

Time 5.30 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Oversight

Venue Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership

Chair Cllr Paul Sweet (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Celia Hibbert
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Udey Singh

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic services team:

Contact Shelley Humphries
Tel/Email Tel: 01902 554070 or shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Address Democratic Services, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk>
email democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Apologies for absence |
| 2 | Declarations of interests |
| 3 | Minutes of the previous meeting - 27 September 2018 (Pages 3 - 6)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record] |
| 4 | Matters arising
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2018] |
| 5 | Schedule of outstanding matters (Pages 7 - 10)
[To consider and comment on the summary of outstanding matters] |
| 6 | Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report 2017- 2018
[To receive the annual report on the activity of the Independent Reviewing Officers - to follow] |
| 7 | Attainment of Children and Young People in Care 2018
[To receive an update on the educational outcomes for Children and Young People in Care for 2018 - to follow] |
| 8 | Care Leavers' Annual Survey
[To receive feedback from the Care Leavers' Annual Survey - to follow] |
| 9 | Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Interim Update
[To receive a verbal update on CAMHS] |
| 10 | Performance Monitoring Information
[To consider and comment on the Performance Monitoring Information Report - to follow] |
| 11 | Exclusion of the Press and Public
[That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972] |

PART 2 - ITEMS NOT OPEN TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

- | | |
|----|---|
| 12 | Councillor Visits to establishments
[To receive verbal feedback on any visits to establishments undertaken by Councillors since the last meeting] |
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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board Minutes - 27 September 2018
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Attendance

Members of the Corporate Parenting Board

Councillor Obaida Ahmed
Councillor Jasbinder Dehar
Councillor Celia Hibbert
Councillor Peter O'Neill
Councillor Caroline Siarkiewicz
Councillor Clare Simm
Councillor Waite

Employees

Emma Bennett	Director of Children's Services
Fiona Brennan	Designated Nurse, Looked After Children
Dawn Deans	Senior Social Work Manager
Alison Hinds	Head of Looked After Children
Alice Vickers	Corporate Parenting Officer
Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer

Item No. *Title*

- 1 **Apologies for absence (if any)**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Udey Singh.

- 2 **Declarations of interests (if any)**
There were no declarations of interest made relative to the items under consideration at the meeting.

- 3 **Minutes of the meeting held 19 July 2018**
Resolved:
 That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2018 be confirmed as correct record and signed by the Chair.

- 4 **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

- 5 **Schedule of Outstanding Matters**
It was noted that the items in Outstanding Matters had all been addressed.

- 6 **Adoption Annual Report**
Dawn Deans, Senior Social Work Manager presented the report and highlighted key points, detailing performance during the period April 2017 – March 2018 and the work done toward forming a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA).

With regard to point 9.1, Councillor O'Neill expressed his surprise to learn that the disrupted placement involved an eight-year-old child and queried this. The group were reassured that careful preparation for both child and adopter had been arranged prior to the placement, however there had emerged greater challenges than first anticipated.

Emma Bennett added that there were very low numbers of disruption and all placements followed a rigorous matching process.

In reference to a question about the size of the 'pool' of adopters and how Wolverhampton compared to similar authorities, it was stated that there were 31 across Black Country areas and this was the same compared to others. The target for next year was 25 and this was considered achievable.

The idea of using similar algorithms used by other matchmaking software to match placements or analyse why placements work or break down was explored. It was stated that there was a marketing officer working on identifying new recruitment methods using data gathered from information viewed by service users and it was noted that the current system was adopter led. There had been a matching tool in development at one stage and it was highlighted that the Family Values Project was targeting marketing at people with certain traits / values.

It was queried what the barriers were with regard to the red rating of the adoption scorecard. One suggestion was that delays experienced with court processes could be factor as a placement order from the court was required before a placement could be progressed. It was noted that those children who were difficult to place often take longer and that in some circumstances, in particular when children in long-term foster placements were adopted by their foster family, the figures could become skewed making it appear they were in the system longer. It was noted that Wolverhampton had managed to secure particularly difficult to place children, such as over-fives or sibling groups.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

7 **RAA Report**

Alison Hinds, Head of Looked After Children presented the report and updated the Board on the implementation of the RAA, Adoption@Heart. The Board were advised that the agency was designed to create a wide and easily accessible pool of adopters to meet the needs of children in care.

In addition to the information contained within the report, the following was noted:

- That the possibility of going through a trading company had been explored but the Local Authorities had agreed on a hosted model. The Project Board and DCS had agreed Wolverhampton to be the host authority, although it was subject to approval from all local authority Cabinets.
- There was a budget available for marketing already, although this could only be spent on specific things.

- It was clarified for the Board that a trading company did not mean privatisation and the scheme would have been local authority owned / run.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

8 **Performance Monitoring Information**

Emma Bennett, Director for Children's Services presented the updated report and explained the figures and statistics.

It was agreed that Darren Martindale would bring a briefing note to the next meeting on education results for looked after children, with a full report to follow in January 2019.

In respect of difficulties with staff retention, it was noted that high caseloads may be a factor in people moving on or some leave for more money elsewhere or less commitment on agencies

It was reported that the notice period for a social worker was currently one month – it was queried whether a longer notice period could be introduced. It was clarified that the recruitment period took six months

In order to address the difficulty, there was restructure in progress and a new senior social worker role was being introduced to offer opportunity for workforce development. Agency staff were being employed, however it was difficult to ensure continuity of work with transient staff. It was noted that there were the additional benefits of sick pay, support and stability that comes with a permanent job and City of Wolverhampton Council pay was considered the most attractive.

It was taken into consideration that the next generation of social workers / graduates may now be more attracted to flexibility than permanence, therefore other retention options could be explored such as reducing / evenly distributing caseloads and offering progression through a career pathway. It was noted that there was rolling recruitment on WM Jobs advertising for new staff.

Councillor Waite queried the increase in Court applications for care orders and requested that the median figures be added to the dashboard on the Current Adoption Scorecard section.

It was noted that there was a high volume of court proceedings and work was being done with the Ministry of Justice and the Black Country Court to manage this and find out reasons why.

It was noted that the review completion figures were good, however the assessment figures were queried. It was clarified that reviews were no longer classed as assessments and the figures would be updated to give an accurate representation.

Resolved:

1. That Darren Martindale would bring a briefing note to the next meeting on education results for looked after children, with a full report to follow in January 2019.

2. That timeliness of adoption statistics would be represented as a median figure in future.
3. That the Assessment statistics would be refreshed to give a clearer representation of figures.

9 **Exclusion of the press and public**

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information contained in paragraph 2 of the Act, namely information that is likely to reveal the identity to an individual.

10 **Councillor Visits to establishments - Schedule of Visits**

The Chair gave an overview of his visit to Upper Pendeford Farm and a written copy of his report was circulated.

It was reported that the establishment was well-run and its manager helpful, passionate about supporting the young people and demonstrably able to diffuse any challenging behaviour.

The rooms were well-kept, personal and welcoming and the establishment itself was well laid out with many facilities and activities on offer.

There appeared to be a good relationship with the neighbouring farm, which permitted the residents to use the land for outdoor pursuits.

The overall impression was very positive and the Chair thanked Alice Vickers for arranging the visit.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

Report title	Schedule of Outstanding Matters	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee(s)	Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
	Tel	01902 554070
	Email	shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation for action:

1. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to consider and comment on the schedule of outstanding matters.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to appraise the Board of the current position with a variety of matters considered at previous meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board.

2.0 Background

2.1 At previous meetings of the Board the following matters were considered and details of the current position is set out in the fourth column of the table.

<u>DATE OF MEETING</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER</u>	<u>CURRENT POSITION</u>
27 September	Education results update for Children and Young People in Care to be prepared for a future meeting	Darren Martindale, Virtual School Head	Complete
27 September	Care order statistics to be represented as a median figure within Performance Monitoring Report	James Amphlett, Business Intelligence Manager	Complete
27 September	Review and Assessment statistics to be refreshed to give a clearer representation of figures	Emma Bennett, Director for Children and Young People / James Amphlett, Business Intelligence Manager	Complete

3.0 Financial implications

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

3.2 The financial implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

[NM/12112018/A]

4.0 Legal implications

4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

4.2 The legal implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual reports submitted to the Board and will take into account statutory duties as well as general legal implications.
[LW/31102018/A]

5.0 Equalities implications

5.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

5.2 The equalities implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

6.0 Environmental implications

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

6.2 The environmental implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

7.0 Human resources implications

7.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

7.2 The human resources implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

8.0 Corporate Landlord implications

8.1 There are no direct Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

8.2 The Corporate Landlord implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

9.0 Health and Wellbeing implications

9.1 The Health and Wellbeing implications of each matter will be detailed in each individual report submitted to the Board.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 Minutes of previous meetings of the Board and associates.

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