

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Minutes of meeting held on 20th January, 2020

Present: Councillor B.T. Gray (Chairman), Dr. I.J. Johnson, K.F. McCaffer and R. Nugent-Finn; 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), Mr. M. Dacey (Lead Officer for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing), T. Dickinson (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), Mrs. R. Evans (Head of Children and Young People Services), M. Hudson (Head of Standards and Provision), Mr M. Ingram (Head of Housing and Building Services) and Mr. M. Swindell (Cabinet & Committee Services Officer).

(1)	Apologies for Absence –
	These were received from Cllrs P. Drake, O. Griffiths and E. Williams, and Ms. C Light (Care Leavers Forum Representative) and Ms. J. Ballantine.
(2)	Minutes and Matters Arising –
	The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November, 2019 were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.
(3)	Presentation: Children Most at Risk; Management of High Risk Students –
	Members received a presentation from Officers which considered confidential information concerning children who in Education terms were considered most at risk in being able to access education. Relevant confidential information was circulated at the meeting for reference and collected at the conclusion of the meeting to be disposed of accordingly. The discussion was therefore recorded under a confidential Part II report.
(4)	Children Looked After –
	Breakdown Karen Conway (KC, Operational Manager, Children and Young People) circulated a breakdown of Children Looked After in the Vale of Glamorgan as of the 06 th January 2020, for information. The position had last been reported at the November 2019 meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are currently 257 children looked after (127 female and 130 male). This has reduced from the 265 reported at the previous meeting.• There are no longer any children with a Secure Order.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that the current projected budget overspend has reduced to £581k at year end. <p>The Chairman thanked KC for the information and asked if there were any questions forthcoming concerning the information heard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairman asked if it would be possible to include out of area and out of country figures in future, which was agreed. RE noted that the Division was seeing an increase in out of area / country placements linked to our work to achieve permanence for children, which can include kin and adoptive placements outside the local area. The Vale was currently one of only seven local authorities across Wales to have reduced their number of CLA during 2019/20 and the second highest achieving local authority. These figures reflected well on the Vale and were in the context of a mixed picture across Wales where a larger number of authorities have increased rather than reduced their numbers of children looked after. Officers continue to work on the basis that reducing the numbers should be done only where it was safe to do so and in the best interests of the child. <p>The Chairman thanked KC and RE for the useful and informative information. The Panel would look forward to receiving the next update at a future meeting.</p>
(5)	Any Other Business –
(i)	<p>IJ noted that the representative from the Care Leavers Forum was not able to join the meeting but appreciated that young people’s voices needed to be a part of the discussion where possible. He suggested that Voices from Care could be approached.</p> <p>RE appreciated the suggestion noting the preference for the voices of the Vale’s children and young people to be heard, with a commitment to look at opportunities for increasing this presence within the meeting.</p> <p>IJ stated that he also appreciated the position, adding he felt that it would be beneficial to hear from those with lived experience of being in care.</p> <p>The Chairman in conclusion stated that it was important that members of the Panel continued to consider the information received and its relevance to those who it served and how best the Panel could support them. It was suggested that this could be a topic for further discussion at the March meeting.</p>
(ii)	<p>Councillor R. Nugent-Finn (RNF) congratulated officers on the job they do to support CLA as there was an enormous amount of work that was undertaken, and thanked officers for the excellent work. The Chairman thanked RN for her comments.</p>
(ii)	<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>

	No further items were raised.
(6)	Date of Next Meeting –
	Monday, 23 rd March 2020 at 4.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Barry.