

Corporate Parent Committee

Thursday 18th September 2014 at 7:00pm

Horizons Centre, Hanwell

PRESENT: Councillors Bell (Chair), Camadoo, Dhami, Midha, Reece

ALSO PRESENT: David Archibald (Executive Director, Children and Adults), Judith Finlay (Director, Children and Families), Bridie McDonagh (Head of Behaviour Strategy and Inclusion & Virtual School Head LAC), Carol Yates (Operations Manager, Looked After Children and Leaving Care Team), Gary Odle (Manager, Horizons Centre), Jude Fraser (Horizons Centre), Claire Hyde (KS4 LAC Education Teacher), Joseph Anstee (Democratic Services Officer) and Young Peoples Representatives

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Aslam, Gulaid and Rai, Marcella Phelan (Assistant Director, Planning Commissioning and Partnerships), Sally Obado (LAC Education Teacher), Carolyn Fair (Operations Manager, Children's Placement Services), Ivan Yiga (EMPAC Project Officer and HSC Lead)

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 17th July 2014

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2014 be agreed as a true and correct record.

6. Update from Junior Council (Verbal Update)

Gary Odle, Horizons Centre Manager, introduced this update, and explained that the Junior Council was currently being formed, as last year's Year 6 were now in high school. Applications were invited for Junior Council and it would be in place for the next meeting. Many of the Junior Council had helped with the Outer Stars event in July. It was the first time the event had been staged and it was a great success. A wide range of activities were enjoyed by attending young people and foster carers alike, including many who had come from outside the Borough. Gary Odle thanked members of the Committee for attending and expected more events in the near future.

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

Gary Odle introduced the update on behalf of Ivan Yiga. HSC (Horizons Shoutout Council) had felt it was important to pursue four issues from the last quarter; the LAC (Looked After Children) Savings Policy, Staying Put legislation, allowances for apprenticeships, and Quota Housing. The Committee noted the priorities of HSC, and the local authority was engaging in consultations with various different departments to work towards improving on these issues.

HSC was continuing its relationship with Barnardo's, and had been busy over the summer following the Outer Stars event. HSC had recently piloted the Arts Award, a qualification for young people the equivalent of a GCSE. A (Young Peoples Representative) gave a presentation on the Arts Award. The course included both theory and practical elements and a wide range of workshops and activities. Tasks were done as a group, and the whole group enjoyed and profited from the eclectic programme. Overall 18 had taken part in the Award, 9 had completed it and 9 were still working towards completing it.

The Committee thanked A for his excellent presentation and congratulated him on having gained the Arts Award.

8. My Education Mentors Project Update (Verbal Update)

Claire Hyde, Key Stage 4 LAC Education Teacher, introduced the update. The Mentoring Project was providing a valuable forum for support from older young people, to help with aspirations and education ambitions. This was the 9th year of the project and it had developed very well. There were currently 4 senior mentors and 2 new mentors. L and K (Senior Mentors) gave a presentation on their progress, and S, a mentee, gave a presentation on her progress. Examples of mentoring sessions were shown to the Committee. Holistic development was the focus of the sessions, with lots of 1:1 elements, and themes included education, sports and life skills. Mentors got accredited mentoring qualifications, and future sessions were well-planned in advance.

Every year the success of the project was impressive and inspiring. The Committee thanked and congratulated L, K and S for their presentations and looked forward to the next report.

9. Report on the Education of Looked After Children

Bridie McDonagh, Head of Behaviour Strategy and Inclusion & Virtual School Head LAC, introduced this report, reporting to Members on the education results for Looked After Children at Early Years and in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3; informing Members of the progress of Ealing's Looked After Children at the end of the academic year 2012/13 at GCSE Level; and informing Members of the progress of students in higher education, Post 16.

Early Years

The Early Years children were a small cohort of 8 children including 1 with SEN (Special Educational Needs). As they were undergoing a new curriculum, comparison to previous years was difficult, and the focus was on

progress rather than attainment. Maths scores were low, but low in both Ealing and non-Ealing schools. The small size of the Early Years cohort meant that scores were difficult to use with conviction, but Maths was targeted for particular focus moving forwards.

Key Stage 1

The Key Stage 1 children, a cohort of 12, had performed broadly in line with last year and better than the last 3 years. A higher population of children had SEN this year, and were being assessed by educational psychologists. Five of the 12 children (42%) in Year 2 achieved level 2 (national expectation) or above in Reading, Writing and Maths which was a great achievement.

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, the total cohort was smaller this year, down to 17 from 22, and 13 of the children were entered for the SATs. The Key Stage 2 results overall were excellent this year, and in Maths the results were the highest achieved to date. This provided an excellent basis for going into High Schools. Of the children with SEN, two children were making excellent progress, and there were plans to integrate them back into mainstream schools during Year 7.

Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3 there was a cohort of 66 young people. There were 25 young people in Year 9 at the end of the 2012/13 academic year. Results for Year 9s were encouraging, and 15 out of 25 (60%) of young people in Year 9 achieved the national expectation of level 5 or above at the end of Key Stage 3, Year 9 assessment levels. There were 11 children in Year 9 who regularly attended Horizons and were directly supported by the education team.

Key Stage 4

Claire Hyde introduced this part of the report. At the end of the academic year 2013/14, there were 44 Year 11 students, up 12 from last year. Of these, 30% achieved 5 A* to C grades including English and Maths. The results were outstanding, and the current Key Stage 4 had hit every achievement target during their development. Significant proportions of the children were in mainstream schools, and had enjoyed good pastoral support and great communication. Students had a great work ethic and cared about achievement. The Key Stage 4 cohort had never had so many young people local to Ealing, although some out-of-Borough children were also doing very well. Work was being done to increase the amount of foster carers in the Borough to take advantage of the benefits of locality, and work was being done to solve problems with placements with solutions within the Borough. The Committee was warmly invited to attend the Education Awards on the 26th September 2014.

Post 16 and KS5 2013/14

There were 8 graduates in 2013/14, including 2 postgraduates, who studied a wide range of courses. This number was linked to a low uptake in previous years and was expected to go up in years to come. In the 2012/13 academic year there were a total of 35 students studying at University level at 21 different institutions. London-based Universities were popular, and popular courses included Engineering and Psychology. Students had taken various routes to University, not all being via A-Level. There were ten graduates in 2013, and almost all had gone on to further study or employment.

The results from Key Stage 5 were expected in November, and will be included in the next education report to Corporate Parent Committee.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the report be noted.
- ii) That the results from Key Stage 5 in 2014 will be included in the next education report to Corporate Parent Committee.

10. Social Services Complaints Report on Looked After Children

Judith Finlay introduced this report, providing information on complaints for Looked After Children for the period April 2014 to June 2014. It was a satisfactory period in the area, when there were 9 complaints made. 2 complaints were upheld, 7 were not upheld, all complaints received were responded to within the statutory requirements, and no complaints proceeded past Stage 1.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

11. Management Information Summary – Looked After Children

Judith Finlay introduced this report, providing a brief analysis on the April 2014 to June 2014 performance indicators (2014/15 year) for Looked After Children and care leavers. Performance in respect of the key indicators had been satisfactory during the period.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

12. Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report 2013/14

Carol Yates, Operations Manager, Looked After Children and Leaving Care Team, introduced this report on behalf of Marcella Phelan, updating the committee on the performance of the Looked After Children independent reviewing service during 2013/14. Results were very good for the period. 98% of reviews were delivered on time, and 99% of young people had participated in them. Work had been done on getting more feedback from young people.

Reviews were positive, and feedback on Independent Reviewing Officers was complimentary. There was some negative feedback from young people over their participation in the reviews, and work needed to be done on the quality of reviews for young people themselves.

There had been key changes in managing Independent Reviewing Officers. Training was being provided in key areas by the local authority. Feedback from Independent Reviewing Officers to Ealing had been very good.

The reporting system and Escalation Policy to treat concerns had proved useful and effective. Work was being done on the quality of life history work, and looking at the relationship between Independent Reviewing Officers and Court Guardians. Overall the report was very positive.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

13. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next Corporate Parent Committee meeting is Thursday 4th December 2014.

Chair..... (Councillor Julian Bell)

The meeting ended at 8:45pm.