

Corporate Parent Committee

17 July 2014

Present: Councillors Bell (Chair), Aslam, Dhami, Midha, Rai, Camadoo, Mullins

Also Present: Fostering and Adoption Representatives, Care Leaver Representatives, Looked After Children Representatives, David Archibald (Executive Director Children and Adults), Cheryl Campbell (Team Manager, Horizons Centre), Carolyn Fair (Operations Manager, Children's Placement Services), Judith Finlay (Director Children and Families), Bridie McDonagh (Head of Behaviour Strategy and Inclusion & Virtual School Head LAC), S Obado (LAC Education Teacher) and Marcella Phelan (Assistant Director, Planning Commissioning and Partnerships)

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Gulaid, Jude Fraser (Horizon centre staff), Gary Odle (Horizons Centre), Carol Yates (Operations Manager Looked After Children and Leaving Care Team)

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 20 March 2014

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2014 be agreed as a true and correct record.

6. Update from Junior Council (Verbal Update)

M (Junior Council representative) gave a presentation to the Committee on activities undertaken by the Junior Council. The results of the survey of Looked After Children aged between the ages of 7 to 11 had been considered and next steps had been planned. During May five Junior Council Members had met with senior officers in Perceval House. At their away day, the Looked After Children's Team considered the ideas raised by the Junior Council and considered how to put these into practice.

A tea party was planned for the end of term and this year there would be a combined event with the older and younger Looked After Children – Outer Stars Day - which would

take place on 26 July at Hanwell Community Centre; members of the Corporate Parent Committee were warmly invited.

The Committee thanked and congratulated M for his fantastic presentation.

7. Feedback from the Horizons ShoutOut Forum (Verbal Update)

Three members of the Shoutout Forum informed the Committee of their experience as members of the Shoutout Forum which was a voluntary position but was rewarded by qualifications and outings.

The Forum had a newsletter to raise awareness of current issues. The Forum worked with other Children In Care Councils in London and supported young inspectors working with Ealing Youth Action.

The Shoutout Forum also invited members of the Committee to the Outer Stars Event on 26 July and explained that this was a trial event with the aim of bringing everyone together.

8. My Education Mentors Project Update (Verbal Update)

The Committee congratulated A on his recent appointment within the Ministry of Justice.

Royanne Johnson (Lead Mentor), mentors and mentee provided feedback on the mentoring sessions.

Activities organised by the group included: a visit to the University of West London to raise aspirations, a workshop on managing stress, one to one sessions between mentors and mentees, a money management session, a sports session, a session delivered by Councillor Millican, and the end of term bowling trip.

There were currently eight mentors with six more recruited for to start in September. Between ten and fifteen mentees attended each session. The aim was to increase the number of mentees by involving foster carers and also promoting the opportunity at the Outer Stars Day.

Mentors are all over 18 years old, in employment, education or training. The application process involved completing an application form and attending an interview. All mentors were DBS checked and usually underwent a six week training period – although a more intensive full day training course was being considered. Mentors were monitored through termly supervision.

9. Looked After Children Education Update

Bridie McDonagh, Head of Behaviour Strategy and Inclusion & Virtual Head LAC, introduced this report informing members of the progress against targets for attainment in the public exams Summer 2014 for Looked After Children in Year 11; updating members on the current performance at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 and Post 16; outlining the progress on the John Lyon's Easter and half term programme.

This was a short report as the results from exams would be presented to the Committee in September. There was a large cohort of year 11 Looked After Children, this was a motivated group and good results were anticipated.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10. Looked After Children and Care Leavers Feedback Survey – Follow up

Marcella Phelan introduced this report providing action plans to follow up on the findings of the views of 130 Looked After Children and Care Leavers aged between 5 and 19+ who responded to two recent confidential surveys, giving their feedback on a wide range of issues relating to their care experience.

Officers had developed action plans in response to these findings and progress on the action plans would be reported to the committee next year.

Resolved:

That the Corporate Parent Committee

- i. notes the action plans as detailed in appendices 2 and 3 of the report, developed in response to the views expressed by children and young people to the recent wide ranging and comprehensive surveys of their care experiences
- ii. notes that the progress on the Action Plan would be reported to the committee in 2015.

11. Health of Looked After Children Report

Judith Finlay introduced this report updating the Committee on the processes and data in relation to health of Looked After children and young peoples in Ealing in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

12. Adoption Figures Briefing

Carolyn Fair introduced this report updating the Committee on the interim Adoption figures for 2013-14. 36 new adopters had been approved during this period.

It was noted that Ealing performs well in the area of adoption and had been rated outstanding in this area by Ofsted.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

13. Social Services Complaints Report on Looked After Children

Judith Finlay introduced this report providing information on complaints for Looked After Children for the period January 2014 to March 2014.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

14. Management Information Summary – Looked After Children

Resolved

That the report be noted.

15. Date of next meeting

The date of the next Corporate Parent Committee is Thursday 11 September 2014.

Chair (Councillor Julian Bell)

The meeting ended at 8:15pm