

**Corporate Parenting
Panel
7 September 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Chris Wakefield - Chair; Councillors Susan Phillips-Vice-Chair, Bobbie Dove, Nicola Greene, Allister Russell and Rae Stollard.

NON-ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ted Taylor	Virtual School Governing Body
Penny Earney	Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group -CCG
Tina Collinson	Community Health Representative

and 2 members of CLICK

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Donald McQueen	
Allan Charlton	Team Manager, Younger Children and Families
Lisa Green	Service Manager, Planning and Permanence
Kim Drake	Service Director, Children's Social Care
Rubina Payne	Interim Team Manager, Children's Social Care
Heather Freeman	Team Manager, Children's Social Care
Lisa Male	Looked After Children (LAC) Participation Worker

The meeting started at 4.30pm and finished at 18.57pm.

The meeting adjourned between 5.30pm and 5.35pm.

Ted Taylor left the meeting during Item 9.

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/CouncilDemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteesPanels/CorporateParentingPanel.aspx>

Please note that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel is scheduled to take place at the Town Hall at 4.30 pm on 30 November 2015.

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.

Contact: Tom Hancock, Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer
☎ 01202 454713 ✉ tom.hancock@bournemouth.gov.uk

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Item 1.	24	<p>Membership of Panel</p> <p>The Chair reported to the Panel that thanked the Service Director, Children's Social Care for her service and wished her all the best for the future as she took up a new opportunity.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Simon Bull and DCI Chris Naughton.</p>	
Item 2.	25	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
Item 3.	26	<p>Minutes of the last meeting held on 1 June 2015</p> <p>Item 13, Minute no. 23 - Health - It was reported that CLICK members had spoken with those involved with Health services as a result of the last meeting.</p>	<p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>That a briefing on proposed changes to benefits and how these would affect LAC be circulated to Panel members.</p>
Item 4.	27	<p>Ice Breaker</p> <p>The CLICK Members presented their ice breaker and everyone present took part.</p>	<p>The Members of CLICK were thanked for organising the ice breaker.</p>

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		<p>The Ice Breaker focussed on the issues faced by Looked After Children.</p> <p>The issues put forward were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money • Listen • Choices • Quality • Journey • Aspirations • Family • Town Hall • Accommodation • Alone • Health • Transition • Guidance • Ambition 	
Item 5.	28	<p>New Belongings</p> <p>The LAC Participation Manager informed the Panel that the Council had put in a bid, jointly with Portsmouth, to be part of the New Belongings programme. The drive behind New Belongings is to increase aspirations and get LAC in</p>	<p>That the LAC Participation Manager be congratulated on the successful bid.</p>

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		<p>apprenticeships and traineeships.</p> <p>The Panel was told there would be a launch event and that if Councillors had any useful contacts it would be appreciated if they would let the LAC Participation Manager know of them.</p>	
Item 6.	29	<p>Task and Finish Group</p> <p>The Chair introduced the update report on the work of the Task and Finish Group on the Pupil Premium and other support for LAC and Care Leavers aged 16+. It was reported that a number of the recommendations had been implemented.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted that a response from the Minister of State had been received in relation to the Panel's query on expanding the Pupil Premium alongside the rise in the participation age. The response did not offer the hope that this would happen. The Chair informed the Panel that he would write again to the MP's to remind them to keep lobbying on this issue.</p>	

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Item 7.	30	<p>Milton House Report and Appointment of Visitor</p> <p>The report was introduced by the Service Manager, Planning and Permanence.</p> <p>Regulation 44 Meetings - The Chair told the Panel that he had not been invited to meetings to discuss the visits and that this needed to happen. The Service Director, Children's Social Care undertook to make this happen.</p> <p>Top Floor Of Milton House - The Panel enquired as to what would happen with the top floor of Milton House. The Panel was told that plans were under consideration for the site and had been for some time. It was explained that there were a number of options including turning it into a training flat and independent accommodation. It was explained work would begin in October or November.</p> <p>Misconception - The Panel asked about paragraph 6 of the report which outlined that there had been a misconception about what Milton House was for amongst other teams and services. The Service Director, Planning and Permanence explained that there had been a perception that the home was able to cater long term for specialist needs, which was not the case. It was explained that a number of effective actions had taken place to clear up the misconception.</p> <p>Cannabis Use – The Panel enquired as to the use of cannabis by residents. It was explained that this was a</p>	<p>That an item be placed on the workplan to brief the Panel on the plans for developing the top floor of Milton House</p>

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		<p>problem at the home and that a number of actions were taking place to raise awareness of the dangers and to ensure that there were penalties for usage, including the loss of privileges. It was also explained that work was ongoing to displace the use of cannabis by finding a more suitable replacement activity.</p> <p>Return Interviews - The Panel asked for clarification on what a return interview was and how they operated. The Panel was told that return interviews took place where there was concern for a child after they had gone missing - i.e. not been back at the home at a certain time. It was explained that these interviews were undertaken independently of the staff at the home and that Barnados had been commissioned across Dorset to do these interviews but that the service had not yet started. The Panel was told in the meantime the Council used other services to provide the interviews and that interviews would always be carried out where appropriate irrespective of budget constraints.</p> <p>Feedback from Young People - The Chair highlighted that the Panel would like to hear the views of those at the home and actually using the services when receiving reports on Milton House. Officers agreed to take up this idea.</p>	

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Item 8.	31	Break	
Item 9.	32	<p>Compliance with Carer Protocols</p> <p>The Interim Team Manager, Children’s Social Care introduced the report.</p> <p>The Panel and elected Members present asked a number of questions and made a number of comments including on the following topic:</p> <p>Complaints - Members of the Panel sought assurance about what procedures dealt with allegations that Carers are not complying with the relevant protocols. The Interim Team Manager, Children’s Social Care assured the Panel that protocols are robustly and strictly enforced and that all allegations are recorded and investigated. The Panel was told that there were 5 complaints last year and that 2 had been received so far this year. The Panel was also told that complaints were received, not just from Children in care but also from foster carers’ children and concerned others.</p> <p>Children who make complaints - The Panel asked what happened to a child who made a complaint in terms of placement. It was explained that this depended on the nature of the complaint and the context of the situation</p>	

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		<p>for example there were times when children are happy overall but unsatisfied with a particular aspect of their placement.</p> <p>Unknown Checks - The Panel asked about whether unannounced visits to foster carers' homes were undertaken. The Interim Team Manager, Children's Social Care confirmed that such visits are undertaken.</p> <p>Suitcases - The Panel enquired as to whether suitcases were now routinely given to children when they came into care by foster carers. The Interim Team Manager, Children's Social Care confirmed to the Panel that in-house foster carers were aware of the requirement and had raised concerns over handing a child a suitcase as soon as they arrive for fear of appearing to be unwelcoming. The Chair asked about how the Council is assured that agency foster carers are adhering to requirements around suitcases.</p> <p>Children out of Borough - The Panel enquired as to the arrangements for children placed in foster care homes outside of the borough. It was explained that complaints were dealt with by the host authority but that Bournemouth Borough Council would be notified if one had been made.</p> <p>Foster Carers - The Panel asked whether, if an allegation is made, support is provided for foster carers. It was</p>	<p>That the Panel receive a briefing on how the Council ensures that agency foster carers adhere to protocols.</p>

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		explained that there was a helpline in place that foster carers could use and that mentoring schemes were also in place that would help.	
Item 10	33	<p>Engagement with LAC 11 and Under</p> <p>The Team Manager, Children’s Social Care and the Team Manager, Younger Children and Families introduced the report. A number of items and materials that are used to engage with LAC under-11 and help them to understand their situation were circulated.</p> <p>The Panel and elected Members present asked a number of questions and made a number of comments including on the following topic:</p> <p>Difficulties - The Panel asked what the biggest difficulties were when working with LAC aged under-11. It was explained to the Panel that a major challenge when dealing with very young children was communication when they are not yet able to speak and particularly when they are beginning to speak but not yet fully able to. It was explained that Officers would pick up on non-verbal signals from the LAC to understand their feelings.</p> <p>It was also explained that there were various methods used to help LAC under-11 understand their situation, for example very young LAC would get a ‘moving calendar’ which would day by day introduce to them aspects of their placements, new families and new life. It was also</p>	

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		explained that for slightly older LAC aged under-11 it was important to begin to give them an understanding of their background and this was done through life-story work in some cases.	