

Children's Services Corporate Parenting
Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Panel
29 April 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Chris Wakefield - Vice-Chair in the Chair; Councillors Malcolm Davies, Nicola Greene, Susan Phillips, Allister Russell

NON-ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fiona Haughey Community Health Representative
Ted Taylor Virtual School Governing Body

and a member of CLICK

ALSO PRESENT:

Gill Bishop Service Manager, Family Support & Placement Services
Hilary Evans Strategy Leader, Vulnerable Groups
Lisa Male Looked After Children Participation Worker

The meeting started at 4.35pm and finished at 6.37pm.

The meeting adjourned between 5.25pm and 5.30pm

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 2 September 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 |
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| Item 1 | 10 | <p>Membership of Panel</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Beverley Dunlop, Ella Christopher, Janice Gilkes, Teri Roberts and Lesley Bond</p> | <p>The Panel agreed that Councillor Chris Wakefield should continue 'in the Chair' for this meeting.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that the number of foster carer representatives on the Panel should reduce from three to two.</p> |
| Item 2 | 11. | <p>Declarations of Interest</p> | <p>There were no declarations of interest made by Panel members on any of the agenda items.</p> |
| Item 3 | 12. | <p>Minutes of the last meeting held on 28 January 2013</p> <p>Item 8, minute no 7 - Support for Young People Leaving Care</p> | <p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>The Panel asked for an update on the working group at its next meeting.</p> |
| Item 4 | 13. | <p>Ice Breaker</p> <p>The CLICK Member presented her ice breaker and everyone present took part. The ice breaker centred around good communication and Members and Officers shared their responses with the Panel.</p> | <p>The Member of CLICK was thanked for organising the Ice Breaker.</p> |
| Item 5 Presentation | 14. | <p>How effective are we in providing services for and working with Looked after Children</p> <p>Gill Bishop explained the different ways in which the Council's services and work with looked after children and young people were assessed. Outside of the Council this</p> | <p>The Panel made a number of recommendations for how the Council could do even better in its services and work with looked after children and young people-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask young people for their views on |

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| | | <p>was done by Ofsted Inspections, a number of which had taken place since February 2011. Gill gave an update on these, including the Milton House Inspections in July/December 2012 and the good progress being made on the actions requested by Ofsted.</p> <p>Another way of assessing services was the annual CLICK audit which gave looked after children and young people the opportunity to tell the Council what they thought. Feedback had been generally positive and was improving each year. The Council was working to address the main issues raised, such as ensuring every child had their own suitcase of their choice, and looking again at how reviews were undertaken.</p> <p>The Panel was told about how the Council was responding to the challenges it currently faced - this included having the highest ever number of looked after children. Gill Bishop talked about the Council's fostering targets and the process for adoption recruitment, and also about the work being done to help children and young people understand their lives.</p> | <p>developing a peer support network so that young people can be trained to support newly looked after children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look further at how information can be shared among professionals - subject to confidentiality issues - so that children and young people do not have to repeat themselves • The Panel also asked to receive regular updates on how far the Council is meeting its fostering targets for 2013/14. <p>The Panel asked that the outcome of these recommendations be reported back to a future meeting.</p> |
| <p>Item 7 Presentation</p> | 15. | <p>Draft Looked After Children Strategic Commissioning and Improvement Strategy</p> <p>Gill Bishop reported on changes which were taking place nationally and locally to improve outcomes for looked after children and young people. These included -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government legislation to ensure that children | <p>The Panel made a number of recommendations based on the key theme of listening to looked after children and young people -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health services and psychologists to ensure that looked after |

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| | | <p>secure a placement as soon as possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the British Agency for Adoption and Fostering - BAAF - to introduce 'activity days' • Piloting personal passports scheme • Young people adapting the new Care Leaver's charter so that it is fit for Bournemouth • Freeing up bureaucracy for children to remain with their foster carers • Development for foster carers - accredited staff training from the Anna Freud Centre and working with trained BAAF staff • Future Inspections would be more focussed on listening to people and less on paperwork - the Council was waiting for Government guidance but was already preparing for the new framework to be introduced in September <p>The Panel talked about the importance of listening to children, young people and families and everyone else involved in supporting corporate parenting.</p> <p>Members felt that the Corporate Parenting Panel's main role was to support and challenge the Council and its partners to improve outcomes for children and young people.</p> | <p>children are engaged within acceptable timescales and in appropriate manners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask looked after children and young people and carers about the BH Live offer on leisure activities and if there are any barriers in taking this up. • Ask looked after children and young people for their views on anonymous reporting to the Corporate Parenting Panel • Identify the key themes raised by users of the advocacy service and use these as a way of flagging up issues which need addressing. • Work with care leavers and those who have left care, to look back at their experience of being a looked after child and their transition into adulthood and find out what we can do better. Develop the new Care Leaver's charter and Care Leavers Council to include this 'back view'. • Subject to the guidance being issued in time, report back on the detail of the new Inspection framework to the September Panel meeting <p>The Panel asked that the outcome of these recommendations be reported back to a future meeting.</p> |

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| Item 8 | 16. | <p>Draft Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme 2013/14</p> <p>The Panel considered the proposed work plan for 2013/14 which was circulated at the meeting.</p> | <p>The Panel agreed the draft work programme in principle and made the following requests -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That members of CLICK be given the opportunity to comment on the work programme and flag up any areas they feel the Panel should be looking at • That the Panel is circulated with relevant data in relation to agenda items before each meeting so that Members are fully prepared to scrutinise and challenge |
| Item 9 | 17. | <p>Item of any other business - Academies</p> <p>The Panel was assured that the same legislation for looked after children and young people applied to academies as for other schools.</p> | |