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Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group

Wednesday, 11th January, 2023

6.00 pm

Meeting Room A

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2022**
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3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **YPS and Participation Update**
To receive an update on the YPS and Participation.
5. **Foster Carers Association Update**
To receive an update on the Foster Carers Association.
6. **Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children Update**
To receive an update on Safeguarding and Looked After Children.
Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group Health Report Jan 23_ 7 - 9
7. **Improvement Board Update**
To receive an update on the Improvement Board.
8. **Virtual School Exam Results Update**
To receive an update on the Virtual School Exam Results.
9. **Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting**
To confirm the date of next meeting.

Date Published: Date Not Specified
Denise Park, Chief Executive

CORPORATE PARENTING SPECIALIST ADVISORY GROUP
Wednesday, 5th October 2022

PRESENT – Councillors: Katrina Fielding (In the Chair), Julie Gunn, Phil Riley, Zamir Khan, Samim Desai, Jackie Floyd

OFFICERS –

Declan Smith – Vice Chair

Roisa McCusker – Care Leavers Representative

Joanne Siddle – Deputy Director, Schools & Education

Vicky Balmer – Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children & Looked After Children

Pamela Price – Service Lead Permanence

Amjad Rashid – Youth Support Worker Participation

Paula Quinn – FCA Committee

RESOLUTIONS

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair Cllr Katrina Fielding, welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies were received from Charlotte Hesketh, Elizabeth Clarkson and from the following Councillors: Lynn Fields, Qesir Mahmood, Jacqueline Slater, Ehsan Raja, John Slater, Brian Taylor, Tasleem Fazal, Mark Russell, Stephanie Brookfield, Jean Rigby, David Smith, Sabahat Imtiaz, Zainab Rawat, Lillian Salton, Sylvia Liddle, Julie Slater, Salim Sidat, Tony Humphrys, Mark Russell, Sajid Ali, Jim Casey, Shaukat Hussain, Abdul Patel, Martin McCaughran.

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 25th July 2022

RESOLVED – The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th July 2022 were approved as a correct record. Two matters were raised including an incorrectly noted Apology and typographical errors. With the amendment of these the minutes were agreed as correct method.

3. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED – There were no Declarations of Interest received.

4. Vice Chair, YPS and Participation Update

Roisa McCusker informed the group that she and the Vice-Chair have undertaken Total Respect Training where they have learnt skills in confidence, presentation and sensitivity, which has enabled them to become confident, able, trainers. They would be working with Cllr Julie Gun to deliver a Total Respect Workshop at the next Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group Meeting.

An upcoming meeting would be taking place with the Digital Team to discuss the digital offer for care leavers and also another meeting scheduled with Clare Bibby and Imran Akuji to look at the development plan and the entitlements offer.

The Vice-Chair informed the Group that they have undertaken a number of interview panels during this last month for the Young Person Panel, in addition they have also attended the Children in Care Council where they touched on the rights and entitlements of being a care leaver. It had been noted that the Care Leavers Offer on the website was currently out of date. This would need to be updated so care leavers were aware of what was accessible to them and how they could be supported by the local authority.

The Group were informed other local authorities were struggling for numbers when it came to Forums for Children in Care. The Blackburn with Darwen Council group attended as a team of four young people, however other local authorities only attended with one or two young people and expressed how they were also struggling to engage Children in Care.

Finally the Vice-Chair informed the Group that the Leaving Care Forum had continued and has progressed very well.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

5. Foster Carers Association

The Chair welcomed Paula Quinn from the Foster Carers Association Committee to provide an update to the Group.

The Group heard that the Foster Carers Association had from been working collaboratively with Children in Care and the Young Peoples Service to recognise the need to celebrate their achievements.

Paula informed the Group that the FCA and YPS would be hosting a joint Halloween Party and were also looking to arrange a Christmas Fair/Fundraiser. The entire downstairs of the Empire Theatre had been booked as the FCA will be performing a Pantomime on Saturday 3rd December. There were over 100 tickets available and the association welcomed anyone who may have a connection to fostering.

Paula confirmed on Sunday 11th December, the Royal British Legion had organised a Christmas Market where they had allocated a free stall to the Foster Carers Association. Physical and cash donations would be welcome for the stall as there will be a tombola.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

6. Corporate Parenting Dashboard

The Group was presented with an update from Pamela Price on the latest Children Looked After Statistics, and heard that 79 Children Looked After started in the last six months.

Of those, none of the 79 Children Looked After starters were unaccompanied asylum seeking children and 10 children returned to the care system after being looked after.

Pamela informed the group that 76 Children Looked After ceased in the last six months. Of the total number, 12 were adopted, 19 had special guardianship orders and 33 were referred to as 'other'. This meant they had either returned to their parents, been provided with support or had turned 18 and are living

independent.

The Group then looked at the 390 Children Looked After with an episode of care, with 6% of the children having a disability and 76% of the children being White British. From these children, 68% of them had been placed in foster placements as opposed to residential placements.

Pamela informed the group that there had been a larger proportion of children in care between the last 12 months. Foster Carers had also been provided with training for therapeutic support, this has explained the period of stability shown in the placements.

Pamela highlighted there had been a positive 90% of Children Looked After who have had health assessments. She advised there was still more work to be done on Dental checks as only 50% of the children had access to dentists.

The Group heard that there had been a reduction in the number of Missing from Home Placements and also a reduction in the number of children in care however situations with recruitment and foster placements were very challenging. The Foster Carer Payments have to be reviewed as Blackburn with Darwen were paying a lower rate to Foster Carers, who may compare this to elsewhere. The payment bands 1-4 had to be reviewed in order to make them more competitive.

Discussions were taking place suggesting experienced Foster Carers being rewarded with higher pay and incentives. There was also a suggestion for them to receive a reduction in Council Tax. Foster Carers already received free gym membership at BwD Council gyms.

In order to branch out of Blackburn with Darwen when recruiting Foster Carers, links have now been made with Burnley FC to raise awareness in areas such as Burnley, Colne, Brierfield and Nelson. Foster Carers had also been given a table at the One Voice Awards in February 2023.

Finally the Group were informed that The Limes, which used to be a specialist Fostering Service in 2015 and vacant for a few years, has now been renovated as somewhere Foster Carers and Care Leavers can meet. The Revive Team had converted one of the upstairs rooms in to a Therapy Room, alongside a Play Therapy Room in the Annexe. There would be an open day in the next few weeks where individuals were able to see the potential of the building.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

7. Safeguarding Children & Looked After Children Update

The Chair welcomed Vicky Balmer, Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children & Looked After Children, to the meeting who provided an update on the current position to the Group.

The Group heard that the Rossendale Dental Pilot would be rolled out and tested across Lancashire and South Cumbria. There would also be a Single Point of Contact for ongoing care for children without a dentist who were in need of priority appointments. This would be available by ringing 111 and the model would be in place next year.

Vicky Brown would also be updating the Group with the monthly reports she receives from School Nurses at the next Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory

Group Meeting.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

8. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the date for the next meeting as 11th January 2023 and thanked everyone for attending.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

Signed.....

Date:

Chair of the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed

Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group

Date of meeting	11 th January 2023
Title of paper	Health update
Presented by	Amelia Brummitt specialist safeguarding practitioner
Author	Victoria Balmer deputy designated nurse for safeguarding children and children in care & Amelia Brummitt specialist safeguarding practitioner
Agenda item	
Confidential	Yes

Purpose of the paper

To provide the Blackburn with Darwen corporate parenting specialist advisory group with an update regarding health activity since the last meeting. The information within the paper has been presented into separate headings to clearly highlight the key areas of focus and the depth of the work being undertaken.

The areas of work highlighted within this report have been identified as priorities from the BwD health sub group or as an action from the specialist advisory group.

Quality assurance of health advice to inform Education Health Care Plans (EHCP)

An action taken from the last specialist advisory group was to explore the quality assurance process of the health advice provided to inform EHCP's for Children in our Care. There is not a specific quality assurance process specifically for Children in our Care, however, below is the QA process for all children with an EHCP.

1. The health information as part of EHCP's is quality assured by the Designated Clinical Officers (DCO) and their administrators. This team co-ordinates the requests for EHCP health information and sends them out to teams for completion with strict return dates.
2. If the information does not meet the standards expected, it is returned with guidance notes for completion. Returns for poor quality are low
3. The DCO in BWD also provides feedback to us via the SEND improvement meetings and reports back quality themes, areas of good practice and areas for further development.
4. The 0-19 teams are in the process of delivering a number of 'what a good EHCP looks like' training to all health practitioners within BwD 0-19 that complete health advice. This is generally offered every couple of years and has been shown to ensure exceptions regarding poor quality are minimal.

Dental pathway update

Access to dental healthcare has been identified as a national challenge and this has been reflected locally via the Local Authority Chat Data.

The priority care pathway is for priority patients including Children in Care, alongside other priority patient groups e.g. care for cancer patients and cardiac care. Clarity is currently being sought as to whether the priority care criteria will include care leavers.

NHSE are exploring the logistics regarding the single point of access including the means in which this will be facilitated, by phone referral/by email etc.

The expectation will be that the dental practice that provide care through this pathway following referral will retain registration of the child following initial treatment.

If a child/ young person was to move placement out of area, a re-referral would need to be completed. It is anticipated that the pathway will be launched in January 2023, NHSE have identified dental practices willing to participate throughout Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Communications, including method of referral will be provided to share with Social Care, Foster Carers, PA's and wider health providers.

Further updates will be provided as they are received.

Pre-adoption pathway

As part of the BwD Health Subgroup an action was identified around the Pre-Adoption processes and the completion of an overarching multiagency pathway for pre-adoption medicals that ensures timely and quality assured assessments to inform the child permanence plans. Adoption is complex and agencies often work individually and are not aware of the intricacies each individual agency undertakes. Therefore, meetings have been held with relevant agencies to undertake this pathway. The pathway enables clear time frames for each agency. Escalation and quality assurance are also key to the pathway.

Updates have been made to the pathway and V4 has been shared with the chairs of the BwD health subgroup. The pathway will be discussed at the next meeting and following that for members of the subgroup to comment and feedback. The draft pathway has been shared with the children's commissioners for their information and to share with the community paediatric network.

Initial health assessment & Review health assessment performance

Initial Health Assessment - Children originating from BwD and residing in BwD

During Quarter 2, there were 22 IHA requests and 18(82%) were completed within timescales. In Quarter 1, there were slightly fewer requests, 18, of which, 10 (56%) were completed in time. The number of requests for IHAs this quarter has increased; however, the compliance rate has similarly increased. This may be due to availability of the ELHT Paediatricians to complete IHAs, children being brought to appointments and the relevant documents being received more timely from BwD CSC which would lead to more IHAs being completed within the statutory in timescale.

Quality Assurance

In ELHT there is a devised Quality Assurance tool that must be completed by the CNP Administrator, the Children in Care Nurse and the Doctor completing the IHA.

ELHT complete 3 monthly Quality Audits and 6 monthly deep dive quarterly audits in conjunction with the ICB, Quality of the IHA's is consistently very good.

Review Health Assessments -Children originating from BwD and residing in BwD

In Quarter 2, there were 49 RHAs requested and 42(86%) completed within timescales. Similar numbers were requested in Quarter 1, there were 45 RHAs requested and 42 (93%) completed within timescales.

Quality Assurance

The Enhanced CIC Nurses quality assure 100% of all RHAs completed by Blackburn with Darwen (BwD) Children and Families Teams and LSCFT Special Needs School Nurses Team. If RHA's do not meet the quality threshold as set out in statutory guidance, the RHA is returned to the practitioner with guidance and support on areas to improve the quality of the health assessment.

Report authorised by:	S.Clarke
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