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Nottingham City Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the meeting held at Loxley House, Station Street, NG2 3NG, on 16 March 2020 from 2.30 pm - 3.53 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor Cheryl Barnard (Chair)

Councillor Jay Hayes (Vice Chair)

Councillor Maria Joannou

Councillor Neghat Khan

Councillor Lauren O`Grady

Councillor Georgia Power

Councillor Lauren O'Grady

(substitute for Councillor Langton)

Absent

Councillor Nicola Heaton

Councillor Phil Jackson

Councillor Rebecca Langton

Councillor Maria Watson

Councillor Cate Woodward

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Gabriel Hall - Area Manager) Children's Society
Alison Smith - Advocacy Service Manager)

Kathryn Higgins - Designated Nurse for Children in Care) NHS
Melanie Bracewell - Designated Doctor for Children in Care)

Clive Chambers - Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Mark Leavesley - Governance Officer, Democratic Services
Nick Lee - Director of Education Services
John Matravers - Strategic Lead for Safeguarding
Natalie Pink - Leaving Care Service Case Manager
Jordan Whatman - Project Officer, Children in Care

44 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Heaton - work
Councillor Langton - personal
Councillor Jackson)
Councillor Watson) unwell
Councillor Woodward)

45 Declarations of Interests

None.

46 Minutes

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2020 as a true record and the Chair signed them.

47 Reducing Offending Behaviour

Natalie Pink, Case Manager, Leaving Care Service, presented the report, which updated the Committee on the 2018/19 data for reducing offending behaviour and the activity of Children in Care Police Officers and the Leaving Care Service Case Manager, and highlighted a review of the joint City/County Multi-agency Protocol to reduce the criminalisation of children in care, in response to the publication of the National Protocol in November 2018.

In response to questions, Natalie also stated that:

- the City was currently 21st out of 155 authorities nationally;
- Helen Blackman Chairs MASE (Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation), and it has previously done work to address how/why sexual exploitation is happening, including a 10-point checklist and a screening tool, both of which are very successful at identifying potential victims.

The Committee thanked Natalie for her attendance and noted the report.

48 The Health of Children in Care of the Local Authority 2019/20

Kathryn Higgins and Melanie Bracewell, respectively Designated Nurse and Doctor for Children in Care, NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), presented the report, which included the third CCG Annual Looked After Children Report (2018/19).

In response to questions from the Committee, the following was stated:

- 'Out of Area' (OOA) children have a person designated to that individual's case, and they will lead on communication between the agencies/authorities concerned to ensure health assessments are completed;
- a standardised 'transition' system is currently being worked on so that it is the same across City and County;
- in respect of sexual health, it is a statutory requirement for authorities and both female and male children are signposted to all appropriate services when required.

The Committee noted:

- (1) that health providers and designated professionals will continue to work with the:**
 - (a) Service Improvement forum and associated Working Groups to improve the health outcomes for Children in Care;**

- (b) local authority and other partner agencies and commissioners in planning, and ensuring, that adequate health provision is available for care leavers;**

- (2) that revised CCG pathways for OOA placements, and other local authority placements in the city, were implemented from 2019.**

49 Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report 2018/19

Clive Chambers, Head of Children in Care, and John Matravers, Strategic Lead for Safeguarding, presented the report, which summarised the work of the Independent Reviewing Service during the year 2018/19. They also gave a more detailed presentation to the Committee, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

In response to a question, John stated that quality of service is measured in numerous ways, such as by internal and external audits and feedback from partners, children in the system and other agencies.

The Committee noted the report.

50 The Children's Society: Independent Advocacy Annual Report 2020

Gabriel Hall, Children's Society Area Manager, and Alison Smith, Advocacy Service Manager, presented the report, which included a copy of the 'Independent Advocacy Annual Report 2019' for the Committee's information.

In response to a question, Gabriel stated that the number of residential visits each quarter is affected by the distance of the placement area and, therefore travel time / number of visits possible each day / week.

The Committee noted the report.

51 Independent Visitor Service – CGL formerly Sova

Clive Chambers, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, presented the report (including the 2018/19 End of Year Report), updating the Committee on the Independent Visitor Service, which had recently seen SOVA merging with 'Change, Grow, Live' (CGL) to form a larger, more focussed service provider.

The Committee noted the report.

52 Children in Care update

Jordan Whatman, Project Officer, Children in Care, updated the Committee as follows:

- the Children In Care Council scheduled to take place on 30 March has been postponed due to the current situation regarding Coronavirus;
- 'Mind of My Own', an instant messaging app designed for children in care, and the 'Unlock Project', raising aspirations within the Virtual School, were due to be discussed and these items will be rearranged for a future session, hopefully before the summer break;

- items also due to be explored with the group, prior to the summer holidays, include a workshop with the CCG around physical health and wellbeing, a recruitment and marketing workshop with CGL Independent Visitor service, and a trip to Lincoln to collaborate with their Children In Care Council.

The Committee noted the update.

53 Forward Plan 2020/21

The Committee noted the proposed forward plan.

54 Date of next meeting

The Committee noted the proposed next meeting date of 01 June 2020.

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD:

MARCH 16TH 2020

This Annual Report provides evidence relating to the services in Nottingham City as required by statutory guidance.

The core business of the team includes the chairing of Children in Care reviews, Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences, Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation Strategy Meetings. Where appropriate this report contains information for all these areas.

The Responsibility of the IRO (Children in Children).

- The responsibility of the IRO changed from the management of the review process to a wider overview of the case. This includes regular monitoring and follow-up between reviews.

The IRO

- Plays a key role in relation to the improvement of care planning for children in care.
- Ensures a process for challenging drift and delay.
- Ensures that the views of the children, parents and carers are given sufficient weight in Care planning.

The Children in Care population for 2018/19 within Nottingham City Council was 629, excluding 43 short breaks. This figure has remained stable for the past 3 years. Caseloads are marginally higher at 71, than is specified in the IRO handbook, which recommends a caseload of 50-70 per IRO as being manageable.

In terms of outcomes during 2018-19, there were 49 Adoption Orders granted, 10 Special Guardianship Orders granted (SGO) and 3 Child Arrangement Orders issued. Furthermore 68.7% of the population have remained in the same placement for at least 2 years or more.

95.6% of Children in Care Reviews took place within the statutory timescales

89.9% of children in care participated in their review process through a number of forums either by attending the meeting, completing the contribution paper or for some having contact either by phone, email or a home visit with the IRO before their review is held.

The Responsibility of the Child Protection area of the Service.

- Chair Initial and Review Child Protection conferences.
- Chair Child Sexual Exploitation strategy meetings.
- Chair Criminal Exploitation strategy meetings.
- Chair Complex strategy meetings.
- Chair Child Death strategy meetings (where abuse or neglect is suspected).
- Chair Secure Panel meetings.
- Take part in Service Audits.

Data

- » 509 subject to a CP plan at year end
- » 96% of CP reviews completed within timescales
- » Neglect continues to be the most common CP plan.
- » Over 1,500 meetings were chaired by the service in 2018/19

Concerns

- » Over the last reporting year the service as a whole has raised 56 concerns
- » The main contributing factors to the disputes are:
 - » Lack of professionals in attendance.
 - » Lack of written up assessments for Child Protection Reviews
 - » Lack of progress in Child Protection Plan work.
 - » Drift on Care Plans in specific cases.
 - » Change in Social Workers

Priorities for 2019/20

- » Develop a new child contribution paper across the service.
- » Develop a parent/carer and Foster Carer contribution paper.
- » To relaunch the Dispute Resolution Policy due to changes in Childrens services staff teams
- » Introduce the Coming into Care Pack
- » Launch a new child friendly minutes template on Liquid Logic.