

Minutes



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

19 March 2020

Meeting held at Committee Room 6 - Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge

	<p>Committee Members Present: Councillors Nick Denys (Chairman) and Heena Makwana (Vice-Chairman)</p> <p>Non – voting Panel Members Present: Helen Smith (Principal Social Worker for Children & Corporate Parenting Manager) and Deborah Price Williams (The Local Authority’s designated LAC Doctor)</p> <p>LBH Officers Present: Anisha Teji (Democratic Services Officer) and Poppy Reddy (Head of Service - Children with Disabilities and Leaving Care)</p>
28.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tony Eginton, Children in Care Council Members, Lisa Fenaroli (the Virtual School Head Teacher) and Lesley Deville (Foster Carer Representative) due to public health matters.</p>
29.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
30.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2019 be agreed as a correct record.</p>
31.	<p>PRESENTATION BY CARE LEAVERS - NEEDS, SERVICES AND VIEWS & FEEDBACK FROM CARE LEAVERS CONFERENCE (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The Principal Social Worker for Children & Corporate Parenting Manager and Head of Service - Children with Disabilities and Leaving Care updated the Panel on recent work and activities undertaken in the field of children’s services.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- engaging with external organisations to provide consultatio.- attending the Beck Theatre.- attending the Giffgaff academy which involved activities such as marketing and designing campaigns.- ‘Walking in our shoes’ training which was a good opportunity to hear from the young people and their different experiences.

- February fun day attended by 17 looked after children and hosted by the Beck Theatre.
- Care Leavers Conference which took place on 22 October 2019 and was attended by many external organisations providing stalls such as Brunel University, Heathrow Academy, LAC Health and more. 32 young people attended the event and it was well received. The theme was cultural identities and young people presented the conference in their first languages. Suggestions were also put forward on how services could be improved. Some of the suggestions made included staying in contact, having more checks by social workers, improving advice to care leavers and an event to explain and show what living alone was like.
- case audits were conducted in October 2019 and showed that there were no cases as being inadequate. A majority of cases were outstanding and it was good feedback for auditors and social care workers.

Feedback from Stepping Up was noted and areas for improvement were identified. It was noted that activities such as Jamie's Farm, Brunel mentoring and residential, KICA, Care Leavers BBQ, football event were all well received and made the young people feel that they were part of a bigger family. Areas for improvement included further information on what 18 looked like and avoiding moving house on birthdays. The priorities for 2020 included focussing reviewing and updating the local offer for care leavers.

The Panel was impressed with the work undertaken and considered that services and officers were working well to engage with young people to create a family feel. The Panel was keen for young people to grow in different ways and welcomed the positive work.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

CORONA VIRUS

The Panel noted the public health concerns in relation to Corona Virus and asked for information on how the young people had reacted to the situation.

The Panel was informed that the Council had identified a small number of young people that needed more support and additional resources with shopping. This had been provided and there was constant engagement and monitoring on a regular basis.

It was noted that there were some difficulties with young people unwilling to attend health centres. The local authority was kept up to date in regards to this and other ways of consultation were being explored such as the use of Zoom videos and teleconferences.

The virtual schools was also working proactively to ensure that Government guidance was met in considering what provisions would be made for children and young people that would not be able to attend school.

The Panel was assured that vulnerable young people and children had been identified, the delivery services had been altered to accommodate these people and there was regular contact.

RESOLVED: The update on public health – corona virus was noted.

32. **BRIEFING ON BROADER CONTEXT OF CORPORATE PARENTING** (*Agenda Item 5*)

The Principal Social Worker for Children & Corporate Parenting Manager and Head of Service - Children with Disabilities and Leaving Care presented the briefing on the broader context of Corporate Parenting. The briefing explained how similar panels functioned in other boroughs and how Hillingdon's Corporate Parenting Panel was working in comparison to other council arrangements.

It was noted that five other local authorities' corporate parenting function, that had been rated Outstanding by Ofsted, had been reviewed. Based on the available information, it was confirmed that there was consistency across their arrangements and Hillingdon, particularly in relation to the types of items discussed, frequency of meetings and membership of panels.

Examples of areas of development included opportunities for Member training and member involvement and attendance at fun events such as the summer barbecue.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the contents of the briefing paper on the broader context of Corporate Parenting.

33. **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE & WORKING ARRANGEMENTS** (*Agenda Item 6*)

Members considered the report on the Corporate Parenting Panel terms of reference update and working arrangements. The report updated the Panel on the recent changes to the terms reference including the increase in the frequency of meetings and substitutes.

The Panel discussed new ideas and ways of working to increase efficiency and productivity. It was considered that thematic meetings may be a good way to explore children's and young people's priorities in areas such as education, health, housing and participation (opportunities and aspiration raising). The information received over the year could then be consolidated as an annual report which would then be presented to the Social Care, Policy and Overview Committee and the Cabinet.

It was considered that working in this way would allow the Panel to demonstrate the different work that was undertaken by officers, external organisations, children and young people. It was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Youth Services and the Chairman of the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee could be invited to attend a meeting allowing further opportunity of insight into the Panel's work.

The Panel was asked to increase the Membership of the Panel to allow the attendance of a senior officer from children's services at all meetings. It was noted that this requested would need to be made to the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Panel:

- 1. noted the Policy Overview Committee's amendments to the Terms of Reference to hold six meetings a year, but to keep this frequency under review;**
- 2. noted the Policy Overview Committee's amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Panel to now provide for substitutes;**

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. collectively discussed ideas and best practice; 4. authorised the Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Members of the Panel, to amend the Panel's Terms of Reference to the parent Policy Overview Committee; and 5. suggested to the parent Policy Overview Committee that the Membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel be increased to include a 'Senior Officer from Children's Services'.
34.	<p>WORK PROGRAMME (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p> <p>The work programme was noted with the suggested changes on thematic meetings focussing on different priorities such as education, health, housing and participation (opportunity and aspiration raising).</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the work programme be noted with the suggested changes.</p>
	<p>The meeting, which commenced at 5.30 pm, closed at 6.17 pm.</p>

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Anisha Teji on 01895 277655.