
Meeting	Corporate Parenting Board
Date	5 February 2019
Present	Councillors K Myers (Chair), Cuthbertson (Vice-Chair), Brooks, Crawshaw and Runciman
Apologies	Councillors Funnell and Rawlings

23. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting Members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in relation to the business on the agenda or any other general interests they might have within the remit of the Board. None were declared.

24. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 22 November 2019 be approved and then signed by the Chair as a correct record.

25. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the council's Public Participation scheme.

26. Verbal Update on the Independent Reviewing Officer Service

Members received a verbal update from the Director of Children, Education and Communities that focussed on the work of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service.

Members were informed that officers would provide a detailed overview report at the next meeting and the annual report would be reported at the September meeting.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

Reason: To keep the Board updated.

27. Placement Review Report

The Board considered a report that updated them on the Placement Review.

The Group Manager for Achieving Permanence gave an update and confirmed the aim of the Placement Review was to develop placement options that better met the current and future need, offered value for money and improved outcomes for children in care.

Members noted that the review would focus on foster care including training, support and remuneration and residential provision including other sufficiency options.

Officers confirmed that a number of different consultation approaches had been undertaken to ensure a diverse range of feedback was obtained, including responses from Foster Carers and York's Children in Care Council, Show Me That I Matter. Officers were now responding to the feedback received and would be liaising with other local authorities, reviewing the payment and support package and considering various marketing campaigns, including the use of social media, to attract and recruit a varied cohort of foster carers.

Members noted that placement sufficiency was at a critical stage in York and that the diversity and complexity of placement requirements was changing. Officers answered Members questions regarding placement requirements and foster carer recruitment, including the training and support offered to ensure retention, and confirmed:

- The connected carers offer would be strengthened to support permanence for the older cohort of children.
- York's Foster Carers fees and allowances were extremely competitive.
- The training packages available would provide carers with continued professional development opportunities that would support the different foster carer levels.

Members noted officer's response to resolving its placement sufficiency challenges and the Chair thanked them for their update.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To keep the Board updated.

28. Assessing Permanent Carers Team

The Board considered a report that provided an update on the work of the Assessing Permanent Carers Team and how their work supported strategies to maintain Good Safe Placements.

Officers gave an update and confirmed that the Assessing Permanent Carers Team was responsible for recruiting and assessing mainstream and connected carers. Officers stated that the retention and recruitment of foster carers was difficult and they discussed the two approaches used in York.

Members noted the progress achieved using York's internal approach, which included advertising on BBC Radio York, social media and at local job fairs. Officers highlighted their future recruitment proposals and Members felt the Fostering Friendly Employers campaign was an excellent initiative that would also promote economic growth.

Officers answered Members questions and confirmed:

- They do engage with the Family Conference Service to consider the best options available for a child from an early stage.
- All foster carer enquiries were recorded and the effectiveness of York's marketing campaigns were monitored. Officers agreed to email this data to Members.¹

The future recruitment strategies and incentives for foster carers were discussed and the Board thanked officers for their update.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To keep the Board updated.

Action Required

<1> Email Members the Foster Carer enquiry conversion rates

<1> JL

29. Placement Finding Commissioning and Support Team Report

Members considered a report that provided an update on the developments and work of the Placement Finding Commissioning and Support Team, supporting strategies to maintain Good Safe Placements.

Officers gave an update and confirmed that the Placement Finding Commissioning and Support Team had responsibility for supporting and training approved foster carers, matching placements and for commissioning placements.

Members noted that a Placement Officer had been in post since October 2018 which had provided consistency and enabled an increased reliability of service in the support of foster carers.

Officers highlighted the support and training packages available to foster carers and connected carers, including the new placement stability training to help achieve permanence for York's children and young people in care.

Members thanked officers for their update.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To keep the Board updated.

30. Scorecard

The Board considered a report that updated them on the scorecard, which contained relevant indicators that illustrated practice across Children's Services in relation to children in care, over the year 18/19 and preceding years.

Officers gave an update and confirmed the scorecard was part of the Quality Assurance data management framework that enabled workers, managers and Members to track practice.

Officers highlighted the scores around Assessment Timeliness, Adoption Timeliness, Education, Training and Employment for Care Leavers, Placement Stability, Initial Health Assessment's and dental checks.

The Board thanked officers for their update.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To keep the Board updated.

31. Work Plan

Members considered the work plan for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.

Following discussions, Members agreed that a suitable training package was required for any new Board Member and that following the Local Elections in May all Councillors should receive guidance on their Corporate Parenting role.

It was agreed that the work plan be updated to consider, at the next meeting:

- The Corporate Parenting Board remit, Terms of Reference and the 2019/20 work plan.
- Foster Carer conversion rates.
- Training packages for Councillors.
- Independent Reviewing Officer overview report.

Resolved: That subject to the above additions, the work plan be approved.

Reason: To keep the Board's work plan updated.

Cllr K Myers, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00pm and finished at 6.20pm].