

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 2ND JULY, 2019, 7.15-8.45pm**

## **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Peray Ahmet, Zena Brabazon, Erdal Dogan, Justin Hinchcliffe and Tammy Palmer**

### **60. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein.

### **61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sakina Chenot; Cllr Justin Hinchcliffe substituted.

### **62. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

### **64. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

The minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

### **65. MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee queried the attendance of Cllr Mark Blake and requested for further information in relation to the three points mentioned in pages 3-4 of the minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. Beverley Hendricks, Interim Assistant Director for Children's Social Care, mentioned the report could not be brought to the meeting as the report is scheduled to be prepared by August 2019. It was further mentioned that the Youth Justice Board would be leading the report to ensure all partners were not only part of the remedial measures, but also maintain and monitor practice. The Chair requested that a report be provided to the next meeting, and it was agreed that Cllr Mark Blake will be invited to the next meeting. **(Action: Beverley Hendricks/Ann Graham/Clerk).**

Regarding page 4 of the minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019, the Chair enquired when an update would be provided on the Ofsted action plan. The Director of Children's Services noted that an Ofsted 'Keeping in touch' meeting is due to take place in July 2019. It was requested that an update be provided at the CPAC meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (**Action: Ann Graham**).

## 66. PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR TO MAY 2019

The Committee considered this report which provided an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.

Beverley Hendricks took the Committee through the report as set out. In addition, the following was highlighted:

- Regarding children in care, the Committee was assured that their needs are being met. It was acknowledged that there are some challenges with the data, which is continually being worked on. It was noted that at the close of business on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019, there were a total of 427 children in care.
- In relation to unaccompanied asylum seeker children, it was projected that Haringey would have 2 new asylum seeker children per month, but it turned out to be 8 new unaccompanied asylum seeker children at the end of the month. In the last few months, 6 age assessments were undertaken that determined young people as adults. There are currently, 6 age assessments outstanding. The main issues to health for the unaccompanied asylum seeker children include accessing GPs, emergency health and infectious disease. The service were working closely to make sure young people are accessing services as soon as possible and ensuring young people are kept as local as possible.
- The Chair commented positively on the amount of placement orders in relation to the total population of Children in Care (2.4 at page 8). The Chair highlighted that 27 placement orders out of a population of 424 was a great achievement.
- Regarding 2.5 at page 8, it was highlighted that the Care Plan target is being achieved.

Following discussion it was noted that:

- In response to safeguarding concerns, particularly around some secondary age individuals at primary school, Officers mentioned that it could happen, but it was noted that there were certain criteria that need to be followed through casework and legislation, which means that until the age assessment is accepted, the needs of the child have to be responded to.
- In terms of networks and links, it was mentioned that there are plans to create a hub in the service to look at what the Service can do alongside charities.
- Regarding unaccompanied asylum seeker children, The Chair recommended for there to be a more focused report on this area, such as some slides, and have an extensive discussion on the subject matter at the next CPAC meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019, including the point raised by the Committee Member on

funding and whether there is a London-wide strategy on funding. Officers agreed (**Action: Beverley Hendricks/Ann Graham**).

- In regard to FGM, Officers advised that it is not common, but if there is evidence then mandatory reporting is required and it is treated as a crime against the child.
- The Chair enquired the definition of 'suitable' as set out in 2.15 page 10. In response, the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care clarified that it around work to identify accommodation to ensure it matches the needs of young people.
- Regarding apprenticeship opportunities, the Director of Children's Services will request the Assistant Director for Economic Development and Growth to include this on the strategy for vulnerable young people. Officers noted that Homes for Haringey have apprenticeship schemes for young people, and there is a strategy being developed around apprenticeships. It was mentioned that there may be a cohort that may not be interested in apprenticeships due to high grades, and it is a matter of encouraging the cohort that have not reached the high grades that may be interested in apprenticeships.
- Regarding the Children Looked After placement table on page 17, the Chair raised concerns on costs considering there are 40 children in Children's Homes and 39 in Residential accommodation. The Director of Children's Services confirmed that that area is being continually monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.
- In relation to the average length of time for children to move to adoption, Officers explained that it can take up to 9 months to a year to place child in adoption. The Director of Children's Services added that there were some challenging cases, for example it could take 14 months for an adoption to go through.
- The Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care confirmed that space within homes is a challenge. Officers noted that one initiative to address this issue is establishing a group of foster carers in house and identifying which homes can be adapted to create extra rooms. It is hoped that by October 2019, 3 households will have extra rooms to take in more children. In addition to extending homes, Officers mentioned that loans are also provided, but there is governance on that.

## **67. EUROPEAN UNION AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

The Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care introduced this briefing document which provided a broad overview of the ways in which EU law affected children and what could happen in the event of a no deal scenario between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Council's looked after children.

The Chair noted the seriousness of the contents of the briefing note and suggested it be distributed to members of parliament in order that questions could be asked of the civil service regarding the preparations made. Officers agreed on the seriousness of the implications for the Council in the event of a no deal scenario but advised that further research would be carried out before Haringey's members of parliament were consulted on the issue to ensure that all the relevant information was presented.

Members agreed the implications for Haringey's looked after children from European countries was a serious and pressing concern. It was therefore important for the Council to know, in so far as possible, the potential impact on those children and how the Council would be able to assist them.

The Director of Children's Services confirmed that the matter would be raised further at the next one-to-one with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families (**Action: Ann Graham**).

The Chair requested this item be placed on the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Forward Plan to be considered in greater detail with Members at a future meeting (**Action: Clerk**).

**68. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Dates of the next meeting

15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

16<sup>th</sup> January 2020

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....