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Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group

Thursday, 23rd July, 2020

6.00 pm

Virtual Meeting –

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AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Declaration of Interest**

A form is attached for completion by Members declaring an interest in items on the agenda.

Declarations of Interest **3**
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

For the Group to agree the Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group meeting held on the 2nd March 2020.

Minutes of the Meeting - 2nd March 2020 **4 - 7**
4. **Vice Chair Update**

For the Group to receive a verbal update from the Vice Chair on behalf of Young People.
5. **Corporate Parenting Dashboard**

To review and consider the latest monitoring reports on Looked after Children in the Borough.
6. **COVID Update**
7. **Virtual School**

To receive an update on the attainment figures for Virtual School.
8. **Participation Update**

For the Group to be provided with an update on Participation.

9. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 6pm.

PART 2 - THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM

There are no Part 2 items on this agenda.

Date Published: 16th July 2020
Denise Park, Chief Executive

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Members attending a Council, Committee, Board or other meeting with a personal interest in a matter on the Agenda must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and, if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Interest under paragraph 16.1 of the Code of Conduct, should leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.

Members declaring an interest(s) should complete this form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer at the commencement of the meeting and declare such an interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.

MEETING:

DATE:

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

SIGNED :

PRINT NAME:

(Paragraphs 8 to 17 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council refer)

PRESENT – Councillors: Gunn (In the Chair), Bateson, Davies, Liddle, Taylor and Whittle.

OFFICERS –

Alyson Hanson – Head of Permanence

Joanne Siddle – Head of Education

Pamela Price – Service Lead Placements

Paula Quinn – FCA Committee

Sam Briggs – FCA Secretary

Sarah Bateman – Service Lead Review and Quality

RESOLUTIONS

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillors; Batan, Brookfield, Kay, McFall and Smith (D). Apologies were also noted from Jayne Ivory, Charlotte Hesketh, Jaffer Hussain and Caroline Waldron.

2 Declaration of Interest in item on this Agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Matters Arising

Beez Card Update

At the last meeting concerns were raised about the process of obtaining a Beez Card for Children in Care. Pamela Price, Service Lead Placements, attended the meeting and informed the Committee that the process had since been looked at and improvements had been made. A single point of contact with a specific email address had been identified and had been trialled twice. It was noted that assurances had been given that the email inbox was safe and secure. On both trialled occasions the Beez Card was ready within two days and was available for collection at any leisure centre. Pamela asked that any further issues should be reported back to her. It was also noted that the telephone number on the website was still incorrect. Pamela confirmed that this would be amended.

RESOLVED – The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 27th January 2020 were approved as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chair.

4 Vice Chair Update

The Chair informed the Group that there was nothing new to be updated on. It was noted that regular updates were also provided to the Executive Board.

5 Out of Borough Placements

Alyson Hanson attended the meeting to give the Group a presentation on Out of Borough Placements. Alyson introduced her colleagues, Pamela Price (Service Lead Placements) and Sarah Bateman (Service Lead Review and Quality).

The Group heard that as of November 2019, there were 402 children in care in Blackburn with Darwen. Of those, 166 children in placements were recorded as being outside the local authority boundary. The placements types were highlighted as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| In house foster care | 29 |
| Independent Fostering Agencies | 44 |
| Family and Friends | 14 |
| Residential | 35 |
| Placed with parents | 10 |
| Adoptive placements | 18 |
| Regulation 24 placements | 6 |
| Other LA placements | 2 |
| Supported accommodation | 4 |
| Young Offender Institutions | 3 |
| Hospital | 1 |
| Total | 166 |

The Group heard that the majority of children in foster care living outside of the local authority boundary were still in the North West, with 28 children in IFA (Independent Fostering Agencies) placements being placed in the Lancashire County Council boundary. 95 children were living more than 20 miles away and 20 children were living more than 50 miles away. Those living at the greatest distance were in adoptive or connected persons placements.

The Group was informed of the significant challenges in finding placements and heard that children were being placed out of area due to a lack of suitable provision closer to home. Teenagers and sibling groups were especially more challenging to place and often there was a lack of choice locally, regionally and nationally. Expertise of foster carers for children with complex needs was also a factor.

The Group then looked at 4 case studies and undertook an exercise to determine how each child in each of the scenarios presented would be supported by the Local Authority.

Discussions took place around children in care transitioning into adulthood and how they were supported once leaving care. Concerns were raised and the Group agreed to examine this at a future meeting.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Group note the information contained within the presentation and that the presentation be circulated to all Members of the Council for information; and

- 2) That the Group examine the role of the Leaving Care service at a future meeting.

6 Participation Update

A written update on Participation was tabled at the meeting.

Paula Quinn informed the Group that the FCA in conjunction with Performers Without Borders had been successful in securing an Awards For All grant for Circus Skills, which was extremely good news and almost 12 months in the planning. This now meant that a 2 day workshop would be running at Easter and furthermore 2 hour sessions on a Monday evening up until Summer, with a further block running throughout the Autumn term. It was noted that it wasn't just for Looked After Children, however they would get priority.

Discussions took place around attendance levels at VOICE and the possibility of reviewing the venue to encourage more attendance. The Group also discussed the possibility of involving the virtual school to generate wider interest and involvement.

RESOLVED – That the written update be noted and that Jo Siddle arrange a meeting with Jaffer Hussain to discuss a review of the venue for VOICE and the involvement of the virtual school to generate more involvement.

7 Corporate Parenting Dashboard

As the Corporate Parenting Dashboard report was presented to the Group at the previous meeting held on 27th January 2020, there were no latest monitoring reports for the Group to review and consider at this time. Therefore, it was agreed that the item be brought back to the next meeting taking place on 8th July 2020.

RESOLVED – That the item be brought back to next meeting on 8th July 2020.

8 Any Other Business

Dates of future meetings

The Chair informed the Group of the new dates that had been set for the Municipal Year for 2020/21. These were as follows;

8th July 2020
7th October 2020
11th January 2021
16th March 2021

RESOLVED – That the Group note the dates of the future meetings.

Children in Our Care Ofsted Inspection

Councillor Bateson informed the group of a recent 2 day Ofsted inspection to Children in Our Care. The results of which were not available to share to the Group as of yet, but it was agreed that this item be brought back to the July meeting, when the outcome of the inspection would be available.

RESOLVED – That the Group note the update and that the item come back to the next meeting.

Signed:

Date:

Chair of the meeting
at which the minutes were confirmed