

Meeting of the Children's Corporate Parenting Board

[Thursday 16th July, 2020 at 4.00pm](#)
[On Microsoft Teams](#)
[Click on this link to access the Meeting](#)

Revised Agenda - Public Session

(Meeting open to the public and press)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Committee.
3. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
4. [To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September, 2019 as a correct record.](#)
5. Public Forum
6. [How Children's Services have responded to COVID-19](#)
7. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days notice has been given to the Monitoring Officer (Council Procedure Rule 11.8)



Chief Executive

Dated: 8th July, 2020

Distribution:

Councillor R Buttery (Chair)

Councillor S Ridney (Vice Chair)

Councillors N Barlow, P Bradley, B Gentle, P Miller, G Partridge, C Perks, E Taylor and D Vickers.



Please note the following:

- This meeting will be held virtually by using Microsoft Teams. The meeting will be held live via the Internet link.
- This is a formal Council Committee and it will assist the conduct of business if participants speak only when invited by the Chair.
- The Chair reserves the right to adjourn the meeting, as necessary, if there is any disruption or technical issues.
- All participants should mute their microphones and video feed when they are not speaking.
- Please remember to unmute your microphone and switch on your video feed when it is your turn to speak. Speak clearly and slowly into your microphone.
- Members of the public can view the proceedings by clicking on the link provided on the agenda.
- The Council reserves the right to record meetings. Recording/reporting is only permitted during the public session of the meeting.
- Information about the Council and our meetings can be viewed on the website www.dudley.gov.uk
- Any agendas containing reports with exempt information should be treated as private and confidential. It is your responsibility to ensure that information containing private and personal data is kept safe and secure at all times. Confidential papers should be securely disposed of. If you choose to retain the documents you should ensure that the information is securely stored and destroyed within six months.
- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services: Telephone 01384 815238 or E-mail Democratic.Services@dudley.gov.uk



Minutes of the Children's Corporate Parenting Board

Monday 2nd September, 2019 at 4.00pm
in the Council Chamber at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor R Buttery (Chair)
Councillor S Ridney (Vice-Chair)
Councillors N Barlow, P Bradley, P Miller, G Partridge, C Perks, E Taylor and D Vickers.

Officers:

S Bailey – Social Worker, H Ellis – Interim Chief Officer (Children's Services), B Kaur – Head of Service Consultant in Public Health, M McFadden – Corporate Parenting Board Co-ordinator, M Samuels – Strategic Director People, J Shaw – Service Manager Children in Care and Resources and K Buckle – Democratic Services Officer.

Invitees:

Councillors J Baines, B Challenor, J Cowell, A Goddard, S Keasey and C Neale.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors B Gentle and N Richards

2. **Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

3. **Appointment of Children's Corporate Parenting Board Working Group**

A report of the Lead for Law and Governance was considered on the appointment of the Children's Corporate Parenting Board Working Group.

It was noted that the Working Group would meet twice each year and consist of all Members of the Board. Reports on key findings and recommendations of the Working Group would be submitted to the formal meeting of the Board in March, 2020.

Resolved

That a Children's Corporate Parenting Board Working Group be established to provide for the informal consideration and formulation of

recommendations to this Board, and that the Working Group comprise of all Members of this Board.

4. **Change of Format to the Children's Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report**

A report of the Strategic Director People was submitted informing the Board of the change in format of the Annual Report.

Members views were requested on the animated annual report that was screened at the meeting.

The animated report referred to the need for the Local Authority to provide the care and support for those children who were unable to remain at home. In that situation the Local Authority became the child's corporate parent.

In Dudley the Children's Corporate Parenting Board (CCPB) had responsibility for children looked after. A corporate parent would be required to do whatever it could to support children and young people in care as well as care leavers, to help them to achieve their full potential and to have the best possible outcomes. Corporate Parenting legislation was referred to and included the need to:-

- Promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of those children and young people in care.
- Encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings.

Promote high aspirations and try to secure the best outcomes for them.

- Enable children in care to have access to the right services, be safe with stable home lives, relationships and education or work and prepare them for adulthood and independent living.
- Note the variety of reasons why children were looked after.
- Note the range of settings in which children and young people could be in care.

The Pledges that the Local Authority had for looked after children and young people were referred to and included the following:-

- we want our children and young people to feel safe, happy and loved;
- we want our children and young people to enjoy learning and to do as well as they are able to;
- we want our children and young people to feel listened to and know that people were there for them and would answer their questions;
- we want our children and young people to have opportunities to develop their talents, have fun and take part in various hobbies and activities;

- we want our children and young people to be able to take up further education, employment or training once they have left school;
- we want our children and young people to have up to date information about their family, friends and carers whenever possible;
- we want our children and young people to be as healthy and as well as they possibly could and to feel good about themselves.

The various ways in which the Pledges had been achieved were contained in the presentation and in particular included the following:-

- raising the foster carers' profile, with the recruitment of 18 new foster carers over the preceding 12 months;
- launching an updated fostering website;
- targeted fostering campaigns;
- a Foster Care Fortnight event.
- Dudley was part of a new Regional Adoption Agency, increasing the number of 'staying put' households, conducting positive action progressing legacy permanency cases. The Fostering Panel was also addressing the issue of permanency.
- The fostering process had been streamlined in order to make it quicker and more efficient, with foster carers expressing that their journey had been really positive.
- Residential Children's Homes in the Dudley Borough provided safe and loving placements and all had been rated as Good or Outstanding.
- Dudley Virtual School (DVS) worked with a growing number of partners to ensure that all children in care fulfilled their potential.
- Electronic Personal Education Plans (EPEP) were being refined to improve their quality.
- A personal tutoring programme was being developed for all children in care.
- DVS worked with the Dolly Parton Foundation to improve literacy outcomes for children in care and the menu of support and intervention had been extended for children with emotional needs. The DVS were involved with the dare to dream programme that helped to maximise education and learning for children in care.
- The Children in Care Council had met with the CCPB quarterly throughout 2018/2019 to set priorities and monitor the progress of the Board.

- 119 children and young people in Dudley had 'Mind Of My Own' (MOMO) accounts, 165 workers, and 685 MOMO documents had been received, reports were accurate, easily produced and quality assured.
- Discounted leisure passes had been provided for children in care, care leavers and their foster carers. Children in care were provided with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.
- 19 care leavers were in higher education and Sports England apprenticeships had been offered to care leavers, together with Lifeguard training. There was also the offer of work experience at Himley Hall.
- The Life Story worker had completed 137 life story books for children and had supported 339 professionals and carers in completing life story books and life story work with children and young people.
- There had been 100% success rate for initial health assessments since December 2018 with all children in care being seen within the statutory timescale. Health plans for children had been appropriately shared to improve health outcomes. A Care Leaver's Health Passport had been developed and was designed with the help of young people and care leavers.
- Dudley Lighthouse Links had been launched. The service would improve emotional health and wellbeing outcomes for children looked after and those subject to a Special Guardianship Order.
- Two events had taken place to celebrate the children in care and foster carer's achievements.
- The Children in Care Council Make a Difference (MAD) activities that had taken place throughout the year were displayed.
- The Priorities of the CCPB for 2019-20 were continuing to prioritise the housing needs of care leavers and oversee the work of the Young People's Accommodation Panel.
- To oversee that the improvements recommended by Ofsted were implemented by the DVS.
- Improve the opportunities for children and young people to undertake apprenticeships, shadowing roles, mentoring and work experience provided by the family firm that was Dudley Council.

Arising from the animated presentation Members expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken and made the following suggestions in relation to the presentation:-

- this be viewed at full Council meeting;

- that it be utilised for Member/Council employee inductions;
- there should be a more colourful background;
- that it should be slowed down, as all of the text could not be read;
- in order to help people with visual impairments, presentations should be pale yellow with black text;
- it would be useful to include the presentation slides in a leaflet;
- the possibility of presenting case studies to future meetings of the Board;
- the aspiration of setting up an operational Peer Member Scheme and the possibility of the Officer responsible for the scheme being the contact Officer for Members with questions or concerns in relation to looked after children or their families.

The Children's Corporate Parenting Board Co-ordinator undertook to pursue the Peer Member Scheme with the Head of Children In Care and Resources.

The Strategic Director People confirmed that a set of Frequently Asked Questions and answers resulting from the presentation could be uploaded to the Connected Councillors website.

Resolved

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted on the Change of Format to the Children's Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report and the Animated Annual Report, together with Members' comments, be noted.
- (2) That the Children's Corporate Parenting Board Co-ordinator pursue the Peer Member Scheme with the Head of Children In Care and Resources.

4. **Proposed Work Programme for the Children's Corporate Parenting Board**

Members considered a report on the proposed Work Programme for the Children's Corporate Parenting Board that was appended to the report submitted.

A Member requested that in relation to the pledge 'we want you to live in a placement where you feel loved, safe and happy', an item on unregulated provision of accommodation be included in the Work Programme and considered at the next Working Group meeting.

Members were requested to raise specific concerns in relation to the unregulated provision of accommodation with the Multi Agency Safeguarding

Hub, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and/or the Chief Officer Children's Services.

Resolved

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted on the proposed Work Programme for the Children's Corporate Parenting Board and the Appendix to the report, be noted.
- (2) That an item on unregulated provision of accommodation be considered at the first meeting of the Working Group.

5. **To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two days notice has been given to the Monitoring Officer (Council Procedure Rule 11.8)**

It was reported that Councillor G Partridge had raised a question under Council Procedure Rule 11.8 in relation to un-regulated provision of accommodation to children in care. A response to the question was circulated to those present at the meeting.

The meeting ended at 4.45pm

CHAIR
