

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Parenting Committee**
held on Tuesday, 1st November, 2016 in Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor G Merry (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors P Butterill, B Dooley, S Edgar, D Flude, M Grant, S Pochin, J Saunders
and L Smetham

Officers in attendance:

Jane Davies – Independent Adoption Panel Chair
Shelly Lewis – Independent Fostering Panel Chair
Nigel Moorehouse – Director of Children’s Social Care
Sheila Williams – Designated Nurse Cared for Children
Cherry Foreman – Democratic Services

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Hayes, G Wait and M Warren.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2016 be approved as a correct record.

18 HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

Sheila Williams, Designated Nurse for Children in Care, gave a presentation on the health and wellbeing of children and young people; an overview of the annual report due to be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board formed the basis of the presentation.

Statutory guidance from the Department of Health was that children were required to have an initial health assessment by a doctor within 20 working days of entering care in order to prepare a health plan which then had to be reviewed every six months for under fives and annually thereafter.

Particular problems were highlighted with regard to older young children not always wishing to co-operate, children moving in and out of the area and there being a higher than average incidence of health care problems in cared for children. Particular risk areas were at points of transition and on leaving care.

Care priorities centred on emotional and mental health and relationships between the various agencies involved were considered to be good. Systems to support the shared health and social care processes were now in place with the full benefits expected to be realised in the forthcoming year.

Statistics showed continuing improvement in meeting the statutory guidance and the Committee asked for an item to be added to its work programme on the range of actions that needed to be taken, monitored, and considered, when taking a child into care.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted and an item be added to the Work Programme on the range of actions that needed to be taken, monitored, and considered, when taking a child into care.

19 CORPORATE PARENTING UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received an update on national and local developments in relation to children and young people, and care leavers. The report included a resume of a recent independent review 'In Care, Out of Trouble'. This had been established by the Prison Reform Trust to examine how best to tackle the over representation of children in care, or with experience of care, in the criminal justice system in England and Wales; its recommendations and associated actions were detailed.

Local developments on the following matters were also given:

- Children's Home Recommissioning
- Regional Adoption Developments
- Education and the Virtual School
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children
- Involvement of Young People in the Committee
- November Children's Rights Month
- Children and Young People's Improvement Plan
- Elected Member Training Around Corporate Parenting
- Corporate Parenting Strategy Key Priorities and Actions 2016/17 (*Appendix 1*)
- DfE Children's Social Care Innovation Programme Expressions of Interest Update

In considering Children's Rights Month a number of Members expressed an interest in spending a day at a children's home, and the Director of Children's Services reported he would be taking up the £21 challenge to experience what it was like for a care leaver to purchase a weekly shop for that amount.

As requested by the Committee at its last meeting the Corporate Parenting Operational Group had pulled together a range of measures for a scorecard to enable the Committee to monitor, scrutinise and challenge performance across a range of services for cared for children and young people. Members endorsed the measures detailed in *Appendix 2* of the report and it was noted that the first populated scorecard would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee, and quarterly thereafter.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and the proposed scorecard measures set out in Appendix 2 of the report be endorsed.

20 EXCLUSION RESOLUTION

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

21 FOSTERING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the Annual Report of the Fostering Panel, presented by its Independent Chair. Members had the opportunity of asking questions on any points of interest or clarification.

RESOLVED

That the report and its conclusions be noted.

22 ADOPTION PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the Annual Report of the Adoption Panel, presented by its Independent Chair. Members had the opportunity of asking questions on any points of interest or clarification.

RESOLVED

That the report and its conclusions be noted.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and concluded at 7.00 pm

Councillor (none)