

## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

### Minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

**Present:** Councillor B.T. Gray (Chairman), K.F. McCaffer, E. Williams, P. Drake, O. Griffiths and R. Nugent-Finn; Ms. J. Ballantine (Principal HR Business Partner), Mrs K. Bowen (Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer), L. Carver (Director of Social Services), Mrs. M. Coles (LAC Education Co-ordinator and Lead Professional EAL), Ms. A. Condy (Operational Manager CYPS), Ms. K. Conway (Operational Manager CYPS), T. Dickinson (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), Mrs. R. Evans (Head of Children and Young People Services), Mr M. Ingram (Head of Housing and Building Services), M. Hudson (Head of Standards and Provision), Mr. M. Swindell (Cabinet & Committee Services Officer) and L. Treby (Service Development Officer).

**Also Present:** I.Jones (Housing Solutions Manager), K.Hollinshead (Supporting People Coordinator).

<b>(1)</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence –</b>
	These were received from Cllr Dr. I.J. Johnson and Ms. C Light (Care Leavers Forum Representative).
<b>(2)</b>	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising –</b>
	Agreed that the minutes be accepted subject to it being noted that Mike Ingram had been present at the meeting.
<b>(3)</b>	<b>Presentation: Homelessness and Support for Young People –</b>
	<p>Mike Ingram (MI) reminded colleagues that a Member had brought up this issue previously and requested information to come to Corporate Parenting Panel. The detail in the presentation detailed excellent joint working between Housing &amp; Social Services, including important projects that housing-related support can provide and ensuring that tenancies are sustainable. Mental health issues are also able to be addressed and specialist support can be accessed.</p> <p>Ian Jones (IJ) and Kate Hollinshead (KH) from Housing Solutions &amp; Supporting People Services introduced the presentation, adding the following detail:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supported Accommodation existed in Penarth and Cadoxton, providing additional support with tenancies.</li><li>• The Mental Health Gateway and Link Workers offer support to those with the highest needs / most vulnerable.</li><li>• Young people (YP) are assessed separately as they are still children.</li><li>• There are a large number of YP who do not access mental health services.</li><li>• The YP professionals have been up-skilled to meet demand and use Psychologically Informed Environments (PIE) with support from Llamau.</li></ul>

- As a result of the Southwark judgement in the House of Lords, local Authorities are required to have more involvement in social services and the needs of YP in relation to youth homelessness.
- Excellent multi-agency work exists with a number of partners.
- Mapped provision had initially indicated higher use of B&B accommodation initially.
- YP have significantly different needs to older service users.
- Meetings via the Young Person's Gateway take place every 4 weeks and with colleagues from Homelessness, Llamau, Education, Housing, etc.
- The Local Offer ensured one point of contact where YP can see a mediation worker.
- The EMPHASIS project dealt with better education and understanding of homelessness in schools.
- The Vale is being used as an example of best practice by Welsh and UK Government.
- The Housing Support Grant (HSG) is an amalgamation of three existing grants; Supporting People Programme, Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement, with effect from April 2020. Consultation is ongoing until the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- Other services, such as substance misuse, also run under the HSG.

After the presentation, IJ and KH also added the following details for information:-

- There can be 20 placements for supported lodgings.
- There is 6-bed supported accommodation at Ty John Rowley and Ty Newydd that have 24-hour and floating support.

MI concluded that Part 6 of the Wellbeing Act places a duty on Local Authorities that require a corporate response across the local body. The Housing Act 2014 provided guidance on our responsibilities for care leavers, which requires the Authority to work on pathway planning and ensure homelessness is prevented where possible but with strategies in place to address need as required. There can be issues if YP want to be self-sufficient, but the Gateway tried to minimise and mitigate risks to those YP whilst respecting their choices but avoiding failed tenancies.

The Chairman thanked IJ and KH for the presentation and opened up discussion to the floor for questions.

A Member referenced that outside bodies had recognised the work taking place and asked if the views of the young people themselves were being captured. KH advised that there is a lot of YP involvement in how the services run. Consultation takes place via exit questionnaires which are completed for feedback to be captured and comments are taken into consideration for project design. IJ added that Llamau also hold an annual event to capture comments and best practice discussion.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman thanked IJ and KH for their presentation and they left the meeting.

<b>(4)</b>	<b>Children Looked After –</b>
	<p><b>Safe CLA Reduction – WG Monitoring</b></p> <p>Rachel Evans (RE, Head of Children and Young People Services) referred to the circulated confidential information in respect of the above matter, explaining that it was the Vale of Glamorgan’s submission to Welsh Government reflecting progress against our intentions over the first six months of the year.</p> <p>The emphasis is on safe reduction and progression of ‘intentions’ rather than ‘targets’. RE reassured the Panel that officers were working to safely reduce the number of children looked after, working in partnership with internal and external agencies, taking a strength-based approach in working with families. Numbers will go down but also up, and we are continuing to receive children into care where it is appropriate to do so. The Care Inspectorate Wales undertook some case focussed activity at the beginning of this month and were complimentary about the strong approach and clear vision operating in Children and Young People Services.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked RE for the positive information and was pleased to hear the continuing and strong emphasis on working safely.</p> <p><b>Breakdown</b></p> <p>Karen Conway (KC, Operational Manager, Children and Young People) circulated a breakdown of Children Looked After in the Vale of Glamorgan as of the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019, for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently 265 children looked after (132 female and 133 male). This has reduced from 281 at the start of the year.</li> <li>• The numbers of CLA placed with families are reducing as we maintain those arrangements but outside a requirement for the child to be looked after.</li> <li>• Efforts are continuing to reduce the spend on external placements.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman thanked KC and RE for the useful and informative information. The Panel would look forward to receiving the next 6-monthly update at a future meeting.</p>
<b>(5)</b>	<b>Performance for Learning Outcomes Update –</b>
	<p>Martine Coles (MC, LAC Education Co-ordinator and Lead Professional EAL) circulated information regarding Pupil Performance for Looked After Children (Summer 2019). During the discussion, the following points were noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Foundation Phase (FP), 4 out of 8 children achieved Outcome 5. The other 4 had significant needs which would be addressed via their statement as they progressed to Key Stage 2 (KS2).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the end of Year 6, 5 children in the cohort did not achieve Level 4; 2 of those children were statemented and the other 3 were receiving additional support. Of the 3, 2 should be in receipt of statements by the summer.</li> <li>• A Member asked how long children could expect to wait for additional support. MC advised it varied depending on the requirements of the child. Some may have Special Educational Need (SEN) funding but had not yet been seen by an Educational Psychologist for independent advice. All children in FP and KS2 were currently receiving support, having been seen in the summer term or before Christmas. Often, statements needed to be reviewed from KS2 to KS3. A Member asked if there was a specific issue with the timescales for children to be seen by an Education Psychologist. MC said there can be, but no more than a term and a half.</li> <li>• There had been some attendance issues with regards to KS3 children; officers are liaising with social workers to address some of these issues. 3 of the children have Additional Learning Need but were not statemented.</li> <li>• At KS4, the 26% target achievement was met, but further work is required to increase attainment going forward and build on the 3 who achieved Level 2+. Focus on further attainment at KS4 will also ensure that the children do not go on to become NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training).</li> <li>• In terms of the breakdown of the cohort at KS4, there had been greater achievement in the Vale than in other Authorities, but more could be achieved it being noted that each child was different. A Member asked that MC and fellow Officers take credit for the work going on here. MC said she would take that comment back to the team concerned.</li> <li>• With regards LAC in the Vale, MC advised there is a good understanding with colleagues and partners that we keep children in school as that's how they will achieve, particularly when supporting those with SEN. There is ambition to achieve better transition from outside mainstream to the Vale, which requires some work.</li> <li>• KC asked a question about the figures as they did not seem to represent all the CLA numbers. However, MC advised that the figures are those taken at specific outcome points for FP, KS2, 3 and 4, not for all the CLA as a whole.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman thanked MC for the informative information and noted that the figures show an improved position on those received last year. Colleagues also welcomed seeing the breakdown of information as KS4, which MC advised would not be possible without the partnership working with the 15+ Team.</p>
<b>(6)</b>	<b>Any Other Business –</b>
	<p>Colleagues were asked to return the confidential papers that had been circulated at the start of the meeting so they could be disposed of accordingly.</p> <p>No further items were raised.</p>
<b>(7)</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting –</b>
	<p>Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 4.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Barry.</p>