


Agenda Item 11

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, the Director Responsible for Democratic Services

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	22 July 2015
Subject:	Appointment of Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives

Summary:

On 11 June 2015, the Committee considered a report inviting it to appoint two Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives. The Committee deferred a decision on the appointments, pending more information on the role of the representatives. This report contains examples of how representatives might have considered items on this Committee's agenda in the last six months.

In the light of the additional information on the role of the representatives, the Committee is requested to appoint two representatives: one representative to be selected from the County Council element of this Committee's membership; and the other representative to be selected from the District Council element of the Committee's membership.

Actions Required:

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is requested:

- (1) to appoint a Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative from the County Council element of the Committee's membership; and
- (2) to appoint a Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative from the District Council element of the Committee's membership.

1. Background

Corporate Parenting Role

Lincolnshire County Council, its members and officers, have a legal duty to act as a good and effective Corporate Parent to children and young people in its care. Corporate Parenting is driven and supported by key legislation and statutory guidance as detailed in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. These inform the County Council's policies, strategies and practices.

Corporate Parenting Strategy

The Corporate Parenting Strategy was drafted by officers in conjunction with the Chairman (Councillor D Brailsford) and Vice Chairman (Councillor J D Hough) of the County Council's Corporate Parenting Panel. The Strategy was endorsed by the Corporate Parenting Panel at its meeting on 18 September 2014 and approved by Lincolnshire County Council at its meeting on 19 December 2014.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out the corporate parenting role and responsibilities of all councillors, and the corporate parenting engagement plan for 2014-15. One of the objectives within the engagement plan is the following:

"Each Lincolnshire County Council Committee identifies a Looked After Children/Care Leavers champion and the role is defined and purposeful. A list of Champions is published and known throughout organisation."

These champions will be referred to as the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives.

Each committee of the County Council has been asked to identify a Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative. Each of the other County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees has made an appointment during May and June, as follows:

Scrutiny Committee	Representative
Adults	Councillor Jane Smith
Children and Young People	Councillor Sarah Dodds
Community and Public Safety	Councillor Jane Smith
Economic	Councillor Jackie Brockway
Environmental	Councillor Lewis Strange
Highways and Transport	Councillor Robert Foulkes
Overview and Scrutiny Management	Councillor Phil Dilks
Value for Money	Councillor Mrs Marianne Overton

Two Representatives for the Health Scrutiny Committee

As the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire includes seven district Councillors, it is prudent to recognise the importance of their contribution to the work of the Committee. To this end, it is proposed that there are two representatives for this Committee: one selected from the County Council element

of the Committee's membership; the other selected from the District Council element of the Committee's membership.

In relation to the representative selected from the County Council membership, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel have suggested that it would be beneficial if they were not members of the Corporate Parenting Panel, as this would help to broaden the knowledge and expertise regarding Looked After Children and Care Leavers amongst more councillors of the County Council.

Role of Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative

The role of the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative is to make sure that the Health Scrutiny Committee actively considers the potential impact upon Looked After Children and Care Leavers of any policy, strategy or action considered by the Committee and to seek further advice from the relevant officer (Janice Spencer, Assistant Director – Children's Safeguarding), where this is unclear or unsure. Representatives will not be required to attend any additional meetings.

Examples of Issues the Representative Could Raise

As a means of providing information on the role, the table below lists the items considered by the Committee between January and June 2015. For each of the items, there is a commentary on whether the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives could have explored issues as part of the item.

Date	Item	Commentary
Jan 15	East Midlands Ambulance Service – Improvements and Performance	There would have been limited potential impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers, arising from this item.
	Update on CQC Action Plan for Looked After Children	As this item is focused on the follow up activities following the inspection, it is an area where the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives would have taken a lead in asking questions.
	South West Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group – Summary of Activities	<p>This item covered a wide range of topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments at Grantham and District Hospital • Urgent Care Unit in Sleaford • Cardiology Upskilling Programme <p>The Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives could have explored some of the developments at Grantham Hospital, as these have impacted on Children's Services.</p>

Date	Item	Commentary
	Complaints Handling at United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	This is an item with low direct impact on Looked After Children / Care Leavers.
	Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust – Actions in Response to the Care Quality Commission	Whilst the Trust was rated 'good' overall, the action plan identified some areas for improvement. The Committee's questions include the topics of Health Visiting and School Nursing. These were considered in detail by the Committee on 20 May 2015 (see below).
Feb 15	Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – Draft Clinical Strategy 2015-2020	The Clinical Strategy included references to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), and representatives could have explored issues in relation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
	Stamford Hospital Redevelopment: Project Update	This item focused on the plans by Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to redevelop the Stamford Hospital site. It would have provided limited opportunity for the representatives to explore issues relating to Care Leavers and Looked After Children.
	Quality Accounts 2015	This was a procedural item, asking the Committee how it planned to deal with Quality Accounts. However, if the Committee had wished it could have asked the working group to consider Looked After Children and Care Leavers in the context of each quality account.

Date	Item	Commentary
Mar 15	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust Update Report	<p>This was a general update item from ULHT, covering the following topics: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer Care including Breast Cancer Services • Staff recruitment and retention • The implementation of care bundles • Delayed Transfers of Care • Infection Control • Accident and Emergency Attendances • Financial Position <p>Although the item was wide ranging, it is considered that the Representatives' scope for questions would have been on the potential for encouraging local young people to take up careers in the local health service.</p>
	Winter Pressures 2014/2015	<p>This report provided the Committee with an update on winter pressures and would have provided limited opportunity for the representatives to raise issues relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.</p>
	Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2014	<p>This year's Annual Report of the Director of Public Health included chapters on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premature Mortality • Cancer • Circulatory Disease • Respiratory Diseases • Accidents • Chronic Liver Disease <p>It would have provided limited opportunity for the representatives to raise issues relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.</p>
	Processes for Renewing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	<p>This item outlined the processes for updating the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and as such would not have provided an opportunity for representatives to pursue matters relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers, although the renewal of the JSNA itself later this year will do so.</p>

Date	Item	Commentary
May 15	Update on Health Visiting and School Nursing Service	This item would have given the representatives an opportunity to ask questions on Looked After Children and Care Leavers, as both these services have a direct impact on people in these groups.
	Health Education East Midlands – Lincolnshire Workforce Development	This item focused on the needs of recruiting and developing staff, and questions could have focused on the potential for encouraging local young people to take up careers in the local health service.
	Care Quality Commission – General Practice Inspection Update	This item focused on the inspection arrangements for GP practices, and outlined the outcomes in general terms. In terms of the themes arising from the inspections, a question could have been asked in relation to whether any of the experiences of Looked After Children or Care Leavers had impacted on these inspections.
	Review of Suicides and Deliberate Self Harm with Intent to Die within Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.	The focus of the report was largely on services to adults. However, several actions in the implementation referred to child safeguarding issues. There may have been opportunities to explore issues relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
June 15	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust – Financial Position	As this was a financial rather than a patient-focused item, there would have been limited opportunity to explore issues relating to Looked After Children or Care Leavers. Funding for Children's Services could have been explored, although the report presented did not refer to this specifically.
	East Midlands Ambulance Service – Improvements and Performance	There is limited potential impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers, arising from this item.

Date	Item	Commentary
	Neighbourhood Teams	There could have been scope for Representatives to explore the extent to which Neighbourhood Teams were mindful of Looked After Children or Care Leaver issues.

Recording Issues Raised in the Minutes

It is proposed that when the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives raise any issues at their Committee, this will be formally recorded in the minutes and passed onto the Assistant Director – Children's Safeguarding for her information and any further action required.

Training

Once all the Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representatives have been appointed, a detailed training session will be arranged to prepare the Representatives for their new role on the Committee.

2. Conclusion

Further to the Corporate Parenting Strategy that was approved by Lincolnshire County Council on 19 December 2014, this report invites the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire to appoint a County Councillor Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative and District Councillor Looked After Children / Care Leaver Representative for the Committee.

3. Consultation

There is no consultation required as part of this item.

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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