

## **Corporate Parent Committee**

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7:00pm**

Horizons Centre, Hanwell

**PRESENT:** Councillors Bell (Chair), Aslam, Dhami, Midha, Millican, Rai, Sharma

**ALSO PRESENT:** Judith Finlay (Executive Director, Children, Adults and Public Health), Bridie McDonagh (Head of Behaviour Strategy and Inclusion & Virtual School Head LAC), Marcella Phelan (Assistant Director, Planning, Commissioning and Partnerships), Carolyn Fair (Head of Children In Care), Debbie Gabriel (Operations Manager, Children's Placement Services), Cheryl Campbell (Horizons Centre), Sharon Scott (Interim Operations Manager, Locality Team), Chris Hogan (Director, Children and Families), Joseph Anstee (Democratic Services Officer), Young Persons Representatives, Matt Comins (LB Wandsworth – Observing) and Tom Sackville (Catch 22 – Observing).

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

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Gary Odle and Carol Yates.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016 be agreed as a true and correct record.

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

The Junior Council was currently electing its Members for the year and would report to the next meeting.

**7. My Education Mentors Project Update (Verbal Update)**

Z, a Young Persons Representative and new Lead Mentor, introduced this item along with P, a Mentor. Z had started in her role with a 3-day induction which had included a tour of Perceval House and online training in order to learn the role and promote the Mentors Project to various departments.

Twelve Mentors had just finished their training and the Project was launching

on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. There would be more Mentor-led sessions at first, including a Caribbean cooking class. A visit to the University of West London for a Film and TV Day was being planned.

The Project would offer development in four key areas; self-reflection, teamwork, communication skills and equality and diversity. Mentees could celebrate their journey and would receive a certificate and achievement portfolio at the end of the Project. The aim was for the Project to have one Mentee per Mentor, but a Mentor could have a second Mentee if necessary. Sessions would be once a week, but not every week, with at least two 1:1 sessions per month. Recruitment had gone well. Study Support sessions on Wednesdays had proved a good place to recruit, and there had been several referrals from Social Workers.

The Committee thanked Z and P for their excellent presentation.

#### **8. Feedback from the Horizons ShoutOut Forum (Verbal Update)**

A, a Young Persons Representative and HSC Member, introduced this item. The HSC had been doing a consultation with semi-independent Young People about their needs and whether they were being met. Consultees had completed a questionnaire about things like their living environment and various types of support. The results would be collated and reported at the next meeting. The HSC had also met with 13 Young People at the YMCA in Greenford which had been productive. They had completed the questionnaire and had a question and answer session which produced some good feedback. They were also given goodie-bags containing useful household items and leaflets for the HSC, Who Cares? and other advocates. The feedback was being collated but the main issues had been around savings and communication with professionals.

The Committee thanked A for her presentation and the HSC for their hard work.

At this point Judith Finlay (Executive Director, Children, Adults and Public Health) informed the Committee of the sad loss of one of Ealing's Young People who had recently passed away. The Committee offered its condolences to his family and staff who had worked with him.

#### **9. LBE Ofsted Inspection of Services**

Marcella Phelan (Assistant Director, Planning, Commissioning and Partnerships) introduced this report, summarising the outcome of a recent comprehensive Ofsted Inspection of services to children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. The department had anticipated an Ofsted inspection for some time and it had come in June. The outcomes had been very encouraging after a thorough and detailed process. The outcomes were set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report. Services had mostly been rated as Good, with one Outstanding, and rated as Good overall. This put Ealing in the top 10 of all authorities inspected so far nationally, which was very pleasing. A number of useful recommendations for further improvement had been identified and an Action Plan had been prepared,

which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. A number of specific areas were identified as good and outstanding and these were set out in paragraph 2.7 of the report. Whilst there were many positives, there was also a strong Action Plan, and no room for complacency.

With regards to multi-agency safeguarding, there was work required and improvements needed. Useful recommendations had been made and some strengths identified. The inspectors could see that a number of improvements were in motion. An Action Plan and a Business Plan were being finalised. The full Ofsted Report was attached as an appendix. The Action Plans would be brought back to Committee regularly for progress checks.

### **RESOLVED:**

That Members:

- i) Note the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of the local authority's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. The Inspection found that overall services in Ealing were Good and that services to Care Leavers were Outstanding.
- ii) Note the outcome of the recent review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The Inspection found that this service Requires Improvement.
- iii) Note that Action Plans were being prepared to address the Recommendations made in both reports. Appendix 1 was the Action Plan for Children in Need of Help and Protection and Looked After Children and Care Leavers. The Local Safeguarding Children Board was currently working on an Action Plan to deliver required improvements in this service area.
- iv) Note the positive comments specifically about the Corporate Parent Panel, Horizons Centre, Junior Council and Horizons ShoutOut Council and the Virtual School that were contained in the report.

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

Bridie McDonagh (Head of Behaviour Strategy and Inclusion & Virtual School Head LAC) introduced this report, informing Members on the end of key stage education results for Looked After Children in Early Years & Key Stages 1 & 2, the educational outcomes of Ealing's Looked After Children at the end of the academic year 2015–2016 at Key Stage 4 and/or GCSE results, and of the progress of students in higher education, Post 16. Committee members were thanked for their support at the recent Education Awards which had been a success and was enjoyed by the young people who attended.

The report contained results from the summer of 2016, which allowed the Virtual School to pick out strengths and potential improvements. There were

new curriculums and new methods of assessment in Key Stages 1 and 2 which were more difficult than previously. Results in these cohorts were down but were also down nationally, and were not down by as much as had been expected.

In the Early Years cohort, there were 9 children. This was a strong cohort with improved outcomes. Of the 9 children, 6 achieved a good level of development in their Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP), and 8 achieved the expected level or above in their Personal Social Emotional Development (PSED). This made it easier for the children to learn other more demanding aspects of the curriculum.

In Key Stage 1 the cohort was weaker, with only two achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths combined. However, a number of the children who didn't achieve the expected levels were close to their targets and were just below the expected levels. It was important to keep the children in this cohort on track.

In Key Stage 2, there was an average-sized cohort of 18 young people. Nearly all were entered for the SATs (83% up from 66% last year). Nearly all would have achieved the previous standard of 4 but less achieved the new national standard, which was a national trend. Some of the children had moved placements during the Key Stage but had stayed in the same school which was pleasing. The results and progress were set out on pages 5 and 6 of the report. The cohort was very close to getting very good results, and 4 children were just under the expected standard score of 100. The number of children who achieved the expected level of attainment in the combined total was not far behind the Ealing and national averages.

In Key Stage 4, at the end of the academic year 2015-16 there were 44 Year 11 students. 27 were entered for GCSEs, 11 did Foundation courses and 6 did not sit any exams. The results and progress were set out on pages 7 and 8 of the report. All of the students entered for GCSEs achieved one or more A\* - G grades. Lower grades were still useful as they gave access to Level 2 courses at colleges. It was important to support and manage progress and make judgements on cases individually. The results were better than expected and an improvement on last year. There was good tracking of progress. The strategy used had been successful so would be continued. The passes came across 20 different GCSE subjects. There were strategies in place for maths support and analysing the impact of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). The Virtual School Educational Psychologist was working with teachers to identify the barriers to achievement.

At Post 16 level, 15 students started University in September 2016, with more choosing Universities outside London than in previous years. There were 46 young people expected to be at University in the 2016/17 academic year, on a wide range of courses. There were 10 graduates in 2016, 7 undergraduate and 3 postgraduates, up from the previous year. Of the 7 students who graduated in 2015, the majority were successful in gaining graduate positions or went on to further study.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**11. Department of Education Innovation Programme – Brighter Futures**

Marcella Phelan (Assistant Director, Planning, Commissioning and Partnerships) introduced this report, updating Members on progress in implementing the Brighter Futures programme between June 2016 and September 2016, including feedback on the programme from the recent Ofsted Safeguarding inspection and plans to extend the programme from April 2017. An implementation update was set out in paragraph 3.11 of the report. The programme was now providing multi-disciplinary support for a large number of young people and families. The model had been rolled out across Children's Services, and some extra funding for the programme had been secured from the Council's Transformation Fund. The programme had enabled lower caseloads and more intensive working for workers, and new strategies for fostering work. The new In-Care team could provide better outcomes and more stability. The programme was now at the end of its pilot phase and there was a clear model for roll-out until April 2017. The numbers supported by the programme were developing as they should. Officers felt that the programme was heading in the right direction on all indicators.

**RESOLVED:**

That Members note the report and continue to review progress on the Brighter Futures programme during 2016/17.

**12. Adoption Figures Briefing**

Debbie Gabriel (Operations Manager, Children's Placement Services) introduced this report, briefing the Committee on the interim Adoption figures for 2016/17. Numbers for Adoption were small but Ealing was doing well, and expected to be up on the previous year by March 2017. Ealing also compared well with other London and national authorities. There were downward trends in Adoption numbers generally, as courts were reluctant to distribute Adoption Orders and favoured other solutions. There were 17 adopters waiting currently and workers were looking for children to match them with, which was similar to many London authorities. Adoption Link was doing very well and was popular with adopters. Regionalisation was still on the cards and the department was awaiting details on the matter. However, Ealing was well-placed to be at the forefront of developments. A financial analysis was to come and negotiations with the Department for Education were ongoing.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

During the period there were 7 Stage 1 complaints made by or in respect of Looked After Children. Of the 7 complaints made, 5 were not upheld and 2 were partly upheld with remedial actions agreed. All complaints received were responded to within the statutory requirement. There were no complaints that proceeded to a Stage 2 Complaint or Stage 3 Complaint Review during this reporting period.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**14. Management Information Summary – Looked After Children**

Judith Finlay introduced this report, providing a brief analysis on the April 2016 – June 2016 performance (2016/17 year) for children looked after (CLA) and care leavers. The Ofsted report was an endorsement of Ealing’s performance and it was good to have validation of the work being done. As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 373 children and young people were looked after by Ealing, which was reduced by 7 since April 2016, but was an increase of 7 from the same time last year.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**15. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next Corporate Parent Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

Chair..... (Councillor Julian Bell)

The meeting ended at 8:30pm.