

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 21 April 2015**

### **Present:**

#### **Councillors:**

Peter Fowler  
Bob Hicks  
Clive Rickhards  
Jenny St John  
Chris Williams (Chair)

#### **Officers**

Sally Baxter, Democratic Services Officer  
Shinderpaul Bhangal, Practice Leader, Children's Participation  
Sheila Meakin, Service Manager (Countywide) - Children's Social Care & Safeguarding

#### **Also Present:**

Councillor Bob Stevens, Portfolio Holder  
Daniel Kaldecot-Smith, Children in Care Council

### **1. General**

#### **(1) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Dave Shilton, Sue Ross and Brenda Vincent.

#### **(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None.

#### **(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **Matters Arising**

None.

### **2. Update on the Children in Care Council (CiCC)**

Shinderpaul Bhangal reported the following updates:

#### **Young People in Care Guide**

A final draft of the Guide had been produced, targeting 7-14 year-olds to help them at the point of entry into care.

### Sibling Policy

The CiCC had given their views, which had been included in the Sibling Policy.

### Tiffin Club

The Panel agreed that a representative of the Tiffin Club should be invited to a future meeting.

### Virtual School Awards Ceremony

Hard copies of the awards had been circulated to all the necessary groups.

Shinderpaul reported that the Police Commissioner would be attending the next CiCC meeting. He also tabled a number of documents from the CiCC, including a list of priorities that had arisen from the recent election. It was agreed that this list would be forwarded to the appropriate officers as well as Young Minds for a response.

Councillor Clive Rickhards reported on the CiCC meeting he attended on 3 March 2015. He noted that the meeting had been well attended and the main area of discussion had been a discussion with Young Minds on the redesign of the CAMHS services with young people voting on help, prevention and services. There had also been a group discussion on people who work with young people and the length of time young people had to wait for appointments. It was noted that as well as the current CAMHS and the redesign project, Young Minds would be setting up consultation groups to look at these issues, including people working with young people. Shinderpaul agreed to forward the link to this consultation to members of the Panel.

Councillor Jenny St. John reported that she had attended the CiCC meeting on 14 April 2015 and was pleased to note the wider range of children in attendance. She noted the following:

- There had been a presentation from the County Arts Officer on the Sheldon Art Project.
- CiCC received a presentation from John Scouller about the Tiffin Club. Members agreed that John Scouller should be invited to attend a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel. It was also noted that funding was available for the younger children through the Baradell Fund which was administered by Brenda Vincent and the CiCC.
- The CiCC would be involved in the interviewing for the Independent Reviewing Officer post.
- A clear message from the CiCC was the need to improve the image of children in care.

There was a broad discussion around the branding and raising awareness of available funding and involving Members. In relation to life skills, Shinderpaul

noted that Staffordshire had produced a booklet to prepare young people for independent living. He agreed to look into whether this could be done in Warwickshire. The Tiffin Club had also trained mentors for children in care and this would be discussed when John Scouller attended the Panel, to ensure that the mentoring offered was appropriate.

Councillor Bob Stevens agreed to forward the opinions of the CiCC to CAMHS, to explore how these could be addressed.

### **3. Update from Strategic Lead and Performance Dataset**

Sheila Meakin provided the update to the Panel. Members agreed that there needed to be a review of the presentation of figures, which needed to be more reader-friendly.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- The numbers in Nuneaton and Bedworth were disproportionate to the rest of the county, despite the amount of work that had been put in. It was acknowledged that targets could be artificial, and that the numbers of children in care was increasing nationally. Despite this, there was still disparity in Nuneaton and Bedworth, particularly in the teenage group.
- In response to a query regarding the lack of places for young people to go which might reduce anti-social behaviour, it was noted that there were now packages available through the Priority Families Programme and other WCC support to try to address this. Sheila noted that Members needed to be aware that these were hard to reach groups, but there was some benchmarking being done to see what was successful elsewhere.
- A pilot working with edge of care children and families had begun in March, which would hopefully reduce these numbers.
- The number of children in care was down as at the end of March 2015, and while there were initiatives in place to reduce numbers, this could have been the result of a seasonal drop.
- Warwickshire continued to do well in terms of adoption services, with increased numbers of adopters and placements. Work continued on the fostering to adopt programme.

The Chair thanked Sheila for her report.

### **5. Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2014/15**

The Panel agreed the draft Annual Report which would be presented to the Cabinet in May 2015.

### **6. Work Programme**

The work programme was agreed, including the updates agreed at this meeting. Members also requested reports on:

- Supported Housing, particularly in Nuneaton and Bedworth

- New Government Guidance that may be brought forward in light of the Parliamentary Elections in May 2015.

**7. Any Other Business**

Councillor Jenny St.John noted that councillors could not access the Corporate Parenting e-module and requested some guidance on this. Shinderpaul undertook to get an update on this from the Learning Pool.

The following rota was agreed for Councillors attending the CiCC meetings:

Tuesday 5 May 2015	Councillor Dave Shilton
Tuesday 9 June 2015	Councillor Peter Fowler
Tuesday 7 July 2015	Councillor Chris Williams.

The future meeting dates set out in the agenda were agreed.

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Chair

The meeting closed at 11.15 am