

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Parenting Committee**
held on Tuesday, 7th March, 2023 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services
Annemarie Parker, Head of Service: Cared for Children and Care Leavers
Sue Pilkington, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB
Samantha Walker, Head of Service: Children's Provision
Josie Lloyd, Democratic Services Officer

64 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the committee appointed Cllr Carol Bulman to chair the meeting.

65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr R Bailey, Cllr K Flavell and Cllr J Saunders. Cllr M Sewart attended as a substitute.

66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

67 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

68 **UPDATE FROM SHADOW COMMITTEE (VERBAL)**

Cllr Carol Bulman provided a verbal update to committee on what it was like to attend the Shadow Committee meetings as a Councillor. Members were encouraged to attend a meeting if they were able to.

69 **THE HEALTH OF CARED FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022**

The committee received the report which outlined the delivery of health services to children in the care of Cheshire East Council during the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Concerns were raised regarding figures for dental care. The Executive Director of Children's Services suggested that there should be a dedicated section of the next report, assisted by Cheshire East officers, to set out how the issues would be addressed and to include benchmarking against the national average.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

70 **CHESHIRE EAST FOSTERING PANEL AND FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORTS 2021 – 2022**

The committee received the reports which evidenced the impact of services and foster carers on outcomes for children.

A query was raised regarding unaccompanied asylum seeking children and potential language barriers with foster carers. The team tried to match these children with foster carers who could communicate in the same language where they were able but, where this was not possible, additional support would be put in place including translation services such as Language Line.

There was discussion regarding venues and events for the team to attend to promote the foster carer recruitment campaign. It was noted that this needed to be targeted as it was time intensive and that word of mouth remained a powerful way to support recruitment.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Cllr Asquith left the meeting and did not return.

71 **CARED FOR CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS QUARTER 3 SCORECARD 2022/23**

The committee received the scorecard for quarter 3 of 2022-23.

It was noted that the data could sometimes be significantly impacted by a small number of cases and therefore not reflect the performance for the majority of cases. It was requested that, where this is the case, the reports include a rationale to explain this.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

72 PROPOSAL TO CHANGE MEETINGS TO QUARTERLY AND REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The committee received the report which included the committee's terms of reference for an annual review and proposed that, from the new municipal year, the committee would meet on a quarterly basis instead of bi-monthly.

RESOLVED (by majority):

That the Corporate Parenting Committee:

1. Endorse that the committee meets on a quarterly basis from the new committee year (from May 2023 onwards)
2. Review and endorse the proposed changes to the terms of reference (Appendix 1)

The meeting commenced at 14:00 and concluded at 15:10

Councillor C Bulman (Chair)