

Minutes

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

11 February 2021



HILLINGDON
LONDON

PRIVATE - this virtual meeting will be held without a Live Broadcast - VIRTUAL (PART 2)

	<p>Voting Panel Members Present: Councillors Nick Denys (Chairman), Heena Makwana (Vice-Chairman), and Tony Eginton</p> <p>Non-Voting Panel Members Present: Children in Care Council Members x2, Helen Smith (Principal Social Worker and Corporate Parenting Manager), Kathryn Angelini (Virtual School Head Teacher), Beverley O'Dwyer (Senior Virtual School Practitioner), Georgia Watson-Polack (Senior Virtual School Practitioner), Siobhan Appleton (Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children/ Care Leavers), Alex Coman (Assistant Director, Safeguarding, Partnership and Quality Assurance)</p> <p>LBH Officers Present: Tehseen Kauser (Interim Head of Service for Looked After Children and Leaving Care), Ryan Dell (Democratic Services), Nikki O'Halloran (Democratic Services)</p>
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>No apologies were received.</p>
2.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
3.	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2020 (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>It was agreed that, going forward, the number of Children in Care Council Members attending would be noted under the 'Non-Voting Panel Members Present'.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2020 be agreed as a correct record.</p>
4.	<p>KICA 2020 REPORT (VIDEO AND FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION) (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>Councillor Denys noted the KICA 2020 celebration video that was watched prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Officers noted the creation of the video as an attempt to re-create the usual KICA celebrations, in order to acknowledge the achievements of the young people. Officers also noted their thanks to colleagues for their work during recent times, and feedback from a young person on the KICA 2020 celebration video was noted.</p>

Councillor Denys noted that the video was a great adaptation for KICA to the COVID-19 situation, and the Panel put on record their thanks to everyone involved in the creation of the video.

RESOLVED: That the video be noted.

5. **ANNUAL REPORT FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN HEALTH TEAM, AND NWL CCG SAFEGUARDING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)**

Officers explained that the report demonstrated the role of North West London Clinical Commissioning Groups during the 2019/20 financial year.

The report also explained the role of the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children, and that this was a new role within Hillingdon.

It was noted that the report was brief, due to the impact of Covid-19 and the redeployment of nurses.

A change in ways of working was referenced, with a more blended approach of virtual and face-to-face assessments. It was noted that virtual assessments were more popular among the Looked After Children, as they were seen as less intimidating. Good completion rates of health assessments were noted.

A new initiative from the CCG regarding the transition to adult services was referenced, including the use of a new transition nurse who will be taking the lead in the development of initiatives including a 'health passport'. Officers further mentioned the involvement of young people in the recruitment of the transition nurse. Cross-team alignment on implementation of projects including the 'health passports' was also noted.

Councillor Denys asked about the method of virtual health assessments, and their efficiency in comparison to face-to-face assessments. Officers clarified that there was always a face-to-face component to initial assessments, and with review assessments there was a choice between face-to-face and virtual. A 'triage document' was referenced in regard to holding face-to-face assessments where necessary. It was further noted that virtual assessments may continue in the longer-term, but the provider preferred a return to face-to-face assessments.

It was noted that the report 'Headlines' suggested that the CNWL Trust Board requested some additions to the report – these additions were clarified by officers to refer to the effect of the pandemic on young people, such as the need to pool resources, and 2-Borough paediatricians, to complete assessments.

95% of Looked After Children had their health assessments up to date, which represented a 5% increase on the previous quarter. The issue of persistent non-attendance was noted, and that while there were very few persistent non-attendees, contact continued in multiple forms as required.

Councillor Denys questioned whether standards had dropped due to Covid-19, and whether there were any areas for improvement. Officers clarified that despite original concerns, there was no drop in standards, in part due to the implementation of the blended approach to assessments, and the hard work of doctors/ nurses/ officers.

A focus on mental health was suggested as a possible agenda item for upcoming

Panel meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Panel noted and discussed the reports.

6. **VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEADTEACHER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20 (Agenda Item 6)**

It was noted that this report pertained to the 2019-20 academic year, and several key points were addressed:

First, the success in academic attainment, despite the pressures of Covid-19. The school year finished in lockdown, and so there was a lack of national data for comparison purposes. It was noted the results of pupils in Key Stage 4 were not adversely affected, with a 5% increase in achievement of Grade 5 English and Maths. There were 203 Post 16 learners this academic year. Level 3 learners accounted for 11% of the cohort – an increase from last year. There was also a reduction in Looked After Children (LAC) who were not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

Second, attendance. Again, it was noted that there was no national year-by-year data for comparison due to lockdown. However, average attendance figures from March 2020 compared to the same period of the previous academic year showed an increase from 91.5% to 92.3%. School/ college was seen to be a protective factor.

Third, the overall response to Covid-19. It was noted that there had been a change to an online platform. 100% of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) had been completed, and the virtual running of PEPs had improved. Some of the usual enrichment programmes were not possible due to Covid-19, although visits to Jamie's Farm did take place in October and February – later visits were postponed. There were 10 young people on the Brunel mentoring programme (partnered with Brunel University London), and the Virtual School supported those who wished to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Award either through Hillingdon DofE Award centres or through schools using Pupil Premium Plus (PPP).

Priorities for the future included continuing to learn lessons from the first lockdown, which had led to better preparation for the current lockdown (e.g. more laptops were available), and plugging any gaps that arose.

Councillor Denys noted Appendix C (attainment case studies), and noted that it may be a good idea to have more personal journey case studies shared with the Panel going forward.

A Children in Care Council Member asked about the discussions that took place to ensure that the young people achieved their best grades/ performance. Officers noted the Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and discussions between young people/ teachers/ foster carers. The achievements of the young people were commended.

A Children in Care Council Member asked about the replacement enrichment programmes. Officers noted shout-outs to achievers in team meetings. Vouchers, books, and post cards were also used to highlight recognition of achievement.

Councillor Makwana thanked the report author for the compilation of the report, and it was noted that alternative literacy interventions were being looked into as TextNow has ceased.

The virtual nature of schooling was noted, while some socially-distanced learning had

taken place within school.

Councillor Eginton noted that acknowledging individual progress was important and questioned whether there had been any changes to protocol regarding Pupil Premium Plus. Officers clarified that protocols had not changed, and the report noted that protocols around the Pupil Premium Plus were regularly reviewed.

Officers noted feedback from young people, including that the third lockdown was more difficult than previous lockdowns; there was a 'virtual fatigue' and that physical schooling was preferred.

A Children in Care Council member asked if there was any additional support for younger people. Officers clarified that a consultant had been employed one day per week to provide support to young people, as well as a careers guidance counsellor, also one day per week. A Virtual After School club was also to be set up in the near future to provide extra-curricular activities.

RESOLVED: That the Panel noted:

1. The increased numbers of young people achieving Grade 5+ in English and Maths at GCSE;
2. The improved engagement in education of young people in Key Stage 5;
3. The increase in the average attendance of our Statutory School Age children, as well as the positive attendance trend during the restrictions of summer 2020;
4. The significant reduction in the number of school changes made as a result of a change in care placement.
5. The continued impact and value brought by our training programme, the Designated Teacher Forum;
6. The maintenance of our high-quality service and standards throughout the year despite the challenges of COVID-19; and
7. The strong and continued joint working with social care teams, Designated Teachers in schools, young people and carers in achieving positive outcomes for Hillingdon's LAC.

7. HEALTH AND EDUCATION (VERBAL REPORT) (Agenda Item 7)

An additional report on Children's Services Performance Data was presented to the Panel, based on data as of 31 December 2020 in support of this presentation. As of this date, the London Borough of Hillingdon was Corporate Parent to 355 Looked After Children and 500 Care Leavers.

It was noted that 100% of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for the autumn term were undertaken and written up within timescales.

An increase in A and E attendances was noted, and so bespoke support packages had been initiated for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, ensuring that they were given priority when referred.

95% of Looked After Children (LAC) had their health assessments up to date. This represented a 5% improvement since the last quarter.

38% of LAC had had a dental check within the previous 12 months. This was being kept under review. Councillor Denys noted the potential impact of Covid-19 on the figures.

66% of LAC at the end of Q3 were placed within a 20-mile radius from home (this was better than the 31% national average), with 49% of children being placed inside the Borough. It was noted that the 20-mile radius was a large distance, and cross-Borough comparisons were suggested. Officers clarified that the 20-mile radius was a statutory measure, and that although it was a large distance, sometimes it was necessary as needs vary. Councillor Eginton noted the possible difficulties in arranging education for those out of the Borough, though officers clarified that there were good connections between Boroughs to suit the needs of the young people. In addition, the virtual nature of current schooling eased the pressures of longer distances.

21 young people remained with their foster carers under the Staying Put arrangement, this was an increase of 4 from the previous quarter.

98% of young people had a LAC review within the previous 12 months.

80% of LAC statutory visits were up to date. It was noted that many of those LAC visits that are not reported as up to date may have been undertaken but if the child or young person has failed to keep the appointment and was not seen as part of the visits, the visit was not recorded as completed.

More Care Leavers in Hillingdon were in Education, Employment or Training (EET) than the national average.

Following a successful pilot rolled out by the Adolescents Team in the previous year, the service has now started to offer even more control and independence to our children and young people, by allowing them to choose who they want to be as their Social Worker or Personal Advisor.

A Children in Care Council Member asked about the relationship with universities, as Care Leaver support is available up to the age of 25. Officers clarified that support continued regardless of whether the young person was at university or not. The Virtual School kept connections with universities, and universities had designated support of their own to provide for those who needed it.

RESOLVED: That the Panel noted the verbal report.

8. **WORK PROGRAMME** (*Agenda Item 8*)

It was noted that the Cabinet Member and Policy Overview Committee Chairman would be invited to the April meeting.

Councillor Eginton asked about informing other Councillors of the work of the Panel and it was suggested that a document could be produced to be shared at Group Meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Parenting Panel considered the report and agreed any amendments.

The meeting, which commenced at 5.30 pm, closed at 18:54pm.

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Ryan Dell on 01895 25 0833. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors and officers.
