

Notes Elected Member Corporate Parenting Steering Group – 8 May 2012

Present

Brenda Vincent
Cllr Balaam
Cllr Tandy
Cllr Robbins
Cllr Jackson
Cllr Timms

Apologies

Cllr Rickhards

Minutes and matters arising

(i) Corporate Parenting Board

Noted that this issue has been referred to the Leaders Liaison Group – Cllr Timms will progress with Cllr Farnell

(ii) Attachment Training

Brenda reported that schools will commission this independently. We felt that this was important for those schools that have a number of looked after children on their role. It is not delivered by the Virtual School.

Agreed that it would be useful to know from the educational psychology service the percentage of schools that had had this input in the past 18 months.

(iii) Pupil Premium

Anne Hawker (Head teacher Virtual School) has reported that the impact of the pupil premium should be reflected in the pupil's performance. It is not always transparent on how schools are using this money and O&S might want to look at this in future.

(iv) Review of Corporate Parenting Policy and Strategy

Brenda advised that this is being refreshed and that she is looking to all stakeholders/partners completing a page regarding their commitment. Young people will need to be involved in signing off any new policy document. To be tabled for a future meeting.

2. Safeguarding Task and Finish Group

Cllr Tandy raised that health issues are not addressed through O&S. Cllr Timms advised that she is a member of the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and that this is a developing agenda and that there needs to be a 'voice' for children on the Board. Whilst children's health is represented it is uncertain as to whether this covers

mental health issue for looked after children and young people. LAC does however have a designated service – Journeys. It is unclear whether LAC are accessing emotional health services in schools. Both Brenda and Dr Desai (designated doctor) are on the Journeys Steering Group and Brenda is also a member of the CAMHS Commissioning Strategy Group.

3. Conference discussion – Improving Outcomes for Young People in Care

The current coalition Government is maintaining the commitment to improving outcomes for looked after children and young people.

Placement issues

- Throughput of children through foster placements is high
- Insufficient placements to enable young people to have choice
- Independent Reviewing Officers are able to raise to monitor the care and plans for looked after children and escalate any concerns to Senior Managers
- Foster carers are required to give 28 days' notice to end a placement to enable time for a planned move
- Fostering/placement dataset is reviewed monthly
- Issue of placing sibling groups – we are monitored against this – need to recognised their individual needs
- Placement are made that do not involve school moves wherever possible
- Foster carers are expected to undertake core training within a 2 year period

Adoption

- The proposed concurrent scheme involves having adopters who are also approved as foster carers so that a young child can be placed sooner

Bath Spa Project

- School resources have been developed that would be useful to access
- Noted that Hampshire have a good apprenticeship scheme.
- Need to make sure that care leavers access grants and charities to support them in further and higher educational
- Local arrangements for supporting care leavers attending university are currently being developed

In our shoes – Lead Member Role (Bristol)

- Young people are involved in member training
- Web site still to be developed
- Young people have a direct link to the Portfolio Holder.

Future actions

1. To meet with the Children in Care Council to discuss young people's involvement
2. Hear more about the Journey's Service

Performance

The adoption scorecard was shared

Educational attainment – difficult to predict as the cohort of young people changes and looked after children include a high percentage with statement of educational needs. Update required from the Virtual School.

Next meeting

20 June 2.00 - 4.00

Brenda Vincent

Response from Educational Psychology Service Further to your request for information, I have listed below the schools that have received training. The training delivered in March 2011 and February 2012 was attended by 1/2 representatives from those schools listed. The training to Round Oak, Sibford, Temple Herdwyke and Thorns was to all staff in each of these schools. The training delivered is typically a full day's training. Both whole school training and invitations to central training usually arise following discussions about looked after children in their schools. In some cases invitations were given to foster carers attending the therapeutic parenting courses, which is why there were representative teachers from different authorities.

January 2011 IDS Autism Team (approx. 25 staff)

March 2011 St James Junior School (N)
Newdigate Primary (N)
Moons Moat School (Redditch)
Mount Grace High (Leicestershire)
Wellesbourne Primary (S)

April 2011 Round Oak School (C)

October 2011 Members of IDS Pre-school, VI, HI & complex needs teams (20 staff)

May 2011 Sibford School (Independent, Oxfordshire)

June 2011 Temple Herdwyke Primary (S)

January 2012 Thorns Infant (C)

February 2012 Mappleborough Green Primary (S)
Bridgetown Primary (S)
Coten End Primary (C)
Chilvers Coton Infant (N)
Virtual School
Snitterfield Primary (S)
Oakwood Primary (N)
St Benedict's High (S)
St Paul's Primary (C)
Crackley Hall School (Independent)

