

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on Wednesday, 22 November 2023 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 4.30 pm
Concluded 6.05 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN
Duffy Thirkill Humphries	Pollard	Russell

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Jude MacDonald
Sue Lowndes

Bradford District Clinical Commissioning Group
Bradford Education

Others in attendance: Sharon Woodcock (SW), Charlotte Ramsden (CR), Ruth Terry (RT), Jonathan Cooper (JC), Amandip Johal (AJ)

Apologies: Councillor Margaret Alipoor and Picklu Roychoudhury (PRC)

Councillor Duffy in the Chair

9. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

10. MINUTES

Previous Actions

Update on actions arising from meeting of 26 th July 2023		
Action No.	Action	Status
2	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.	Not a priority, defer to next formal panel for

		update
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>	Deferred to Child Led panel on 25/01/23
	iAD/SRCP to circulate the report of the National Implementation Advisor on Care Leavers (Mark Rydell) to the panel.	Agenda item
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
9	Dr Murray and iAD/SRCP to identify solution to issue of non-attendance at Initial Health Assessment and report to panel.	Agenda item
10	<p>HT/VS to liaise with P Briggs, Bradford Youth Justice Service on barriers to CLA returning to education.</p> <p>Update: YJS are part of a Joint Working Protocol and also have Youth Justice link as part of Education drop in. YJS can discuss children even if they do not have Social Care involvement.</p> <p>JC will follow up contact with Phil Briggs.</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
11	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. Update to be provided at next formal meeting.	Defer to next formal meeting
13	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.	Agenda item

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>	Agenda item
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>	Defer, Emily moved to new role
16	Ensure that the link to the entitlements information on Coram Voice are easy to find – <i>H Thomas by 15/04/23.</i>	Defer, Emily moved to new role
17	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 – <i>Emily Rhodes by 30/04/23 and H Thomas by 31/05/23.</i>	Defer, Emily moved to new role
18	<p>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></p> <p>Update: Drop in sessions have been reviewed, participation group is held regularly and when asked said they would prefer a text message. As part of the offer we have a WhatsApp group where they can message and we will respond.</p> <p>Asked if children are ever written to? RT said various forums of communication are used, it depends on what is best for the child, older children prefer social media, WhatsApp/text. More formal communication would be a letter.</p>	

Note: Amendment to name in minutes of 26th July 2023, item number 5 that should read Helen Dolan-Bell.

For information purposes, Note: JM updated meeting that West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board are one of 10 areas chosen as a Pathfinder for Project

Hope, looking at reducing inequalities and providing ongoing support with access to activities for care leavers. Need to evidence that 250 more care leavers have been successful in securing an apprenticeship. JM will bring regular updates to meeting as Pathfinder progresses.

Cllr Duffy has raised apprenticeships for care leavers in various arenas.

Action	By Who	By When
Update on Foster Carers understanding of savings policy	Charlotte Ramsden/ Ruth Terry	20/03/24
Update on flowchart for entitlements for children and young people	Amandip Johal	25/01/24
Update on National Leaving care programme	Amandip Johal	20/03/24
To look at Corporate Parenting self-assessment	Sharon Woodcock, Amandip Johal, Ruth Terry and Jude MacDonald	January 2024
CHILD LED PANEL		
Update on takeaway themes to be provided at Child Led Panel	Charlotte Ramsden, Ruth Terry, Amandip Johal	25/01/24
Gather feedback from young people on entitlements information on Coram Voice and pass to the Care Leavers Service to arrange for the information to be more easily found	Amandip Johal, Adam Glennon	25/01/24

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2023 (previously circulated) and the Young Person Led Meeting held on 20 September 2023 be signed as a correct record.

11. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

No requests were received.

12. NON-ATTENDANCE AT INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

JM explained the annual report had been completed and would be tabled at the next formal Corporate Parenting meeting.

A lot of work had been undertaken drilling down into data with social work colleagues and looking at how we facilitated getting children to appointments. There were 60 children who did not attend appointments, which was a massive improvement from last year but lost 60 hours of clinical time were lost. Work to

understand the barriers for the 60 children was being undertaken in more depth. Triage meetings were set up approximately a year ago due to the large waiting list. The meetings had Social Care Managers, Designated Doctor and other named professionals attend and look at cases and priorities. The meetings helped but there was still a long way to go to improve timeliness of children being seen. There were increasing numbers of children, but this was alongside a national capacity issue for paediatricians.

AJ agreed now linking together and there was a clear escalation process. Needed to look at how appointments can be better facilitated, working around their needs, more in the community and at different times to help carers.

There had been an impact on consent which had been holding up initial health assessments. There were only 20-30% of no consent, the level of which was over 50% last year.

Asked if there were 60 missed appointments, how many appointments went ahead. JM confirmed there was still a waiting list, previously was 100+ days, now reduced to 30-40 days. Could not confirm number of appointments attended but would bring further narrative to next formal panel.

Cllr Pollard remained uneasy around lack of consent, however in terms of attendance significantly better, what was the one big thing that has improved this. JM explained a lot of the non-attendance was older children who voted with their feet, another issue was larger family groups so if one family did not attend, it impacted on figures. It was complex and Officers were discovering new things on the journey.

Cllr Duffy said there was a need to celebrate that things had moved on and that was because of this meeting, relationships had also moved on. Thank you to everybody who was involved.

No resolution was passed on this item.

13. **UPDATE ON PHASE 2 OF NATIONAL PANEL WORK DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

This followed the Hessel report of abuse of children with complex health needs in residential settings. The report came in two stages and Members had discussed phase one. The second report was due imminently, JM and AJ had had regular discussions since Phase 1 was released. JM had today raised the report at the Integrated Care Board, focus was on shared responsibilities, working with the right people i.e. local authority; health; SEND; education to promote the voice of the child and to ensure have robust commissioning.

Needed to improve quality of provision available and ensure good quality assurance mechanism in place. Also need to ensure when get Government response it was not a one off and recommendations were embedded into day to day practice.

Needed to work together against written statement of action as some issues/areas would be similar or the same. Agreed it was a good opportunity to

strengthen working together and would ensure Council commissioning and SEND colleagues were invited to the process.

Cllr Duffy felt it was really positive way forward and felt positive energy.

No resolution was passed on this item.

14. UPDATE ON NATIONAL ADVISOR REPORT PLAN

It was confirmed that contact had been made to arrange visit from Mark Riddell. A number of streams have been captured and incorporated into day-to-day business, Ofsted and general improvement work.

CR explained the Trust had not been engaged in setting the agenda for today's meeting. CR **formally requested** the agenda is agreed between the Trust and Council as more information could have been provided if had known in advance.

Cllr Duffy said we still have a journey to go on agenda settings and has had conversations with Trust and Council, things will get slicker and apologises that the Trust were not involved. Moving forward will come together in a more coherent way.

Cllr Duffy continued that acknowledgement was needed that progression had not been made on the plan, but as we move forward with a more permanent workforce it will move on, there was also a political timeframe to move this on. There was a whole host of work needed to get to timelines.

RT felt the Mark Riddell report would be an important part of the session on 5th December and would galvanise working collaboratively.

No resolution was passed on this item.

15. CORPORATE PARENTING PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT

SW explained she had taken over the lead for Corporate Parenting, in terms of the invite to the event it would now be an online booking, along with a follow up email asking Members who were unable to attend to send a substitute colleague who had the seniority to make decisions.

Cllr Duffy would like members from scrutiny to be invited. Cllr Pollard said he could attend in both roles.

Cllr Pollard raised contradiction in page 6 of minutes and page 16, section 2.3, para 2 of the document pack. It reads 'Corporate Parenting are wanting same as scrutiny but want to streamline and not have duplication, need to ensure we do not contradict ourselves. Reports to scrutiny go into great detail but what is important to Corporate Parenting could get lost in an in-depth report'.

CR thinks the LGA Peer Review would be able to answer this, it would be helpful to have a list of what we want to discuss and needs unravelling.

Cllr Duffy thinks a forward plan would be useful and is something we do not have currently.

LGA Peer Review

Blank template had been circulated and copies distributed in meeting.

Cllr Duffy wanted group to have sight as the Corporate Parent. It was important everyone had the opportunity to read and make comments, it was important partners work together to complete the self-assessment.

RT feels the event on 5th December would help as discussing what is working well, what were the gaps and by the end of the event have the foundations of a strategy document. May need extra sessions and/or focus groups to look at areas.

CR said the self-evaluation needs to have evidence but also needs people's opinions. Need to be honest where we think we are, what doing well and what we need to do next so can develop together. Need to collectively agree what we want clarity on to help prepare as asking them what we want them to help us with will be valuable. Inspectors would be interested in the document when they inspect children in care.

JM said that we were good are producing evidence but need to ask "so what", we meet recommendations, "so what"? "Need to question if making a difference".

Data will be key evidence and need to ensure have all school level data available. Key Stage 4 data does not have children in care separated but incorporated into vulnerable groups.

One question could be "what are we not doing", It would be an opportunity to look at the good parts but also look at what we could do differently/better. The journey we are going on will help us unpick this.

CR suggested early February would be a good time for the review. Allows Members and Officers time after the event on 5th December to pull together and summarise.

Agreed to have an additional meeting self-assessment and put proposal together. Next child led panel to be split. However, the peer review would go ahead 25th and 26th January so no time for an additional meeting.

JM felt it would be useful to have voice of the child in the self-assessment, although there was ongoing work with children day to day, we need to show we are listening.

Action:

SW, AJ, RT and JM to get officers together to look at self-assessment

Requested report tabled – interim AD Improvement, Picklu Roychoudhury. Contents noted CR wished to state that the BCFT did not recognise the contents

of the tabled report.

Resolved –

- 1. That Partners and Corporate Parents will work together to identify areas for development.**
- 2. That the development event be held with partners on 5 December 2023 to identify strategic objectives for the Corporate Parenting Strategy.**
- 3. That the Corporate Parenting Panel consider the LGA self-assessment by January/February 2024.**
- 4. That the assessment by the LGA peer team be carried out in February 2024.**

***To be Actioned by:* CPP Panel Members, BCFT, and The Director, Children's Services**

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