

# **NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

### **MINUTES**

of meeting held on **20 SEPTEMBER 2010** at

Loxley House from 2.35 pm to 4.22 pm

Councillor Mellen (Chair)  
Councillor Collins  
Councillor Griggs  
Councillor Ibrahim  
Councillor Klein  
Councillor Marshall  
Councillor Morley  
Councillor Urquhart  
Councillor Culley (substitute for Councillor Morley)

indicates present at meeting

### **Also in attendance**

Mr D Cooke ) Business in the Community  
Ms J Fuller )  
  
Mr S Gautam )  
Ms P Thompson-Omenka )  
Mr A High ) Children and Families  
Mr C Monckton )  
Mrs A Wilson - CitiHealth NHS Nottingham  
Ms J Dearing - Development  
Mrs S Parker ) National Youth Advocacy Service  
Mrs S Wood )  
Ms K Devergori - Nottingham City Homes  
Miss C Jackson ) Resources  
Mr K Banfield )

### **ACTION**

#### **11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collins, Griggs, Morley and Urquhart, and from Candida Brudenell (Nottingham City Council), Rosemary Galbraith (CitiHealth NHS Nottingham) and Gillian Moy (Nottingham City Homes),

#### **12 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

#### **13 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 July 2010, copies of

**which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.**

#### **14 PERFORMANCE - JULY 2010**

Consideration was given to a matrix produced by the Head of Insight and Improvement, copies of which had been circulated, which updated the Board with performance information in relation to Children in Care, showing the figures as at July 2010.

The following key figures were highlighted to the Board:

- the number of Looked After Children was 534 in July. It had fallen to 520 since then but was still above the targeted figure of 480;
- the number of admissions to Looked After Children was 16 and the number of discharges was 15;
- the proportion of Looked After Children cases which were reviewed within the required timescale was 89.8%;
- the percentage of children looked after for more than three months with an up to date health assessment was 65.9%;
- the percentage of care leavers with a Pathway Plan was 92%;
- the percentage of Looked After Children with a completed Personal Education Plan was 73%.

In the discussion which followed it was reported that the percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation was 83.3%. Significant work was underway to get this figure up to 100%. Some landlords had been decommissioned as their accommodation was not regarded as being up to standard. Quality assurance checks were being undertaken and were becoming more robust in line with the 'decent homes' standard.

**RESOLVED that the matrix and the progress over the previous two months be noted.**

#### **15 PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS (PEPs) FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER – JULY 2010**

Consideration was given to a matrix produced by the Head of Children in Care, copies of which had been circulated, informing the Board of the latest position regarding the number of PEPs in place for children in care. PEPs were required to map out the long term educational future of children in care.

During the discussion which followed, the following comments were made:

- significant progress had been made in increasing the percentage of children in care who had a PEP. The figure was up from 64% in June to 73% in July 2010. However, the target was 100% and it was acknowledged that there was still more work to be done;
- the resources required to improve the percentages had been identified and a

**ACTION**

virtual head teacher was in place preparing weekly reports on the PEPs completed. The paperwork was being re-drafted to make the process easier to complete;

- it was noted that some of the children in question lived in other parts of the United Kingdom but were still within the Council's care and completing PEPs in these cases involved partnership work with dedicated social workers.

**RESOLVED that the matrix and the progress over the previous two months be noted**

**16 READY FOR INSPECTION - INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDRENS SERVICES**

Consideration was given to information presented by the Policy and Planning Officer, Insight and Improvement, copies of which had been circulated, on the forthcoming inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services

The following information was given to the Board:

- the Council inspection could be expected before the end of 2010 and approximately 10 working days notice of this would be given;
- the inspection would include the City Council and its key partners, such as the primary care trusts and the Police;
- the inspection team would consist of at least 3 Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspectors and a Care Quality Commission Inspector;
- the purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the contribution made by relevant services towards ensuring that children and young people were properly safeguarded and to determine the quality of service provision for looked after children and care leavers;
- children would be encouraged and enabled to complete and submit their views through confidential surveys and, during the inspection, would be spoken to by inspectors, as would their parents and carers;
- in addition to reviewing case files and evaluating documentation already held by Ofsted, inspectors would conduct meetings and hold discussions with users, managers, health professionals, Police, other staff and stakeholders;
- the inspection would specifically evaluate the effectiveness of the work of the Board, including the impact of the Board on improving outcomes for children and young people.

The following issues arose out of the discussion which followed:

- the Board would be judged on its engagement with children in care and the strength of its performance reporting. The Board would need to show that it was proactive and that it listened to, and acted upon, the things it heard from the children in care;

- as soon as the date of the inspection was known, there would be engagement with all parties concerned and detailed briefings would take place to ensure that the Council and the Board were fully prepared for the inspection.

**RESOLVED THAT the forthcoming inspection and its implications be noted.**

## **17 CORPORATE PARENTING ACTION PLAN - SEPTEMBER 2010**

Consideration was given to the Corporate Parenting Promise Action Plan 2010-2011, copies of which had been circulated. The Head of Children in Care outlined the headline priorities as follows:

- be healthy - better health outcomes for children in care and care leavers, including completion of health and dental checks and the promotion of healthier lifestyles;
- staying safe - safe environments and stability in placement and education;
- enjoy and achieve - educational attainment – to ensure that more children in care attended and achieved at school and out of hours learning and increasingly made progress in their learning, personal development and attained in line with their peer group;
- making a positive contribution- good citizenship, demonstration of engagement and active participation;
- achieve economic wellbeing – employment and training, independence and economic well-being.

The Plan was considered to be a useful tool for the forthcoming inspection. It had been reviewed with key partners in August 2010 and would be reviewed again in October 2010.

In the discussion which followed, it was considered that it would be useful if the report linked into the matrix referred to in minute 14 above (Performance) to give a fuller picture.

The Chair emphasised the importance of Board members attending any training opportunities.

**RESOLVED that the Corporate Parenting Action Plan be noted.**

## **18 CHILDREN IN CARE WORK PLACEMENTS**

Consideration was given to a briefing note prepared by David Cooke of Business in the Community (BITC), copies of which had been circulated, on a two year pilot programme to support care leavers into employment.

The Board was advised by David Cooke and Jackie Fuller of the following matters:

- Nottingham and Bradford were the two pilot areas selected;
- the draft working title for the project was 'RISE';

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- there were four key elements to the programme:
  - the referral of young people;
  - the training/preparation of young people;
  - a two week placement with a host employer;
  - optional weekly job coaching thereafter with a trained volunteer job coach;
- the City Council was supporting in two of these elements; the referral of young people and acting as a host employer. Offers of work placements had been received from Candida Brudenell, the Director of Quality and Care Commissioning, Kevin Banfield, the Head of Performance, Improvement and Planning and Jennifer Dearing, the Interim Corporate Director of Development which were currently being followed up and interest from other Board members would be welcomed;
- acting as a host employer involved not only engaging the young person in the task in question, but also in teaching the young person about the world of work e.g. timekeeping, interview skills, writing curriculum vitae.

The Chair advised the Board that David Cooke was leaving BITC and thanked David on behalf of the Board for his significant contribution to the Board's work over recent months and wished him well for the future.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) that the Project be noted and Board members be encouraged to assist with the work placements;**
- (2) that the appointment of Jackie Fuller of BITC to attend meetings of the Board in place of David Cooke be welcomed.**

**19 REDUCING NUMBERS OF CHILDREN IN CARE**

Consideration was given to a presentation by the Head of Children in Care, copies of which had been circulated, on the positive outcomes for children in care.

The following issues were drawn to the Board's attention:

- there were currently 520 children in care (Looked after Children). This had gone down from 546 in July;
- historically children went into care and stayed in care. Work was underway to change this and to prevent children from having to go into care in the first place;
- a robust early identification and prevention model was in place to reduce the use of high cost specialist services;
- a strong commissioning strategy was in place to ensure that value for money was achieved;

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- the Michael Little model was being followed i.e. one route into care and several routes out including; the 15+ Team (pathway plans), supported lodgings, targeted support teams, legal support officers, adoption workers, placement panel and Independent Reviewing Officers service (drive care plans)
- the aim was that by March 2011, at least 40 young people would be appropriately discharged from care and provided with robust services that would enable them to reach their full potential as well adjusted adults. This would also result in budget savings.

**RESOLVED that the latest position be noted.**

The Board was then joined by nine young people who were members of the Children in Care Council (CICC) and by members of staff from the Council. The young people outlined the groups achievements to date:

- following the success of the 11 Million Takeover Day in November 2009, the CICC was formed;
- it included representatives across all young people in care;
- it was working with the National Youth Advocacy Service with regard to their new contract and was also working on commissioning issues;
- it had a calendar of themes and wished to show a readiness to contribute to the forthcoming Ofsted inspection;
- it was managing requests from partner agencies with regard to funding opportunities, feedback and consultation.

The young people advised the Board that the mission statement of the CICC was 'through strong membership and representation, the Children in Care Council will ensure children in care are recognised and heard, supporting and informing officers in the decisions made about them and their care'.

The young people presented to the Board the CICC themes and meeting schedule for 2010/11.

The Chair thanked the young people for attending and stated that the Board needed to make good decisions based on young people's needs and aspirations and to work together in a meaningful and positive way.

**20 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED that the Board meet at 2.30pm on the following Mondays:**

**2010**

**15 November**

**2011**

**17 January  
21 March**