

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

A meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board was held on 24 June 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor Carr (Chair), Councillors Brunton, McIntyre, P Rogers and B Thompson.

OFFICERS: S Harker, C Kendrick, S Little, N Pocklington and J Wilson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: B Simpson.

****APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dryden, Junier, Mawston, Rooney and J A Walker.

****DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declarations of Interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 22 April 2010 were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 10, the Committee agreed to vary the order of business to deal with the items in the following order: Agenda Item 6, Agenda Item 4, Agenda Item 5, Agenda Item 7 and Agenda Item 8.

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2010-2011

A report was presented to inform Members of the outline Forward Work Programme for 2010-2011. A key element of the Forward Work Programme would be to take forward the review of corporate parenting arrangements. As part of that process, it was proposed that a new approach be adopted to the structure of the work programme as follows:

- All regular performance data information and reports required under regulations would be packaged differently and considered at two business meetings during the year.
- There would be two meetings that focussed on strategic planning issues, timed to inform planning cycles and budgetary processes. Discussions would be undertaken with partner agencies in relation to developing a Multi-agency Looked After Partnership that would meet with the Corporate Parenting Board as part of that process.
- At least two meetings would have a specific focus, for example, Education and Health. A wider range of people would be invited to attend and these meetings might take the form of a seminar.
- Meetings with children and young people would be arranged following discussion with them as to their views and preferences. In the interim, it might be appropriate for one or two Members to meet informally with children and young people and this would be arranged on an ad hoc basis.

An outline Forward Work Programme 2010/2011 was attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report for Members' consideration. Members expressed a preference for the meeting focussing on Education to be held earlier in the year, once the statutory examination results were available, and that a report on the progress of the virtual school be presented as soon as possible. It was explained that some of the business and strategic meetings were scheduled in line with the

budgetary cycle. It was noted that the dates included in the outline forward work programme had since been amended. Members had been informed and the work programme would be amended accordingly.

RECOMMENDED that the Executive be advised to approve the Corporate Parenting Board's outline Forward Work Programme 2010-2011.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

The Deputy Director of Safeguarding gave a presentation on Working Together to Safeguard Children. The presentation included information regarding the legislative framework and the statutory responsibilities of the Local Authority.

In Middlesbrough the number of children and young people with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) per 10,000 under 18 year olds had continued to increase in recent years, remaining above the national average since 2001. By March 2010, the numbers had reached 341, which equated to 107 per 10,000. For the year 2008/09, when the average rate for England was 31, the figure in Middlesbrough was 97 per 10,000. The 341 children and young people with a child protection plan equated to 157 families.

The majority of these children and young people were under four years old, the gender breakdown was nearly equal, and most were from East Middlesbrough and the Town Centre. The majority of young people subject to a protection plan were under the category of "neglect" which included physical injury, domestic violence, sexual and emotional abuse.

As at 31 March 2010 there were 334 children and young people in the Children Looked After system in Middlesbrough. 130 children were placed with in-house carers and the rest with external providers. It was noted that specialist residential placements had a huge budgetary impact, costing between £3.5k and £4k per week. The number of Children Looked After in Middlesbrough had continued to rise in recent years, remaining above the national average since 2001.

The presentation included examples of the types of referral received by the Local Authority and several case studies of the responses provided.

Members of the Board agreed that it would be useful for the presentation to be made to all Elected Members at a future date.

NOTED

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

The Children's Participation Officer presented the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2009/2010 for Members' information. It was noted that the Corporate Parenting Board had been in operation for 10 years.

During the year, the Pledge for Children Looked After was agreed with children and young people and by the Executive. The Children's Trust Board also signed up to the Pledge in December 2009. Each Member was provided with a copy of the Pledge leaflet which had been created and designed with help from five young people. Social Work practitioners were currently working with children and young people to embed the Pledge into care planning and review processes. A celebration event for the Children Families and Learning Department was scheduled for Friday 2 July 2010 at the Middlesbrough Teaching and Learning Centre when the Pledge leaflet would be officially launched.

During the year, work commenced on the development of a Children in Care Council and Elected Members had met with children and young people in a variety of contexts.

A key event in 2009 was the publication of the "Care Matters Ministerial Stocktake Report 2009" which provided the Corporate Parenting Board with an opportunity to review how well Middlesbrough had responded to the requirements of the White Paper: "Care Matters: Time for Change". Overall, Middlesbrough had benefited from the proactive approach that had been

taken in relation to Every Child Matters and Care Matters and work had already been undertaken in respect of most of the key issues raised in the stocktake report.

The Corporate Parenting Board had also considered a number of reports in relation to specific issues to comply with requirements under regulation and guidance. The recommendations of the Board were submitted to the Executive for approval and had been implemented.

RECOMMENDED that the Executive be advised to note the issues relating to corporate parenting.

CORPORATE PARENTING QUIZ

Every year, the initial meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board is used to provide induction training for new Members. As part of this process, the Children's Participation Officer circulated a copy of "The Corporate Parenting Quiz" which was completed by Members at the meeting. Members identified the need to provide training on corporate parenting to all elected Members and discussed a number of options for achieving this.

ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS

Details of the 2nd Annual Future of Corporate Parenting Conference 2010 hosted by the Care Matters Partnership, were tabled for Members' information. The Chair asked those Members who were interested in attending to inform the Governance Officer.

NOTED