

## Corporate Parenting Panel

Meeting of held on Wednesday, 3 March 2021 at 5.00 pm in

### MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor Alisa Flemming (Chair);  
;  
Councillors Shafi Khan, Bernadette Khan, Jerry Fitzpatrick, Maria Gatland and Helen Redfern

#### **Co-optee Members**

Angela Christmas (Foster Carer Representative), Manny Kwamin (Foster Carer Representative), Shelley Davies (Virtual School), Sarah Bailey (Virtual School), Dr Julia Simpson (LAC Nurse/Doctor) and Ashleigh Searle (Care Leaver Representative)

**Also Present:** Councillor

**Apologies:**

Councillor

### PART A

#### **12/21 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on XXX were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **13/21 Disclosures of interest**

There were none.

#### **14/21 Urgent Business (if any)**

There was none.

#### **15/21 Update on actions agreed at previous meeting(s)**

#### **16/21 Children in Care Performance Scorecard**

Officers present presented the scorecard to the Panel Members and in detail highlighted the rag rating of red key indicators, which was of concern. The main performance of concern were the children who had an up-to-date care plan and an up-to-date pathway plan. Officers informed that the plans were to be updated every six or twelve months according to the need, however, the January performances had a low score of 74 and 70. This had been acknowledged by senior officers who had put an improvement plan in place to support social workers in completing the documents.

Though Panel Members had noted the reasons raised in the challenges for the completion of the care plan and pathway plan, they addressed that it was unacceptable as this performance had been rag rated red for some time. It was suggested that the improvement actions were to be reviewed for an indication of improvement. Officers had informed that the responsible managers had been notified and weekly meetings had been put in place to focus better performance. Panel Members had further concern for a similar pattern to occur next January due to the issues around arbitrary birthday's unaccompanied asylum seeking children were given, and officers advised that affirmative action was the approach the service would take as care and pathway plans were important and a contingency plan would be put in place. Officers recognised that this was an area the service had struggled for some time and needed more improvement, though there were teams that had better performance than others, and addressed that officers would have a better planning approach in the actions for better levels of practice and detail to their performance.

Panel Members also noted the rag rated red key indicator of the number of young people that were not in employment, education and training, and noted that though there was limited control, asked what more work could be done to improve the performance score of 58% to a more satisfactory mark. Officers agreed that the council did not have full control within this key indicator and that a comparison benchmark with similar authorities may provide a guide to how well the services were in response to employment, education and training. It was noted that the pandemic had an impact with the availability to employment, training and volunteering opportunities and officers needed to utilise and access local and national government schemes that provided support to employment within the pandemic recovery phase. Officers also highlighted that this indicator was something the whole council could help and not just within children's services.

The Care Leaver Representative addressed the importance of the issues not recorded within the 58% and that affected young children to not be in education or employment. Unsustainable accommodation was deemed a factor where finding living costs can be claimed through universal credit, and thus the whole issue should be looked into to address what the cause was for a young person to not complete pathways or remain in education. It was also highlighted that the South London Commissioning Programme

**ACTION – The Chair recommended for available data of neighbouring authorities or good practice to benchmark employment, education and training to be provided in the future meeting.**

18/21 **Review of Missing Children**

19/21 **How has the Panel helped Children in Care today?**

20/21 **Work Programme**

21/21 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The following motion was moved by Councillor XXX and seconded by Councillor XXX to exclude the press and public:

“That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within those paragraphs indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.”

The motion was put and it was agreed by the Committee to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified

**Signed:**

**Date:**

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