

## **Corporate Parent Committee**

**Thursday 18th October 2018 at 7:00pm**

Horizons Centre, Hanwell

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Bell (Chair), Johnson (Vice-Chair), Block, Driscoll, Rooney, Sharma and Millican.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Jammu.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Marcella Phelan (Assistant Director, Planning, Commissioning and Partnerships), Judith Finlay (Executive Director, Children, Adults and Public Health), Bridie McDonagh (Virtual School Head Teacher), Charles Barnard (Head of Early Years and SAFE 0-18, Planning Commissioning & Partnerships), Ian Jenkins (Head of Youth Justice Service), Jude Fraser (Children and Families, Senior Management Team (SMT), Horizons Centre), Cornelia Harding (Democratic Services Officer) and Young Persons Representatives.

\*\*Please note attendance is based on those that have signed the attendance sheet.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Gary Odle.

**2. Urgent Matters**

There were none.

**3. Matters to be Considered in Private**

There were none.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2018**

**RESOLVED:** That, the minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2018 be agreed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

**6. Update from Junior Council  
(Verbal Update)**

The meeting was informed that Junior Council had just formed for this academic year and had had one meeting on the theme of Transitions. They were not in attendance at this evening's Corporate Parent Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Corporate Parent Committee noted the update.**

## **7. Feedback from Junior Horizons Shout-Out Forum/Corporate Kids Club (CKC)**

Jude Fraser updated the Committee on the activities the young people had enjoyed over the summer. He reported that three care leavers had come back to do workshops for the young people in the CKC as part of their work experience.

A total of 30 young people had participated in two cohorts. A flavour of the topics and activities covered included on the themes of digitisation – with the aim of encouraging the young people to use social media and online platforms – and on safeguarding for young people and their carers. Some of the more popular digital platforms favoured by the young people included YouTube™, Instagram™ and SnapChat™.

Jude reported that 47 young people participated in six hours of activities over the summer; 45 carers participated in four to six hours of activities and 64 over sixteens participated in up to six hours of activities over the summer. 50 under sixteens participated in two activities every week over a six week period.

The Horizons Centre summer programme for young people aged 11 plus (Junior Horizons Shout-Out Forum/CKC) and those aged 16 plus (Horizons Shout-Out Forum) supplemented the program of activities organised by the Virtual School and had been funded by the Ealing Local Authority and the John Lyons charity. Jude also informed the Committee that Cheryl Campbell, former Deputy Project Manager at the Horizons Centre, had moved on from the Centre.

### **RESOLVED:**

**The Corporate Parent Committee noted the update.**

## **8. Feedback from Horizons Shout-Out Forum**

Jude informed the Committee that some of the young people from the HSCC had attended a weekend production of the School of Rock in Convent Garden in anticipation of attending the Secret Cinema. The Secret Cinema had taken place at Gunnersbury and the young people had participated in a production of Romeo and Juliet.

Other activities the young people had participated in over the summer had included trips to Stubbers Adventure Centre in Upminster, Essex; driving lessons in Grays, Essex; an art workshop using various media; and a trip to Southend-on-Sea for young people and their carers.

The activities were designed to engender a sense of increased confidence and awareness, better communication skills and improved concentration in the young people. As well as to reinforce positive affirmations. They were also an opportunity for young people and care leavers to spend quality time together and develop a sense of togetherness.

“L”, Chair of the HSCC said the driving had been very popular and reported that they had not been allowed to take pictures at the secret cinema. Jude informed the Committee that “L” had recently graduated and had completed two work experience placements. The Committee congratulated “L” on this excellent achievement.

The Committee wanted to know what proportion of LBE young people participated in these activities and whether it could be compared to the take-up of the National Citizen Service within the wider population of young people. Judith Finlay informed the Committee that about 50 participants including LBE LAC that were resident out-of-borough took part and this was a suitable number. Judith also said in planning activities for the young people one had to be mindful of adequate staff ratios to ensure supervision.

Marcella added that the activities were relationship based and built on trust as the young people had to engage with the staff group and each other so numbers needed to be small enough to be effective. Ian Jenkins said there were limited numbers for each activity and all the programmes had been fully booked or sold out.

Future trips were planned including to the theatre, Dickens House and stagecraft. Officers said they could do a report going forward to give an indication to Members of the scale of those who attend.

The Members requested that the full committee be invited to the next Annual Education Awards to be held next September and the officers agreed with this.

The Committee was informed by officers that the funding from John Lyons Charity was very much valued to ensure these activities could take place and were successful. This funding, of £4,000, had been sustained over a number of years. Recently, it had also included 30 tickets to the Holland Park Opera and tickets for Wembley to be used over the coming year.

A Member of the committee suggested that other charities that could be contacted with respect to organising activities for young people included the Variety Club of Great Britain and The Friends of Horsenden Hill.

The Committee also wanted to know whether the young people had access to apprenticeships. The officers replied in the affirmative.

**RESOLVED that Officers will:**

- **write to the John Lyons Charity to thank them for their continued support.**
- **invite all Members of this committee to the next Annual Education Awards.**

## 9. My Education Mentors Project

Officers informed the meeting that they were in the process of recruiting to the post of Lead Mentor. Representatives from the My Education Mentors Project were not in attendance at this evening's Corporate Parent Committee meeting as the group is just returning after the summer break.

### **RESOLVED:**

**The Corporate Parent Committee noted the update.**

## 10. Report on the Education of Looked After Children

Bridie McDonagh, Virtual School Head Teacher, introduced her report.

### Key Stage 2

She informed the Committee that the results were lower this year than in previous years linked to the ability of the cohort. 43% of the 14 students entered for Key Stage 2 exams or SATS achieved the national expected standard in maths. Another 43% achieved the national expected standard in writing. 5 of the 14 children (36%) achieved between 92 and 99 points in maths which included 2 children with EHCP plans; this was just below the national expected standard score of 100. Of the fourteen children who took their SATs, five achieved the national average score in the combined totals of all three areas of reading, writing and maths. One child in this group, who has an EHCP, achieved the highest score in his school.

Bridie told the Committee that a progress report would be delivered in December to inform the Committee about students making notable progress. For example, there was one child who had taken part in a [drama] production who had previously not been able to make eye contact and who was now much more confident.

### Key Stage 4

At GCSE Level, 20% of those students entered for the exams achieved Grade 5 and above in English and Maths. One student took 9 GCSEs and achieved A\* in 8 of the subjects taken. Three other students also achieved 9 GCSEs at grade 4 (C) and above. Eight students in this cohort had attendance issues and did not sit the exams or gain accreditations, including three students with a disability.

Bridie advised that the three schools in Ealing with the best results would be contacted for feedback/analysis.

### Graduates 2018

Bridie reported that of the nine students who graduated from university, one had graduated with a first class honours degree and four had graduated with a 2.1 degree classification. So far, one student has decided to go on to do a Masters degree. A total of 48 students were expected to be studying at university during the 2018/2019 academic year. This is 17% of the care leaver

group. 14 students qualified to start university in September 2018, four of whom have deferred their commencement of HE courses till September 2019.

Members wanted to know about work experience opportunities for the young people, including exploring those in the charity sector. Marcella Phelan responded that Ealing had a very effective Connexions Service which provided help and advice for young people at different stages including: ECO-Talent or pre-Pathways, Pathways and Apprentice opportunities.

Jude advised that the Horizons Centre sign-posted young people to external educational and trauma resources. Ian Jenkins, Head of Youth Justice Service, said that Ealing also had links with the Princes Trust and other programs for those who wanted to pursue the business route. Jude added that one young person had done work experience in the games design field where he had helped to design a games app.

Members also enquired about internships. Jude reported that the young people participated in the National Citizenship Service and other programmes.

Members then asked what happened to the Year 11s who did not complete their exams. Were there any pathways or programmes that they could follow to re-engage with education?

Bridie responded that the young people were taught functional skills alongside academic subjects and that they were tracked to make sure they engage. Some young people realised later than others that education is important and there are Access courses which help them re-engage. Local further education colleges were another way of engaging young people. All young people are monitored and tracked by the service and NEETs, in particular, are targeted for interventions to help them re-engage.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**The Corporate Parent Committee noted the report.**

**The Virtual School Senior Management Team committed:**

- **to deliver a progress report to inform the Committee about students making notable progress, by December 2018.**
- **To contact the three schools in Ealing with the best results for feedback/analysis.**

### **11. Social Services Complaints Report for Looked After Children**

This report was spoken to by Judith Finlay. Three complaints had been received. All had been considered at the Stage 1 (informal) level. One complaint had not been upheld, one had been partly upheld and one complaint was still under consideration.

**RESOLVED:**  
**The Corporate Parent Committee noted the report.**

## **12. Management Information Summary – Children Looked After**

This regular report was introduced by Judith Finlay. The purpose of the report was to provide a brief analysis on the April 2018 to August 2018 performance indicators for children looked after and care leavers. Judith reported that the service had performed at 'good' or 'acceptable' levels across the key performance indicators and that this was generally above the national averages.

Judith brought to members attention that for Quarter 1 in 2018/19, 71% of care leavers are in education, employment or training, this is above the national and London average.

**RESOLVED:**  
**The Corporate Parent Committee noted the report.**

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

Before drawing the meeting to a close, the Corporate Parent Committee wanted to note the sad passing of the late Councillor Tej Ram Bagha, noting his significant and positive contribution to the work of this committee over the years.

Chair..... (Councillor Julian Bell)

The meeting ended at 7:40pm