

# Public Document Pack

## Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group

Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023

6.00 pm

Meeting Room A

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### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting  
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3. Declaration of Interests  
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4. Youth Inspectors Update
5. Foster Carer Association
6. Children in Care - Performance Update
7. Leaving Care
8. Virtual College Update
9. Early Help
10. Any Other Business

Date Published: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Denise Park, Chief Executive

## CORPORATE PARENTING SPECIALIST ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**PRESENT** – Councillors, Matthew Gibson, Sylvia Liddle, Denise Gee, Vicky McGurk, Tony Humphrys, Zamir Khan.

### **OFFICERS –**

Joanne Siddle – Director Children’s Services & Education

Emma Ford – Deputy Director Social Care

Roisa McCusker – YPS Care Leavers

Paula Quinn – FCA Vice Chair

Victoria Balmer – Deputy designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children & looked after Children

Nafisha Master – Governance Manager

Shelly Sarwar – Governance Support Officer

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Roisa McCusker informed that the Chair Cllr Katrina Fielding was unable to attend the meeting and welcomed all present to the meeting. It was agreed that the Vice Chair Roisa would Chair the meeting.

All attendees introduced themselves to the group and apologies were received from Cllrs Katrina Fielding, Julie Slater, Parwaiz Akhtar, Brain Taylor, Mark Russell, Jean Rigby, Stephanie Brookfield, John Slater, David Smith, Jackie Floyd, Sajid Ali, Samim Desai and James Smith. Apologies were also received from Martin Eden, Amelia Brummit NHS, Elizabeth Clarkson and Charlotte Hesketh.

### **2. Minutes of Previous meeting:**

**RESOLVED** – The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 March 2023 were approved as a correct record.

### **3. Declarations of interest:**

**RESOLVED** - There were no Declarations of interest received.

### **4. Quality Assurance (QA) framework.**

Roisa McCusker welcomed Joanne Siddle who provided an update to the group on the QA framework.

Joanne Siddle updated the Members on the Quality Assurance Framework and explained the practices that were carried out. Members were informed of how the quality insurance framework was allowing Social work practices to be observed more effectively. This had allowed more effective communication between children/parents

and social work practices. By effectively using tool kits, resources, updated assessments, feedback, audit and direct work improvements had been recognised by Children's safeguarding partnership.

The Members were informed that prior to the inspections the feedback received from JTAI (Joint Targeted Area Inspection) would be used to improve services where specified, the quality assurance framework has been put together and led by Emma Ford. The JTAI letter would be published on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Emma Ford highlighted further aspects of the Quality Assurance & Impact Framework:

### **Quality Assurance & Impact Framework**

Values and Principals. The Framework focuses on practice and impact upon outcomes for children.

**Principal one:** Children, young people, and their families are at the heart of what we do. The focus must be on impact and outcomes for the child or young person.

**Principal two:** The approach to Quality Assurance is Systemic Activity is done 'with' practitioners and all perspectives are considered

### **Quality Assurance & Impact Activity**

The following are our core quality assurance activities: Performance data, HR data on recruitment, retention and exit interviews, Routine collaborative audits, Experiences and views of parents, carers, children and young people, Observations of practice, Targeted audits, Follow-up actions, Practice Learning Days, Complaints and compliments and Local multi-agency safeguarding partnership

### **The Overarching Framework**

- Quality assurance and impact activity
- QA and impact activity is collated and analysed.
- Monthly service level performance meetings
- Scrutinise data, outcome of QA & impact activity and the impact of this upon outcomes
- Chaired by the Head of Service
- Attended by Service Leads & TMs
- Monthly Practice Forum meetings - this will triangulate the findings of the monthly service meetings with Heads of Service and Service Leads and Will allow all service areas to understand our practice progress

### **Dissemination of Learning**

The framework will embed learning pro-actively into practice through an approach that is multi layered and owned by all the workforce, making it the culture of what we do.

- Learning Circles will take place with teams to support application of learning into practice
- Bite size Workshops with practitioners following thematic and practice weeks
- Full quarterly staff briefing led by the Deputy Director and DCS
- Monthly team meetings
- Seven-minute briefings

### **Role of Team Managers:**

**Weekly** 1. Review weekly performance data and engage with Social Workers to address any non-compliance 2. Use targeted audits to understand the quality behind the data

**Monthly** 1. Undertake a targeted audit (one per Social Worker to inform supervision) 2. Undertake supervisions as per policy and need of the child 3. Complete routine audit

**Quarterly** 1. Engage with practice learning days

**Every 6 months** 1. Observation of practice of each Social Worker 2. Review personal development plan

### **Role of Service Managers**

**Weekly** 1. Review weekly performance data and actions planned by team managers. Offer narrative of data and drive any need for support to HoS 2. Utilise targeted audits to evidence quality and impact of practice

**Monthly** 1. Review and update the service improvement plan 2. TM supervision - targeted audit of supervision to take place to inform 3. Analysis report of targeted audit findings and journey travelled

**Quarterly** 1. Engage with practice learning days 2. Inform the quarterly analysis of QA findings and provide a narrative on practice improvement

**Every 6 months** 1. Observe Team managers

### **Role of Heads of Service**

**Weekly** 1. Provide weekly data narrative and plans to Deputy Director 2. Utilise targeted audits to evidence quality and impact of practice

**Monthly** 1. Service lead supervision - informed by audit findings 2. Chair monthly performance meeting 3. Update the Self-assessment

**Quarterly** 1. Lead practice learning days

**Every 6 months** 1. Review the impact of the service delivery and improvement plans 2. Observation of service leads

November 2023 Full review of QA Framework

**RESOLVED** – The update been noted.

## **5. Virtual College:**

Joanne Siddle provided the group with an update with regards to the Virtual College and that it had now moved to Charlotte Hesketh's remit, it was noted that this was a new arrangement for the team and Charlotte was overseeing the area. Charlotte was also working with care leavers and with partners.

Joanne Siddle indicated that it was worth celebrating what the council was good at and taking the opportunity to celebrate and think about the role of the Corporate Parent and to understand the experiences of care leavers, nurturing and giving extra support required.

**RESOLVED** – The update been noted.

**6. Foster Carers:**

Paula Quinn informed the group that there was a meet and greet session taking place the day after the meeting and attendance was being encouraged. The event would be attended by Foster carers, managers, social workers and digital teams. There had recently been a Spring Fair and the money would be put towards the residential project for 20 young people.

It was noted that during the 6 weeks summer holidays extra activities would be planned and provided to the children. There would be activities taking place every day for them to attend and opportunities to take part for the foster children and carers.

**RESOLVED** – The update been noted.

**7. Participation Group:**

Roisa McCusker informed the meeting that the Voice Group and Leaving Care group had secured a music project and that a lot of young people were enjoying the project and getting involved.

Roisa updated the meeting on increased opportunities for young people to be empowered and involved in training around Autism Awareness, First Aid and Mental Health.

Roisa also updated on the Summer programme which included bowling, residential visit, a barge trip, a trip to Bolton abbey and an end of summer party and BBQ.

**RESOLVED** – The update been noted.

**8. Any Other Business**

Joanne Siddle advised that she would request Imran Akuji to provide an update on the outcomes of the young inspectors programme to a future meeting of the group and give some feedback.

Victoria Balmer informed the Committee that the Dental Referral process was being developed and utilised however it was not being used as much as officers had hoped for although they were still working on it. A new delivery model would be started on in the next few months.

The Chair confirmed the date for the next meeting as 3rd October 2023 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair of the meeting  
at which the minutes were confirmed

## 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: **Corporate Parenting Special Advisory Group**

DATE: **3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**

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)