

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Parenting Committee**
held on Tuesday, 1st November, 2022 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor K Flavell (Chair)

Councillors M Asquith, R Bailey, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill, S Handley,
S Holland, D Jefferay and M Beanland

OFFICERS PRESENT

Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services
Kerry Birtles, Director of Children's Social Care
Georgie Fletcher, Deputy Virtual School Headteacher
Annemarie Parker, Head of Service: Cared for Children and Care Leavers
Jenny Foulkes, Children's Society
Annie Britton, Lead Participation Worker - Youth Support Service
Angela Murney, Participation Worker – Youth Support Service
Josie Lloyd, Democratic Services

ALSO PRESENT

Callum and Crystal on behalf of My Voice (Shadow Committee)

48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Abel and Councillor Saunders.
Councillor Beanland attended as a substitute.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

50 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was requested that the minutes of the previous meeting be amended to
include Councillor Handley's apologies and to correct a typographical error
under the Care Leavers Service Annual Report.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2022 be agreed as a
correct record, subject to the above amendments.

51 UPDATE FROM SHADOW COMMITTEE (VERBAL)

Callum and Crystal, on behalf of the shadow committee My Voice, attended the meeting as part of a committee takeover for Children's Rights Month to speak on issues that were important to care experienced young people. These included:

- Having consistent support in place
- Having a safe and secure home to live in and ensuring communication throughout any moves
- Continuing to have their voices heard and have the opportunity to work with officers and elected members

The Chair advised that the Shadow Committee meet monthly and members of the Corporate Parenting Committee were welcome to attend.

52 CARE LEAVER SURVEY AND CARED FOR CHILDREN SURVEY REPORT

The committee received the report which shared recommendations and actions from cared for children and care leavers following surveys and focus groups from October 2021 to September 2022.

Communication was a key concern and was largely down to staff shortages. Improving communication was to be prioritised. The mobile application was continuing to be explored although there was a significant cost attached to app development. Cheshire East had approached neighbouring Manchester authorities to enquire about being part of an app that they had developed.

It was noted that the action plan was a working document to be updated as feedback was received.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

53 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT

The committee received the report which provided an update on how the Children's Society has delivered the Independent Visiting Service for Cheshire East over the year, as well as an overview of the work undertaken from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

54 VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR CARE FOR CHILDREN HEAD TEACHER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

The committee received the report which gave an overview of the operation and impact of the virtual school during 2021-22.

The report included details of the universities being attended by cared for young people and which courses they were studying. A request was made for future reports to include a similar breakdown for apprenticeships.

A further request was made for future reports to include data on the progress and performance of cared for young people at university which could provide an opportunity to celebrate their achievements.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

55 CORPORATE PARENTING SCORECARD QUARTER 1

The committee received the Corporate Parenting scorecard for quarter 1 of 2022 – 2023.

A request was made for the scorecard to include percentages or RAG rating going forward. It was agreed that officers would look at bringing the Corporate Parenting scorecard in line with the format of the Children and Families scorecard which would provide this and ensure consistency.

The committee thanked the young people who had attended the meeting. A suggestion was made to ask members of the shadow committee how often they would like to attend and what time they would want the meetings to take place.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10:00 and concluded at 12:00

Councillor K Flavell (Chair)