

THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD MINUTES
3 September 2013

Present: John-Paul Heseltine – Young Person (Chair) (JP)
Eleanor Brazil – Director, CYPS (EB)
Councillor Nuala Fennelly – Cabinet Member, Education & Skills (NF)
Councillor Tony Corden – Cabinet Member, Children’s Safeguarding & Services to Families
Councillor Andrew Bosmans – Overview and Scrutiny (AB)
Councillor Sue Wilkinson – Overview and Scrutiny (SW)
Christine Hargreaves – Head of Virtual School (CH)
John Betts – Active Involvement Co-Ordinator (JB)
Christopher Hickson - Foster Carer (CHI)
Savanagh Crooks – Young Person (SCR)
Charlotte Lewis – Young Person (CL)
Bethany Meakin – Young Person (BM)
Kate Utley – Notetaker

Apologies: Ian Walker – Head of Service, Children In Care (IW)
Pat Higgs – Assistant Director, Adults and Communities
Ruth Winter – Investment Planning Officer
Theresa Siverns – Head Teacher, Mallard Primary School
Pippa Dodgson – Head Teacher, Hall Cross Secondary School (PD)
Suzannah Cookson – Designated Nurse for Safeguarding & LAC
Maria Rydel – Foster Carer
Janice Jinks – Foster Carer
Anna Reddish – Carer
Daniel Lee – Young Person
Jamie Hartshorne – Young Person
Deborah Mitchell – Young Person
Katie Goodman – Young Person
Raza Zade – Young Person

Introductions made

Minutes of the last meeting 2nd July 2013 were agreed.

Update from the Children In Care Council: Presentation of the Brathay CICC Residential Powerpoint

John Betts along with Charlotte and Bethany gave the presentation, and following the presentation the following questions/points were raised:

- A summary of the residential and what the young people learnt and enjoyed should be included in the next fostering newsletter.

- A DVD was shown at the residential about the life of a child in foster care, and how their life has progressed into adulthood. It was agreed this would be shown at 1 October CPB meeting
- Ideas gained from other CICC's about recruiting more young people to join the CICC. JB explained the majority of the other CICC's had the same issues as Doncaster with regards to the number of young people that attend the CICC. He stated that the CICC needs to be promoted more, and this will occur with the launch of the new website

Website

CH explained the first model of the website has been designed and this will hopefully be launched by the end of September 2013. It requires further work in order for it to be more engaging for the young people - some of the articles need to be shortened and include more visually appealing data. A 'join us' box will be on the first page of the website, so young people can request further information about the CICC, and be able to join the council if they wish. She explained if the young people do not want to join the CICC they can make contact and express views through the website via a .gov email address. This would need to be monitored on a weekly basis. There is a 'My Experience' section which will be updated on a monthly basis, links to various websites, articles for different age groups, and the content of the website will be decided by the CICC.

CHI suggested there could be a frequently asked questions section, along with a section where foster carers can contribute. CH explained foster carers could contribute through the 'My Experience' section as they have their own website. NF suggested there should be a link at the bottom of each page to return to the top of the page, which should encourage the young people to continue to the next page.

Concern was raised if a young person could be identified if their message submitted through the website raised safeguarding issues. It was explained that the young people could message anonymously if they wished, but their identity could be obtained if necessary.

JB, CL and BM leave the meeting.

Review of the Terms of Reference and Constitution for the CPB

CH explained the CPB has now met for a year, and there are several issues regarding the attendance and constitution of the CPB the constitution. Additionally with the appointment of a new director of CYPS, and new councillors joining the board it was suggested that the terms of reference are also reviewed.

CH informed that JP has been the Chair for over a year now, therefore a new Chair must also be appointed. All members felt it was important for JP to continue to chair the meeting until a replacement was appointed, and following this he should remain as a Board member.

It was suggested again that if a professional cannot attend they must send a representative from their service. It was also suggested that the meeting could be held on a different day and time, which may enable more people to attend, as well as the meetings being less frequent.

EB stated the most important function of the CPB is regarding the way the council takes responsibility to do the best they can for CIC. She suggested this requires more input from the young people regarding their views on the how the council is doing the best it can for them, and what their experiences of care are.

Action

CH, AB and TC along with other professionals will meet prior to the 1 October CPB meeting to discuss:

- The terms of reference
- The constitution of the board
- The appointment of a new Chair
- Frequency of the meeting, along with the day and time

A conclusion will be presented to 1 October CPB meeting.

Matters Arising

JP attended the Foster Carers event, held at the Doncaster Communication College to promote the CICC.

Update on the Educational Achievement of Children in Care

CH presented a summarised academic data for this year. (See attached powerpoint). Further information to be shared via the Head teacher Report for the Better Education For All (BECIC) meeting.

Update on the Employability Plan to include destinations data and the end date for the pilot scheme

CH informed 7 young people are currently enrolled on the Council's apprenticeships scheme; an increase of 5 young people since last month. She explained more robust work needs to be undertaken on the scheme, as well as continued evaluation of the on going issues, however they are making progress. She explained the pilot scheme is due to be reviewed in October 2013, with the intention that the systems and procedures are embedded into Council practice for April 2014.

Provisional 'Destinations' data (for the year 11 cohort) was shared. This compared last and this year's figures. There are a greater number of young people NEET because of non – engagement; being placed in custody or 1 'unavailable' due pregnancy.

Update from Housing

Deferred.