

**Children's Services Corporate Parenting
Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel
1 October 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Anne Rey - Chair; Councillor Chris Wakefield - Vice-Chair; Councillors Beverly Dunlop, Susan Phillips, Allister Russell; Councillor Nicola Greene, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services.

ALSO PRESENT:
Councillor David d'Orton-Gibson

NON-ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lesley Bond	Foster Carer representative
Lynn Giles	Action for Children
Janice Gilkes	Primary Phase Parent Governor
Ted Taylor	Virtual School Governing Body

and 2 CLICK Members

ALSO PRESENT:

Gill Bishop	Service Manager, Family Support & Placement Services
Kim Drake	Service Director, Children's Social Care
Hilary Evans	Strategy Leader, Vulnerable Groups
Heather Freeman	Adoption Services, Team Manager
Jean Haslett	Service Manager, Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Service
Lisa Male	Looked After Children Participation Worker
Mary Taylor	Corporate Parenting Lead and Team Manager, Fostering
Sue Crombleholme	Adoption Services

The meeting started at 4.32pm and finished at 6.35 pm.

Note: To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Panel at this meeting please visit:
<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocracy/Councillors/BoardsPanels/CorporateParentingPanel.aspx>

Please note that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel is scheduled to take place at the Littledown Youth Centre at 4.30 pm on Monday 28 January 2013.

It is recommended that you check this information with Democratic Services closer to the scheduled date of the next meeting in case the arrangements have been changed.

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Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions Made
Item 1	28	Membership of Panel	Apologies for not being able to attend the meeting were received from Fiona Haughey.
Item 2	29	Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest made by Panel members on any of the agenda items.
Item 3	30	<p>Minutes of the last meeting on 3rd July 2012</p> <p>The Chair asked about the decision of minute no. 25 recommending that a training session be held for all Councillors. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services advised that this could be included in the presentation which was scheduled to be held before the next Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel.</p>	<p>The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>That Education, Employment and Training Opportunities for Looked After Young People and Care Leavers be included within the scheduled presentation and that all Members of the Council be invited to attend the presentation.</p>
Item 5	31	<p>Third Annual Audit of our Promise - Update of work with Kim Drake, Service Director, and CLICK Members</p> <p>Following the decision at the last meeting of the Panel that CLICK members should be invited to work with the Service Director for Children's Social Care to develop ideas into clear recommendations the Panel received a presentation on this work. The CLICK Members had worked with Gill Bishop in developing clear recommendations and targets for the areas identified for improvement.</p> <p>The three key areas and actions highlighted were :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That in the next Audit at least 95% of children and young people in care have their own suitcase. A 	<p>To ensure that CPP were confident that actions were being taken it was suggested that a mini six month audit be carried out to evaluate progress on the main issues identified.</p> <p>It was noted that there were some issues with opening bank accounts for looked after children and young people but that an arrangement had been made with the credit union to allow foster carers to open a bank account on behalf of young people.</p>

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		<p>number of actions had been put in place to ensure that every young person has their own suitcase or holdall.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Support from education caseworkers. Action were outlined to ensure that every LAC would know who their caseworker was and how they could help them including a change to personal education plan consultation form and developing an information/contact card. 3. Improving the quality of support provided in the pathways planning process including pathway workers becoming fully involved with young people earlier. <p>Actions for other areas identified concerned access to bank accounts, birth certificates and passports. The young people present gave their opinions on a number of the issues and associated actions. The Service Director advised that this was being taken very seriously and reassured the panel that action was already being taken.</p>	
Item 6	32	<p>Independent Review Officer's Annual Report</p> <p>The Panel considered an update from the Independent Review Officer. A number of Issues from the report were highlighted including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant increase in the number of LAC. The Council had responded by increasing the number of IROs. However recruitment to the posts had been difficult and work was currently being covered by a number of 	<p>It was noted that the full report would be taken through Children's Services Scrutiny Panel and also the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in January 2013.</p> <p>Panel members should contact Jean Haslett if they wish to see a full copy of the report.</p>

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		<p>Locums. The Council aimed to have permanent staff in post by next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outcomes of the CLICK audit were a priority for IROs and were looking for a much more positive picture on these issues in future. • There was a 95% participation rate for LAC reviews. • Action for Children had successfully retendered to provide the advocacy service for the next three years. • A dedicated review room in the Bournemouth Learning Centre would be available from March 2013. Young people had been involved in the design of the room. 	
Item 8	33	<p>Adoption Services - 6 Months Activity Report</p> <p>The Panel considered a presentation from Heather Freeman and Sue Crombleholme from the adoption team.</p> <p>The Panel considered information on some of the background to adoption, information about and the number of Bournemouth LAC placed for adoption, the reasons why the children were adopted, the number of adopters under assessment, the assessment process and the number of adopter approved. Most of the children placed for adoption this year were under two and the oldest was four. In response to an enquiry from the Chair the panel were given further information on the role of letterbox contact, particularly in relation to accessing information on family medical history. In response to a query about particular support for same sex adoption it was reported that this was</p>	<p>The Portfolio holder for Education and Children's Services commended the Adoption Team on providing a service that was performing well nationally.</p> <p>The Panel congratulated the adoption service on their work.</p>

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		<p>less of an issue than some might expected but the adoptive family could seek help if required.</p> <p>The Panel were then given additional information about the support that was provided to LAC in preparing for adoption. Examples of devices used including story books, calendars and pictures of the adopters were circulated around the Panel. The aim was to prepare the children for the transition and help them become more familiar with their new parents. An example of a life story book was shown to the Panel. The books had been developed to ensure that there were as appropriate and helpful as possible.</p>	
Item 9	34	<p>Update on Measures to Safeguard Looked After Children and Young People and Care Leavers</p> <p>The Panel received an update from Gill Bishop on the measures in place in Bournemouth to ensure the safety of looked after children and young people and care leavers. It was noted that this was partially in response to the recent issues in Rochdale highlighted by the media. A recent Inspection of Milton House where 4 out of 5 young people regularly go missing and a themed inspection on missing children had highlighted a number of strengths and also areas of improvement.</p> <p>The inspection of Milton House acknowledged that the Council was doing as much as possible but this was not</p>	The report was noted and members asked that the Corporate parenting Panel be included in training on missing children.

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		<p>evidenced in making a difference.</p> <p>The good points raised in the inspections were working with police, the tenacity of staff, good outcomes where FaST were involved and good team and partnership working. Areas for improvement included that risk assessments needed to be updated on paper, return interviews needed to be meaningful conversations, prevention required improvement and the using young peoples' views.</p> <p>There were a number of issues raise by the panel including a need to ensure that young people were not concerned as being seen as a 'grass' and that the actions of children with a 'reputation' were not necessarily seen as their own.</p>	
Item 10	35	Meeting dates 2013	The meeting dates for 2013 were noted.