

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting	Corporate Parenting Board
Date and Time	Friday, 16th October, 2020 at 3.00 pm
Place	Remote meeting
Enquiries to	members.services@hants.gov.uk

John Coughlan CBE
Chief Executive
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting is being held remotely and will be recorded and broadcast live via the County Council's website.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

3. DEPUTATIONS

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements the Chairman may wish to make.

5. BOARD MEMBERS FEEDBACK - ENGAGEMENT AND RECENT ACTIVITIES

An opportunity for Board members to provide a verbal update on their recent engagement activities.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD (Pages 3 - 36)

To consider a presentation of the Director of Children's Services setting out the remit of the Corporate Parenting Board under its revised structure.

7. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE - RESPONSE TO COVID AND THE IMPACT GOING FORWARD (Pages 37 - 56)

To consider a presentation of the Director of Children's Services with information on the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

8. THE BIG ACTIVITY WEEK 2020 (Pages 57 - 64)

To receive a report and presentation from the Director of Children's Services on the Big Activity Week.

9. VIRTUAL SCHOOL UPDATE

To receive a report of the Director of Children's Services with an update on Virtual School.

ABOUT THIS AGENDA:

On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.

ABOUT THIS MEETING:

The press and public are welcome to observe the public sessions of the meeting via the webcast.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Corporate Parenting Board
Date of meeting:	16 October 2020
Report Title:	Roles and Responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Board
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Stuart Ashley and Laura Mallinson

Tel: 01962 846370

Email: stuart.ashley@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of the Report

1. To review the role of the corporate parent in Hampshire and the responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Board.

Recommendation

2. That the Corporate Parenting Board notes the content of the presentation attached.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required for this informational item.

This page is intentionally left blank



Hampshire
County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

16 October 2020

The Role of the Corporate Parent and the Corporate Parenting Board

Children's Services in Hampshire are Outstanding (Ofsted 2019)

- Hampshire has been rated to be outstanding in all areas. One of only two authorities in England to achieve this.

Ofsted said;

- Children in Care benefit from high-quality support, which is making a real difference to their outcomes
- Children's lives consistently improve as a result of the help they receive
- Strong political and corporate support and well-targeted financial investment have helped the leadership team to implement an ambitious transformation programme. This has created the capacity, training and infrastructure to enable social workers to engage more purposefully with children and their families

What needs to improve?

The Corporate Parenting Board's rigour in holding partners, including health providers and district councils, to account to ensure that they prioritise services for children and young people more effectively

So...

In order to achieve this;

A little background about how children come into the care of the local authority and how they are supported and looked after and where you can support as Corporate Parents;

A Child in Care can be aged 0 – 18 years

Care Leavers are aged 18 years to 25 years of age who have been in care (there is a set criteria and eligibility as to what level of support they are offered)



Children come into the care of the local authority by;



- Consent of the parent - this is generally when the parent identifies that at that time, they can not care for their child, and no support will enable them to do this. (more commonly referred to as S20)
- Court Order - the Local Authority have applied to the Court seeking legal powers to remove a child from parental care due to significant risk of harm. (more commonly referred to as Interim or Care Order)
- Currently there are 1668 Hampshire children in care
- The average cost for each child in care is £60k per year



Where do children in care live?

- With foster carers – approved carers offering to care for children in care
- With Connected Carers – family or close friends who are assessed as suitable to care for a specific child known to them, they need to comply with fostering regulations
- Within a residential children's home – small group living with generally no more than 4 young people living and cared for by staff
- Supported accommodation – young people 16+ living in supported accommodation, this could be lodging within a family home or supported in shared living / bed sit type accommodation
- With both fostering and residential care, providers can be “in-house” so carer's or homes that at managed by Children's Services or independent providers of fostering services or children's homes that are private of the Local Authority.

Where do Care Leavers live?

- Care Leavers can remain with their foster carers under Staying Put arrangements
- Care Leavers can live in supported accommodation
- Care Leavers can live with family or friends
- Care Leavers can live independently
- Care Leavers can be living in student accommodation whilst at university

How long to children remain in care?

- Essentially – as long as required to ensure the safety of children
- Mostly children enter the care system when there is no alternative support to keep them safely at home
- When a child is in care, support continues to be offered to their family to achieve reunification (return home) at the earliest opportunity. Or children are placed with extended family and no longer need the intervention from the local authority as children in care.
- Situations for children and families change and there is a focus to ensure that this continues to be reviewed through the child's journey in care and where it is safe, that reunification (return home) plans are supported. This is proving successful, but is a very carefully balanced decision to make and not one that would be appropriate for every child

A corporate parent: *to promote the best outcomes for our Children in Care and Care Leavers*

Looking after and protecting children and young people is one of the most important jobs that councils do and when a child, for whatever reason, can't safely stay at home, it is up to us as the local authority to step in and give them the care, support and stability that they deserve.

This isn't just up to the Lead Member or Director of Children's Services – we need everyone looking out for our most vulnerable children and young people, and every councillor has a role to play.

Being a corporate parent means doing everything we can for every child in the council's care – and every care leaver – to give them the opportunities that other children get. This covers everything from keeping an eye on their progress at school, to looking after their health and wellbeing, to preparing them for life as independent adults – and supporting them when they get there. We need to be ambitious for the children in our care, encouraging them to dream big and take chances even if they don't feel like that's been an option in the past. (LGA)

Role of the Corporate Parenting Board;

The role of the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) is to ensure that all services to Children in Care (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

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
- Hold partner agencies to account in respect of their responsibility as corporate parents

- Ensure that children and young people are clear about what they can expect from the County Council as corporate parents

- The CPB will meet with Children in Care and Care Leavers, frontline staff and foster carers / residential homes to enable them to inform the Board 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 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 and the Local Offer for Care Leavers which will be reviewed on an annual basis

- There will be a joint working protocol between the Corporate Parenting Board and Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership(HSCP) where an annual report on the CPB will be shared with HSCP.

- The CPB will make recommendations to the Executive Lead Member on matters relating to Children in Care and Care Leavers

Hampshire's Pledge to children in care and care leavers



Moving On



We will support you to

- Find somewhere to live
- Build necessary skills to maintain your accommodation
- Become the successful young adult that you can become
- This offer of support will be there until you are 25
- Access the services relevant to your needs as an older young person

Your Health and Wellbeing

We will support you to

- Access Health Services – this includes your mental and physical well-being
- Maintain healthy and happy relationships
- Identify and access positive activities, interests and hobbies



Your Voice

We will

- Actively involve you in your own care plans
- Make time for you to talk one to one with us
- Be contactable through a variety of ways and get back to you within 3 working days
- Involve you in different ways so that together we can improve what we do
- Let you know what you are entitled to as well as what you have responsibility for
- Make you aware of our compliments and complaints procedure and support you through this if needed

Your Education Training and Employment



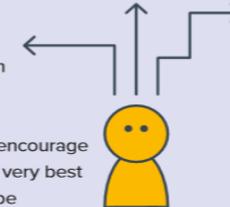
We will support you to

- Access academic and non-academic opportunities – not just school or college
- Be involved about decisions made about your education
- Access additional support for school or college if this is necessary
- Access college or university if you would like that help

Your Future

We will

- Help you plan your future
- Support and encourage you to be the very best that you can be



Where you live

We will

- Be open and honest about your care especially when changes are happening or where we can see that they are likely to happen for you
- Help you to move smoothly to a new place to live, should you need to
- Inform you about how you will keep in touch with your own family, if appropriate



To find out more, speak to your social worker, or search 'Hampshire Local Offer to Care Leavers'.

Membership of the Board:

Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire
County Council

Nine County Councillors have been appointed by the County Council on a proportionate basis with substitute representation from each political group and includes a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Hampshire
County Council

The Executive Lead Member will have a standing invitation to the Board

Hampshire
County Council

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

Director of Children's Services and nominated officers

Care Ambassadors

CAMHS

Police

Virtual School

Designated GP / Names Nurse for Children in Care (also known as Looked After Children)

Public Health

District Councils

Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire
County Council

Things to think about to support the CPB in their ability to scrutinise and challenge the services provided 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

County Council



Hampshire
County Council

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



Hampshire
County Council



Hampshire
County Council



• 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?



Hampshire
County Council



Hampshire
County Council



Hampshire
County Council



Hampshire
County Council



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?

Page 25



19

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?



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 19 years, 21 years?
- 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

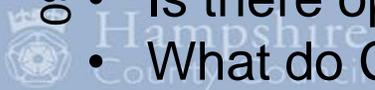


It is essential that each child has an individualised care plan based on assessment of needs. This is the responsibility of the social worker. An effective workforce supports to improve the experiences of CIC and carers and improves the performance of the department.



- 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.

Page 30



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?

Page 31

- References –

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15.74%20Corporate%20parenting_05_web.pdf

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10-questions-ask-if-youre-ca4.pdf>

25

Revised Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board – October 2020

- Councillor Ann Briggs (Chairman)
- Councillor Fran Carpenter (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Roz Chadd
- Councillor Stephen Philpott
- Councillor Jackie Porter
- Councillor Patricia Stallard
- Councillor Elaine Still
- Councillor Robert Taylor
- Councillor Malcolm Wade

Glossary of useful terms

Advocacy - An advocate's role is to make sure that the child's views and experiences are considered when decisions are made about their future. Every child has the right to be supported by an advocate and councils must have a system in place to provide written, age appropriate information to each looked-after child about advocates and how to request one.

Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) - Services that work with children and young people experiencing emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties.

Care Order - A court order approving the case for a child to be taken into care, this is the legal auspice and falls under S31 of the Children Act 1989.

Care plan - A care plan should be developed for every child and young person when they come into care. This should identify how the child will be accommodated, how long it is anticipated that the care episode will last, and formulate planned outcomes for the child with associated actions. The plan should be reviewed at least every six months. This has recently been updated and could be referred to a My Life, My Future (MLMF) plan.

Clinical commissioning group (CCG) - These commission most hospital and community NHS services in their area, including mental health and learning disability services.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) - Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

County lines - A term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operation to smaller towns and exploiting children and young people to sell drugs.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) – A term used when usually drug gangs exploited children through criminal activity

Children's home - A residential facility where groups of children are cared for by qualified workers.

Former relevant child - A care leaver aged 18-21 who was a relevant child or was in care until the age of 18. Young people who are still getting help with education or training remain 'former relevant' until their training has finished.

Foster care - Foster care is a way for children to be cared for within a family setting when their own family is unable to care for them. It is considered temporary in that there is no legal split from the family (as with adoption), but can be long term where this is in the best interests of the child.

Independent fostering agency (IFA) -IFAs provide fostering services to local authorities. They recruit, train and support their own foster carers who the council can then place a child with on payment of a fee. IFAs can be charities, not-for-profit or profit-making.

Independent reviewing officer - (An IRO chairs a looked-after child's review(s) and monitors the child's case on an ongoing basis. They ensure that the care plan for the child fully reflects their current needs, wishes and feelings, and that the actions set out in the plan are consistent with the local authority's legal responsibilities towards the child.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) -JSNAs identifies the current and future health needs of the local population to inform and guide commissioning of health, wellbeing and social care services within local authority areas.

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) -The JHWS outlines how local partners will work to improve health in the local population and reduce health inequalities.

Kinship care – Better known as Connected Carers - Kinship care is where a child is looked-after by a relative or friend. This can be an informal arrangement, through a Special Guardianship Order, or through friends and family foster care, where the local authority still has legal responsibility for the child.

Modern slavery - Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. A person is trafficked if they are brought to (or moved around) a country by others who threaten, frighten, hurt and force them to do work or other things they don't want to do.

Pathway plan - A pathway plan is developed by the local authority with a young person in care as they approach their 16th birthday to help them effectively make the transition from care to living independently. It includes areas such as accommodation, education, life skills and health.

Personal Education Plan (PEP) -The PEP is a statutory part of a child's care plan, making sure that all relevant partners are engaged in a child's education, tracking their progress and giving them the support they need to achieve and be aspirational in their education.

Private arrangement - An informal arrangement where a child or young person is looked-after by a close relative such as grand-parents, aunts or uncles.

Private fostering -An informal arrangement where a child or young person is looked-after by someone who is not their parent or close relative. The local authority should be informed of the arrangement, but is not responsible for the child and is therefore not the corporate parent.

Secure children's home - Secure children's homes offer specialist care and intensive support in a secure setting to young people sentenced by the courts and to young people detained for their own welfare (for example, where children are at risk of child sexual exploitation, and likely to place themselves in risky situations). These are referred to as youth justice beds, and welfare beds respectively.

Special guardianship - Special guardianship means that a child lives with carers who have parental responsibility for them until they turn 18, but legal ties with the parents are not cut as with adoption. The child is no longer the responsibility of the local authority.

Staying Put - An arrangement whereby a looked-after child can stay with their foster carer after the age of 18, as long as both the young person and the foster parent is happy with this arrangement, and it is in the young person's best interests. The council has a duty to support the arrangement up to young person's 21st birthday.

Sufficiency duty -The duty for a council to take steps that secure, as far as possible, sufficient accommodation within its area to meet the needs of children that it is looking after.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) -The definition of an unaccompanied asylum seeking child is set out in the Immigration Rules as someone who:

- is under 18 years of age when the claim is submitted;
- is claiming in their own right; and
- is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so.

Virtual school head - All local authorities must have a virtual school head (VSH) in charge of promoting the educational achievement of the children looked-after by that authority and previously looked-after children. Their role is to know how the looked-after children are doing, and help school staff and social workers to find out about the extra needs of these children and any additional support available to them. VSHs also work with the children's services department and all schools in the area on initiatives to promote the education of children in care

(https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15.74%20Corporate%20parenting_05_web.pdf)



Page 36



HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Corporate Parenting Board
Date of meeting:	16 October 2020
Report Title:	Children's Social Care – Response to Covid and the impact going forward
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Stuart Ashley

Tel: 01962 846370

Email: stuart.ashley@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of the Report

1. To review the recent response activities which have been ongoing as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendation

2. That the Corporate Parenting Board notes the content of the presentation attached.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required for this informational item.

This page is intentionally left blank



Hampshire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board
16 October 2020



Children and Families



Stuart Ashley



1. Our approach

- Phases, oversight and data

2. What we did

- Children in Care, Foster Carers and Residential
- Partners
- What next?

3. Health Assessments

3. Education update

- GCSE and A Levels

Our approach over the last few months:

As part of our contingency planning we developed a phased approach, with each phase based on having fewer staff available to work should the situation worsen

Phase 1

Business as usual but doing it differently

- Statutory timescales for visits and meetings remain the same
- Using technology to ensure we see children and families through digital means i.e. WhatsApp, Teams
- Face to face visits undertaken where we know our staff can safely socially distance themselves, in relation to urgent child protection work
- Guidance provided for visits, meetings (with children and professionals), training, events etc

Page 44

Phase 2

Pre-emptive planning for worse case scenario

- Expressions of interest from staff willing to work in the business-critical services*
- Staff drafted in from the Residential Children's Homes to ensure a minimum staffing levels at Swanwick
- 2 homes closed meaning that in the event of an unforeseen emergency there was additional resource to be deployed*
- CRT/MASH – no essential work held back to enable prioritisation
- District teams – highest risk children and families identified

Phase 3

Managing the worse case scenario

- Redistribution of staff available to work
- Delivery of services reduced to highest risk cases
- Implementing DfE flexibility of statutory requirements

We remained in Phase 1 throughout lockdown and actioned some elements of Phase 2

Measure		Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20
Total Referrals		2825	3096	3178	3649	2871	2671	3073	4007	3949	3258
No of Referrals progressed to Assessment		1563	1602	1681	2000	1556	1180	1411	1888	1936	1710
Assessments completed (within 45 working days of referral)	Number	1097	1045	1003	1364	1100	1112	1007	1201	1501	1147
	Timeliness	92.3%	93.1%	90.4%	94.1%	88.7%	90.3%	93.0%	95.8%	96.3%	96.1%
ICPCs		91	104	129	188	100	160	162	140	164	101
RCPCs		285	303	269	260	109	194	244	276	329	137

Page 45
 Across June and Aug 2020, we completed 30211 visits (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, LC)

	% of Visits Undertaken Virtually	% of Visits Undertaken in Person
April	53%	47%
May	45%	55%
June	39%	61%
July	33%	67%
August	27%	73%

Whilst there was some reduction in referrals and assessments during April, by the end of May we were back to normal levels and since June have been 15 to 20% above normal

We have seen an increase of c140 children subject to a Child Protection Plan since April. The level of complexity within families that we are assessing has increased as a result of needs being magnified by COVID

Vulnerable children attending school

A feature of our response to Covid 19 has been the excellent joint working between children's social care and education, schools and colleges to ensure as many vulnerable children as possible were able to attend school

- Identification of vulnerable children cohort
- Children's Social Care visits included discussion on school attendance and support to attend
- Risks assessments completed on every vulnerable child not attending school
- Impact- by end of term 53% of vulnerable children attending school, including 57% of those subject to child protection planning and 57% of children in care.



Partners

We are continuing with constant dialogue with our partners

- Business as usual meetings have been unchanged
- Daily contact between Assistant Director and Head of Public Protection (the police) if needed

We are proactively sharing our important updates

- Shared high risk cases with police and vice versa to focus on right children

We are sharing updates from partners with our staff

- Weekly meetings with health partners

Page 47



UASC

- Hampshire have been supporting Kent County Council with the management of UASC arriving into the Port of Dover
- We have offered daily support with staff travelling to Dover to accept responsibility for young people on behalf of other local authorities in the country. This support has been well received by Kent, The National Transfer Scheme and the Home Office.
- The UASC situation continues to be challenging and will continue to need a national response. On that point ADCS are lobbying hard for regulations to change to mandate new arrivals being allocated nationally to all LAs rather than leaving it to volunteer LAs in a region



Health Assessments



- All Initial Health Assessment (the assessment required within 20 days of entry to care) were completed by a virtual assessment on the telephone or via video links. In some highly vulnerable children's cases, a face to face assessment at an offsite (not hospital) facility was arranged.
- Review Health Assessments were individually risk assessed and "paused" if they did not reach a high risk level to enable the completion of the Initial Health Assessments. As many Review Health Assessments as possible have continued to be delivered virtually to prevent long delays.
- As we move forward acknowledging that we still remain within a pandemic environment, we are looking to restore as much to near normal the health interventions for Children in Care and looking at alternative methods for future delivery of services – this will be influenced by feedback from those assessments completed in the virtually.
- A Rapid Review Event was held in September with the aim to improve the delivery and consider the future vision around a health pathway for Children in Care. The action plan is being lead by a specialist transformational practice project manager to ensure the action plan is driven and coordinated





It's a new year,
It's the start of "our" fireworks,
After the song "we don't have to dance" he launches,
into me,
He presses closer,
Shrieking and yelling
Then... an explosion of
Glass
He raises his
hand,
My eyes stay fixed on the clock
Willing each second to pass
1 o'ccc
2 o'ccc



Page 50

Activity during lockdown

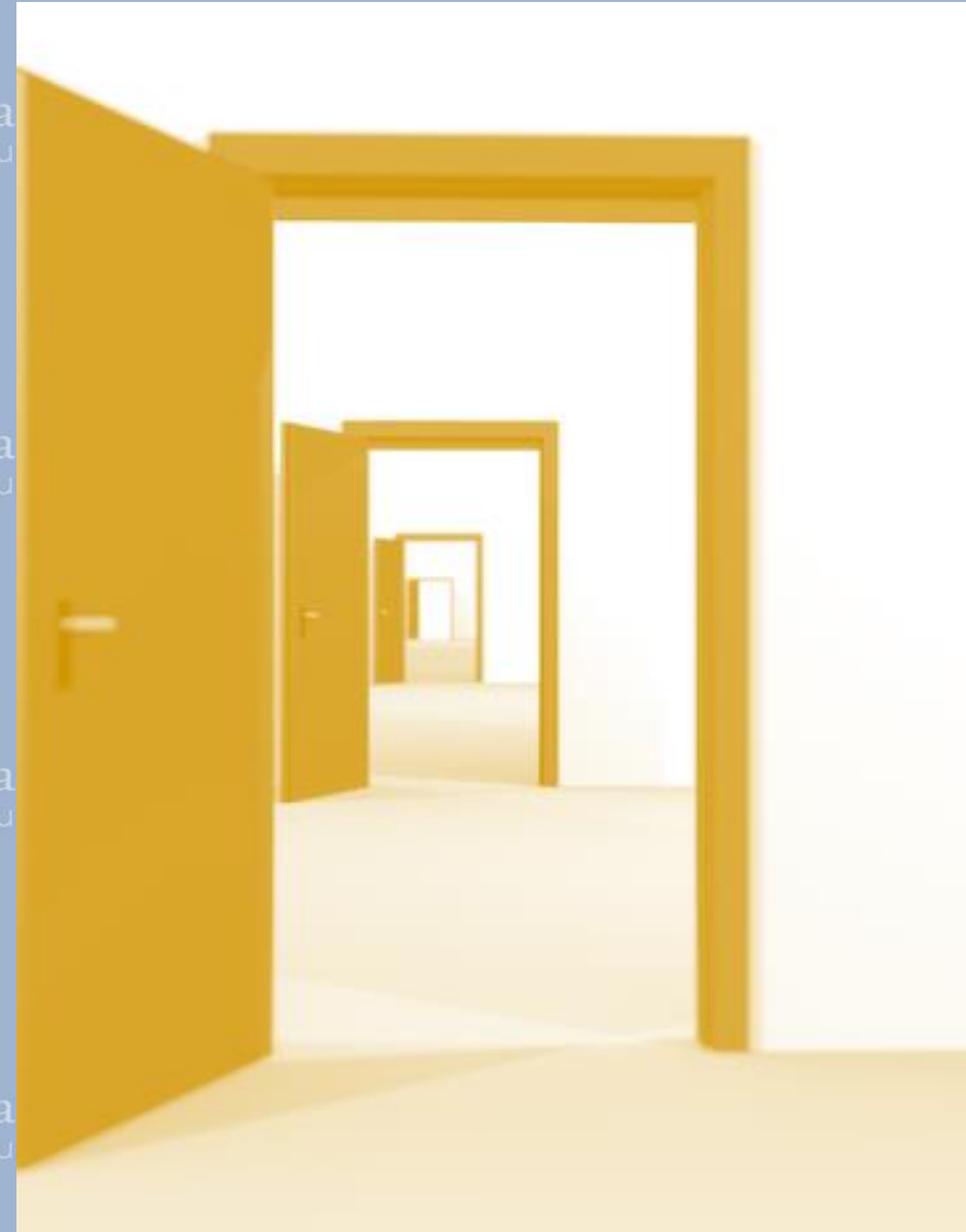


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Up-rMnyMPZI&feature=youtu.be>

What next:

As the situation evolves we must continue working in an agile and responsive way

- **Seeing increasing demand: both referrals-which have remained high over the summer period and are likely to increase as the schools return and for new placements for children coming into care**
- 90-95% of visits now face to face
- Re-establishing family time (contact) for children in care and their families, safely re-opening 'Covid Safe' Family Centre's when and where appropriate.
- Reviewing building use-incremental increase based on maintaining social distancing, consideration of rotas for staff
- Reporting and monitoring to continue daily/weekly - an important role in assessing impact and analysing areas of need so we can deploy resources effectively
- Establishing hybrid meetings - so parents can attend in person, with virtual attendance from some partner agencies





Education

Nicola Blake

GCSE and A Levels

the virtual school had a key role in relation to children in care

Well documented, last minute changes to grading system

Page 4
Careers Service was open, guiding students and parents

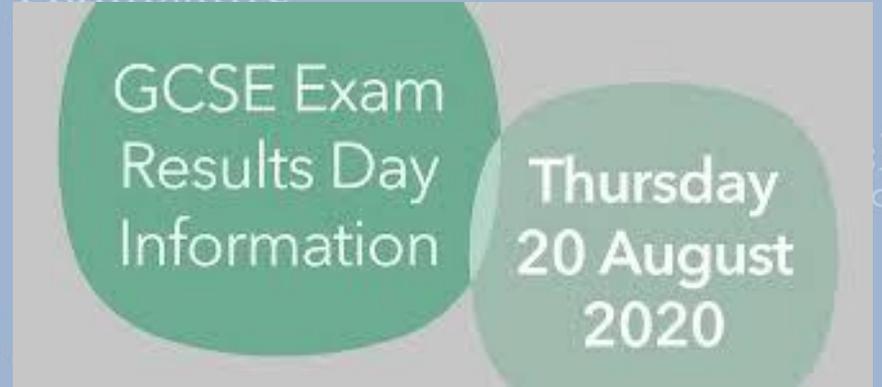
Schools/colleges worked hard to ensure students were well supported

Post 16 and Post 18 pathways secure

Working on September guarantee – low NEET figures



Hampshire



Hampshire
County Council

What next:

Regular contact with school leaders, services back out in schools

Relentless focus on vulnerable students – persistent absence

Promotion of evidenced based, catch up strategies and recovery curriculum

Roll out of well-being programme



Education
Endowment
Foundation



This page is intentionally left blank

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Corporate Parenting Board
Date:	16 October 2020
Report Title:	The Big Activity Week 2020
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Charley Mills

Tel: 01962 876210

Email: Charley.Mills@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Board on the outcome of The Big Activity Week 2020 in response to COVID-19.

Recommendation

2. For the Corporate Parenting Board notes the content of the report and is supportive of promoting The Big Activity Week 2021 with a thorough programme of activities throughout the year for children and carers to get outdoors, engaged in exciting and accessible activities

3. Context

On 5 August 2019, children in Local Authority foster care from across Hampshire arrived at four residential centres to begin a week of fun, friendship, and activities. The Big Activity Week 2019 was a new initiative run by Hampshire Outdoors, which aimed to provide the opportunity for looked after children to meet others in the same situation and to have some fun!

In total 76 young people in aged 8-14 benefited from the Big Activity Week. As well as outdoor and adventurous activities, the young people took part in a variety of workshops offered by outside agencies including Hampshire Constabulary and CAMHS.

Each group of young people was accompanied by a teacher, a social worker and a registered foster carer. It was a real benefit to the project to pull resources and expertise from across the Hampshire County Council departments.

Funding for the venture was provided in part by the National Lottery and Public Health England.

After such a successful week, plans soon began for a bigger and better Big Activity Week 2020.

The week was extended to accommodate a larger age range across six residential centres. The young people in the eldest age range were even venturing to our Hampshire County Council-run Mountain Centre in Wales! Funding was again secured from the National Lottery and Public Health England. After the launch in February 2020, 101 young people were nominated and given a place on the residential week and eagerly awaited their adventures.

And then COVID-19 happened. Initially, it was hoped that the week would still go ahead but as time went on, it became apparent that this wouldn't be possible. Rather than take away a much-needed opportunity from these young people, plans were changed to provide free, adventure days at some of the centres. The young people would be able to take part in some of the activities they would have experienced on their residential but in a COVID-19 secure way.

4. Why is The Big Activity Week so important?

Prior to The Big Activity Week 2019, evidence of the benefits of outdoor and adventurous activities was well documented. Our aim had been to support looked after children to build resilience, confidence and skills and enable them to form relationships with children in similar circumstances. It was felt that starting this at an early age would help these young people to overcome some of the barriers in education and socially that they faced.

After the residential in 2019, we sought feedback from carers and young people, to see what the experience had meant to them. Carers reported that the week had helped hugely with confidence, that mixing with children 'in the same boat' had normalised the situation for the young people. Friendships were made and a sense of achievement and pride was felt as the young people took part in activities they were not accustomed to.

The young people were asked to sum up their week using 3 words. The most popular choices were fun, amazing, exciting, challenging and awesome. This sense of enjoyment was very apparent at the celebration event we held with children, carers, social workers and senior staff.

With the added disruption of COVID-19 and the impact it has had on the mental well-being of all young people, The Big Activity Week 2020 was needed in whatever form it could take.

5. The Big Activity Week 2020 – COVID-19 style

When the decision was made to cancel the plans for the residential week, thoughts turned to how we could give the young people the chance to experience some activities during the summer.

The National Lottery were happy for us to use the funds that they had given us for this alternative option and some of the centres we were visiting were able to accommodate us for day visits. Most of the centres were offering day visits to the public and were happy to provide places alongside this. All centres were certified COVID-19 secure.

We were able to offer the young people places at:

- Calshot Activities Centre
- Runways End Outdoor Centre
- Stubbington Study Centre
- The Peter Ashley Centre
- Tile Barn Outdoor Centre

Activities included:

- Sports – volleyball, petanque, lacrosse, netball,
- Nature – trees, minibeasts, mammals, pond dipping, woodland walks
- Survival – firelighting, shelter building, mapping, orienteering
- Challenge – raft building, problem solving,
- Art – clay, natural art, willow sculptures, leaf printing
- Archery
- Snowsports – Ringos, skiing
- Climbing, abseiling, crate stacking
- Watersports – kayaking, sailing, canoeing
- High ropes
- Low ropes
- Rifle shooting
- Caving

The activity days were advertised to the families of all the young people who had booked on the original week and were also circulated through various fostering networks.

In total across the **5** centres, **276** activity days were attended by **106** young people, with some young people attending more than one day. Some of the activity days were open to adults as well, giving the young people the chance to participate in activities with their carers, improving relationships and trying new activities as a family.

6. Did it work?

Obviously, the benefits are not as far-reaching as they would have been in different circumstances but feedback from carers and young people has been very positive.

A number of the young people attending had been a part of The Big Activity Week 2019 which was great to see.

A selection of feedback is below.

I just wanted to thank you and say what a fantastic time my young lad had at the Peter Ashley centre in the summer holidays. He was quite unsure about going and needed a bit of persuasion, but once there he had a brilliant time. He made friends with some other lads and thoroughly enjoyed all the activities he took part in.

For me, after months with 4 children home schooling, it was a bit of a break and very much appreciated.

A massive thank you for getting my boy out of his room!!

He came back very, very tired but full of positivity for his future, his mental health was really fragile and the outdoor activities gave him the boost he needed to be more positive about his future!

I had two looked after children taking part, both went to Stubbington study centre. One didn't make it passed day one, the YP is autistic and it was a gamble, but hopefully he will be a little more confident next year. The other had a fabulous week, and really help him with his self-worth, and that was lovely to see.

I have 4 children looked after who utilised Fort Purbrook activity centre and Calshot.

The children really enjoyed their time at both places. Fort Purbrook was more suited to slightly younger children. Attending this activity has helped build confidence and resilience for our young people and also enabled them the opportunities to do something constructive with their time and feel a sense of achievement.

Calshot was an amazing experience, perfect for the older children. It gave the opportunity for the children and adults to support and encourage one another on tasks they found challenging and to share the sense of achievement once accomplished. They undertook activities that they'd never have got to try otherwise. Showing them that if they believe in themselves and trust others then they can overcome hurdles. A very transferable skill.

The sense of pride and accomplishment experienced when completing these activities has stayed with them and they are keen to share their achievements with others, at things like their CLA's and family contact etc

7. What's next?

Our aim is to ensure that there is a thorough programme of activities throughout the year for children and carers to get outdoors, engaged in exciting and accessible activities.

The Big Activity Week 2021 is booked and venues secured. We just have our fingers crossed that it will be able to go ahead in August as a residential experience.

Children in Year 4 will be attending Minstead Study Centre
Children in Year 5 will be attending Stubbington Study Centre
Children in Year 6 will be attending Avon Tyrell Activity Centre
Children in Year 7 will be attending Peter Ashley Activity Centre
Children in Year 8 will be attending Calshot Activity Centre
Children in Year 9 will be attending Hampshire Mountain Centre

The Big Hike 2021 – another event that was cancelled due to Covid-19 was our planned climb of Snowdon for 28 looked after children. We are looking to run this again in May half term next year for any looked after child in secondary education.

There are also plans in place to take a group of children in Key stage 4 overseas, although the planning has been delayed until we are sure this is a viable option.

Other family events are planned throughout the year such as carer meetups at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, utilising their adventure play area and pizza oven. We have primary adventure days for the younger ones and their families when we will explore a different story each time, starting with 'Stick Man' at Minstead Study Centre.

Contact

For more information about the Big Activity Week please contact the Outdoor Participation team via outdoor.education@hants.gov.uk

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes
OR	
<p>This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</p> <p><i>NB: Only complete this section if you have not completed any of the Strategic Plan tick boxes above. Whichever section is not applicable, please delete.</i></p>	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/ID/SitePages/Equality-Impact-Assessments.aspx>

Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- (a) *why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- (b) *will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*

This page is intentionally left blank