

## Corporate Parenting Board - Report 2018/19

### Introduction

There has been some considerable change in the structure of the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) this year. The changes have been supported by several stable CPB members. Together, members of the Board have improved the functioning of the CPB significantly.

### Changes in the CPB

The following changes were made:

- A new chair of the CPB was introduced. She has brought a positive attitude of co-operation to the Board and has led the improvements
- The CPB has welcomed representation from the Coventry Foster Carer Association (CFCA)
- The CPB has endorsed the attendance of young people who are looked after or care leavers to increase the voice of young people on the Board
- A new model of involvement has been developed. 'Champions' have been identified from partner agencies. Some attend the Board as regular members, whilst others attend to discuss specific issues
- Individual meetings are jointly chaired with the relevant champion where appropriate.

### You said: we did

- Care leavers raised transition issues when moving into their own accommodation. As a result of this, the CPB looked at this work with partners from housing, Dept. of Work and Pensions and the housing department of the City Council
- Requests were made for a 'training flat' for young people. This would enable them to experience independent living before they moved into their own accommodation. Negotiations are taking place to hopefully make this happen
- Members of the CPB have attended CFCA support groups
- A summary of monthly placements made has been submitted to the foster carer newsletter. It is anticipated that this will continue.

## **Additional activity**

In addition to responses to requests of looked after children, the CPB has completed the following:

- Completed a development session with the Local Government Children's Improvement Advisor. This means that all the members of the CPB are aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities
- A review of apprenticeships and work experience offered to looked after children
- A review of the annual health report including all aspects of the health needs of looked after children
- A comparative review of the ethnicity of looked after children against the ethnic make-up of the child population of Coventry City Council
- A review of the annual education report, including attainment, attendance and achievement of looked after children
- A request that looked after 'celebrations' are more culturally diverse
- Maintained links with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) through submitted reports. Looked after children are a priority for the LSCB
- Developed a new list of standing items for the Board
- Oversight of feedback from the Ofsted focused visit and the review of the looked after children savings policy.

## **Voice of looked after children**

It has been agreed that representation of young people at the CPB needs to be increased. However, Voices of Care (VOC) has been involved at every meeting to report back on the activity that has taken place and represented by the Participation Team. This has included care leavers. The CPB has noted all the activity and congratulated VOC on its achievements and awards.

## **The way forward**

The CPB is a significant asset to the outcomes for looked after children in Coventry. It has excellent cross-party political support and 'buy in' from partners. All members acknowledge and want to progress their corporate parenting role. The following aspirations for the following year have been noted by the Board:

- Increase on the voice of looked after children and care leavers. This will be through the continued involvement of VOC and increased participation at the Board by looked after children and care leavers. Members of the Board will also use every opportunity to engage with looked after children and report back
- The champions will continue to drive through improvements for looked after children
- A programme for the following year has been put into place to focus on important aspects of the corporate parenting role.

It is recommended that this report be noted as a summary of the activity of the CPB for 2018/2019.

**Paul Smith**

Strategic lead – looked after children

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