlement:
 - An app had been commissioned to provide easier access to educational pathways.
 - Personal Education Plan (PEPs) had been revised to include a recorded discussion of tutoring.
 - Drop-in sessions were available for children, young people, carers and staff to speak directly to Virtual School staff.
- . **Replying to questions**, Caroline Dolan said that the drop-in sessions were on Thursdays, up to 5.00pm. A Teams link was open from 10.00 am to 3.30pm. **Asked** whether this timing would work for young people, who would be in school at that time, she said that there was a Teams link to a webinar. The Head of the Virtual School added that communication could be through text, if that worked better for children and young people. He explained that the Teams link to the drop-in sessions was for everyone, not just for children and young people.
- . Cllr Duffy, Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel, said that drop-in sessions for young people needed to be for young people only and available at times that they were not in school.

Action: Virtual School

- . Caroline Dolan circulated a hard copy of a draft pyramid diagram of the Virtual School offer for children and young people
- . ***Establish the proportion of Bradford's young people in care that achieve the grade 5 "good pass" threshold in English and Maths GCSEs. Narrow the gap between this proportion and the proportion of non-looked after children who achieve this standard nationally (40.1% in 2021).***
- . Caroline Dolan explained that outcomes for children in care were monitored and reported to the Corporate Parenting Panel in an annual report. For the 2022-23 annual report, a young person's version would also be produced. The 2022-23 report showed that outcomes for Bradford's children in care had improved but that more needed to be done to narrow the gap with other children.
- . ***Minimise the need for children to switch schools when they move house and, where a change in school is unavoidable, make the change at the start of the school year. Mid-term changes of school should be avoided at all cost.***
- . Caroline Dolan said that the Virtual School understood how important it was for children and young people to remain at their existing schools, where they were happy, settled and achieving, when they moved to a new placement. If a decision was made to change a child's school when that was not in the best interest of the child, the Virtual School would challenge the decision, so it was important that children and young people shared their feelings about school moves with their social workers and carers.
- . Social workers were expected to follow clear rules on school changes, particularly when children and young people were due to sit exams. Where a change of school was unavoidable, the Virtual School asked that they take place at the end of the school year wherever possible.
- . The views of children and young people on school moves should be recorded in their PEPs.
- . Emily Rhodes said that a consultation with the Virtual School would take place during the Easter holidays, from 10.00am to 1.00pm on Friday 14 April 2023: if any children and young people wished to attend they should let her or Mike Nolan know.

Action: Children and young people

to 5 Contact time – table discussions

One of the co-Chairs introduced the theme for the table discussions. She explained that seeing their families was an important part of the lives of children and young people in care, and one that most children could take for granted. Children in care called this “contact”. They had discussed calling it “family time” but, for today’s meeting, they would refer to it as “contact”.

The thoughts that children and young people would share today were very important to them. Some of their experiences of contact were really good, and some things needed to be made better. Children and young people would share their experiences with the Corporate Parenting Panel today in the hope of making things better not just for themselves but for other children and young people in care as well.

The meeting split into table discussions which focused on different aspects of contact, with a break for pizza. The following points were made in feedback from these discussions.

Timings and Length of Contact

- Contact arrangements need to be flexible and to reflect the current circumstances of the child or young person.
- Children and young people should be able to see their families at weekends and holidays, and for longer at these times.
- The duration and frequency of contact is different for everyone and the reasons for these decisions are not explained.
- Children and young people do not know who decides when and how often they should see their families and they do not understand the rationale. They should have a say in their own contact arrangements.
- The timings of contact are too prescriptive.
- Contact time needs to be shorter but more frequent: this would be better for building relationships.
- It’s better to have contact weekly for half an hour than a whole day every two months.
- Children and young people would like more contact with siblings – those relationships are important.
- Contact is sometimes changed without any explanation – for example, from weekly contact to school holidays only.
- Contact seems to reduce as children and young people get older: social workers should explain this to them.

Lack of consultation and communication with children and young people about the timing and frequency of contact was mentioned frequently throughout this discussion.

Most frequent comment: “I just want to be asked”.

Location / Venue of Contact

- Unless there is good reason why not, children and young people should be able to see family at their parents’ houses where they can just chill.
- Can we have sleepovers at our mum and dad/s house?
- If contact at parents’ houses isn’t possible, could they see family at a relation’s home?
- It would be good to have contact in different houses, instead of always in the same place.
- Contact should take place in activity settings – eg:
 - Cinema

- Swimming
- Museum
- Bowling
- Play gym
- Can we go to theme parks with our families?
- Contact should take place in rooms with:
 - TV
 - Speakers (sub-woofer!)
 - Karaoke
 - X-box
- Family centres are too small and childish.
- Contact should not be held in:
 - An interview room
 - A blank room
 - A clinical room
- Transport to contact should be decent – not a car held together with duct tape.
- The venue should be appropriate for the ages of children and young people:
 - 0-4 years – somewhere safe
 - 4-10 years – a play area: somewhere with an activity
 - 11-17 years – wherever, and with whatever activities, the child wants (within reason)
- Children aged about six or older should have a say in the venue for contact.
- The venue should be easily accessible.
- Venues for contact should change so that the child or young person doesn't become bored.
- If a child or young person lives a long way from their family, contact should take place halfway between so they can see them more often. "I can't see Dad as much because it's too much money".
- There needs to be frequent contact with family by telephone and text in between contact sessions – some suggested daily. This is necessary for relationships and so children don't feel so different.
- Everyone is different – social workers and parents need to understand that not all children and young people want the same thing.
- Who chooses where contact happens?
- Children and young people should be able to choose.

Lack of communication and understanding of contact was mentioned frequently through discussion.

Most frequent comment: "Why can't we choose?".

Cancellation of Contact

- This is the most troublesome thing about contact.
- We aren't told why.
- No-one explains why contact is cancelled or why it is increased or reduced
- We turn up, but the others don't.
- Cancelled contact sessions are not re-arranged.

- Why can't contact go ahead with other family members if one cannot make it?
- Increases in contact need to be carefully planned.
- Not having enough contact, or enough time at contact sessions, is damaging to relationships.
- There needs to be improved communication and compromise between professionals and children and young people.

Supervision of Contact

- Unless a child is in danger, unsupervised contact is better: supervision can make children feel different.
- Contact should not be supervised unless essential.
- If supervision is necessary:
 - the reasons should be explained.
 - the child should be able to choose who supervises their contact – it should be someone with whom they have a good relationship.
 - having a foster carer present may damage the child's relationship with their carer.
 - it shouldn't be by a social worker – most children don't like them.
- Contact time is family time. Having a foster carer there isn't a good idea – it causes tensions.
- It feels unfair when there are different rules for different people.
- Choice is important.
- Some children are more comfortable when contact is supervised. A child should be able to ask for contact to be supervised if it isn't.
- Supervision needs to be discreet.
- If supervision is necessary: seen but not heard [*It was not clear whether the supervisor should be seen but not heard, or whether the supervisor should be able to see, but not hear, the child and their family.*]
- Supervision should not include:
 - Writing down everything we say
 - Wearing ID badges
 - Searching our presents
 - Following us whenever we do things together
- Contact centres should be improved:
 - Older games
 - More things to do
 - More equipment and resources
 - Bikes
 - Outside spaces
 - There should be no small children's toys at contact for older children and young people
- Why can children and young people not decide where contact happens?
- There should be different options for different people, even family members.
- There should be opportunities for children and their families to do things together without anyone else there.

- Perhaps CCTV could be used if supervision is necessary so people can feel they have some privacy. [*Suggested by a member of the Participation Team*]

Other comments

- Contact plans should be transparent, concrete and reflected in care plans and pathway plans – young people need to know what’s going on as much as the professionals do.
- The IRO should review the contact plan at every review (ie every six months).
- We don’t get asked who attends contact.
- Virtual contact is better than nothing, but face-to-face is much better.
- Sometimes the rules feel different for different people.
- For some children and young people, contact time is their only contact with their culture and language – this doesn’t seem to be given the importance it should by some social workers.
- Children and young people need to be able to attend family events – eg an auntie’s wedding, birthdays. If this has to be supervised, the supervision needs not to be obvious.

Take Away Themes

- . Emily Rhodes thanked children and young people for their feedback. It was very clear that children and young people wanted clearer communication and consultation about their contact arrangements. They especially wanted to have their views taken fully into account. It might be useful to provide them with a “who, what, where, why, when and how” sheet before each contact.
- . The other really big point was that children and young people wanted to be able to do things with their families on their own. This could be tricky when professionals needed to keep them safe, so Emily’s team would explore how this could be done without someone in the room – for example, by using CCTV – so that they and their families could have some sense of privacy.
- . The following takeaway theme was agreed:
 - Contact arrangements to be clearly stated in the Pathway or Care Plan of every child and young person and reviewed every six months as part of the six-monthly IRO review, or more often if there are changes (eg a change of placement).

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



Department
for Education

Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London, SW1P 3BT
Tel: 0370 000 2288
www.gov.uk/df

8 & 9 Sept 2022

To Mrs Kersten England
CEO
Bradford City Council

Two day formal visit by National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers.

Dear Kersten

Thank you for hosting my visit to Bradford City Council. This letter is the formal feedback following my visit and includes commentary covering the Corporate Governance Model, the Operational Model, the Local Offer and the Care Leavers Feedback. Alongside this I have decided that the recommendations should be considered in a phased approach. I have done this as I appreciate Bradford's intervention programme at present and did not want to put undue pressure on the local authority to improve in a short period of time and would like to offer that I return when each phase is near completion to review progress.

Comments and Points to Consider

As stated in the feedback meeting I was very impressed by the leadership and management approach that was ambitious, aspirational and I got a real sense of passion and commitment to have a better offer for care leavers across the whole service area.

Corporate Governance Model

Bradford have acknowledged they are still on a journey of continuous improvement. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic some developments were halted and rightly so as a new set of challenges emerged for care leavers within lockdown. The local authority are clear what things are now needed to restart the care leavers improvement journey.

The Corporate Parenting Board has gone through significant change and now has a really good buy-in from elected members. The local authority have clearly developed the first strand of the Champion Model Approach that sees Elected Members as a Champion for a Themed area for care leavers that need a real focus on. In strengthening this approach further I would like the local authority to consider three further strands:

1. To ensure that the Portfolio Holder for a themed area sets up Themed Sub Groups that is then chaired by the Elected Member but also has within it operational champions both at decision making and operational level who represent the key themes/agencies that you have identified.
2. To review the Membership of the Board with internal partners and external partners i.e. DWP, mental health, probation, etc.
3. To employ a number of Care Leaver Ambassadors/Champions on a full time basis in the leaving care team to inform and drive the Board, the local offer from each key partner agency and to engage with care leavers up to 25yrs and to represent their views. What should emerge from this approach is that the Board agrees a set of guarantees that care leavers get as part of the local offer.

The local authority should consider a Whole Council Approach. There are three approaches to consider when developing this approach:

1. To review with HR colleagues a Workforce Strategy that 'favours' care leavers i.e. is this vacancy appropriate for a care leaver, is the entry point a barrier and is a guaranteed interview given.
2. To formally ask each department and or commissioned/procured services to make an opportunity offer to care leavers. This could be shadowing, work experience or full time work, etc, or even softer things like the use of direct work vans to move care leavers or an offer of repairs.
3. To consider holding a key partnership event where each partner agency makes explicit their offer to care leavers based on what operational staff and care leavers have said is important to them when services are being delivered. These offers should then be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board on the basis that this is good enough for our own children.

Housing came across as a challenge with references to 'intentionality' still being applied to care leavers, lack of choice and the quality of housing was at times very poor. I would therefore like the LA to consider a review of the current Housing Policy driven by elected members and senior officers to consider:

1. No longer applying 'intentionality' to care leavers and for care leavers to be given priority in allocation.
2. Could Housing Partners develop a standard offer to care leavers when they move into their housing i.e. carpets, a cooker, fridge freezer and a microwave.
3. No care leavers to be offered a property that is not good enough for your own children.

I was also unable to see a health offer for care leavers. The team were working through some very complex behaviours, thresholds and a clear opt-out by mental health. It would be good to see an offer from health around emotional wellbeing and support. Alongside this as part of the offer could the LA offer free prescriptions to care leavers up to 25yrs alongside dental care and eye care for care leavers.

Adult Transitions was described as 'stuck' and there was clear evidence that adult services just 'opt-out' when it comes to care leaver referrals. Care leavers were offered one chance to engage and if they did not they were 'taken off the books'. PA's felt there was no joined up approach and were often overwhelmed with complex paperwork and appeals that led to nothing from adult services.

Therefore I would like the LA to develop two clear pathways to those services above. Within the Adult Social Care Pathway I would like the LA to consider starting discussions around complexity when young people are in care planning and are approaching 14yrs. This would allow early planning and identification of needs especially for care leavers who have complex needs but do not meet a threshold for an intervention as they approach 18yrs olds.

In relation EET I would like the LA to consider a 'whole council approach' by getting the:

1. Virtual School Head to undertake an aspirational audit of all children in care and care leavers.
2. To hold a Business Event to match the aspiration audit to local business' and the community.
3. To get each department in the 'family business' to make an offer or an opportunity/work shawowing to a child in care or a care leaver.
4. To review their HR Workforce Strategy to include care leavers. I heard an example of where a job in the LA states at least 5yrs experience – this automatically excludes care leavers accessing vacancies that could potentially change their lives. Guaranteed interviews should be considered for care leavers with a contextual offer for entry points.
5. The LA to agree a number of ringfenced apprenticeships for care leavers.
6. For care leavers who are in the ringfenced jobs to be given time out of work to meet as a group to support each other be involved in the care leaver forum.
7. To cinsider an incentive scheme for care leavers who are seeking work.
8. A guarantor Scheme would be good to see as this will open up private renting options for care leavers.

The leaving care team have a good relationship with DWP. I would like the LA and DWP to develop or review their JWP to include having a SPOC in the leaving care team, verification of ID issues and advance payments use. The JWP then needs to be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Caseloads and demand seemed good at the moment but it is likely that demand will increase as numbers coming into care have increased over the years but PA numbers in real terms have remained static. Mangers stated that an additional 4 PA's and management support would be needed to level up the next couple of years. The return of the care leaver judgement in the new year by OfSted will have a real focus on caseloads and anything above 22 may be seeing as requiring improvement.

The Operational Model and Local Offer

The operational model comes in at 17yrs which I think is too late. A good model of practice is when the PA is allocated at the point of the first pathway plan around about the care leavers 16th birthday. It is fundamentally crucial that the PA is involved in the first pathway plan with the social worker.

The local offer came across as the basic statutory offer. The local offer was not produced with all Corporate Parenting Partners and signed off by the Board. Although the current offer is compliant with the new legislation its not ambitious or specific enough. In developing the offer I would like to see specific offers to care leavers over 21yrs with a focus on UASC, care leavers entering and leaving custody and care leavers as parents. I would like to see an explicit offer to care leavers going into FE or University and for care leavers who need work ready clothes/work clothes. It would also be good to see an offer of driving lessons, driving test, contents insurance, first TV license, etc.

A Digital Offer should be developed for care leavers – broadband, laptops, mobile data, etc.

Data is well understood and I got a sense that compliance is a large part of the day job. I got the impression that this was changing and that stories are starting to be used as the new data and being far more outcome focused would be a good approach.

The local authority does not have a HUB for care leavers. It would be good for the LA to consider whether a HUB could be developed with a council owned asset with perhaps businesses offering to refurb, carpet, decorate, etc. This would be a great opportunity to co-locate with other services in a one stop type approach.

The LA should consider a set of guarantees as part of the local offer.

Head of Service/Team Managers and PA team meeting

Throughout the day I got a real sense that personal advisers and managers are and want to make things happen for their care leavers.

Other points noted:

- They wanted to be part of the development of a key partner offer to care leavers and to meet with senior managers as they felt at times as they were the silent partner. We have no voice.
- Could we have a care leaver champion in the team.
- The team felt change had happened but at times were not clear if some of the changes were a direct result of what they have said.
 - Could the LA develop an incentive programme for care leavers who are seeking work.
 - PA's talked about everything being a fight and care leavers said the same.
 - I heard of a case example of a care leaver being evicted very soon and she has known this for 3 months but housing have still offered nothing. Managers had picked this up but the responsibility remains with housing who at that moment were not taking responsibility.
 - Taster flats for care leavers to get them ready for independence.

Care Leavers Feedback

I have to say that the feedback was mixed. What they said was:

- Can we have driving lessons after our 21st birthday.
- A leisure Pass with a Plus 1 would be good.
- The housing offer is poor quality.
- Lack of communication across departments – its always a fight
- We are too busy to see you.
- People leave so tell us.
- What are Pathway Plans.
- Can we have mental health support.
- No support from housing.
- They don't trust us.
- Can we have a space of our own – a HUB.
- Can we have access to cash.
- What is suitable accommodation.
- Tell us what are our guarantees.
- Why does the offer stop at 25yrs.
- It really tough being a care leaver and you make it tougher.

Recommendations: I have put these in a staged order:

Stage 1

1. To develop the additional strands as suggested above in the 'Champion Model Approach' and introduce themed Boards.
2. To strengthen the Membership of the Board.
3. To employ Care Leaver Ambassadors/Champions.
4. The Board to agree a set of Guarantees for care leavers.
5. The LA to consider a review of the current Housing Policy driven by elected members and senior officers.
6. The LA to develop two clear pathways to adult transitions and health and for discussions around complexity to begin in care planning when children in care are approaching 14yrs. .
7. To develop a joint DWP Protocol and to present to the Board.

Stage 2

1. The Virtual School Head to undertake an aspirational audit of all children in care and care leavers.
2. To hold a Business Event to match the aspiration audit to local business' and the community.
3. To get each department in the 'family business' to make an offer or an opportunity/work showing to a child in care or a care leaver.
4. To review their HR Workforce Strategy to include care leavers and to develop an offer of Guaranteed interviews with a contextual offer for entry points.
5. The LA to agree a number of ringfenced apprenticeships for care leavers.

Stage 3

13. To consider an incentive scheme for care leavers who are seeking work.
14. To consider whether a guarantor scheme would be a benefit to care leavers.
15. To review current caseloads and to consider whether additional PA's are needed to reduce caseloads.
16. To develop further the health offer 18yrs to 25yrs which could include an offer of dental prostheses and or glasses, etc.

Stage 4

17. To push forward the 16+ Model.
18. To review the local offer and to ensure it has a multi-agency buy-in.
19. To develop a 21yrs to 25yrs offer which includes UASC, care leavers entering and leaving custody and young parents.
20. To develop a digital offer to care leavers.
21. To develop an FE and HEI offer that encourages care leavers to enter education.
- 22.. Could the LA develop an incentive programme for care leavers who are seeking work.
23. To consider the care leavers feedback.

I hope my visit and the feedback/recommendations have been useful and I look forward to seeing you in six months.

M. Riddell MBE

Mark Riddell MBE

This page is intentionally left blank



**National Adviser Feedback Letter Bradford Council 8 and 9 September 2022
Response July 23**

Stage 1

No.	Recommendation	Response
1.	To develop the additional strands as suggested above in the 'Champion Model Approach' and introduce themed Boards.	Cllr Duffy is leading on this.
2.	To strengthen the Membership of the Board.	Cllr Duffy is leading on this.
3.	To employ Care Leaver Ambassadors/Champions.	A discussion will be needed as to who leads on this.
4.	The Board to agree a set of Guarantees for care leavers.	Cllr Duffy is leading on this.
5.	The LA to consider a review of the current Housing Policy driven by elected members and senior officers.	Discussions have taken place with Housing around quality of housing and the housing offer. There has been a delay with this as Dimitris has been off work.
6.	The LA to develop two clear pathways to adult transitions and health and for discussions around complexity to begin in care planning when children in care are approaching 14yrs.	Discussions have taken place with adult services and there is a planned workshop in September.
7.	To develop a joint DWP Protocol and to present to the Board.	This work is yet to start.

Stage 2

No.	Recommendation	Response
8.	The Virtual School Head to undertake an aspirational audit of all children in care and care leavers.	<p>This is underway. Cllr Pollard asked for this to be on the agenda for the last VS Governing Body mtg.</p> <p>In summary the VS Governing Board has discussed using two routes and combining the information, one being via the PEP so there is now an additional question in the children's views section of the PEP asking about the child's aspirations. The other was to check whether 'mind of my own' could be used to collect the views of children and young people which would also then include Care Leavers.</p> <p>Emily was leading on this part but with her change in role this needs to be followed up with the new person when they are in post. The follow up action was then to prepare a report on employment routes and work experience opportunities for Care Leavers which is on the work schedule for the VS governing Body meeting in October.</p>
9.	To hold a Business Event to match the aspiration audit to local business' and the community.	This is yet to take place – will link in with the above action.
10.	To get each department in the 'family business' to make an offer or an opportunity/work shadowing to a child in care or a care leaver.	This is being explored by Phil Hunter regarding employment opportunities for our care leavers
11.	To review their HR Workforce Strategy to include care leavers and to develop an offer of Guaranteed interviews with a contextual offer for entry points.	This is yet to start with the change to the Trust.

12.	The LA to agree a number of ringfenced apprenticeships for care leavers.	This is yet to be explored with the change to the Trust in terms of how apprenticeships will work and how the Trust and Council work together on this alongside looking at how we develop a support / wrap around service that identifies the additional support that care leavers require.
-----	--	---

Stage 3

No.	Recommendation	Response
13.	To consider an incentive scheme for care leavers who are seeking work.	This is yet to start and is linked with the various pathways that can be developed for our care leavers.
14.	To consider whether a guarantor scheme would be a benefit to care leavers.	Work underway with Dimitris to meet registered providers to discuss this point
15.	To review current caseloads and to consider whether additional PA's are needed to reduce caseloads.	PA case loads should be at 20 for effective working, they are currently 25+. Recruitment is ongoing to secure perm staff.
16	To develop further the health offer 18yrs to 25yrs which could include an offer of dental protheses and or glasses, etc	Health passports are being developed which will include the full health offer – this will be ready by the end of August to go live.

Stage 4

No.	Recommendation	Response
17.	To push forward the 16+ Model.	This can only happen when we have a full staff complement – PAs can be allocated at 16 years, case loads will need to be reduced and additional PAs will need to be added to the structure. This will be supported by the recruitment that is underway.

18.	To review the local offer and to ensure it has a multi-agency buy-in.	The review has been completed and is being updated.
19.	To develop a 21yrs to 25yrs offer which includes UASC, care leavers entering and leaving custody and young parents.	The service is offered to all young people beyond the age of 21, we need to ensure our care leavers are aware of the offer and annually we need to send a reminder. As care leavers move addresses and to ensure confidentiality, my view was a newsletter would cover this.
20.	To develop a digital offer to care leavers.	Laptops are offered – funding is from innovations but will end in the next year.
21.	To develop an FE and HEI offer that encourages care leavers to enter education.	Entering education is not just about education – it is all the additional support needed. FE and HE pathways need to be clearer and links for 16 year olds have been discussed with Phil Hunter.



Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 26th July 2023

B

Subject: Local Government Association offer for Corporate Parenting

Summary statement:

This report outlines the offer from Local Government Association (LGA) to review and support Corporate Parenting Panels

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

There is no direct impact in terms of equality and diversity from this report but this will be considered as part of the review.

[Name of Director] Marium Haque
Strategic Director, Children's Services

Portfolio: Children & Families

Report Contact: Picklu Roychoudhury
Phone: 07811 088617
E-mail: picklu.roychoudhury@bradford.gov.uk

**Overview & Scrutiny Area: Children's
Services**

1. SUMMARY

- This report outlines the offer from Local Government Association (LGA) to review and support Corporate Parenting Panels.

2. BACKGROUND

Looking after and protecting children and young people is one of the most important jobs that councils do and when a child, for whatever reason, can't safely stay at home, it is up to the local authority to step in and give them the care, support and stability that they deserve.

All councillors and council employees have a unique responsibility to be 'corporate parents' to children they care for and their care leavers. A strong corporate parenting ethos means that everyone from the Chief Executive and their council-wide corporate or strategic management team to frontline staff and elected council members, are passionate about those children they care for and care experienced young people as if they were their own.

Good corporate parenting reflects the breadth of children and young people's experiences and councils are responsible for engaging education, police, probation, health and district and borough councils and other key partners.

As part of the LGA's continuing work to support political and corporate leadership for children's services we are offering support to councils in improving their corporate parenting and in ensuring corporate parenting is a way of working across the council.

Aims of the offer

Through our support, development and training offer we aim to support councils in:

- Embedding strong governance and accountability for Corporate Parenting, with clear understanding of responsibilities and expectations.
- Achieving a whole system approach to Corporate Parenting across the wider council and partners, driven by the voice and experiences of children and young people.
- Understanding what good looks like and measuring impact.
- Achieving improved outcomes for children and young people who are care experienced.

Offer overview

The offer includes a range of universal, targeted and specialist elements, which can be accessed according to the needs of each individual council:

- Guidance, resources and case studies
- Independent evaluation and assessment
- Training and support
- Peer to peer support

Guidance, resources and case studies

- Updated LGA Corporate Parenting pack
- Structure and functioning of a strong Corporate Parenting Board
- Maximising membership and impact of partners
- What good looks like in corporate parenting – measuring and understanding impact and outcomes
- Embedding the voice of children and young people
- Embedding a Champions approach at Corporate Parenting Board Member and officer level
- Independent evaluation and assessment

A two-day peer diagnostic to deliver an independent assessment of areas of strength and those that require improvements, with recommendations for how this can be achieved. The peer team includes:

- A council Leader or Lead Member for children’s services (lead peer)
- A senior children’s services officer (DCS or AD level)
- A peer diagnostic manager

Flexible Support and Training Offer

Flexible training offer intends to support councils in addressing any recommendations for improvement identified in the diagnostic or in their own self-evaluation. It covers the six modules which form the basis of the Peer Diagnostic tool and can be tailored and scaled to the specific needs of councils. For example:

- **Group session 1**
Two hour workshops with Corporate Parenting Board covering two to three modules
- **Group session 2**
Two hour workshops with Corporate Parenting Board covering two to three modules
- **Whole council session**
For all council members
- **Action Planning and embedding learning**
Plenary sessions with two hour workshops with Corporate Parenting Board Chair, Lead Member, DCS and democratic services
Review of progress against self-assessment / diagnostic
Actions to take forward and how to sustain and embed progress
- **Review and follow up**
Review of progress after six months
Self-assessment to be revisited annually.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There are no financial risks arising out of the implementation of the proposed recommendations

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

If there are no significant risks arising out of the implementation of the proposed recommendations it should be stated but only on advice of the Assistant Director Finance and Procurement and the City Solicitor.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- If there are no legal issues arising this should be stated, but only on advice from the City Solicitor.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- N/A

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

- N/A

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- N/A

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

- N/A

7.5 TRADE UNION

- N/A.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- N/A

7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Refer to the guidance contained in the Report Guide.

7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

Undertake a Privacy Impact Assessment to determine whether you need to deal with data protection and information security matters arising from the proposal/decision.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

➤ N/A

9. OPTIONS

a) Note report and take no further action – this will leave the panel operating as is and there is an urgent requirement for the panel to be reviewed and make sure it is current and fully fit for propos going forward and able to meet the ever changing needs of children and their families in Bradford District.

b) Agree the review and training of the panel – this will reassure the panel and the council that the Corporate Parenting Panel is doing the best for children and families of Bradford district council.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Option b), agree the review and training of the panel

11. APPENDICES

➤ None

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

➤ None

This page is intentionally left blank