

**CORPORATE PARENTING SUB
 GROUP
 15 MARCH 2018**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR D BRAILSFORD (CHAIRMAN)

Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors Clio Perraton-Williams (Vice-Chairman), Mrs K Cook and R L Foulkes.

Officers in attendance:-

Lisa Adams (Children's Services Manager, Barnardo's), Katrina Cope (Senior Democratic Services Officer), John Harris (Children's Service Manager - Regulated - North and Fostering), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Sarah Lane (Virtual School Team Manager), Andrew Morris (Corporate Parenting Manager) and Janice Spencer (Assistant Director Safeguarding).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S R Dodds, Polly Coombes (Foster Carer) and Jean Burbidge (Lincolnshire Community Health Services).

An apology was also received from Yvonne Shearwood, Children's Services Manager: Regulated (South and Adoption).

2 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

There were no declarations of members' interest made at this point in the meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2017

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group meeting held on 7 December 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY

The Sub-Group received a verbal update from Andrew Morris, Corporate Parenting Manager, who advised that the Strategy was progressing well with input from all partners. It was noted that the Strategy set out Lincolnshire's ambitions for the next three years in relation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB GROUP**15 MARCH 2018**

The Corporate Parenting Manager agreed to circulate an electronic copy of the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy and the Corporate Parenting Strategy to all members of the Sub-Group for comments.

During a short discussion, the Sub-Group raised the following points:-

- Involvement of Care Leavers in the Strategy. Officers confirmed that Care Leavers had participated in the strategy;
- Involvement with the Armed Forces – The Sub-Group was advised that the Care Leavers Service had specialist workers who would make initial contact; and then would help the young person in conjunction with the Council to make contact with the organisation. The Sub-Group was advised young people would be offered career guidance. Some discussion was also had relating to the incentivising of council suppliers to take on young people either on work experience or on an apprenticeship scheme. It was noted that going forward the Council might decide to make this part of the Commissioning Strategy. It was noted further at the moment there had been a delay in getting an agreement as to what the district council's would offer;
- Getting people to work in local companies – The Sub-Group was advised that there was a link in from job centres for Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers. The Sub-Group was advised further that each job centre had a named member of staff to deal with LAC and Care Leavers; and
- One member enquired as to whether other partners had input into the Strategy, with particular reference being made to foster carers. Officers agreed to look into this matter.

The Sub-Group and all non-Executive Councillors had been invited to participate in a working group to review the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy and the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The following members had put their names forward for inclusion on the working group: Councillors C J T H Brewis, D Brailsford, Mrs K Cook, S R Dodds, R L Foulkes, R Kendrick, Mrs A M Newton, R B Parker and Clio Perraton-Williams. The Senior Scrutiny Officer agreed to arrange some suitable dates.

RESOLVED

1. That the Working Group be comprised of the following members: Councillors C J T H Brewis, D Brailsford, Mrs K Cook, S R Dodds, R L Foulkes, R Kendrick, Mrs A M Newton, R B Parker and Clio Perraton-Williams.
2. That the Senior Scrutiny Officer be tasked with arranging suitable meeting dates for the Working Group.

5 VISITING MEMBERS QUARTERLY REPORT

The Sub-Group gave consideration to the Visiting Members – Log of Quarterly Visits to Children's Homes April 2017 to March 2018. From feedback received from

members present at the meeting it became apparent that there were still some returns missing. The Sub-Group was advised that further clarity would be given regarding the role of the visiting member and the process to be followed following a visit to a children's home at the Visiting Member meeting scheduled to be held on 23 March 2018.

During a short discussion, one member suggested that it would be useful for a visiting member to shadow the Regulation 44 Officer. The Assistant Director Safeguarding felt that this was a good idea, and agreed to email out a list of Regulation 44 Officers to visiting members; and to also speak to Regulation 44 Officers.

RESOLVED

1. That the visiting members would receive further information regarding the role of a visiting member and the process to be adopted after visiting a children's home at the meeting scheduled to be held on 23 March 2018.
2. That the Assistant Director for Safeguarding agreed to speak to Regulation 44 Officers regarding shadowing; and to email all visiting members a list of Regulation 44 officers.

6 BARNARDO'S LEAVING CARE SERVICE SIX MONTHLY REPORT

The Sub-Group gave consideration to a report which provided information as to the performance of the Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service with regard to care leavers. Lisa Adams, Children's Services Manager, Barnardo's presented the report and responded to questions raised, which included:-

- The number of young people attending University - The Sub-Group was advised that 20 young people were now attending University. It was noted that this was the highest figure recorded. It was noted further that work was being undertaken to promote the success to others within the care service. It was also noted that the Virtual School had arranged events for care leavers at Bishop Grosseteste University and John Spendluffe School. These events had been well received. The Sub-Group was also advised that some universities offered free accommodation to care leavers;
- The Corporate Parenting Role – Particular reference was made to the role of district councils in respect of housing. It was highlighted there was still work to be done to get housing officers to understand the role of being a corporate parent. It was highlighted further that to take the housing issue forward there needed to be a four way protocol between the District Council, County Council; the Health Service and Social Services. It was highlighted that as yet there had been no direction received from central government;
- Care leavers participation at the FAB event on 30 June 2018;
- Pathway plans – The Sub-Group was advised that work was on going to improve the figure up to a 90% target;
- Apprenticeships – It was reported that there had been some good success stories with regard to apprenticeships;

4

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB GROUP

15 MARCH 2018

- The impact of the Social Care Act in relation to local authority responsibility for care leavers up to the age of 25. Officers advised that Lincolnshire was at the forefront with regard to this matter. Officers confirmed that the partnership approach with Barnardo's was not something that was replicated in other areas. It was agreed that a paper regarding this matter would be presented to a future meeting;
- Social Care Return – Officers agreed to provide a sentence explaining the Department for Education Indicator;
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) – The Sub-Group was advised that the number of young people entering care in Lincolnshire as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children had dropped compared to 2016. It was noted that numbers were still above the previous three years figures. The graph on page 48 provided information regarding Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children on Roll between 2013 – 2017. It was noted that 4 young people had been placed in mainstream fostering and eight had been placed with an independent fostering agency, so that the young people were placed in more cultural areas to meet their needs;

RESOLVED

That the Barnardo's Leaving Care Service Six Monthly Report be received.

7 V4C (VOICES FOR CHOICES) QUARTERLY REPORT (DECEMBER 2017 - FEBRUARY 2018) AND MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM VISITS TO V4C MEETINGS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER

The Sub-Group gave consideration to a report from the V4C. In guiding the Sub-Group through the report, the Assistant Director Safeguarding made reference to Quadrant Updates; Big Conversation 15; and FAB 2018. Details of these events were contained within the report presented.

Members of the Sub-Group who had attended V4C events in the areas provided the Sub-Group with a short update.

The Senior Scrutiny Officer agreed to send future V4C meeting dates out to members of the Sub-Group after the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the V4C Update for March 2018 be received.

8 THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LINCOLNSHIRE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SIX MONTHLY REPORT

The Sub-Group gave consideration to a report from Sarah Lane, Virtual School Team Manager, which provided the Statutory Annual Report of the Virtual Head Teacher and Virtual School.

The report highlighted the work of the Virtual School, the Local Authority and partner agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people in care from the age of three to eighteen.

The Sub-Group was advised that the cohort of young people in care were more challenging, which appeared to be a national trend; and the report highlighted the Council's vision which was to "Put Children First" and work together with families to enhance children's present and future lives. Details of how this was to be achieved were shown on the bottom of page 45/top of page 46 of the report presented.

Page 51 of the report provided information relating to how likely Looked After Children were likely to be excluded. The report highlighted that since 2014, Looked After Children had been increasingly less likely to be excluded. It was noted further that the gap had closed and Lincolnshire was now in line with national data.

The report also provided information relating to:

- Electronic Personal Education Plans – The Sub-Group was advised that following a major system upgrade, statutory age ePEP compliance for those of statutory school age for the Summer Term was on target;
- Achievements of the Children and Young People, as detailed on pages 55 to 63 of the report presented;
- Exclusions – The Sub-Group was advised that the Ladder of Behavioural Intervention had made an impact with regard to exclusions;
- Confirmation was given that there were always more boys than girls entering care;
- Healthy Minds Programme – The Sub-Group was advised that schools were being empowered to be part of the sector led model; and
- Monitoring of Looked after Children – Confirmation was given that Looked After Children's progress was monitored to ensure that progress was maintained; and if there were any issues the virtual school would make sure the necessary support was in place.

RESOLVED

That the Virtual School for Lincolnshire Looked After Children Six Monthly Report be received.

9 COMPLIMENTS, COMMENTS & COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Consideration was given to a report, which provided the Sub-Group with information on the Compliments, Comments and Complaints received relating to Looked After Children for the period 1 April 2017 to September 2017.

The report highlighted that there had been no compliments received during the said period; and that during the six month period there had been one complaint from a young person in Lincolnshire County Council care.

6
CORPORATE PARENTING SUB GROUP
15 MARCH 2018

It was further highlighted that there had been a further seven complaints from adults with regard to a young person's treatment whilst in care. The Assistant Director Safeguarding agreed to look into this matter and agreed that the detail would be included in the annual report.

RESOLVED

That the Compliments, Comments & Complaints report received for Looked After Children for the period 1 April 2017 to September 2017 be received.

10 CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-GROUP WORK PROGRAMME 2018

Consideration was given to a report from Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, which invited the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group to discuss and agree its work programme for 2018.

Appendix A to the report detailed the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group Work Programme for 2018. Following the success of the earlier virtual meeting, the Sub-Group was advised that further virtual meetings had been arranged and were shown in Appendix A.

The Sub-Group was advised that Caring to Learn would be added to the work programme for the 14 June 2018 meeting; and that an item concerning Care Leavers and the Children and Social Work Act 2017 would be added to the work programme for the 20 September 2018 meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme as detailed at Appendix A be received, subject to the addition of the items as mentioned above.

11 INFORMATION ITEM

RESOLVED

That the information item regarding the Virtual Meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group be received.

The meeting closed at 12.08 pm.