

Notice of Corporate Parenting Panel Meeting

Wednesday 28 February 2018 at 5:00pm

**Royal Hampshire Committee Room, Town
Hall, Bournemouth**

Panel Members:

Elected Members:

Councillor Nicola Greene

Cabinet Member with portfolio for
Education and Children's Services - Chair
Member of Children's Services Overview
and Scrutiny Panel – Vice-Chair

Councillor Bobbie Dove

Member Champion for Children and Young
People

Councillor Rae Stollard

Councillor Michael Weinhonig

Member of Community Overview and
Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Blair Crawford

Member of Fostering/Adoption Panel

Councillor Lynda Price

Member of Fostering/Adoption Panel

Non-Elected Members:

Jean Imray

Service Director, Children's Social Care
Looked After Children Participation
Worker

Lisa Male

And

CLICK Members

Minimum number of elected members required to attend – quorum – 3
members

Note to elected members: All members serving on this Panel are required to
have a valid Disclosure and Barring Service check. Please bear this in mind if
you are considering substituting for this Panel. Please contact Democratic
Services at an early stage for advice if you are unsure about this.

For further information, please contact: Samineh Richardson, Senior
Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Legal and Democratic. Tel:
01202 454713. E-mail: samineh.richardson@bournemouth.gov.uk

For electronic copies of the agendas, reports and minutes please visit the
Council's website:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteesPanels/CorporateParentingPanel.aspx>

Agenda

Items for discussion with the Press and Public Excluded*

*NOTE: In relation to the items of business appearing below, the Panel is asked to consider the following resolution:-

That under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 in part I of schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

NOTE: Timings are approximate and subsequent agenda items may run later than scheduled depending on the number of public items received.

5.00pm – 5.05pm

1. MEMBERSHIP OF PANEL

The Democratic Services Officer will report on the membership of the Panel with any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare in accordance with Procedure Rule 5:

- a. any disclosable pecuniary interests in any item under consideration at the meeting as required by the Localism Act 2011;
- b. any memberships of outside bodies where such membership involves a position of control or significant influence on the organisation concerned;

Members are also asked to state fully the nature of the interest(s). If any member has a query on any particular matter, please contact the Deputy Head of Democracy in advance of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – circulated at '3'.

To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 4 September and 29 November 2017.

5.05pm – 5.15pm

4. ITEMS CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION

The following items have been circulated separately by email to Members of the Panel for information.

- **Performance data** – Mike Felstead,

If Members have any comments or questions on these items please could these be emailed to the Democratic Services Officer at the details above by **Wednesday 21 February 2018**.

Members will be asked to confirm whether further work is required on these items and the agreed method for this to take place.

5.15pm – 5.35pm

5. CLICK PRESENTATION

To receive a presentation from CLICK members which will include information from the CLICK survey and in particular highlight areas concerning education.

5.35pm – 6.15pm

6. PROGRESS AND ATTAINMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING BOURNEMOUTH'S VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND AN OVERVIEW OF EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

To review the educational progress, attainment, outcomes and provision of education for looked after children in Bournemouth. Including planning for the future for LAC approaching GCSEs, further education and high education See report circulated at '6'.

*NOTE: In relation to Non Public appendices 1!) the Panel is asked to consider the following resolution:-

That under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 in part I of schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

6.15– 6.20pm

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other business of which prior notice has been received and by special circumstances, which shall be specified in the minutes, the Chair is of the opinion that the items should be considered as a matter of urgency.

DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Paragraph 1 – Information relating to any individual

Paragraph 2 – Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

**Corporate Parenting
Panel
4 September 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Nicola Greene (Deputy Leader) - Chair; Councillor Bobbie Dove - Vice-Chair; Councillors Blair Crawford, Rae Stollard and Michael Weinhonig.

NON-ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Male Participation Worker, Children's Social Care
CLICK Members

ALSO PRESENT:

Mike Felstead (Lead Officer, Corporate Parenting Panel) Service Manager -
Quality Assurance and Safeguarding
Kaleigh Jones Participation Officer - Care Leavers Team
Penny Lodwick Service Manager - Looked After Children and Care Leavers

FROM POD

Victoria Stone Team Manager (LAC team)
Alex Brummitt Social Worker (LAC team)
Sarah Hebden Advanced Social Worker (LAC team)
Jessica Jackson Advanced Social Worker (16+ care leavers team)
Kim Rampling Social Worker - level II (LAC team)
Sharon Robertson Social Worker Level II (LAC team)

The meeting started at 17.03pm and finished at 18:37pm.

Note: To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Panel at this meeting please visit:

<https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/councildemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteeMeetings/CorporateParentingPanel/2017/09/04/agenda/agenda-and-reports-package.pdf>

Please note that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel is scheduled to take place on 4 September 2017.

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: Claire Johnston, Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer

☎ 01202 454627

✉ claire.johnston@bournemouth.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Panel, 4 September 2017

Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions Made
Item 1	21	<p>MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Lynda Price.</p>	
Item 2	22	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
Item 3	23	<p>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 05 June 2017</p> <p>There were no actions arising from the minutes.</p>	The minutes were agreed as a correct record.
	24	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>That the press and public be excluded for the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>	To exclude the press and public.
Item 4	25	<p>ITEMS CIRCULATED TO PANEL MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION</p> <p>Performance Data - The Chairman thanked the Lead Officer for the information provided and commented that it was extremely helpful to receive this information.</p>	

Corporate Parenting Panel, 4 September 2017

Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions Made
Item 5	26	<p><i>CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE RESTRUCTURE UPDATE</i></p> <p><i>The Service Manager - Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers explained that over the last 6 months a new 'Pod' system had been developed and successfully implemented. The LAC and Care Leavers teams were both fully staffed, for the Care Leavers team this was the first time they had been in this position for five years. The LAC team had also increased their capacity, however, there were still a couple of vacancies in other teams.</i></p> <p><i>The teams were made up of a mixture of experienced and newly qualified staff, who brought their own unique skills to the team. Caseloads were imbalanced but this was because a decision was made to keep the LAC's current social worker the same where possible. The service wanted to avoid changing social workers' cases unless it was unavoidable, to give the child or young person greater stability. It was expected that the imbalances would even out in 6-10 months. The imbalance did not result in an uneven amount of work between employees because those with less casework were allocated more assessments and joint work.</i></p> <p><i>The teams were also reviewing children and young persons placements outside of Bournemouth and were bringing them back to the town where appropriate. In addition to this, there was work on quality assurance and a robust business plan, intervention prior to the need for care via the family support hub and work on the children and young persons' 'life story'. There was also 3-6 months' support provided by the team for children and young people who were re-entering their birth families home.</i></p> <p><i>The social workers reported that they felt a difference since the restructuring. They felt that the new system worked well and there was an increased sense of being part of a team. The caseloads were not as high since the pods were</i></p>	<p>Click to find out young peoples' experience of transitioning to a PA and whether it would be easier to transition at the beginning of the academic year before exams.</p>

Corporate Parenting Panel, 4 September 2017

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		<p><i>established, with caseloads now at a maximum of 15. The new system had provided the opportunity for social workers to be 'matched' to cases in the future.</i></p> <p><i>The new system involved two teams, one for under 16's and a separate team for 16+. All LAC are allocated a Personal Advisor (PA) before their 16th birthday. Their social worker would not be instantly withdrawn, there would be a planned withdrawal conducted on a case by case basis. A member asked how the children felt about changing to a different social worker. They said it depended on the child, some may be eager to move on whereas others may need support, the individuals needs would be taken into consideration. A member asked whether it would be worth changing to a PA at the beginning of the academic year to avoid change during the young person's exam period.</i></p> <p><i>Two Click members spoke of their personal experience of the transition to the 16+ service, both were negative. One had no support at all during a two-month period in the run up to his exams, the other said his social worker left and the PA turned up with no prior notice. The Click members said that young people often don't see the importance of investing in their relationship with their Care Leaver's Social Worker as they knew the relationship would only last two years. The service manager said the situation was significantly different after the restructuring, resulting in improved stability for young people compared to previously. The benefit of future collaboration with educational LAC caseworkers was also raised and a desire for potentially co-locating.</i></p> <p><i>The chair asked the social workers what attracted them to their post, the answers referred to opportunity, new knowledge and experience, previous experience of family in care and confidence in new management.</i></p>	<p>Contact to be made with local colleges to see if clearer pathways for college and internships could be organised, especially considering the new cohort of young people. The Service Manager - LAC and Care Leavers would also follow this up with the Virtual School Advisor.</p>

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Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions Made
Item 6	27	<p>CLICK PRESENTATION - PERMENANCY</p> <p>Click members didn't like the word permanency and felt it had several negative connotations. The word didn't reflect their lived experience; they didn't feel that they had or necessarily wanted permanency as they associated it with being stuck or trapped. They told the panel they would prefer the word consistency because they often suffered from feelings of rejection and insecurity. This meant they needed time to build relationships with people. They advised the Panel that they needed to be told that they are cared for and that they can express their opinions without being rejected.</p> <p>Click members also told the panel their personal stories of being in care and how going into care can lead to feelings of uncertainty and confusion. One young person said that despite being placed in a loving foster home, where he did feel secure, it took him two years to understand what had happened. Another young person said that she still felt a sense of insecurity despite becoming a mother herself. The Click members said that being more involved in the development plans would help them to understand their situation and would allow them to feel a sense of autonomy rather than being told what is good for them, without them having any options.</p> <p>They also said that honesty is important. They felt ready to hear more than they were being told and when information was withheld or they were given misinformation to 'protect them' they felt like they were being lied too. They said they often had responsibility from a young age and when they move into care they feel as though that is taken away from them. They reiterated that they would like social workers to be honest and open with them, treat them respectfully and involve them in the care process.</p>	<p>The Chair thanked the Click Members for their presentation and requested that they raise any future issues with the Panel.</p> <p>It was agreed that Click would give the presentation to the LAC teams.</p>

Corporate Parenting Panel, 4 September 2017

Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions Made
		<p>They also said that 'respite' made them feel unwanted and they didn't feel like it was explained to them adequately when it happened. They said it led to a reduction in trust and stopped emotional investment. Click members reported that it could feel like they were being rejected and they would blame themselves. They also said that the 'life story' project helped them and they thought it was important that their social worker also understood their learning style.</p>	
Item 7	28	<p>DISCUSSION - PERMANENCY</p> <p>The Service Manager - LAC and Care Leavers briefly introduced the report to the Panel and the Chairman and asked for any questions on the report or the presentation. A Member said that it's instinctual to shield young people but the question was how much should we be telling them and how do we tell them they are loved. A Click member said that it is important that children and young people are shown love, rather than being told they are loved.</p> <p>A Member said that there seems to be an adversarial relationship between social workers and LAC, especially when they are first taken into care. She asked how that is dealt with? The Service Manager - LAC and Care Leavers said that there are several avenues of formal and informal support for the social workers, a reasonable workload and debriefings are also important. A member asked whether we should be hiring social workers with inbuilt resilience.</p> <p>There was some discussion on the interpretation of the word permanency. Including that it was regrettable its meaning had negative connotations. There was an acknowledgment that it was a statutory word decided by central government. A member asked whether the LAC and Care Leavers team were managing expectations properly or setting themselves up to fail. The response was that realistically the statutory responsibilities were ambitious and whilst the structure and enthusiasm</p>	

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		<p>was there it would not be possible to deliver that every time, although it was important to remain ambitious. They acknowledged that the service could be more lined up.</p> <p>A Click member said that the worst thing about being in care is the 'not knowing', being kept involved will help LAC with the anxiety that they often suffer with for the rest of their lives. It was also important that they didn't have to seek help because it was consistently available. It was said that some LAC struggled to even accept an invitation for drinks because they felt they didn't know how to respond to the relationship. A Click member said that foster carers and social workers should sign a commitment before they start, another said it sets a bad example when the social workers aren't consistent.</p>	
Item 8	29	<p>Regional Adoption Agency - Verbal update</p> <p>The adoption agency was almost fully staffed. It had a high-quality skill base drawing from a wider pool of recruits. The number of children to be adopted nationally was increasing but the number of people who wanted to adopt was decreasing, although there was a higher volume of cases in the service for assessment. There had been an increasing number of step-parent adoptions. Those who are over 4, sibling groups and those with additional needs took longer to place.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that the Children's Services O&S panel would continue to receive updates on the adoption service but that it was important the Panel had an overview of some of the youngest LAC. She also offered her congratulations to all involved with the establishment of the independent fostering agency.</p>	

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Item 9	30	<p>WORK PROGRAMME</p> <p>The future work programme of the Panel was noted.</p>	
Item 10	31	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>The Participation worker reported that the 25 October was the start of Care Leavers week</p>	

**Corporate Parenting
Panel
29 November 2017**

Please note that this meeting was inquorate

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Nicola Greene (Deputy Leader) - Chair; Councillor Rae Stollard.

NON-ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kayleigh Jones Participation Officer, Children's Social Care

ALSO PRESENT:

Mike Felstead (Lead Officer, Corporate Parenting Panel) Service Manager -
Quality Assurance and Safeguarding
Jean Imray Interim Service Director, Children's Social Care

FROM DORSET CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

Helen Duncan-Jordan Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and LAC

FROM DORSET HEALTHCARE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION TRUST

Jill Warn Named Nurse for Looked After Children

The meeting started at 17.10pm and finished at 18:37pm.

Note: To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Panel at this meeting please visit:

Please note that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel is scheduled to take place on 28 February 2018.

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: Claire Johnston, Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer

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Corporate Parenting Panel, 29 November 2017

Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions to be confirmed at the next meeting
Item 1	32	<p>MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillors Blair Crawford, Bobbie Dove, Lynda Price and Michael Weinhonig.</p>	
Item 2	33	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
Item 3	34	<p>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2017</p> <p>There were no actions arising from the minutes.</p>	The minutes were agreed as a correct record.
Item 4	35	<p>TALK IT OUT SERVICE</p> <p>The Chairman explained that the service had only received one phone call since its inception and cost approximately £25k per year to run. The reasons for the lack of use of this service were discussed, these included issues around confidentiality and anonymity. It was also noted that the Out of Hours Service was being re-provided and this service could be included within it in some form. It was suggested that the Youth Service could make a contribution to discussions on the service. However, the Participation Officer commented that the service requested originally from CLICK was not just a telephone service but also a text or WhatsApp service as many young people were uncomfortable with making phone calls and a private message service like a Facebook page would be more appropriate. A comment was also made that Foster Carers liked to know there is something available but that the service probably needed to be broken down to the constituent parts as it didn't appear to be serving any of the target groups at present.</p>	The Service Director for Children's Social Care agreed to take this away for further discussion with CLICK Members and noted that Dave Crewe had already developed an app and they may be a possibility of being able to provide this.

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Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions to be confirmed at the next meeting
		The Designated Nurse for LAC advised that ChatHealth was an app which could be used by anyone over the age of 5 for support with emotional issues, although it did not provide an out of hours service.	
Item 5	36	<p>ITEMS CIRCULATED TO PANEL MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION</p> <p>Performance Data - The Chairman thanked the Lead Officer for the information provided. The Service Director commented that she would like to help the Panel and other bodies to challenge and scrutinise the data further. Placement stability should also be monitored. It was noted that the figure of 99% of care leavers in suitable accommodation should not falsely reassure the Panel as this meant that they were not in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. The Service Director would be meeting with Seascope Homes.</p> <p>BECOME Advisory Panel - Appointment of Participation Officer - The Participation Officer explained some of the work that she would be doing on behalf of the project, for example they were looking at whether there should be a section on the Care System included as part of PSHE to give everyone more information. The Chairman congratulated the Participation Officer on her appointment.</p>	
Item 6	37	<p>CLICK SURVEY PRESENTATION AND THE PROMISE</p> <p>Copies of the Promise were made available to the Panel. However, there were no CLICK Member present to give the presentation.</p>	
Item 7	38	<p>OVERVIEW OF HEALTH NEEDS FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN</p> <p>There had been substantial investment in the Looked After Children's Team over the last year. There was a named nurse in place and high quality teams were being pulled</p>	

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Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions to be confirmed at the next meeting
		<p>together to ensure things were improving. A 3-month review of every Health Action Plan had been introduced and all referrals were being followed through to ensure that they were happening.</p> <p>There were greater numbers of staff ion business support and the quality of reports which were being produced were now of a high standard. It was noted that there were 2-band-6, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Nurses, one of whom covered Bournemouth and Poole and the other Dorset. They provided support for those who didn't require intervention from CAMHS or who were stepping out from need CAMHS. The service was aiming to marry up what they were doing with CAMHS and there was a robust plan in place around fast tracking to CAMHS if required.</p> <p>Feedback from foster carers had been good since the service improvements were introduced. The Service was pro-actively promoting the immunisation pathway. From reception to Year-4 there would be a schedule of where and when the nurses would be completing vaccines. A lot of effort was being put into ensuring that consent forms were being signed and returned. The service was also reviewing those children on full care orders to ensure that they were 100% fully immunised. Approximately 87% of those eligible had received the flu vaccine. The service was trying to ensure that consents were in place now for the next round of immunisations. The service was also working with dentists to identify LAC in their care to ensure that extra check-ups and care as needed was in place. With regards to sexual health issues measure had been put in place to ensure that a better service was available for young people; for example, to ensure that they did not have to wait for several hours in a drop-in clinic.</p> <p>Increasing GP awareness of who LAC were, was an important issue Dr Sam Abdollahian was the named GP for LAC and was driving things forward for GPs. Most GPs were linked up to the DHUFT system so would be able to access information required.</p>	

Corporate Parenting Panel, 29 November 2017

Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions to be confirmed at the next meeting
		<p>Members asked about the future challenges in health services for LAC. The Panel was advised that there was a need to meet with young people in order to develop a service which had been shaped by young people themselves. It was also important to ensure overall performance to a certain level. Exception reports were produced every month which looked at any LAC who had been missed for a Health review, although it was confirmed that this was done with the best interests of the LAC in mind, for example it would not be scheduled whilst a LAC was trying to sit their GCSEs.</p> <p>One of the main challenges for the service was ensuring that assessments for children who were placed out of the area were carried out. The service was working with health visiting teams to improve this. However, Hampshire had confirmed that they did not have the capacity to provide this service for Dorset LAC.</p> <p>Members asked about emotional health and wellbeing provision for LAC. Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ) were completed in-line with the Review Health Assessments and work was taking place on how these complemented each other.</p> <p>In response to a query regarding the number of LAC identified as requiring support with Emotional Health and Wellbeing issues the Panel was advised that Psychologists and CAMHS were involved with the pathway planning to ensure that the LAC service had got things right. The service was looking into how the SDQ scorecard could be used. The Panel was advised about how many LAC were open to CAMHS and how many were being supported through the Emotional Health and Well-Being nurses. About 12% of all LAC were working with psychologists and Aspire Adoption also had psychologists working with them. It was noted that some were not aware that the SDQ had been completed as it had been done on their behalf. This was being improved to ensure that the SDQ was triangulated with carers, teachers and LAC.</p>	

Corporate Parenting Panel, 29 November 2017

Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions to be confirmed at the next meeting
		<p>The Service Director for Children's Social care commented on setting up beauty clinic sessions where young people could feel more relaxed and it would support the link between emotional health and hair, skin and nails. The Panel discussed different ways that young people might engage with mental health services including walking and talking and looking at being more creative and interactive with electronic tablets and stories.</p> <p>The Chairman noted the pre-occupation that seemed to prevail with getting access to CAMHS but there was no discussion on the success and outcomes of the service. It was noted that this was a challenge as CAMHS often provided short term intervention. However, it was suggested that for some children not going to CAMHS may be the best intervention possible.</p> <p>The Panel asked if CLICK could let the Panel know if the right message was going to young people in care regarding emotional health. The participation worker commented that some young people had the opinion that just because they were in care there would need to be some form of intervention. Although this very much depended upon the professionals that they were dealing with. It was noted that there needed to be better understanding of the other options available. Some of the issues spoken about included confidence, self-esteem and worry about the future, it was suggested that activities such as singing lessons and drama could help. It was important to find something that a young person could excel at and sometimes we needed to be more creative about how to spend money.</p> <p>It was suggested that a group where people can talk with other young people about different topics, such as self-harm, eating behaviours, etc. Advice would come from other young people as well as professionals. It was suggested that people could be invited in to thematic meetings, for example from the Bournemouth and Poole College,</p>	

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Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions to be confirmed at the next meeting
		<p>Pavilion Dance or BH Live. It was suggested that a collaborative approach would be useful and the nurses confirmed that they would be willing to take part in any sessions. These would start with an informal talk or activity and there should not be any pressure to talk but also time to talk about more serious issues. It was suggested that CLICK be approached for ideas for topics.</p> <p>The LAC nurses also intended to give further information to fostering teams and foster carers on the positive developments of the service. It was also suggested that a newsletter to foster carers with information on important public health issues would also be helpful.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that in future it would be useful to have more information on the outcomes if possible.</p>	

Corporate Parenting Panel

Report Subject	Progress and Attainment of Pupils Attending Bournemouth's Virtual School for Looked After Children & Overview of Educational Issues for Looked After Children
Meeting date	28 February 2018
Cabinet Portfolio	Councillor Nicola Greene, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
Corporate Lead	Sue Ross, Director – Adults and Children
Service Director	Neil Goddard – Community, Learning & Commissioning
Status	Public
Classification	For information
Key Decision	No
Impacts on Key Policy Framework	No
Report author	Suzie Levett, Virtual School Headteacher ☎ 01202 456345 ✉ Suzie.Levett@Bournemouth.gov.uk
Executive summary	<p>This report draws information from the Virtual School Headteacher's Autumn Term 2017 Report (attached as Appendix 1), which was presented to the Virtual School Monitoring and Accountability Board at their meeting on 27th November 2017.</p> <p>It highlights the educational progress and attainment of Bournemouth's Looked After Children measured at the end of Key Stages 1 (Yr. 2), 2 (Yr. 6) and 4 (Yr. 11) during the Summer Term 2017. The results reported are Provisional.</p> <p>The purpose of the Virtual School continues to be focussing on supporting looked after young people to make the best educational progress, attainment and outcomes. The report therefore also highlights actions and priorities to improve attainment and progress of pupils in the Academic Year 2017/18.</p>
Recommendations	<p>That the panel notes the provisional educational progress and attainment of Yr. 2 and Yr. 6 pupils in the Virtual School at the end of the academic year 2016/17.</p> <p>That the panel notes the provisional educational qualifications attained by Yr. 11 pupils in the Virtual School at the end of the academic year 2016/17.</p> <p>That the panel notes the targeted actions being taken to support and improve the educational outcomes for pupils in the Virtual School at the end of the academic year 2016/17.</p>
Reasons for recommendations	To assure the Corporate Parenting Panel that the Bournemouth Virtual School continues to improve educational progress, attainment and outcomes for children and young people in care.

Background

- 1 The role of Virtual School Headteacher remains statutory for every Local Authority dating from 2014. Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leaver numbers are subject to frequent change, as young people come in and out of care. The data prepared for the Monitoring and Accountability Board on 27 November 2017 indicated 137 Reception to Year 11 Looked After Children and 201 Post-16 LAC and Care Leavers. See 2.0 and 2.1 of attached **Appendix 1**.
- 2 Numbers as of the week commencing 5 February 2018 were: 148 Reception to Year 11 Looked After Children and 199 Post-16 LAC and Care Leavers. It is important to be mindful of the small numbers within each cohort and therefore a comparison of percentages is not always helpful or appropriate.
- 3 Schools attended by Bournemouth LAC (National Curriculum Years R to 11):

Bournemouth Schools		Other Borough Schools	
Community Special School	5	Community Special School	2
Independent Learning Provider	3	Further Education College	1
Mainstream Primary Academy	29	Independent Specialist Provision	18
Mainstream Primary School	2	Mainstream Primary Academy	6
Mainstream Secondary Academy	29	Mainstream Primary School	7
Pupil Referral Unit	6	Mainstream Secondary Academy	20
		Mainstream Secondary School	12
		Pupil Referral Unit	6
		Secure Training Centre	2

- 4 Comparisons to national educational outcomes are made using Department for Education (DfE) statistical first release "Outcomes for children looked after by LAs: 31 March 2016" (SFR 12/2017), published 31 March 2017. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/outcomes-for-children-looked-after-by-las-31-march-2016>. Small numbers are not reported by the DfE to protect confidentiality. Unless stated otherwise, comparisons will be made to data referring to LAC only. See attached **Appendix 4** for comparison data.
- 5 Comparisons to Care Leaver activity is made using DfE statistical first release "Children looked after in England including adoption: 2016 to 2017" (SFR 50/2017), published 28 September 2017. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2016-to-2017>

Progress and Attainment of Pupils Attending Bournemouth's Virtual School for Looked After Children

Key Stage 1 Provisional Outcomes 2017

- 6 2 of the 6 pupils in the reporting cohort achieved expectations in all areas; one other pupil reached the expected standard in all areas expect in Writing.
- 7 Bournemouth's Key Stage 1 results compare well with the 2016 national and regional averages. In English Reading, 50% of the cohort achieved the standard, the same as the 2016 national average. In English Writing, 33.3% achieved the expected

standard, just below 2016's national average of 37% and the same as the regional average. In Maths, 50% achieved the expected standard, above 2016's national and regional averages of 46% and 47% respectively.

- 8 Comparisons indicate that Key Stage 1 results are similar to the results of other Local Authorities across the country, however there is limited evidence of closing the gap with non-looked-after children. See 3.1 of attached **Appendix 1** for further comments.

Key Stage 2 Provisional Outcomes 2017

- 9 3 of the 7 (43%) pupils achieved the expected standard across all five Key Stage 2 assessments. 5 of the 7 pupils (71%) achieved the expectations in the English Reading test. 4 of the 7 pupils (57%) achieved the expectations in the Mathematics teacher assessment, and the same number achieved the expectations in the Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling test.
- 10 Bournemouth's Key Stage 2 results were the best in the South West region in 2016 and the trend seems to have continued in 2017. The number achieving the standard in English Reading is well above the 2016 national averages for looked-after children (41%) and non-looked-after children (66%). In Bournemouth, the number achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing & Maths combined (43%) is well above the 2016 national average for looked-after children (25%) and compares well to the average for non-looked-after children (54%).
- 11 One Student in the cohort had complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and was attending a specialist provision. Only two of the seven students in this cohort had no SEND, these two achieved the expected standard in all areas.
- 12 All females, whether in or out of borough, achieved at least expected outcomes. Conversely all males, including three in-borough, did not achieve the expected outcomes. This will be a key area for us to target pupil premium spending throughout Key Stage 3 and into Key Stage 4.
- 13 Average progress score in English Writing is 0.91, which is well above the national averages of -1.0 and -0.1 for looked-after and non-looked-after children respectively. The average progress in English Reading is 0.91, which is well above the national averages of -1.0 and -0.1 for looked after and non-Looked After Children respectively. Maths average progress score is -1.07, there is not a published national average for comparison in this subject.
- 14 The DfE states a school progress score between 0 and 3.4 in Reading and Writing indicates the school is above average in these subjects. A progress score between 3.1 and 0 in Maths indicates the school is slightly below average in this subject.
- 15 Key Stage 2 is an area of success for the Bournemouth Virtual School, results are consistent and approaching the averages for non-looked-after children. For additional comments please see 3.2 of attached **Appendix 1**.

Key Stage 4 Provisional Outcomes 2017

- 16 3 of the 19 pupils (15.8%) achieved a '4' (equivalent to a 'C') in both English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics. The looked after child average in 2016

was 17.5%. Average attainment 8 is 13.8, nationally it was 22.8 in 2016 for looked-after children and 48.1 for non-looked-after.

- 17 No pupils achieved the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). Seven out of 19 pupils (36.8%) were not entered for any GCSE qualifications due to significant and complex SEND. 12 out of 19 pupils (63.2%) had SEND support, an Educational Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Educational Needs. Only one pupil with no SEND did not achieve any GCSEs - the only pupil who was entered for GCSEs not to achieve any. This young person attended a pupil referral unit and largely refused to attend in the spring and summer terms.
- 18 Six pupils (31.5%) achieved a '4' or higher in English Language. Five pupils (26.3%) achieved a '4' or higher in Maths. One pupil (5.2%) achieved a 'C' or higher in Science. Five pupils (26.3%) achieved a higher Attainment 8 than 2016 national average for Looked After Children (22.2). One pupil exceeded predictions, achieving a '7' in English (equivalent to an 'A') and a '6' in Maths (equivalent to a high 'B'). This pupil also achieved five 'A*' to 'C' (9 - 4) including English and Maths. This pupil will be starting a level 3 college course this September.
- 19 The progress 8 score for Bournemouth Virtual School 2017 is -3.00 ± 0.49 , the average for looked-after children in 2016 was -1.14 and for non-looked-after children it was -0.08 . Our Progress 8 score is below average, which means that Bournemouth Virtual School 2017 Key Stage 4 cohort did not achieve as well in their GCSE examinations as other children in England with similar Key Stage 2 assessment results. For additional comments please see 3.3 of attached **Appendix 1**.
- 20 Data and analysis on the comparisons of Key Stage assessment results, including data from the DfE statistical first release, can be seen in attached **Appendix 4**.

Virtual School Attendance Data

- 21 Last academic year, average attendance in Bournemouth Schools was 94%. In other borough Schools, it was 91%. So far this academic year, average attendance for Bournemouth Schools and other School is 93% and 92% respectively.
- 22 The DfE defines a pupil as a persistent absentee if they are absent for 10% or more of the available sessions. Autumn Term 2017 persistent absence rate (which is the percentage of pupils defined as a persistent absentee) is 21% for those attending Bournemouth Schools and 14% for those attending other Schools. These persistent absence rates are higher than the average. However, total absence for the same period is comparatively low; 6.57% for Bournemouth Schools and 7.73% for other Schools. This shows that most students have a good attendance. For further commentary on attendance data see section 5 of attached **Appendix 1**.

Virtual School Exclusions Data

- 23 In the Autumn term of 2016, 12 pupils received Fixed Term Exclusions with 15.5 days lost. In the Spring term of 2017, 15 pupils received Fixed Term Exclusions with 97.5 days lost. In the Summer term of 2016, 12 pupils received Fixed Term Exclusions with 76.5 days lost. The most common reason for an exclusion is: "verbal abuse/threatening behaviour towards an adult".

24 Relatively few of the cohort are excluded fixed term, but when exclusions occur they have been for lengthier periods of exclusion, so they distort the figures. There have been no permanent exclusions during the previous academic year, however a significant number of the persistent absentees are where a move has been agreed and the young person is awaiting another school placement. This is in accordance with a mutual agreement that schools will not permanently exclude Looked After Children. Please see section 6 of attached **Appendix 1**.

Predicted Outcomes 2018

- 25 For Key Stage 2, 42.8% of the young people are expected to achieve age related expectations for Reading, Writing and Maths.
- 26 For Key Stage 4, 21.2% of young people are predicted to achieve 5 4 – 9 (A*-C) grades or equivalent, showing an improvement on last year's result.
- 27 Specific analysis of the educational needs of young people in Key Stage 2 will ensure that the Pupil Premium is used to provide bespoke support especially with Reading, Writing and Maths to include 1:1 tuition, specific small-group support and after-school catch-up sessions.
- 28 In Key Stage 4 intensive interventions are provided for all young people who are C/D borderline - now 3/4/5. in English and Maths. Caseworkers monitor year 11 young people very carefully to ensure that additional Pupil Premium requests target the best use of this funding towards optimising their outcomes.
- 29 Based on analysis educational priorities have been identified. Please see attached **Appendix 5** for more information:
- a. Continue monitoring and detailed reporting of the progress made by Bournemouth Looked After Children, through the Senior Business Support Officer who is responsible for tracking, monitoring and analysis of young people's progress.
 - b. Continue the support and intervention provided for Post-16 young people, with Post-16 PEPs (called Next Steps) for all Year 12 and 13.
 - c. Ensure that looked after young people with SEND are supported as fully as possible to attain expected levels of education, through monitoring of the use of the Pupil Premium, exploring trends within the data and detailed analysis.
 - d. Work closely with both in and out of borough schools and educational placements to improve the transition between schools, especially where this is at short notice.
 - e. Work closely with schools to maintain our record of no permanent exclusions since 2009. We now give schools and carers emergency contact details so that they can discuss issues with LAC Education Caseworkers as soon as they occur.
 - f. Work closely with Borough of Poole to develop a consistency in Virtual School approaches e.g. through joint Designated Teacher Networks, a joint Foster Carer Conference, termly meetings etc.

Overview of Educational Issues for Looked After Children

Higher Education

- 30 At the end of the 2016/2017 academic year 8 Care Leavers were studying University courses, two of whom have now graduated. One graduated with a degree in Journalism and English Literature, and is working part-time as PR & Multi-Media Manager at an Accountancy firm and considering a career teaching in China. The other graduate, who completed a degree in Sports Science, is being supported by his Personal Adviser (PA) to find full-time work.
- 31 Nine Care Leavers are currently attending University. One Care Leaver has been supported with an application to Bournemouth University to study a degree in Nursing. A further Care Leaver is applying to Bournemouth and Poole College to study on the access to higher education course. There has been no University drop-outs in the last 12 months, however two students are repeating their first year.
- 32 Nationally, approximately 6% of Care Leavers attend Higher Education and this figure has been fairly consistent for a number of years. Although Bournemouth are slightly above the average with 7%, a lot of work still needs to be done to raise aspirations for our Looked-After Children and Care Leavers.
- 33 The primary reasons why Care Leavers do not consider Higher Education as a viable option are due to finance and accommodation. It is, therefore, essential that they are given appropriate advice and guidance on the support available, for example the Care Leaver's Bursary.
- 34 The Post-16 Education Team supports young people through the process of applying for Higher Education (through UCAS). During their time at University they have regular contact with their Personal Advisers (PAs) to address any issues or concerns. The PA is also responsible for keeping the pathway plan up-to-date at this time.

Further Education

- 35 As of February 2018, 20% of Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 are engaged in further education, more than the national average of 18%. Currently there are 199 Post-16 LAC and Care Leavers, up to 25; of these 37% are in Further Education (this includes: School Sixth Forms, Music Colleges, General FE Colleges, Specialist SEND Colleges, Independent Learning Providers & Agricultural Colleges).
- 36 Eight students have dropped out of further education since September 2017. 4 out of 8 dropped out because of severe mental health issues. One student, since dropping out, is now working full-time. Another two students will move onto intensive functional skills courses and will reapply to College in September. One other student has gone onto full-time training. Only one student with no health problems continues to be Not engaged in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), this young person is placed out of borough and continues to be supported by the Education and 16+ Social Care Teams. This number of young people who have dropped out is an improvement on previous years. One reason for this is because all 16-18 year olds now have a LAC Education Caseworker. Also, there has been better communication with our local colleges, including regular data on attendance and achievement.

Apprenticeships

37 We receive email alerts from Bournemouth Borough Council and Poole Borough Council offering apprenticeships, these are shared with the relevant education and social care teams. Recently Bournemouth Borough Council has employed two Care Leavers who started out as apprentices.

Planning for the Future – Moving into Adulthood

38 Out of our 199 16-25 year olds, 27% are currently NEET. To compare ourselves with the national average the DfE publishes NEET figure for Care Leavers aged 19-21. Currently the percentage of Care Leavers aged 19-21 NEET is 33%. Although this is a third of our 19-21 cohort, it is lower than the national average of 40% and the regional average for the South West of 43%. For Example, some regional NEET figures are: North Somerset = 50%; Dorset = 40%; Devon = 43% and Poole = 25%.

39 Out of our NEET cohort: 9% have SEND; 14.5% are young mothers; 29% have illness/mental health conditions; this leaves us with 45% of NEETs who we would consider as capable of becoming EET. This group is one of the main challenges facing the Education and Social Care Teams.

Separated Children Seeking Asylum (SCSA)

40 Currently, 22 young people in Bournemouth are Separated Children Seeking Asylum:

- a. 3 young people are accessing English at the International Care Network (ICN). One due to limited English meaning that he does not meet the entry requirement for college; one due to mental health concerns (ICN is a smaller more nurturing setting) and one due to not being accepted by college as it was too late to apply for this academic year - this young person is currently missing and therefore not accessing ICN.
- b. We have 1 young person at Twynham sixth form. He is studying three A-levels alongside his Maths and English GCSEs. He is progressing well and achieved a 'C' in Maths and 'B' in Chemistry for mock exams January 2018. Biology result is still pending.
- c. We have 4 enrolled at Harewood college studying GCSEs with additional ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) all in year 11. One of these young people has not yet attended as he has been missing twice since being enrolled. We hope to get him in next week as returned today.
- d. The remaining 14 are at Bournemouth and Poole college. 13 studying ESOL and 1 studying level 1 route to business course. 3 have attendance issues (1 due to lateness and the other 2 due to issues of low mood recently) and one has just passed his entry level three exams.

Looked After Children's Experiences in Education

41 Please see attached **Appendix 3** for Case Studies and Testimonials from Looked-After Children and Care Leavers. From the case studies, some of the educational issues for Looked After Children have been identified as:

- a. Changing and emergency placements e.g. moving away from and back to Bournemouth and the impact this has on finding appropriate and timely education, particularly in Key Stage 4 (see case studies 2 & 3). Unfortunately, there have been occasions when a young person has been moved (often in an emergency) and there has been no suitable educational provision in the local area. A period of school absence often follows this move.
 - b. Children who end up attending a number of schools are of concern to us as is Children Missing Education (CME). Information on how many schools attended by each Looked After Child is included in each PEP, along with how many time is spent not in school. Pupil Premium is being used to commission a company called 'Looked After Call' to monitor twice daily attendance and exclusions. The Virtual School Head is called to account regarding attendance, exclusions, progress, outcomes etc. by the Virtual School Monitoring and Accountability Board. In addition, Education Caseworkers are provided with an attendance printout at each Personal Education Plan meeting. a Child Missing Education pro forma is completing at each monthly team meeting where colleagues provide current information on what is being done to resolve this.
 - c. The effect of trauma, lack of attachment, low self-esteem and mental ill health on educational progress and outcomes (see case studies 1, 4 & 6).
 - d. Special Educational Needs and Disability – approximately 30% of the Virtual School cohort (see case studies 1, 2 & 5). Of great concern is the number of Looked After Children who need an EHCP with the lack of evidence necessary for this and the assessment process takes at least two school terms.
 - e. The need for effective and timely communication between professionals e.g. reliance on receiving prompt and accurate paperwork from Children's Social Care teams, which triggers the work of the Virtual School. It is hoped that when all colleagues can use one data system (MOSAIC) the situation will improve. As LAC Education and LAC Health have now been moved to E3, co-location is no longer possible and this was identified as good practice in the last Ofsted (2014).
Communication with professionals across different boroughs can sometimes be even more difficult e.g. a Bournemouth looked after child living in Poole attending a school in Dorset who needs to go through the EHCP process. Reliance on colleagues from different boroughs to act swiftly and effectively is paramount.
 - f. Challenging preconceptions and expectations given the level of trauma experienced by going through the care process (see case studies 5 & 6).
- 42 A questionnaire was introduced in September 2017. Carers and young people are asked to complete it, in their own time, after each termly PEP meeting. From the 26 forms returned, feedback has been 91% positive from young people and 99% positive from carers.
- 43 Positive Feedback from young people included:
- "In yr. 7 I was struggling in Maths, so my caseworker said something and I was given a maths tutor."*
- "I feel it has supported me well and I wouldn't have been doing as well now if I hadn't had the support."*

44 Negative feedback from young people included:

"Don't take me out of class. Make me look and feel fostered child. Caseworker wears a badge with Bournemouth and everyone know I am in care now because of them."

"No [I don't benefit from having a caseworker] because they don't do nothing different."

Consultation

45 The Virtual School Headteacher Report & The Post-16 Education Autumn Term 2017 Report was presented to the Monitoring and Accountability Board on 27th November 2017.

Summary of Finance and Resource Implications

46 None from Report

Summary of Legal Implications

47 The Children and Families Act 2013 resulted in the need for each Local Authority to appoint a statutory Virtual School Headteacher from 2014.

Summary of Human Resources Implications

48 None

Summary of Environmental Impact

49 None

Summary of Equalities and Diversity Impact

50 A looked after child has a right to be consulted about what is happening to them. This does not mean that they will always get what they want, but their views should be taken seriously.

51 Some Local Authorities may appoint children's officers who are responsible for helping children understand what is happening to them for example in Bournemouth there is a Children in Care Council named CLICK, Total Respect Group and Junior Respect Group.

52 The Virtual School Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the educational progress of Looked After Children aged 3 and 4, through to aged 18. This is done through statutory Personal Education Plans, where progress and attainment are analysed and Pupil Premium funding used to address underperformance issues.

53 Support and monitoring of Care Leavers, aged 19 – 25, also comes under the remit of the Virtual School in Bournemouth.

Summary of Risk Assessment

54 No risks arising from this report

Non-Public Background papers

Appendix 1 - Virtual School Headteacher's Autumn Term 2017 Report

Appendix 2 - Post-16 Education Autumn Term 2017 Report

Appendix 3 - Case Studies & Testimonials of Looked-After Children & Care Leaver's Experience with Education

Appendix 4 - Key Stage Assessment Results Comparison Data

Appendix 5 - Virtual School Improvement Plan (2017-2018)