

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2016

PRESENT: Dr Gwynne Jones (Chief Executive) (Chair)

Councillor Kenneth P. Hughes (Portfolio Member for Education),
Councillor Aled M. Jones (Portfolio Member for Housing and Social Services),
Councillor Ann Griffith (Corporate Scrutiny Committee),
Councillor Dylan Rees (Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee),
Dr Caroline Turner (Assistant Chief Executive & Designated Statutory Director of Social Services),
Liz Fletcher (Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board – West Area Team),
Rona Jones (Independent Reviewing Officer),
Dr Einir Thomas (Education Officer – ALN),
Heulwen Owen - Education Liaison Officer for Looked After Children
Llyr Bryn Roberts (Principal Officer – Corporate Parenting & Partnerships),
Dawn Owen (Child Placement Team Leader),
Steve Pimblett (Interim LACT Team Leader),
Llinos Edwards (LAC Nurse),
Mairwen Hughes (Committee Officer).

APOLOGIES: Anwen Huws (Head of Children's Services)
Douglas Watson (Chair Anglesey Foster Carers' Association)

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2 MINUTES OF THE 6TH JUNE, 2016 MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 6th June, 2016 were presented and confirmed as correct.

3 MATTERS ARISING

- **Impact on Education Resources of Children placed on Anglesey by other Local Authorities**

The Education Officer – ALN reported that 27 children in care have been placed in Anglesey by other Local Authorities. 20 of the pupils are on the ALN Register. She referred to the table of attached to the report which gives a breakdown of the cost of supporting pupils which total to £188,263. The Education Authority can recharge other local authorities with the Teaching Assistant and Specialist teacher's costs but neither the administration charges nor other facilities offered within the school the children are placed can be recharged.

It was agreed to note the information.

NO FURTHER ACTION ARISING

- **Raising the Ambitions and Educational Attainment of Children who are Looked After in Wales**

Discussions took place following a report tabled at the last meeting which provided a summary of how the Education Authority as the lead service with regard to the Welsh Government Strategy for 'Raising the ambitions and educational attainment of children who are looked after in Wales' is addressing the local authority related actions within the report with a view to achieving completion by Autumn 2016.

The Education Officers reported that work needs to be undertaken to make sure that there are clear communication and to ensure that good practices are shared between the Education Authority and the schools. It is anticipated that a presentation can be afforded to the Corporate Parenting Panel once the completion of the Education Authority Action Plan has been completed to address the Welsh Government Strategy.

It was agreed to note the information.

NO FURTHER ACTION ARISING

- **Health Matters**

The LAC Nurse reported on the discussion with CAHMS with regard to addressing pregnancy/relationship matters among looked after people and care leavers in an integrated way. A draft pathway action plan has been afforded to the LAC Nurse and she noted that a meeting will now be arranged with the Clinical Psychologists from Gwynedd and Ynys Môn to address the issues raised within the action plan.

The LAC Nurse further reported that a questionnaire will now be sent out to foster parents with regard to the emotional concerns of children in care up to 9 years old and children from 10 to 16 years old. 'A mood and feelings' questionnaire is also available for children in care to gauge any concerns they have that needs to be addressed.

The Chair noted that the referral work therefore has started with the pathway plan for Anglesey and further discussions will be undertaken with the Corporate Parenting Panel in due course.

It was agreed to note the information presented.

ACTION ARISING : LAC Nurse to report back following negotiations with the Clinical Psychologists at the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

- **Action Plan – Personal Education Plans**

The Education Liaison Officer for Looked After Children gave a report on the Action Plan which demonstrate how performance against the need to provide each looked after child with a Personal Education Plan is improved. She noted that each school with a child with a Personal Education Plan will be visited to highlight the awareness of the Action Plan for each child's needs. A review will be undertaken on a school term basis. The Officer reported that data will be collated on a monthly basis from the schools which will allow the Education Authority to produce an Annual Report in March 2017. The Education Authority will then be able to monitor the effectiveness of the Action Plan.

It was agreed to note the information presented.

ACTION ARISING : An update report be submitted to the Corporate Parenting Panel in March 2017 on the effectiveness of the Action Plan.

4 THE RIGHT CARE: CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE IN WALES

The report of the Children's Commissioner for Wales was presented for information to the Panel.

The Principal Officer – Corporate Parenting & Partnerships highlighted the four recommendations contained within the Children’s Commissioner for Wales report on the rights of children in residential care in Wales to the Panel.

It was agreed to note the report for information.

5 SOCIAL SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AGENCY - CORPORATE PARENTING WORKBOOK

Submitted – the Corporate Parenting Workbook by the Welsh Local Government Association for information to the Panel.

The Principal Officer- Corporate Parenting & Partnerships said that the workbook should be read in conjunction with the Strategy for improving education attainment for Children in Care. A training session for elected members has been arranged to take place on 17th November, 2016 with regard to responsibilities of Corporate Parenting requirements. It is hoped to invite a young person who has left the care to take part in the training session.

It was agreed to note the report for information.

ACTION ARISING : To note that the a training session for elected members will be held on 17th November, 2016.

6 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER

The report of the Independent Reviewing Officer for Quarter 1 2016/17 was presented for the Panel's consideration. The report provided a statistical analysis of the age, legal status and reasons for placing Anglesey's looked after population as well as highlighting issues of practice and areas of risk and concerns.

The Independent Reviewing Officer reported on the following main points :-

- At the end of June 2016 a total of 126 children and young people were accommodated by local authority; an increase of 14 children/young people 'looked after' from the previous quarter figure of 112;
- There is currently one young person is a 'ward of court';
- The reasons and type of placements for placing looked after children were explained to the Panel;
- Risks identified by the Independent Reviewing Officer included issues of 'statutory visits' which needs clarity and should incorporate a wider issue in that statutory visits have to include visiting the child in the home;

The Panel considered the IRO's report and the service response and made the following points:-

- 'Statutory visits' are not complete without visiting the sleeping accommodation of the young person and that adequate age related toys are available at the home;
- Questions raised regarding missing young persons in care. The Independent Reviewing Officer stated that historically 4 young persons were missing and regular meetings take place with the police. It is anticipated that these young persons are now over 21 years of age and therefore no follow up meetings with the police have taken place.

It was agreed to note the report of the Independent Reviewing Officer.

ACTION ARISING : The Panel to be provided with data regarding reports of missing young people who are in care for the December meeting.

7 SERVICE REPORTS

- **Child Placement Team Report**

The report of the Child Placement Team Leader was presented and was noted by the Panel. The report updated the Panel on the position with regard to the placement types for Anglesey Looked After Children, demand for placements, assessment of foster carers and training provided together with risks and concerns.

The Chair wished it to be noted his appreciation for the work undertaken by the Child Placement Team especially due to the present capacity of the team.

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

- **LAC Nurse report relating to Looked After Children**

The report of the LAC Nurse was presented and was noted by the Panel. The report provided an analysis of the health issues that required addressing from the initial health assessments of looked after children and health issues reviewed made.

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

- **LAC Education Liaison Officer report**

The report of the LAC Education Officer for Quarter 4 was noted by the Panel. She noted that changes will be undertaken in October, 2016 with regard to Personal Education Plans and schools will be required to completed within 20 days a plan when a child becomes a child in care, and then thereafter to review the plans either annually or each term if required.

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

- **LAC Team Manager report**

The report of the LAC Team Manager was presented and noted by the Panel. The report gave an analysis of performance information for the quarter, staffing issues, risks and concerns and planned actions within the LAC Team.

The Chair noted that staff within the LAC Team needs to be given the opportunity to develop their skills within their expertise in the team. The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Social Service agreed that staff continuity is essential within this team and agency staff presently employed within the team can bridge the gap whilst the team has had time to sustain progression within their field of work.

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

8 FOSTERING FUN DAY

It was noted that a Fostering Fun Day is to be held on 17th September, 2016.

9 NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel would be held at 2.00 p.m., on Monday 5th December, 2016.

**Dr Gwynne Jones
CHAIR**