

Corporate Parenting Board 27th November 2017



Purpose:

To act as a corporate parent and promote the best outcomes for our Children in Care and Care Leavers

Function:

The CPB will act as a sub committee to the Children and Families Advisory Panel and make recommendations to CFAP and the Executive Lead member to ensure that all services to CIC and Care Leavers are of a high standard and ensure that they are being well supported in all aspects of their life including;

- Support and encouragement to achieve in school
- Support and encouragement to look after their mental health and wellbeing
- Having opportunities for positive social integration
- Enabling the most vulnerable children and young people in society to flourish into the successful adults they can become

How?

There will be a programme of business which will be reviewed and amended by the CPB as required – led by priorities identified by Children in Care and Care Leavers, these will;

- Reviewing the outcomes for children in care and care leavers
- Ensure that the Voice of Children in Care and Care Leavers is listened to, acted upon and incorporated into key plans, policies and strategies for children in care and care leavers
- ensuring sufficient resources are available for the ‘Care Ambassadors’ to directly engage with all children in care and care leavers, and to commission and deliver agreed projects on behalf of the Hampshire County Council
- Raise the profile of children in care and care leavers by promoting the role of Elected members as Corporate Parents with key responsibilities
- Ensure that children and young people are clear about what they can expect from the County Council as corporate parents

The Board will meet with Children in Care and Care Leavers, frontline staff and foster carers / residential homes to enable it to inform CFAP of the standards of care offered to our children and young people.

The CPB will identify work to be completed which will then be undertaken through Officer Task and Finishing projects, enabling focused, time specific work.

The focus of work will remain in line with the priorities of the Children in Care and Care Leavers Pledge, which will be reviewed on an annual basis

The CPB will produce an annual report that will be presented to CFAP. The CPB is delegated to make recommendations to the relevant Executive Member and advise and report to CFAP

Hampshire's Pledge

for Children in Care and Care Leavers

Your Health

We will ...

Help you to **access health services**
~ eg, doctors, dentists, counselling, etc. ~

Support you in being **healthy, both physically and mentally**

Support you in identifying and taking part in **positive activities, interests and hobbies**

Your Education

We will ...

Not make you feel different at school

- eg not take you out of a class for a meeting
- pay for you to go on trips, etc.

Support you in accessing **academic & non-academic opportunities**
not just school or college - eg apprenticeships, NVQs, other qualifications and job opportunities

INVOLVE YOU

... in **decisions made about your education** and, when additional help is needed, why this is necessary

Help you to access the

college or university of your choice

should this be something you want to do

Your Future

We will ...

Make sure you don't feel you are going to be **kicked out at**

18

Provide and support you in **building the skills** to live on your own

Help you find **somewhere to live** and make sure you have **everything you need**

Give you information about your **entitlements** and support you in accessing them

Your Accommodation

We will ...

Where possible, try to find you accommodation with your **siblings**

Support you in **transitions** from accommodation to accommodation

Find you a **foster carer** who suits you and meets your needs

Involve you in your **accommodation planning**

Keep you informed about **contact arrangements** and how and when this can happen

Your Voice

We will ...

Be contactable through a variety of ways and get back to you **within 24 hours**

Make time for you to **TALK 1-2-1** with us on your own

- > **Be open and honest** about your care, and support you when changes are made
- > Encourage your participation in **your Care Plan** and other plans related to your care
- > **Listen to your complaints** and act on them as soon as is possible
- > **Make information available to you** so you know your entitlements and rights

And we will always ...

Help you plan for **your future**

Judge you based on **who you are now** not how you have acted in the past

Support and help you in **achieving your goals**

Be there to SUPPORT YOU (even when you make mistakes!)

Encourage you to **be the very best you can be**

Membership of the Board:

Three County Councillors appointed by and drawn from the membership of the CFAP (A substitute member may be appointed for each political group).
Three co-opted Care Ambassadors.

Executive Lead member will have a standing invitation

Regular Support and advice to the Board will may be offered by;

Assistant Director,	Area Director,
Service lead for participation,	Participation Officer,
Lead for Children in Care,	Procurement,
Public Health,	Service Manager for residential care,
The Virtual School,	Lead Independent Reviewing Officer
Foster Carers,	The Youth Commissioner
Health – (Designated Nurse for Children Looked After, CAMHS),	
The Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB.)	

Things to think about to support the CPB in their ability to scrutinise and challenge the service provided by the council for our children looked after

If you are to assess whether standards of care are good enough for your own children, you need good quality information on which to base your judgement;

There has been an increase in the number of children entering the care system, and a rise in the proportion who are removed through the intervention of the courts opposed to coming into care by agreement with parents

The CPB will benefit from the voices of the children in care being heard when considering the effectiveness and impact of the service.

1) How well does Hampshire do in commissioning or providing services?

You will require national performance data and county data to compare how well Hampshire is performing – data can not be taken in isolation, qualitative data will support your understanding with information about the experiences of the children and young people.

- What is the profile of children in care for Hampshire?
- What systems are in place to seek feedback from CIC and Care Leavers about the services they receive?
- Have you seen a copy of the annual report from the IRO service and is this used to identify gaps in service?
- Are services provided “value for money” e.g. cost of out of county placements appropriate?

2) Education – achievements both academically and other

As corporate parents, there must be high aspirations for children in care

- What results are achieved by CIC compared with other children within Hampshire
- How do our CIC compare with other CIC through the country?
- How effective are the arrangement with the virtual school head, designated teachers and designated school governors?
- How are children supported to achieve well – in and out of school?
- How are young people supported to continue in further and higher education?
- How does school admissions processes / policies treat CIC
- PEP's – are they of good quality? Audits?
- How many CIC are excluded – what alternative provision is provided?
- What do CIC say about their education and aspirations
- How is non academic achievement promoted and celebrated?

3) Health and Wellbeing

Evidence suggests that CIC are nearly five times more likely to have a mental health disorder than all children.

- How many CIC have a health and dental check formulating a health plan, completed within timescales – does this feed into the care plan
- Do all CIC have a strengths and difficulties questionnaire completed?
- Do CIC have priority access to CAMHS
- What access to CIC have to services for substance misuse / sexual health
- How are foster carers and young people supported to promote a health lifestyle?
- What do CIC say about their health needs
- Are outcomes and experiences used to inform the commissioning of services?

4) Placement Stability

Ensuring placements are stable and work well for children and young people is key to their wellbeing. Children need to feel happy in placement.

- How stable are placements – how many moves to CIC have within the year, how many CIC have been in their placement over two years?
- What is know about children who change placement – reasons
- Why are children placed out of county? What would be necessary to keep them in county?
- What choice to CIC have about placements – introductions?
- If there is a placement move – what is done to try to maintain the same school
- What to CIC say about their placements?

5) Adoption

For some children, the best option for a long term stable family environment may be adoption. For other children, securing a permanent home within the care system may be appropriate or with family and friends. Securing a permanence plan is important.

- How many CIC have a permanence plan by their second review?
- What percentage of children are placed for adoption within 12 months? And subsequently adopted?
- How long does it take to make a decision to place a child for adoption?
- What is the profile of our children compared with the prospective adopters?
- Do siblings get placed together?
- What is the barrier to identifying permanent placements for CIC?
- How long does it take to be assessed as a prospective adopter?

6) Foster Care

Nationally the number of children placed with foster carers compared to children's homes is about two thirds.

Fostering is generally seen as the preferred option, enabling children to remain living within a family environment.

- Is there a sufficient supply of suitably skilled foster carers to meet the needs of children requiring placements? If not, what is being done?
- What support are foster carers offered?
- Do carers feel this support is right?
- What do CIC say about their experience of foster care?

7) Residential Care

For some children, a placement in a residential home may be more appropriate for a number of reasons.

- What is the profile of CIC placed in residential setting?
- What is the Ofsted rating of the residential settings being used?
- What are outcomes for children in residential homes compared with the rest of the CIC cohort.
- Are any children placed in secure accommodation?
- What is the experience of children placed in residential care?

8) Care Leavers

For many young people, leaving care is daunting. Young people cease to be looked after at 18 years, but the Local Authority has a responsibility to support until at least 21 years of age

- How many care leavers are still in contact at 19year, 21years?
- What are the outcomes for care leavers – training, employment, education?
- What support do care leavers receive with housing, tenancy support, employment, access to benefits, support with their mental health
- What staying put arrangements are in place?
- What do Care Leavers say about their experience of care leaving.

9) Effective workforce

It is essential that each child has an individualised care plan based on assessment of needs. This is the responsibility of the social worker. An effective workforce supports to improve the experiences of CIC and carers and improves the performance of the department.

- What are the current SW vacancy rates – what are the reasons
- What continuity of social work input do CIC experience?
- How much time do SW's spend with CIC?
- What does the annual IRO report say about the effectiveness of care planning?
- Is there opportunity for SW to improve their skills
- What do CIC and carers say about their experience of engaging with social workers and other professionals.

10) Corporate Parenting

- Is there an effective structure for the governance of corporate parenting?
- Do looked-after children know who their corporate parents are?
- What do they say about what they expect from councillors acting as their corporate parent?
- Do all members receive training on their roles and responsibilities?
- Is there an active Care Ambassadors group who meet with elected members?
- Are children and young people's complaints responded to and what is learnt from them?

