

**CORPORATE PARENTING
SPECIALIST ADVISORY GROUP
10th July 2017**

PRESENT – Cllrs Gunn (Chair), Connor, Daley, Gee, Kay, Jan-Virmani, M. Khan, Liddle, McGurk, Oates, A. Patel, Smith and Taylor.

Also Present –

Kathleen McGurk	Youth Shadow for Children Services
Linda Clegg	Director of Children's Services
Robert Arrowsmith	Head of Policy Performance and Commissioning (Children's Services)
Abbie Mitchell	Family Group Manager
Susan Clarke	Head of Safeguarding, Clinical Commissioning Group
Sharon Burns	Foster Carers Association
Rebekah Mottershead	Corporate Services

RESOLUTIONS

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group. Apologies were received from Cllrs Bateson, Riley, Casey, Harling, Desai, Fazal, Hussain, Davies, D.Foster, K.Foster, Shorrock, Vali, Khonat, Smith, Mahmood, Akhtar, Brookfield, McFall and Whittle. Apologies were also received from Shelia Morris, Also Staffa, Charlotte Hesketh, Gavin Redhead, Patricia Harrison and Alison Hartley.

RESOLVED –

That the apologies be noted.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1st March 2017

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group held on the 1st March 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

3. Family Group Conference Pilot

The Chair welcomed the Family Group Manager to the meeting and invited her to take the Group through the Family Group Conference pilot.

The Group was given a presentation on the background of Family Group Conferences and an overview of the benefit to the family and the child by utilising this approach. It was noted that the pilot was currently targeting those children on the edge of care but as the pilot had been successful, plans were in place to increase

the team to roll out the project further to try to prevent wider groups of children from entering the care system.

It was reported that family group conferences provided wrap-around care for a young person from within their family and friend network, which created a more resilient and cost effective form of support. It was noted that often family members did not know that the parents were in need of help, and providing early a support network was all that was needed to help the parents manage their lives.

The Group was taken through the key statistics so far collated and were provided with some quotes from those involved with the pilot that demonstrated that family members were happy with the outcomes they had so far seen for the young person and the family as a whole.

A number of questions were asked around the number of referrals, the merit of the scheme as a preventative measure and challenges faced in delivering conferences and detailed discussions took place relating to the current statistics and success stories.

The Group commended the work so far around Family Group Conferences and noted that there would be;

- » Investment of £300,000 (Invest to Save)
- » Recruitment of 7 further Family Group Conference co-ordinators & a manager
- » Increase the number of families that can be worked with across the year
- » Initially retaining the focus on children on the edge of care, but....
- » Longer term intention to work with families earlier before issues/risks become severe/critical
- » Stem demand earlier
- » New service in place for the autumn of 2017

The Group thanked the Family Group Manager for her presentation and requested that a further update once the new team had been formed.

RESOLVED –

That the Family Group Manager be thanked for her presentation and attendance.

4. Monitoring Report; Children in Our Care

The Group reviewed and considered the latest monitoring reports on Looked After Children in the Borough.

Members of the group were shown the numbers outlining children in Care had changed little since the last report with more boys (57%) than girls (43%) in Care. 88% of whom were defined as white British. It was noted that there was around 370 children in care at the moment.

The Head of Service for Policy, Performance and Commissioning informed the Group that the Borough's figures were remaining consistent at the moment and were more or less in line with national statistics.

The Group was informed that through initiatives such as Family Group Conferences, the Borough would be successful in its aim to reduce the number of children entering care and that figures would be brought back to the Group over time as appropriate.

RESOLVED –

That the presentation be noted.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....