

MINUTES OF MEETING CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 20th OCTOBER, 2020, 7.15 – 8.45

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Kaushika Amin (Chair), Sakina Chenot, Eldridge Culverwell, Mahir Demir, Erdal Dogan, Peter Mitchell and Tammy Palmer

ALSO ATTENDING: Ann Graham (Director of Children's Services), Beverley Hendricks (Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Social Care), Richard Hutton (Senior Performance Officer), Lynn Carrington (Designated Nurse), Dr Fayrus Abusrewil, Emma Cummergen (Deputy Head of Service), Nicola Morgan (Headteacher Virtual Head of Schools) and Emma Perry (Principal Committee Co-ordinator)

1. 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.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

There were no apologies for absence.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

- Item 93 – Any Other Business – it was noted that the date stated should have said 10th December 2019 and not 2020.

6. MATTERS ARISING

In response to the action points detailed on page 2 of the agenda, Beverley Hendricks, Assistant Director Safeguarding & Social Care, stated that a 6-page document had been produced, setting out the issues and action points. This document had then been converted into a summary and action plan. The summary had identified 4 key action points, with 3 of these currently delivered. **(ACTION: Beverley Hendricks to re-circulate the paper to members of the committee).**

In response to the action point identified on page 5 of the agenda, it was confirmed that a briefing report had been completed and that this would also be re-circulated to members of the committee. **(ACTION: Beverley Hendricks).**

7. PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR TO AUGUST 2020

Richard Hutton introduced the report, as set out on pages 7-12 of the agenda. The report provided an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children, on behalf of the Committee.

Officers responded to questions from the Committee:

- In response to a question regarding the personal education plans, it was explained that they were a statutory part of the care plan for every looked after child. This was a working document, which was reviewed every term. Each plan was individual to the child and monitored the child's progress and achievements and would also enable support to be put in place to support this progress, if necessary.
- In response to a question regarding the proportion of 17-18-year-old care leavers in touch with the local authority compared with 19-21 year olds, it was confirmed that after a sample had been taken which found that a cluster of those children had achieved their 18th birthday at the same time and had therefore stopped being looked after. The numbers had now picked up again and it was confirmed that the number of children being looked after detailed in the report was correct and no risks were unmet.
- It was explained that the data surrounding these age groups related to national indicators and provided a snapshot. The figures took into account any contact that was made 3 months after their 18th birthday. There were a number of cohorts that could impact these figures, including those with unaccompanied asylum, where their status was not regulated, young people in prison, and those along the county line.
- It was confirmed that a vulnerable children's panel had been set up to monitor the virtual learning process, working closely with designated teachers in schools. Every Tuesday and Thursday those children with an allocated social worker would be contacted and this information shared with schools within the borough. The most vulnerable children would be contacted on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The process allowed the schools to identify those children that needed additional support and weren't able to access schooling online and to ensure that their basic needs were also covered. An Early Help Panel had also been set up

in May 2020 to refer any child into early help that required it and to also determine what intervention was required.

- In response to a question regarding the dental checks which had been delayed as a result of the Coronavirus, it was stated that once the dental surgeries had reopened nationally, it was a priority to get children seen on a twice yearly basis. It was noted that the waiting lists were very high at present.

8. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE, COVID RESPONSE

Beverley Hendricks introduced the report, as set out on pages 13-19 of the agenda. The report provided the Children's Social Care response to supporting vulnerable children and young people during the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

Officers responded to questions from the Committee:

- In response to a question regarding the immediate and long-term challenges being faced by the service and looked after children, one of the main concerns raised was the workforce and how to build resilience and creative ways to boost morale and confidence in the team during this challenging time. The model of social work would also be looked at during this time and what partnership services were currently available. It was important to note that we were living in unprecedented times and the future was currently unsure. It was noted that Tottenham had the highest levels of people being furloughed and it was important to work through the stresses this created and assess the impact on those individuals and families.
- In response to a question regarding stresses within the BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) community, especially young people, it was stated that they had found the Covid messaging stressful. National data had found that 16-28 year olds were being challenged the most and that Public Health could provide a more detailed response. Concerns were also raised regarding the emotional health of this age group.
- It was stated that there was strong local evidence that Covid did have an impact on referrals. Referrals had been made regarding food insecurities, those with autism and disruption to their established routine, higher anxiety levels. It was noted that care leavers had also been impacted with a number suffering significant job losses, creating issues surrounding food poverty and financial constraints. They had also experienced access problems to wifi and a significant impact on their mental health, with many feeling very isolated. Support had been provided to those requiring a Covid test, many of which were living in shared accommodation. It was recognised that it had been a really tough time for care leavers, in and out of the borough.
- It was felt important to get the thoughts, suggestions and feelings from the Aspire Group. **(ACTION: AG to arrange for the next meeting.)**

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

9. FOSTER CARERS ALLOWANCE

Beverley Hendricks introduced the report, as set out in the supplementary pack to the agenda. The policy explained Haringey's Fostering Allowance payments to foster

carers, detailed the weekly fees and allowances paid to carers and explained the circumstances in which additional payments could be made.

Officers responded to questions from the Committee:

- It was stated that it was important to benchmark the policies of other neighbouring boroughs and it was confirmed that this policy was comparable to those boroughs, including Islington and Hackney.
- In response to a question regarding paragraph 4.3.1 of the report and the new weekly rate, it was confirmed that this was implemented after DMT had agreed this. **(ACTION: Beverley Hendricks to confirm this date).**
- It was stated that Haringey was fortunate in that it had a long standing foster carers association, who the team had been working with on the policy since May 2019.

RESOLVED that the policy be endorsed.

10. HARINGEY VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19

Nicola Morgan, Headteacher Virtual Head of School, introduced the report, as set out on pages 21-44 of the agenda. The report outlined the activity of the Virtual School Head (VSH), Haringey Virtual School (HVS) and the educational outcomes of Haringey Council's looked after children (LAC) for the academic year 2018-19, as this was the most recent published data.

Officers responded to questions from the Committee:

- In response to a question regarding the impact the lockdown had on the education of KS1 and KS2 pupils, it was stated the education of looked after children had continued to be monitored during the lockdown and it was individual to the particular school what level of education the children were receiving. There was a lot of catch up educational support available now and schools were back to providing a full form of education. The schools were looking at areas that needed to be caught up on and any gaps, as well as identifying the support required to address these needs.
- Reference was made to page 35 of the agenda and whether it was correct that the virtual school figure for girls was zero. It was confirmed that the figure was correct, as none of the 6 girls had achieved the combined level of reading, writing and maths.
- In response to a question regarding poor attendance figures and how these were recorded, it was explained that the recording was dependent upon what setting the particular child was in, the type of absence and how this was counted.
- In response to a question regarding the outcomes by ethnicity, as set out on page 35 of the agenda, it was stated that there was not too much to draw out, as the numbers were very small and therefore not statistically significant. It was noted that the children from the Asian ethnic group were doing particularly well. It was however good to have a breakdown, so that the team were aware of their performance.

- Reference was made to paragraph 4.9 of the report and the reason why boys had out performed girls and also what the relationship was with CAMHS. It was believed that the reason was probably just the cohort and that the year just had some particularly high achieving boys. The team had a good relationship with first steps, which linked into CAMHS. Where it was felt that additional support was required, first steps could get involved quickly or signpost to a particular service. It was felt that the partnership worked well.

RESOLVED that the Committee would receive an updated Virtual School Annual Report outlining educational outcomes for the academic year 2019-20 in the Autumn 2021.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The date of the next meeting is 14 January 2021.

CHAIR: Councillor Kaushika Amin

Signed by Chair

Date