

CFCA's Annual Review for Corporate Parenting Panel 2021-22

The CFCA (Croydon Foster Carers Association) has been attending Corporate Parenting Panel meetings regularly since 2017.

Inviting EMPIRE to participate in Corporate Parenting meetings is a good thing. The young people are able to better articulate the issues they face on a daily basis, as well as make suggestions for solutions.

The CFCA believes that better collaboration between it and all of Children, Young People and Education would not only strengthen relationship but ensure a more robust approach to resolving highlighted issues. This would include ensuring that clear SMART actions are agreed and reviews of these actions are also agreed.

The CFCA is extending an open invitation to all members of the Corporate Parenting Panel, to attend our CFCA meetings.

Financing Support – The CFCA would welcome further consideration by the Corporate Parenting Panel on the impact of the current financial pressures being noted across the UK and how this might impact on the quality of care foster carers are providing to the children and young people.

CFCA's review for Fostering Service Report 2021-22

The Fostering Service.

We have seen further improvement in the performance of the Fostering Service, and these has translated into Children Looked After receiving a better quality of care and service.

Strong collaboration between the CFCA and the fostering service manager has helped to improve the experience of foster for foster carers, as well as improve the experience of child and young people being fostered.

The CFCA have also noted improvements in the collaboration with the wider Children, Young People and Education, which is translating to improved experience of children and young people in our foster care.

The CFCA continues to hold a quarterly meeting with the Head of Service. These meetings are appreciated by all foster carers, as it reinforces the commitment of the directorate to partner with the CFCA; to ensure that the welfare needs of the children and young people in our foster care are met.

Children, Young People and Education

The CFCA has noted improvements in the collaboration with the wider Children, Young People and Education. This needs to be improved further, to ensure that the experience of children with our foster carers is further improved.

The CFCA has highlighted some concern that the communication and responsiveness of some social workers and managers are not at the high standard we have set ourselves. It is also noted that this is in the context that the social work teams are experiencing significant challenges around stabilising the workforce.

The CFCA acknowledges that Children, Young People and Education continue its robust efforts to address this.

Conclusion

Working together is key in our collective drive to improve the services and the lives of children looked after in Croydon.