

# Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 18 March 2019

## **Present:**

### **Councillors:**

Pete Gilbert, Jeff Morgan (Chair), Caroline Phillips, Chris Williams and Pam Williams

### **Officers:**

Helen Barnsley – Democratic Services Officer

Shinderpaul Bhangal, Practice Leader - Children's Participation

John Coleman, Assistant Director – Children and Families

Nigel Minns, Strategic Director

Deena Moorey, Virtual School Head

Sharon Shaw, Service Manager, Corporate Parenting

Katherine Walker, Apprentice, Fostering Recruitment Assessment, Training & Panel

### **Other attendees:**

Jackie Channell, Strategic Lead (Looked After Group, NHS)

Courtney Grainger, Care Experienced Apprentice and Young Advisor

## **1. General**

### **(1) Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Jerry Roodhouse.

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

None

### **(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

## **2. Forward Plan**

The Panel noted the forward plan

## **3. Development of Work Programme for 2018/19**

The Panel noted the Work Programme for 2018-19 with the following addition –

- A review into the timeliness of initial health assessments; report to be presented at the panel meeting on 24 June 2019

#### **4. Update from the Virtual School Governing Body**

Deena Moorey, Virtual School Head presented the highlights of the report to the Panel. It was noted that the report covered the academic year 2017/18; allowing for confirmation of the data.

The key points of the report were noted –

- Warwickshire continue to show positive outcomes for CLA with statistics in line with national CLA data; however, it was noted that the performance for all children was not as good as it could be.
- Following a discussion regarding CLA who resist GCSE exams at college, it was confirmed that they receive revision sessions rather than being re-taught the subject. The Panel felt that there is a clear need for more support in college for CLA who are resisting exams. Following the recent publication of Government guidance for further and higher education colleges on support for CLA, it was agreed that the Chair would send a letter to all colleges in Warwickshire to highlight not only the new guidance but also the care leaver offer from WCC.
- With reference to CLA who are not in full time education it was acknowledged that there were challenges in guaranteeing the information was correct – such as CLA placed outside the county. Officially, there are 13 children not in full time education (as at the end of February 2019) but the actual number is likely to be higher. The Panel requested a report on the issue in order to identify factors that could impact attendance such as changes in placements and social workers. The information will be presented at the meeting on 15 May 2019.
- With reference to the number of exclusions from school for CLA it was confirmed that the number is high, but reducing. This is due to data which is collected every day and staff training on the impact expulsion can have on a CLA. All schools in Warwickshire have received the training.
- It was also noted that there has previously been an inconsistent method of measuring expulsions from OFSTED but from September 2019 there would be a new approach which highlights inclusion as the best measure and encourages schools to take this route.
- It was noted that all schools follow a process for how to exclude a child but there is no standard for why to exclude (i.e. the reason for expulsion). This is the same nationally.
- It was agreed that Deena Moorey and John Coleman, Assistant Director – Children and Families, would investigate the options for funding post-16 tuition support.

#### **Resolved**

The Panel noted the report and agreed that it should remain on the work programme as a standing item to monitor the performance going forward.

## **5. Performance Data**

Sharon Shaw, Service Manager, Corporate Parenting presented the information to the Panel and confirmed that the figure of CLA on 18 March 2019 was 729; an increase of two from the figure in the report.

With reference to the number of S20 Accommodation orders (where a parent gives consent for a child to enter the care system without the involvement of Court) it was confirmed to the panel that the number may appear high it was worth noting that all asylum seeker children were under S20 orders. In addition, following three recent audits it was confirmed that Warwickshire was performing well. There is currently a review of S20 accommodation orders in relation to 16-18 year olds who may be able to move onto care leaver support.

It was confirmed that there will be a review into the reported figure of care leavers in employment, education and training. The information is collated by MOSAIC and there is concern that the true number is higher. A meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of 18 March 2019.

It was noted that the total number of CLA at the end of February 2019 was 727 which is higher than planned. It was agreed that there will be a report presented to the Panel (date tbc) on the data behind the number. The Panel was asked to note that there was a new approach to the Special Guardianship Order (SGO) allowance scheme and a new SGO team was being set up to offer more support to those families taking on an SGO.

Following a request from Councillor Pam Williams it was agreed that a briefing note would be published to provide a breakdown of information relating to the number of CLA in residential care. The information will include age profiles, length of the care placement and the needs of the CLA in residential care.

### **Resolved**

The Panel noted the report and would continue to monitor all aspect of Looked after Children's performance data on a regular basis.

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

Shinderpaul Bhangal, Practice Leader - Children's Participation represented the Children in Care Council and provided the Panel with an extensive update on the activities that the CiCC had been involved with recently.

The update included the following items: -

- Warwick University – following the visit from a university lecturer to the CiCC and CLF, young people were invited to meet current social worker students. Katherine Walker, Apprentice, Fostering Recruitment Assessment, Training & Panel confirmed that the students had benefited from hearing the young people and what their perspective of the care system was. The event has created a good link which it is hoped will continue benefit all those involved.

- Katherine Walker also confirmed that Warwickshire apprenticeships were now working with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council to help introduce an apprenticeship scheme.
- The football project continues to meet every Sunday. One young person has now completed his football coach qualification. The Panel noted that almost half of all young asylum seekers are taking part.
- The Panel noted that the mentoring scheme is still on track to start in April 2019. There is now a volunteer manager in place and the programme aims to support a minimum of 25 young people a year.
- Following the Care Leavers Covenant Event for Businesses in February, The Holiday Inn has pledged to offer work experience and Wright Hassle Solicitors will offer a mentoring programme.
- Courtney Grainger, Care Experienced Apprentice and Young Advisor informed the Panel of a new young parent forum in Stratford called PALS (Parents Are Lifesavers). The group will meet twice a month and will be introducing a breakfast club at their next meeting.

#### **Resolved:**

The Corporate Parenting Panel thanked Shin for the update and noted the actions to take forward.

#### **7. Education Attainment - A report from officers regarding the education performance of CLA to include details of local offers made to students**

As discussed under Item 5, Performance Data.

#### **8. CLA Pledge leaflets – verbal update and circulation of new leaflets**

The panel noted that the project was moving forward as planned and that a meeting would be held with officers from communications for the next phase. The booklet will be presented at the next meeting for members to see and take away.

It was agreed that an officers from the communications team will be invited to the next Panel meeting in May when the new CLA pledge leaflet will be signed and launched.

#### **9. Good News Stories**

- CLA who have taken part in the UniversityGO! Programme will be graduating in July 2019 with a ceremony at Warwick University.
- The House Project is a national programme which supports young people who are in the process of leaving care. Topics include working on relationships, managing properties and responsibilities. Warwickshire CLA work together in small groups to support each other. The Panel was pleased to hear that one person has now signed a tenancy with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC). This is the first tenancy to be signed nationally as part of the project.

The Chair wished his thanks and recognition of the work of NBBC to be placed on record.

- Upcoming events include the Foster Carers' Ball, Foster Carer's Conference and the LAMP Art and Photography course. The Panel was pleased to hear that the work done at the LAMP course would be on display in council buildings. There will also be a celebration event for refugees held in June 2019.
- Melissa Phillips, Apprentice, Fostering Recruitment Assessment, Training & Panel gave birth to a beautiful baby boy called Elliott on 14 February 2019. Mother and baby are both doing well.

## **10. Any other Business**

Councillor Chris Williams requested that the link between Warwickshire County Council and the CLA teams at the districts and boroughs was re-established. It was agreed that John Coleman and Sharon Shaw will follow this up and report back at a future panel meeting.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel has been scheduled for 15 May 2019 at 10.00am in Committee Room 4, Shire Hall, Warwick.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am

.....  
Chair