

## Minutes



### CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

17 December 2019

Meeting held at Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge

	<p><b>Panel Members Present:</b> Councillors Susan O'Brien (Chairman) and Tony Eginton</p> <p><b>Non – voting Panel Members Present:</b> Children in Care Council Members, Helen Smith (Corporate Parenting Manager), Lisa Fenaroli (The Virtual School Head Teacher), Siobhan Appleton (Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and LAC), Deborah Price Williams (The Local Authority's designated LAC Doctor), and Lesley Deville (Foster Carer Representative)</p> <p><b>LBH Officers Present:</b> Anisha Teji (Democratic Services Officer), Alex Coman (Head of Safeguarding, Partnership and Quality Assurance), Casey Matthews (Children's Rights And Participation Team) and Sandra Taylor (Director of Provider Services and Commissioned Care)</p> <p><b>Also Present:</b> Claire Walsh (The Local Authority's Named Nurse) Dr Rachael Tucker (Consultant Clinical Psychologist from the Hillingdon Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)</p>
18.	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Nick Denys.</p>
19.	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING</b> (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
20.	<p><b>MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2019 be agreed as a correct record subject to an amendment to the name of LAC Doctor.</p>
21.	<p><b>KICA 2019 FEEDBACK</b> (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>A short film was played showing the highlights from the Kids in Care Award (KICA) which took place at a premium hotel. KICA recognised the achievements of children and young people. The young people enjoyed the event and commented that it was a good opportunity to meet new people.</p> <p>The Panel commented that it was a tremendous event and welcomed the awards for the young people.</p>

**RESOLVED: That the film was noted.**

22. **PRESENTATION BY CARE LEAVERS - NEEDS, SERVICES AND VIEWS & FEEDBACK FROM CARE LEAVERS CONFERENCE - INCLUDING SEMI INDEPENDENT LIVING** (*Agenda Item 5*)

The young people updated the Panel on recent work and activities undertaken in the field of childrens' services, supported by the Corporate Parenting Manager.

The panel received a presentation detailing activities undertaken. It had been a busy period as a number of children and young people had been involved with service development and activities including a pumpkin carving competition and the Giffgaff coding club (which was being developed into a Giffgaff academy).

The Young Inspectors provided their feedback on Olympic House. The Director of Provider Services and Commissioned Care confirmed that the observations had been noted.

In order to comprehensively discuss and consider the presentation, the Panel felt that it would be sensible to have a dedicated meeting for the matters raised. The Panel therefore decided to defer the item to a later date.

It was confirmed that Democratic Services would make the necessary arrangements to set up the new meeting.

**RESOLVED: That this item be deferred to a later meeting.**

23. **PRESENTATION ON MULTI-AGENCY PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE** (*Agenda Item 6*)

The Consultant Clinical Psychologist from the Hillingdon Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provided a detailed presentation on Multi – Agency Psychological Support (MAPS) Team.

It was noted that the service had been developed specifically to support Looked After Children (LAC) in Hillingdon who did not meet the criteria for CAMHS. The service was funded through the local authority and the team consisted of Central North West London Trust and London Borough of Hillingdon staff.

It was highlighted that the service provided:

- psychological assessments and interventions to address the social, emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties of LAC.
- consultation and advice around attachment, transition, development and mental health issues.
- improving the psychological and educational outcomes for children and young people.
- training for foster carers and staff.

The method of individual therapeutic work was described to the Panel and it was based around a person centred approach, setting young people goals and creating safe therapeutic environments. Information was also provided about the service's work with foster carers/family work and it was explained that there were regular therapeutic sessions with carers, four week mentalisation groups for CYP – emotions and

communications and training courses delivered throughout the year. Statistics were also provided regarding SDQ outcomes, the percentage of adopters that used follow up support from MAPS and the total parental stress index scores for carers attending the emotions and communications group.

It was reported that there were regular consultation clinics with social workers, monthly consultations took place with the Borough's children's residential homes and semi-independent unit and consultation was provided for adoptive parents and social workers both pre and post placement move. The feedback from 40 social worker consultations was provided with 77.5% saying that the consultations had increased their understanding a lot, 20% a little and 2.5% felt not at all.

It was noted during Panel questions that there had been changes to the staffing within the team due to financial pressures.

**RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted and circulated to Panel Members for information.**

24. **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE DATA** (*Agenda Item 7*)

The Head of Safeguarding, Partnership and Quality Assurance and The Virtual School (VS) Head Teacher presented the Children's Services Performance Data report.

It was reported that there were good outcomes that had been achieved however there were still areas of concerns around attendance, exclusions and unauthorised absences.

It was noted that 29 statutory Children Looked After (CLA) had attendance below 90% and 11 of these 29 children entered care within the last 12 months. A number of steps had been taken to address this including the use of focus groups, individual dialogues and conversations with carers. Poor attendance was not only an education issue, but normally a symptom of underlying issues that affected children outside of school, including mental health and risk taking behaviour.

It was noted that there were eight children who had recorded 1 or more fixed term exclusions. This equated to 5% of the Statutory School Aged CLA cohort and a total of 26 school days lost. 4/8 children were placed in Hillingdon schools and 5/8 children were entered in care in the last 12 months. The skills hub was doing more work through participation to engage with children and schools through forms of early intervention. Officers also worked closely with the pupil referral unit.

It was clarified that help was still offered to children over 18, although the level of support may not be the same due to resources and a need to focus on statutory duties. It was confirmed that some form of help would always be offered in some way by the VS, with an offer being developed by the VS KS5 lead, focussing on supporting PA's as the lead professional with information, advice and guidance. The pupil funding premium had been used in different ways to increase support and help for young people, including the recruitment of additional staff.

It was suggested that easing children into education or by introducing phased timetables into education may make attendance easier for some children who may have been undergoing a lot of changes at once.

Every child has an allocated Virtual School Officer, and termly Personal Education Plans (PEP) were completed, including mid PEP target review dates. PEP quality had

dipped in October with 88% graded as the highest quality, compared to 95%+ previously recorded. This was due to engagement of social workers with the PEP process and updating information on the ePEP platform. The VS had delivered training to social workers to improve this and VS Head Teacher was working with social care managers to address.

It was noted that there were concerns about the delays in accessing education for children placed in Kent, particularly those with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs). There were 15 statutory school age children in Kent, 4 without school places, 3 of which had EHCPs. The VS Head Teacher was working with SEN to resolve this, but issues were related to a lack of specialist provision and the high number of CLA placed in this county. The VS was in the process of directing a school for the child without an EHCP due to their refusal to admit.

The Panel also noted the other desired outcomes for children including:

- To enjoy good physical, mental and emotional health
- To have pride in their unique identities
- To live somewhere they feel they belong
- To be and feel safe
- Work Force Updated

**RESOLVED: That the Children's Services Performance Data report be noted.**

25. **ANNUAL REPORT LAC HEALTH TEAM** (*Agenda Item 8*)

The Panel considered the Annual Report for Looked After Children (LAC). The Designated Doctor for LAC, Designated Nurse and Named Nurse were in attendance to present the report.

It was reported that as at 31 March 2019, there was a total of 326 Children Looked After by the Council and 547 had been looked after at some point throughout the year. Out of these children:

- 82% had up to date immunisations;
- 81% had up to date dental checks; and
- 93% of LAC included in the 903 return had an up to date health assessment.

A number of service improvements had been made including new processed for initial health assessments, health assessments being completed by the provider service within agreed timescales and sharing good practices with other local authorities.

It was reported that during 2019/20 the LAC team would prioritise working with the Children in Care Council, Commissioners and social workers on the introduction of a Health Passport/Health Summary for Care Leavers. The LAC surgery would also be extended to meet with the Virtual School Head to share information and develop pathways for promoting emotional well-being of LAC and working with Commissioners to establish suitable outcome focussed KPIs. Other priorities noted also included the promotion of health of LAC, establishing main health needs and working with the Children's Commissioner and the Council to develop a care leaver service and work towards a transition pathway.

It was highlighted that the health passports was still on the agenda and work was progressing. The feedback received from young people was welcomed.

**RESOLVED: That the Annual Report from the LAC Health Team was noted.**

26. **ANNUAL REPORT FOSTERING AND ADOPTION SERVICE** (*Agenda Item 9*)

The Head of Safeguarding, Partnership and Quality Assurance presented the Fostering and Adoption Annual Report. The report provided information regarding the Council's fostering service, recruitment, Hillingdon's fostering panel and adoption.

It was noted that the priorities for 2020 included the recruitment and retention of foster carers who could be used for a wide range of children and young people. Partnership and focus on early permanence was also a priority as an area for development in adoption.

It was emphasised that being unique and providing a good quality support was important to maintain foster carers. This included regular meetings with foster carers which were attended by Heads of Services and Assistant Directors. A number of measures had already been introduced to try and increase recruitment inclusion advertising.

The Panel requested figures from 2018 – 2019 as the report only covered the period from 31 March – December 2019.

**RESOLVED: That the Annual Report for Fostering and Adoption Services be noted.**

27. **MULTI-YEAR WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE PANEL** (*Agenda Item 10*)

The Panel considered that two additional meetings should be requested from the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference. An addition two meetings per municipal year would allow the agenda to be better managed and an opportunity for more Panel discussion.

The Chairman also requested that an additional meeting be added to the diary to finish considering the Presentation by Care Leavers. A request for this would be made to the Chairman of the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee to authorise this additional meeting.

Democratic Services confirmed that they would facilitate this and make the necessary arrangements.

**RESOLVED: That:**

- 1) the work programme be noted;
- 2) Democratic Services would make the arrangements to hold an additional meeting in January 2020 in accordance with the Corporate Parenting Panel's Terms of Reference; and
- 3) Democratic would request two additional meetings, per municipal year, for the Corporate Parenting Panel from the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

The meeting, which commenced at 5.30 pm, closed at 8.15 pm.

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