

Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group

Thursday, 01 March 2018
18:00

Meeting Room A, Blackburn Town Hall

AGENDA

PART I: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PUBLIC

- 1 Welcome and Apologies**
- 2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th December 2017**

For the Group to agree the Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group meeting held on 18th December 2017.

Minutes 18th December 2017.docx **3 - 6**
- 3 Foster Carers - Gamechanger Conference**

Discussion item: for the Group to receive a verbal update on the Gamechanger Conference held on Saturday 4th November 2017.
- 4 Children Services Ofsted Report**

Discussion item: for the Group to receive a presentation on the Children Services Ofsted Report.
- 5 Virtual Headteacher update**

Discussion item: for the Group to receive an update on CIOC and their attainment data.

Summary of CIOC attainment data 2017 **7 - 10**
- 6 Monitoring Report; Children in Our Care**

For the Group to review and consider the latest monitoring reports on Looked after Children in the Borough.

PART 2: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

Date Published: Wednesday, 21 February 2018
Harry Catherall, Chief Executive

**CORPORATE PARENTING
SPECIALIST ADVISORY GROUP
18TH DECEMBER 2017**

PRESENT – Cllrs Gunn (Chair), Pearson, Whittle, Kay, Surve, Casey, D Smith, Bateson, Daley, Ali, Hussain and Taylor.

Also Present –

Deborah Benmore	Fostering Team Manager
Mike Dixon	Fostering Marketing and Recruitment Manager
Sharon Burns	Chair of Foster Carers Association
Samantha Briggs	Secretary of Foster Carers Association
Gavin Redhead	Participation Officer/Voice
Linda Clegg	Director of Children's Services
Cerys Bedford	Adults and Safeguarding Business Partner
Robert Arrowsmith	Head of Policy Performance and Commissioning (Children's Services)
Phil Llewellyn	Governance and Democratic Services Manager
Firoza Hafeji	Governance Officer

RESOLUTIONS

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group. Apologies were received from Cllrs Shorrocks, McFall, A.Patel, Khan, McGurk, Little and Davies. Apologies were also received from Joanne Siddle, Jessica Byrne and Patricia Harrison.

RESOLVED –

That the apologies be noted.

2. Foster Carers Service

The Chair welcomed Foster Carers, Sharon Burns and Samantha Briggs, to provide Members with a verbal update on Foster Carers Service.

Members were provided with case studies and an overview of the challenges faced by Foster Carers especially as teenagers struggled with changes and the separation from younger siblings. It was highlighted that foster carers are at a high risk of allegations so it is vital that all foster carers kept a log book.

The foster carer shared a poem with the Group followed by a task to identify the emotions and feelings of a foster child. It was noted that social workers held a vital role as a supervisor for the foster carers whilst also supporting the foster child.

The Group heard that the Looked after Child review was carried out by an Individual Reviewing Officer (IRO) and can be held at an alternative place agreed by the foster

child and the IRO. This is to ensure that the foster child had an appropriate review meeting, even if they were not feeling up to it.

The Director of Children Services shared positive feedback received from the Children's Ofsted inspection and highlighted that the "experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence" was rated "Good".

The Group were provided with rewards and challenges of a day in the life as a Foster Carer which highlighted that the foster carers were faced with various challenges on a daily basis.

RESOLVED –

That the foster carers be thanked for the verbal update on Foster Carer's Service.

3. Foster Carers Recruitment

The Chair welcomed Mike Dixon, the new Fostering Marketing and Recruitment Manager and Deborah Benmore, Fostering Team Manager.

The Fostering Marketing and Recruitment Manager gave a verbal update on Foster Carer recruitment and explained that events were planned to help promote and recruit new foster carers. It was highlighted that the Local Authority were seeking for Foster Carers to support large sibling groups.

The Group heard that the Fostering Marketing and Recruitment Manager worked collaboratively with other authorities whilst upgrading the Foster Carers website to ensure it was robust and user friendly. The new website would hold case studies and significant information to support foster carers.

Various marketing strategies were shared with the Group which helped to promote foster carers. The Group suggested using the local radio station as it had been a positive resource in the previous years.

RESOLVED –

That the Fostering Marketing and Recruitment Manager and Fostering Team Manager be thanked for the verbal update on Foster Carer recruitment.

4. Agency Commissioned Placements

The Chair welcomed Cerys Bedford, Adults and Safeguarding Business Partner and Robert Arrowsmith, Head of Policy Performance and Commissioning and introductions were made.

The Group were provided with a presentation on Children's Commissioned Placements. It was noted that there were two types of commissioned placements, Independent Fostering Agencies and Residential placements.

The Group were informed that currently Blackburn with Darwen has just under 400 children and young people in our care. The commissioned placements budget supports the placements of 80 of these children:

- **47** children and young people are with agency foster placements
- **3** placements have been commissioned as specific supported accommodation for young people aged 16
- **2** placements are commissioned as concurrent placements for young children who are in court proceedings with a place for adoption
- **1** mother and baby has been commissioned following court direction
- The remaining **27** placements are commissioned residential placements

The cost of young people currently in Residential provision was shared with the Group as:

- 1 young person residing in secure provision costing above £5500 per week.
- 19 young people residing in general residential of which seven costing above £3500 per week excluding the education funding.
- 6 young people residing in a disability provision of which three costing above £3500 per week.
- 1 young person residing in specialist residential school costing above £3500 per week however 50:50 funded by health.

In response to questions raised by the Group it was highlighted that the reason for young people being in agency foster placements was due to the shortage of places available in the Local Authority. Also there were limited skilled Foster Carers for older foster children who have acute needs and their needs are not met in a traditional home environment.

The Group were provided with various case studies to identify why the young people were accessing placements elsewhere rather than in our Local Authority. It was noted that the scale of the young person's needs was thoroughly assessed prior to placing them in a commissioned placement as it cost the Local Authority a substantial amount of money.

It was reported that early intervention is beneficial for the children and young people but due to budget restraints it was proving to be difficult.

It was noted that historically the North West has been a prime area to set up a residential home due to:

- Low price of housing
- Good transport infrastructure
- Three large authorities close by
- Ability to open homes in rural areas

Information on current trends and issues were also shared with the Group.

RESOLVED –

That the Adults and Safeguarding Business Partner and Head of Policy Performance and Commissioning be thanked for the presentation on Children's Commissioned Placements.

5. **Monitoring Report; Children in Our Care**

The Head of Policy Performance and Commissioning provided a presentation on the latest monitoring reports for Children in Care.

The presentation identified that the number of Children in Care had increased since the last report and currently there were 398 Children in Care with more males (56%) than females (44%) in care, 77% of whom were defined as White British.

It was noted that the number of babies and teenagers entering care had increased with a high proportionate of Children in Care being placed in a home environment.

RESOLVED –

That the Head of Policy Performance and Commissioning be thanked for the presentation.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....

BwD Virtual School - CIOC Attainment Data 2016/17

This is the second year of results following significant changes in assessment nationally for children in primary schools. National curriculum levels no longer exist and measures are focused on percentages of pupils achieving the Expected Standard (EXS). The new measures are only comparable with 2015_16 data as curriculum and testing has been delivered under new arrangements since this time.

Key Stage 1

Subject	BwD 2017* EXS+ (CIOC)	National CIOC 2016	BwD 2017* EXS+ (All)	National 2017* EXS+ (All)
Reading	63% (10)	50%	74%	76%
Writing	63% (10)	37%	67%	68%
Maths	56% (9)	46%	74%	75%
Overall	56% (9)	-	-	-

- At the end of key stage 1 (KS1) in 2017, teachers use teacher assessment judgements to report on the progress of their pupils. These assessment judgements take into account a pupil's performance in national curriculum tests in mathematics, English reading and English grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- We had 16 young children in care who formed the KS1 cohort in 2017, 11 (69%) attended primary schools in Blackburn with Darwen. 1 child in the group (6%) has an Education Health and Care Plan and 2 (13%) children are recorded as SEN Support, this is reflected in the outcomes achieved.
- Data to compare BwD CIOC with their CIOC peers nationally is not yet available.
- Writing has shown to be the strongest area for our CIOC and Maths the weakest when compared to all children in BwD and those nationally. Overall performance is relatively strong for this cohort.

Key Stage 2

Subject	BwD 2017* EXS+ (CIOC)	National CIOC 2016	BwD 2017* EXS+ (All)	National 2017* EXS+ (All)
Reading	50% (9)	41%	67%	71%
Writing	44% (8)	46%	76%	76%
Maths	67% (12)	41%	76%	75%
Overall	33% (6)	25%	59%	61%

The 2017 Key Stage 2 assessments are the second year of tests which assess the new, more challenging national curriculum which was introduced in 2014. New tests and interim frameworks for teacher assessment were introduced to reflect the revised curriculum. Results are no longer reported as levels, and each pupil now receives their test results as a scaled score and teacher assessments based on the standards in the interim framework.

We had 22 children in care who formed the KS2 cohort in 2017, 17 of these sat the end of Key Stage tests with 5 children being dis-applied or not eligible to take the tests. 15 (68%) of the cohort were

BwD Virtual School - CIOC Attainment Data 2016/17

educated in BwD primary schools at the time of taking the tests. 8 children in the group (36%) had either a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan and a further 6 (27%) are recorded as SEN Support, this is reflected in the outcomes achieved.

- Data to compare BwD CIOC with their CIOC peers nationally is not yet available.
- Writing has shown to be the weakest subject area for our CIOC when compared to all children in BwD.
- Maths has shown to be the strongest area for our CIOC when compared to all children in BwD and reflects the picture of Maths being strength within the borough.

The scaled score range runs from 80 to 120 with 100 as the expected standard. The average scaled scores are:

- Reading (104) - 5 (23%) CIOC achieved an above average scaled score in reading. The highest scaled score in reading achieved by a CIOC was 109.
- Grammar, punctuation & spelling (106) – 2 (12%) CIOC achieved an above average scaled score in GPS. The highest scaled score in GPS achieved by a CIOC was 109.
- Mathematics (104) – 4 (24%) CIOC achieved an above average scaled score in mathematics. The highest scaled score in mathematics achieved by a CIOC was 108.
- We have not yet received scaled scores for one young person in the cohort but he did achieve the expected standard in all areas.

Progress

Changes have also been made to as to how progress is calculated at the end of KS2. Based on the 'Primary School Accountability in 2017' technical guide produced by DfE, expected progress from KS1 measures are:

Subject	BwD 2017 Expected Progress KS1 to KS2
Reading	85% (11)
Writing	53% (8)
Maths	62% (8)

BwD Virtual School - CIOC Attainment Data 2016/17

Key Stage 4 - GCSE

	Maths and English 9-4 2017		CIOC Nat Ave A*-C inc Maths and English 2016	5 A*-C /9-4 inc Maths and English 2017		At least 1 A*-C/9-4 2017		Achieving 1 or more GCSE or national qualification 2017	
2017*	5	15%	17.5%	3	10%	17	52%	28	85%
2017 Students with statement/ EHCP	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	3	50%

In 2017, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council had 33 CIOC eligible to take GCSE and other public examinations. 64% of these young people received their education within the borough. Of the Year 11 cohort, 6 (18%) who had a Statement of Special Educational Needs, or Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). In addition a further 10 (30%) were recorded at SEN Support. Data to compare BwD CIOC with their CIOC peers nationally is not yet available. 64% (21) of the cohort came into care during secondary school

At the time of taking their GCSE examinations, 3 (10%) young people in care achieved at least 5 A* - C GCSEs, including Maths and English. One of these young people achieved 10 GCSEs at Grade 4/C and above, another achieved 8 and a third achieved 7 GCSEs. 7 young people regularly attended GCSE revision sessions run by the Virtual School at the Kip McGrath centre. 3 achieved grade 4 or above in English and /or Maths. 17.39% (4) met the new GCSE threshold measure for GCSE in English and Maths at Grade C or above. 24% (8) young people achieved a Grade 4 or higher in English and 30% (10) achieved this in Maths. 15% (5) young people achieved the new measure of Grade 4 or higher in both English and Maths

We had 17 (52%) CIOC who achieved at least 1 A*-C/9-4 and 28 (85%) CIOC who achieved at least 1 GCSE or other national qualification.

Of our cohort (6) with an EHCP or Statement, 50% achieved at least 1 GCSE or national qualification.

The figure also includes 12 CIOC (36%) who attended non mainstream schools i.e. Special Schools, Secure, PRU or on site education.

Destinations

At the start of the new academic year, of the 33 young people in the cohort, 27 (82%) have enrolled in further education/training, 1 (3%) has ceased LAC, 1 (3%) has mental health issues but seeking to re-sit GCSEs, 1 (3%) young mum with college offer for 2018 and 3 were NEET.

Charlotte Hesketh
Virtual School Head and Assessment Officer
01254 666434

