

## **NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

#### **MINUTES**

of meeting held on **6 JUNE 2011** at

Loxley House from 2.00 pm to 3.35 pm

Councillor Mellen (Chair)  
Councillor Culley  
Councillor Dewinton  
Councillor Heaton  
Councillor Jenkins  
Councillor Klein  
Councillor McCulloch  
Councillor Morley  
Councillor Morris

indicates present at meeting

#### **Also in attendance**

Mrs L Beedham )  
Ms J Daffe ) Children and Families  
Mr G Jenkins )  
Ms P Thompson-Omenka )  
  
Miss I Denton - Communities  
  
Miss C Jackson - Resources  
  
Ms G Moy - Nottingham City Homes  
  
Ms R Galbraith - CitiHealth NHS Nottingham

#### **1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

**RESOLVED that Councillor Klein, who was not present, be appointed Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2011/12 subject to her acceptance of the office.**

#### **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Klein and Culley and from Satinder Gautam, Director of Safeguarding

#### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

#### **4 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 January 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.**

#### **5 AN INTRODUCTION TO CORPORATE PARENTING**

The Chair welcomed the new councillors to the Board and outlined the concept of corporate parenting i.e. the placement of collective responsibility on all local authorities to achieve good parenting for all children in the public care. He explained that the Board consisted of councillors and representatives of relevant outside bodies. The key message was that councillors should view the needs of children in public care and have ambitions for them as though they were their own. The Head of Children in Care explained that children in care had a right to expect the outcomes to be expected for every child i.e. that they should:

- be healthy;
- be safe;
- enjoy and achieve ;
- make a positive contribution to society and
- achieve economic wellbeing.

To achieve these outcomes, councils must demonstrate their commitment to helping every child they look after, wherever the child was placed, to achieve their potential.

The needs of children in care could not be met by a single agency and there was a need to ensure that the Council worked closely with key partners. Councils had to provide the support any good parent would give on housing, education, training and employment. Councils must provide support services for care leavers until they are aged 21, and up to 25 if they were in education. The responsibility included visits to children's homes and small group homes following training. Board members would be trained to ensure that the Statutory Requirement of Regulation 33 visits being carried out by councillors on the Corporate Parenting Board was met.

#### **6 CHILDREN IN CARE ATTAINMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Schools and Learning, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the work and activities undertaken by the Virtual School and Admission Team in the previous six months and updating on related actions in the Corporate Parenting Board Action Plan.

The report was presented by Lorna Beedham, Virtual Head Teacher who highlighted the following key objectives to the Board:

- all children in care were to have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) to drive improved educational attainment. There was a need to improve the PEP process for children in care out of City placements. 94% of PEPs were up to date from out of City (target of 85%), and 91% of PEPs up to date in the City (target of 99%);
- the promotion of creative and constructive use of Personal Education Allowances (PEA's) of up to £500 per child in care, per annum. PEA applications had increased over the past 12 months which resulted in the majority of the 2010-11 budget being claimed and spent. PEAs had been used to support a variety of out of school

activities, the purchase of laptops, educational visits and additional tuition. Foster carers had indicated that they were more informed of PEA availability and had successfully completed a number of requests in collaboration with the social workers and the designated teachers.

Funding was only guaranteed as available for 2011-12 and would not therefore fund every young person of school age who was in care at present.

New guidance and selection criteria had been sent out to designated teachers and social workers. Monitoring of applications had been tightened and applications were now only approved if completed accurately;

- As long as the Virtual School and Admissions Team were informed of children in care without a school place or due to move, admission to school was now within 20 days. The establishment of a 'Named Admissions Officer' had meant a quicker response time and direction from the Council was given to schools to admit pupils who were in care;
- monitoring of attendance and of those children in care without a school place was a key focus. There was now weekly monitoring of children in care attendance at all educational provision and weekly monitoring of children in care without a school place. Previously no systematic process was in place to collect data to support schools in reporting children in care attendance. The Council had agreed a new Virtual School package to allow collection of data from the Education Management System for children in care pupils in the City.

Welfare Call had been employed to start collecting summer data for out of City educated children in care. Analysis of data would be produced on a monthly basis and included in quarterly performance reporting;

- to improve the attainment of children in care at all key stages with proactive planning and support to children in care and care leavers to ensure attendance at GCSEs;
- to develop alternative and accredited learning opportunities for children in care in sport, physical activity and leisure related education i.e. leadership and to work in partnership with schools and Sport and Leisure by utilising the PEA to secure continued opportunities.

In 2010-11 11 PEAs were used for sports activities and a further 17 for leisure activities, including music lessons, dance and drama.

In the discussion which followed, the importance of ensuring that laptops given both to residential homes and foster carers for use by children in care, were secure in terms of firewalls and access was emphasised. It was important to include this in the foster carer training programme.

**RESOLVED that the report and related activity driving service performance towards ensuring sound educational outcomes for all children in care aged 3-16 years of age be noted.**

## **7 PLANNING TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD FOR CARE LEAVERS**

Consideration was given to a presentation by the Head of Children in Care, copies of which had been circulated. The Head of Children in Care briefly explained the legal

framework relating to the transition. The main aim of the Care Leavers Regulations and of the guidance was to make sure that care leavers were provided with comprehensive personal support so that they could achieve their potential as they made their transition to adulthood, to ensure that they were given the same level of care and support their peers would expect from a reasonable parent and that they were provided with the opportunities needed to help them move successfully to adulthood. The new regulations specified the requirements for care plans, including health and education plans, placement decisions and monitoring and case reviews. It consolidated previous regulations and guidance, providing a central source of reference for local authority work with children in care

The regulations and guidance came in to force on 1 April 2011.

**RESOLVED that the new Care Leavers Regulations be noted.**

## **8 PERFORMANCE REPORT - CHILDREN IN CARE, MAY 2011**

Consideration was given to a matrix provided by Quality and Commissioning, copies of which had been circulated, which updated the Board with performance information in relation to Children in Care, showing the figures as at May 2011.

The following key figures were highlighted to the Board by G Jenkins from Performance:

Performance against key monthly measures:

- the number of children in care was 535 as at April 2011. This was still above the targeted figure of 480. The provisional year end figure for 2010/11 was 524;
- this number represented a rate of 95.7 children in care per 10,000 children. This was above the target rate of 85.8 per 10,000 children. The provisional year end figure for 2010/11 was 93.7;
- the number of children in care admissions was 29 and the number of discharges was 19. The provisional year end figures for 2010/11 were 256 and 251 respectively;
- the stability of children in care placements in terms of length of placement was 66.9% against a target of 67%. The statistical neighbour comparison was 65.4%. The provisional year end figure for 2010/11 was 61.9%;
- the proportion of children in care cases which were reviewed within the required timescale was 98.7% against a target of 90%. The statistical neighbour comparison was 86%. The provisional year end figure for 2010/11 was 85.6%;
- the percentage of children in care for more than three months with an up to date health assessment was 81.4%, against a target of 80%. The provisional year end figure for 2010/11 was 84%;
- the percentage of children in care for more than 3 months with an up to date dental check was 90.3%, against a target of 80%. The provisional year end figure for 2010/11 was 87%;
- the percentage of children in care with a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP) was 90%, against target of 100%. The provisional year end figure for 2010/11 was 91%;

- the percentage of children in care for more than three months with an up to date Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was 60.9%, against a target of 100%. The provisional year end figure for 2010/11 was 54.8%.

Performance against key quarterly measures:

- the provisional year end figure for 2010/11 for adoptions of children in care was 9.8% against a target of 13%;
- the provisional year end figure for 2010/11 for the timeliness of placements of children in care for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption was 93.1% against a target of 75%;
- the provisional year end figure for 2010/11 for the stability of placements of children in care: the number of moves (based on rolling 12 months) was 8.8% against a target of 12%;
- the final two statistics in the report were to be disregarded as being inaccurate and would be updated for the next meeting of the Board.

In the discussion which followed, a number of further points were made:

- whilst performance in some areas had improved, significant focus was being placed on areas where performance was weaker. Robust action plans were being implemented to drive performance improvements;
- new councillors considered that it would be useful to have a narrative on some of the performance indicators. The Head of Children in care agreed to give this idea consideration for the future presentation of figures;
- using the recommendations from the Munro review, work would be undertaken to review the effectiveness of current performance metrics and to introduce improved outcome measures for this vulnerable group. The Chair emphasised that any new measures should be approved by the Board.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the figures in the matrix be noted and updated at the next meeting of the Board on 19 September 2011;**
- (2) that the Board be consulted on any new performance measures to be used in the future.**

## **8 CORPORATE PARENTING PROMISE ACTION PLAN**

Consideration was given to the Corporate Parenting Promise Action Plan 2011-12, copies of which had been circulated, setting out the headline priorities, objectives, actions and the dates on which the actions were to be achieved by. The Head of Children in Care advised the meeting that the document had already been viewed by the Children in Care Council and that it had suggested some amendments which would be forwarded to the Chair for consideration.

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

**9 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

**2011**

**19 September  
21 November**

**2012**

**16 January  
19 March**

**25 July to be used for a 1 hour training session for new Board members. Agenda to be circulated week beginning 11 July 2011.**