

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cared For Children and Care Leavers Committee

held on Tuesday, 20th June, 2023 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor C Bulman (Chair)
Councillor J Saunders (Vice-Chair)

Councillors L Anderson, S Bennett-Wake, C Bulman, D Clark, E Gilman, G Hayes, S Holland, B Posnett, J Saunders and B Puddicombe

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director Children's Services
Kerry Birtles, Director of Children's Social Care
Annemarie Parker, Head of Service: Cared for Children and Care Leavers
Laura Rogerson, Head of Service: Inclusion
Nicola Wycherley, Designated Nurse Safeguarding and Cared for Children, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB
Josie Lloyd, Democratic Services Officer

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Carol Bulman be appointed as Chair.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Jos Saunders be appointed as Vice-Chair.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Beanland.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

6 UPDATE FROM SHADOW COMMITTEE (VERBAL UPDATE)

A meeting of the Shadow Committee had been held recently with some new young people attending. The meeting was positive and the young people had expressed an interest in co-producing new documents and initiatives with the Council in the future.

Members of the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee were encouraged to attend a meeting of the Shadow Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

7 CARED FOR CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS QUARTER 4 SCORECARD 2022/23

The committee received the Cared for Children and Care Leavers scorecard for quarter four of 2022-23.

Members raised concerns around the number of vacancies for permanent social workers. Officers advised that this was a national issue but that social work recruitment and retention was higher in Cheshire East than in some other authorities. Cheshire East had set up social work apprenticeships and was also about to start a targeted campaign to recruit more experienced social workers.

It was noted that the number of children who had not received a dental check within 12 months appeared to be increasing but that these figures were likely to have increased due to improved reporting. Work was ongoing to continue improving dental care for cared for children and young people.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 14:00 and concluded at 14:38

Councillor C Bulman (Chair)