

# CORPORATE PARENTING SPECIALIST ADVISORY GROUP

## Tuesday, 28 March 2023

**PRESENT** – Councillors, Fielding, Floyd, Gunn, Jackson, Khan, Liddle, McCaughran, McGurk, Salton and Taylor.

### **OFFICERS –**

Joanne Siddle – Director Children’s Services & Education

Elizabeth Clarkson – Participation & Inclusion Manager, Children’s Services

Paula Quinn – FCA Vice Chair

Rosia McCusker - YPS Care Leaver

Victoria Balmer - Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding

Children & Looked After Children (Pennine Lancashire)

Dr Dimindu

## RESOLUTIONS

### 10 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair Cllr Katrina Fielding, welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies were received from Sam Briggs, Charlotte Hesketh and from the following Councillors: Mark Russell, Zainab Rawat, Ehsan Raja, Stephanie Brookfield.

### 11 **Total Respect Training**

At this point of the meeting the group had received training by the Care Leavers Team on Total Respect. The training had informed the group on children’s rights and in particular, those rights of care experienced young people, and how it felt to be a looked after child/care leaver.

The committee members did provide positive feedback from the training and were advised by the Care Leavers Team that they do intend for other agencies to complete the training to ensure they had a better understanding of young people who are in care.

### 12 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED – The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th January 2023 were approved as a correct record.

### 13 **Declarations of Interest**

RESOLVED – Councillor Vicky McGurk had advised the group that she will declare an Interest as she is now a Foster Carer and would not participate in any decision making.

### 14 **Foster Carers Association Update**

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

The group had been informed that the FCA and YPS will be hosting an Easter Party, Spring Fair and a Summer Gala between April and September 2023. Details of the date, time and locations of the events would be circulated following the meeting.

Paula had also informed the group that YPS had received some funding and have arranged a 2 night residential trip for 20 children in August 2023 to a water park in Cumbria. The group were informed that this trip was being hugely subsidised by donations to FCA and their own fundraising, which had meant that the cost for each child would only be £20 per child. The trip was for mainstream children aged 8-14yrs. The group were advised that attempts had been made in the past to arrange a residential trip but were only able to secure a residential trip for 1 night which would have been inconvenient.

The group were informed that throughout the summer YPS will be hosting free activities every Thursday such as day trips to St Annes, barge trips, water-sports at Queens Park for The Voice Group members.

## **15 YPS and Participation update**

The Chair welcomed Roisa McCusker to provide an update to the group. Since the last meeting the group were informed that Junior and Senior Voice members had met with Lee Jorgenson from the Blackburn with Darwen Communications and Engagement Team to create a video on why they enjoyed coming to the group in the hope to get more members to join. A draft video had been created but the group were just waiting for the final edit to be completed.

Roisa had informed the group that meetings had been taking place to discuss the Total Respect Training which members had participated at the beginning of the meeting.

The Group heard The Leaving Care Forum were recently involved in having a demo of the 'mind of my own' app that the council were looking to invest in. This demo went through the functions of the app, what young people could upload and how this information would go through to their PA's., and are in the process of deciding on a re-name for the leaving care service.

Roisa had also informed the group that the leaving care forum, were still continuing to support young people's interview panels and most recently interviewed for the Director of Children's Services, which they had really enjoyed.

Finally, Roisa advised the group that the Blackburn with Darwen's young inspectors had recently inspected the leaving care service. The inspection team was made up of 2 leaving care young people and the youth MP. They interviewed management and leaving care young people. The group were advised that following this inspection it was discussed that more young people who access leaving care should have the opportunity to voice their experience, rather than the 4 young people who were handpicked.

## **16 Any other business**

The group agreed that there should be an agenda item on the Leaving Care Team Inspection on the next agenda

The Chair confirmed the date for the next meeting as 4th July 2023 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair of the meeting  
at which the minutes were confirmed