



Notice of a public meeting of Corporate Parenting Board

To: Councillors Orrell (Chair), Fitzpatrick (Vice-Chair),
Heaton, Hunter, Musson, Rowley, Runciman and Baker

Date: Tuesday, 19 January 2021

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Remote meeting

A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests,
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2020.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the

management of public participation at remote meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is at 5.00pm on Friday 15 January 2021.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting whose details can be found at the foot of the agenda.

Webcasting of Remote Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this remote public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

4. Revised approach to the Corporate Parenting Board

This report presents Members with a revised approach to the Board. [To follow]

5. Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) Strategy

This report presents the Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) Strategy for approval by Members. [To follow]

6. Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual Report 2019-20

Members will be presented with the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual Report 2019-20. Every child in the care of the City of York Council must have an allocated Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). This is a legal requirement under s.118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. An IRO is an experienced

Social Worker employed by the Council but independent of Children's Social Care. Their role is to have oversight of a child's case and ensure that a child's interests are protected throughout their time in care. [To follow]

7. Highlight report from last CYPIC Strategy Group

This report updates Members on the last CYPIC Strategy Group meeting. [To follow]

8. Update from VOICE (Pages 5 - 8)
This report provides Members with an update on VOICE.

9. Work Plan (Pages 9 - 10)
To consider the work plan for the remainder of the municipal year.

10. Urgent Business
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Board Members Agreed Areas of Interest

- Show Me That I Matter
- Housing and Pathway Team
- Education/Schools
- Virtual Head and School for Children in Care
- Health
- Placement Team, Fostering Service and Short Breaks
- Connexions / Education, Training & Employment

Democracy Officer:

Name: Angela Bielby

Contact Details:

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Corporate Parenting Board
Date	18 February 2020
Present	Councillors Fitzpatrick (Vice-Chair), Cuthbertson (Chair), Heaton, Hunter, Musson, Rowley, Runciman and D Taylor

24. 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.

25. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board, held on 26 November 2019 be approved and then signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Members discussed the work plan and agreed to receive an update on the Placement Review at an appropriate future meeting.

The Board also considered the options available to include direct involvement of young people in care and Foster Carers and that similarly appropriate officers, individuals or partners could be invited to attend specific meetings where themes were relevant to them.

26. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Councils Public Participation Scheme.

27. Pathway Team Update

The Board considered a report that gave them an update of Pathway Team work in 2019.

The Pathway Manager was in attendance to give an update and he informed Members that the Pathway Team worked with young people, aged 16-25, who were previously looked after by the Local Authority. He discussed their main areas of work, as set out in the report and in answer to Members questions it was noted that:

- 2 unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) had been supported in their decision to move to London.
- A range of accommodation options were available for our young people, including 4 small self-contained flats at Robinson Court.
- 6 care leavers were at Universities across the country and to support them their accommodation fees were provided along with a £2000 bursary to help with the cost of books and materials. Universities also provided support to care leavers to ensure they received all the possible help to complete their degrees.
- The taster flat offered a young person the opportunity to experience living in the community fully supported for 4 to 6 weeks and the trainer flat provided the opportunity to live in a council property for 6 months, giving a real experience of independent living. Both options had been hugely popular and successful in 2019.
- 68% of young people were engaged in education, training and employment, which was significantly better than the national average of 49%.

Members expressed their thanks to the Dean Court Hotel for hosting an excellent Christmas celebration and they thanked officers for their report.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To keep the Board updated.

28. Placement Finding Commissioning and Support Team Update

Members considered a report that updated them on the developments and work of the Placement Finding Commissioning and Support Team.

The Service Manager was in attendance to give an update and she informed the Board that the Team were responsible for supporting and training approved Foster Carers and matching and commissioning placements. She highlighted the Council's offer and the ongoing developments. Members noted that:

- Increased learning, development and training opportunities had been made available for Foster Carers, including a dedicated course for Connected Carers.
- Links between Foster Carers and the Virtual School had improved and support was also available from the York Foster Carer Association.
- In April 2019 the annual increase of Foster Carers fees were not agreed. This was appealed by Foster Carers and following an independent review, it was agreed to pay a 2% up lift to level 1 and 2 carers in order to strengthen the recruitment strategy.

In answer to Members questions, officers confirmed that:

- Social Workers would monitor the delegated authority payment.
- The three level's linked to Foster Carer fees were banded in terms of experience, skills and knowledge.
- The additional school holiday payment had been reduced from £400 to £300.
- The long service award payment provided an incentive to retain Foster Carers. The payment was issued in instalments and started at £250, increasing every 5 years, to a maximum payment of £1000.

Member noted the ongoing work to provide safe and secure placements for our children and young people in care and they thanked officers for their update.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To keep the Board updated.

29. Assessing Permanent Carers Team Update

Members considered a report that provided an update regarding fostering recruitment.

The Service Manager was in attendance to give an update on the developments in the last year and the aims and objectives for the year ahead and Members noted that:

- To ensure a continued awareness of fostering, various techniques and initiatives had been used throughout 2019 to provide a steady stream of information to the general public.
- Enquiries had increased in 2019, with 9 Foster Carers being approved, which was a significant improvement on previous years.
- Two companies had been appointed to lead on developing a Foster Carer recruitment campaign for 2020 and it was hoped that the campaign would see the number of 'high quality' enquires double.

In answer to Members questions, officers confirmed:

- A stall would be present at York Pride 2020.
- They would be consulting with the York Interfaith Group again to encourage people of a faith background to consider fostering.
- All enquiries received were monitored and the reasons for not proceeding were recorded.

Members discussed the future recruitment direction and noted that officers were introducing tighter timescales to respond to Foster Carer enquiries, which should result in a full assessment and a panel decision being made within 8 months.

Members thanked officers for their report.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To keep the Board updated.

Cllr Cuthbertson, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.40 pm].

Update on Voice - Jan 2021

Nikki Wilson, Children's Rights Manager

Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum

As a result of the COVID restrictions all our participation work is now being carried out remotely, with young people being engaged virtually via Zoom meetings, Facebook and Live Messenger. Our Children in Care Council (Show Me That I Matter) and Care Leavers Forum (I Still Matter) have continued to be delivered each month and meet with senior managers and elected members on a quarterly basis. In addition to this, representatives from SMTIM and ISM regularly co-deliver training and within the last quarter have taken part in the Skills of Foster Training for prospective foster carers, delivered a workshop to social workers as part of the Adolescence Practice Week and presented at a the City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership's Development Day.

Current areas of interest identified by ISM and SMTIM members are:

- **The impact of Covid-19 on children and young people in care and care leavers** - SMTIM and ISM feel there has been a good level of contact with social workers via face to face visits and video calls but their experience of education has been mixed, with some finding the new ways of learning more challenging. There are anxieties around the uncertainty of what this year will look like.
- **Access to Records** – ISM would like more information to be available regarding how to access records / information about your life and the support young people can receive around this.
- **Training for professionals** – SMTIM and ISM would like to know more about what training is available to foster carers and social workers and how this training is evaluated.
- **Perceptions of care leavers who are young parents** – an issue that ISM would like to explore further after it was raised that some care leavers reported feeling stigmatised.
- **Awareness raising about bullying that children and young people might experience from their peers due to being in care** – after some young people shared they had experienced this in the past.

Advocacy

We have continued to take a blended approach to how advocacy support is provided, with support taking place remotely unless there is a clear need for face to face contact. Remote support has continued with advocates engaging with young people via phone, text, email, video call and using platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Attend Anywhere. Whilst this briefing doesn't cover information relating to specific advocacy themes, quarterly reports are compiled containing an analysis of issues raised to enable key messages to be shared with Children's Social Care Managers.

Between October and December 2020, Speak Up received a total of 8 referrals for advocacy; 4 referrals for children and young people in care, 2 referrals for young parents aged 18 and under whose child is subject to a Child Protection Plan, and 2 referrals for young people subject to a Child Protection Plan. Of the 8 young people referred, 5 receive SEN support, with 1 young people also having an EHCP.

Quarter	Advocacy referrals received	Advocacy cases closed	Active caseload at end of quarter
Q1 2020/2021	24	11	45 (30/06/2020)
Q2 2020/21	18	21	42 (30/09/2020)
Q3 2020/21	8	14	36 (31/12/2020)

There has been a clear decline in referrals for young people who are eligible to access advocacy, as evidence in the table above. The reason for this is not apparent but Speak Up will continue to ensure that the social work teams have a good awareness of advocacy provision and that children and young people in care continue to be made aware of their right to access advocacy, via the distribution of New to Care Information Packs and regular newsletters.

Mind Of My Own

Mind Of My Own is an online platform that we are now using to enable children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings. Mind Of My Own is used by 100+ local authorities, voluntary sectors and

organisations and is an accessible and empowering way for children and young people tell their workers about things that are important to them.

There are two versions of the app: the One App which young people can access independently and can be used on any device with internet access, and the Express App which is ideal for younger children and those with additional needs as it is designed specifically to help those children who may otherwise struggle to communicate their views. The Express App is accessed with the support of a worker and helps children express their views, wishes and feelings in a fun way that's easy for workers to understand and evidence.

Since October we have trained 144 workers across the social work teams, Pathway Team, IRO Team, Children's Rights and Advocacy and Local Area Teams. Whilst we are still in early stages of usage, during December we received 37 statements from young people indicating that Mind Of My Own is starting to be used with children and young people.

Nikki Wilson, Children's Rights Manager

11/01/21

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Corporate Parenting Board – Draft Work Plan 2020-21 – for discussion

Meeting Date	Strategic Themes	Reports Supporting Strategic Theme	Other Reports
19 January 2021	Paper for revised approach to CPB CYPIC strategy to be signed off IRO annual report Highlight report from last CYPIC strategy group Update from VOICE		

Provisional 2020/21 dates:

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