

Corporate Parenting Panel – Meeting held on Thursday, 27th April, 2023.

Present:- Councillors Hulme (Chair), Anderson and Basra

Sue Butcher, Executive Director of People (Children) & CE of Slough Children First (SCF)

Tony Hunter, Chair of SCF

Sharon Stephenson, Participation Officer (SCF)

Lynette Jones-Jardine, NHS Frimley CCG

Cherie Sears, Virtual School Head (SCF)

In Attendance

Ben Short, Director of Operations (SCF)

Reshma Bessesar, Head of Service, Children Looked After

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Akbar and Lianne Garstang

WELCOME AND VOTE OF THANKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) for this municipal year, and extended appreciation and thanks to all Panel members and officers.

1. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Basra declared an interest by virtue of working in the education sector.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 March 2023

Resolved – That the minutes of meeting held on 14 March 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

3. Feedback from Local Government Association (LGA) Review of Corporate Parenting Panel

The Panel received a presentation on the Corporate Parenting Peer Diagnostic following the Peer review, which took place on 13 & 14 March 2023. The review had been conducted by the LGA as a 'critical friend'.

Members acknowledged and thanked the LGA Peer team for carrying out the review. The team included:

- Jayne Ivory, Former Strategic Director of Children Services and Education – Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.
- Fiona Venner, Executive Board member for Children and Families, Leeds City Council.
- Andrew Winfield, LGA Associate and Peer Challenge Manager.

Corporate Parenting Panel - 27.04.23

Members were provided with feedback from the review and invited to discuss the next steps for developing the effectiveness of corporate parenting.

The Chair highlighted the following areas of focus for this diagnostic and questions and points of consideration:

- What are the levels of understanding and ownership of corporate parenting across the Council?
- Partner understanding of their role as corporate parents and how to promote their engagement.
- How effectively are we at hearing the collective voice of care experienced young people and children we care for and how can we improve this?

Also highlighted from the potential areas of focus to support improvement included:

- Members of CPP should all access specialist training Total Respect, and My Things Matter <https://www.nyas.net/news-and-campaigns/campaigns/current-campaigns/my-things-matter/>
- Refresher training for all elected members, staff and partners as an annual event with different themes.

During discussion, the following comments and points were raised:

- The reviewed had recognised the challenges (Context 1) faced by the Slough Borough Council (SBC) and Slough Children Frist (SCF). One such challenge was that the voice of the child was not being heard and that the children's views were not taken forward to influence services and foster change.
- Acknowledged that there was a need for SBC and SCF to work closely together and to improve the service culture journey.
- Accepted that housing was the biggest issue for young people and should therefore be a corporate responsibility.
- Children didn't know who their leaders were.
- Data should be provided to enable challenge and to document the help being provided to children and young people, and also to manifest accountability. The Executive Director of People (Children) & CE of SCF advised that such data could be reported quarterly to CPP as a standard item.
- Members on CPP should each have a key area of responsibility and ownership.

Members noted that there had been substantial investments on young people to provide them with the best opportunities, whilst also being aware of other facets around them.

Corporate Parenting Panel - 27.04.23

The question of building resilience was raised and it was noted that one of the ways in which this was being fostered was through celebratory and wider events.

With regard to the areas highlighted in the potential areas of focusing to support improvement, members discussed the possible cost implication of taking up potential LGA support. Officers advised that there was no cost implications for either the initial review, or the further four days remaining.

The Chair suggested that workstreams would need to be set up with a small group of people (including young people) to work on the potential areas of focus to support improvement. The LGA could then subsequently be invited to a follow up visit at the conclusion of the work streams.

The Panel noted that the Participation Officer would be working with young people to review the Pledge. They could also be invited to deliver training on their 'In Our Shoes' at a CPP meeting but acknowledge that ultimately, strengthening young people's participation was a priority.

It was noted that governance would need to be streamlined in order to avoid multiple reporting, and consideration should also be given to changing the current meeting start time from 5pm to 6pm.

Resolved – That the Feedback from the Local Government Association Review of Corporate Parenting Panel be noted.

4. **Members Attendance Record**

Resolved – That the Members' attendance record be noted.

5. **2023-2024 Meeting Dates**

Resolved – That the meeting dates for 2023-2024 municipal year be noted.

Any Other Business

Members were invited to the forthcoming celebration day on Tuesday 20 May 2023. Further details will be circulated by email.

The Chair announced the departure of Tony Hunter, Chair of SCF at the end of May and thanked him for his participation on the Panel.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.02 pm and closed at 6.18 pm)