

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MONDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

**Board
Members
Present:**

Councillor Sandra Moore – **Chairman**
Councillor Mike White – **Vice-Chairman**

Councillor Richard Burton
Councillor Lisa Lewis
Jane White, Children's Social Care
Lorraine Mealings, Housing
Insight Representative, Care Experienced
Unite Representative, Children in Care
Lesley Bond, Foster Carers
Duncan Williams, Foster Carers (Reserve)
Jill Warn, Health

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board and everyone introduced themselves. The Chairman confirmed that this meeting would not be held in public.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Judith Ramsden, Penny Earney and Sian Thomas.

Cllr M White had replaced Cllr J Butt on the Board.

3 Substitute Members

Jill Warn was substituting for Penny Earney.

4 Election of Vice-Chairman

Resolved that: Councillor Mike White be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2019/20 municipal year.

5 Declarations of Interests

None

6 Working together as a Board

The Director for Children's Social Care introduced this item to the Board. The Director initially explained what Corporate Parenting was and then outlined what good corporate parents would want to see for their children and young people including:

- Safe and secure
- Stability, positive emotional wellbeing
- Resilience, ambition, good health
- Good education, good role models, encouragement and praise
- The best possible opportunities
- The best possible outcomes
- Permanence

- Preparation for adulthood

The Director also provided a starting point for the statement of purpose of the Board. The Board and supporting officers were then asked if they had any other suggestions that they wished to see included within the purpose statement of the Board. Areas suggested included:

- Incorporating the BCP Council corporate values of brighter future, fulfilled lives and staying connected with communities;
- Celebrating children and young people;
- Ensuring that the voice of children and young people is heard, their views are listened to and an opportunity for challenge for young people is provided;
- Remembering individuality for children in care and care experienced young people;
- Keeping children and young people safe;
- Having social workers as advocates and ensuring a good service;
- Opening doors and championing young people
- Taking accountability for all young people, i.e. if we achieve 90% we should focus on what happens for the 10% and ensuring their voice is heard;
- Councillors championing children in care and care experienced young people at Council meetings;
- To provide challenge on internal systems and barriers.

Actions: Claire Webb to amend the purpose of the Board to incorporate the key points raised within the suggestions.

The Board was also asked to consider its ways of working. In particular the Board was asked how it wanted to ensure that it made a difference and created an appropriate, inclusive environment for all Board members to participate and engage. The Board members and officers made a number of suggestions including:

- Opportunities for engagement with children and young people outside of formal Board meetings;
- In addition to the formal scheduled meetings having two informal meetings per year which were led and themed by young people which may include activities and training ideas with a chance for people to chat on a more informal basis;
- Informal meetings should be at a different venue which may be more attractive to young people, possibly Arts University Bournemouth;
- Events could be open to a wider number of Councillors and partners;
- Different methods of communication needed outside of meetings to engage with young people;
- Actions taken/agreed by the Board need to be fed back to young people so that they can see a difference has been made;
- CPB could look at setting its own targets and performance indicators;
- Reports and presentations needed to be accessible for everyone, both in terms of the timeframe for availability of information and the use of jargon and overall presentation.

The Board was generally supportive of the suggestions made. The Participation Worker noted that they would be putting a lot of different events on as a team, including things such as sports days, which Board members would be invited to, providing an opportunity to connect. There were other events also planned, such as care leavers week in October.

Actions:

1. Penny Lodwick to issue invite to Board Members for Care Leavers Events;

2. Ways of working points raised to be followed up and addressed – including jargon in reports and working towards a 2 week lead in time for availability of reports;
3. Claire Webb/participation workers to make arrangements for informal meetings to be scheduled;
4. Progress on actions to be reported back to the next/future meetings

7 Ambition and Key Issues for the Corporate Parenting Strategy

The Chairman introduced the item and asked the Senior Policy Officer to explain the next steps. The Board and officers were asked within groups to consider and write up what the ambition of the Corporate Parenting Strategy should be and what partners would want to achieve for children in care and care experienced young people. Each group discussed the issues and wrote up their ideas and suggestions.

Following this the Board members and officers reviewed the issues which had been identified by children in care and care experienced young people. They were asked to record which areas should be a priority within the Corporate Parenting Strategy and what BCP Council should do to address these. The Board was also asked to comment on anything missing which they felt should be included in the strategy. There were many different points for consideration raised by the Board and officers on each of the identified key issues. The Senior Policy Officer advised that the information gathered would be used to draft the new strategy.

Action: Claire Webb to capture the feedback provided and utilise it in development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

8 Forward Plan and Future Meeting Dates

The Board considered the proposed Forward Plan for 2019/20.

Actions:

1. The peer review of the virtual school should be reported to the Board with the provisional educational outcomes in October.
2. The first meeting of 2020/21 to be scheduled for June to allow time for annual reports to be produced.
3. With regards to the 3 February meeting it was agreed that pledges would go to a formal meeting, and the experiences of children in care and care experienced young people would be part of an informal meeting.

Duration of the meeting: 5.02 - 6.46 pm

**Chairman at the meeting on
Monday, 30 September 2019**