

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) held at
11.00 am on Tuesday, 12 November 2013

Present:

Members: Councillor G Duggins (Cabinet Member)
 Councillor J Lepoidevin (Shadow Cabinet Member)
 Councillor J Innes (Deputy Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

A Clarkson, People Directorate
A Daly, People Directorate
M Godfrey, People Directorate
U Patel, Resources Directorate
A Pepper, People Directorate
J Sembi, People Directorate
A West, Resources Directorate

In Attendance: D. Hamilton

Public Business

23. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

24. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) meeting held on 15th October 2013 were signed as a true record.

25. Annual Family Group Conference Service Report

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, People which presented the Annual Family Group Conference Service Report April 2012 to March 2013.

Coventry Family Group Conference facilitates family meetings where strengths and resources within a network of family and friends can be drawn upon to make a family plan which offer support, care and safety for children and young people.

The outcomes for the children and families who have offered a Family Group Conference have been carefully monitored and evaluated and are documented in the Annual Report.

The Family Group Conferencing Service has increasingly demonstrated its value in enhancing and assisting wider family and community networks involvement to make safe decision making for children and families in Coventry where there are child welfare concerns.

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) considered the annual report of the Family Group Conference Service at its meeting held on 7th November 2013. The Board endorsed the report and were supportive of the service and the important role has played as part of the Council's approach to early intervention and prevention. They recognised the benefits of the approach taken by the service which can deliver both better outcomes for children and families as well as preventing the costs associated with other local authority care of services.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Endorses the report and considered any comments forwarded by Scrutiny Board 2.**
- 2. Endorses the continued development of Family Group Conferencing as a process to enhance and assist wider family and community networks involvement in safe decision making for children and families in Coventry where there are child welfare concerns.**
- 3. Confirms future reporting requirements for this work, for which annual reporting is not a statutory requirement.**

26. Ofsted Adoption Inspection Report 2013

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, People which presented the Ofsted Adoption Inspection Report 2013.

Ofsted introduced a new framework for the inspection of adoption agencies which was implemented from April 2012. All adoption agencies must now have at least one inspection in each three-year inspection cycle. There are four potential judgements that Ofsted can make: Outstanding, Good, Adequate and Inadequate.

Coventry's Adoption Service was inspected by Ofsted between 12-16 August 2013 and was judged to be adequate by Ofsted. The final report was received in September 2013 and made 13 recommendations. The report was published on the Ofsted website on 1st October 2013.

This report outlined the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection and the action taken to address the recommendations.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Notes the report and endorses the actions taken to address the recommendations of the Inspection Report.**
- 2. Requests a further report to be submitted to the Cabinet Member in February 2014 to ensure that this is being progressed.**

27. **Fostering Service Report 2012-13**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director, People which presented the work completed by the Fostering Service during the year 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

Located within the Family Placement Service, the aim of the Fostering Service is to provide a range of quality placements to deliver alternative family care to meet the individual needs of those Coventry Children who are unable to live with their own families. The primary objective of the service is to support a range of improved outcomes for those children. The Fostering Service is responsible for the recruitment, training, assessment and support of the Council's Foster Carers in accordance with National Minimum Standards for Fostering.

The Council is committed to increasing the number of internal Foster Carers to meet the needs of the City's 'Looked After' Children. In the period 2012-13, Coventry's Fostering Service supported over 158 internal Foster Care households. Despite an increase in applications from prospective Foster Care households during 2012/13, overall, there was a net decrease in the number of Foster Carer households.

The Fostering Service is a regulated service and the Regulations require that the executive of the local authority receives regular reports on the service provided and that a Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service is compiled and kept under regular review. The National Minimum Standards specify that the Statement of Purpose should be reviewed at least annually. The updated Statement of Purpose was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Accepts the Fostering Service Report 2012/13.**
- 2. Approves the updated Statement of Purpose.**
- 3. Agrees to receive quarterly reports on the Recruitment and retention of Foster Carers throughout 2013/14.**

28. **Outstanding Issues Report**

There were no outstanding issues to report.

29. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 11.55 am)