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Notice of Meeting

Corporate Parenting Forum

Councillors Amy Tisi (Chair), Carole Da Costa (Vice-Chair), Catherine Del Campo, Suzanne Cross and Genevieve Gosling

Thursday 23 November 2023 5.30 pm
May Room - Town Hall - Maidenhead

www.rbwm.gov.uk



Agenda

Item	Description	Page
1	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC To consider passing the following resolution:- "That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting whilst discussion takes place, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1-7 of part I of Schedule 12A of the Act."	-
2	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence To welcome everyone to the meeting and receive any apologies for absence.	-
3	Declarations of Interest To receive any declarations of interest.	5 - 6
4	Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2023.	7 - 16
5	Young people co-chairing the Forum/Membership of the Forum and Work Streams To note the item.	-
6	Kickback Activity To take part in an activity organised by Kickback members.	Verbal Report
7	Diary Dates To note down any dates for events and activities.	-
8	Annual Health and Wellbeing Report To receive the Annual Health and Wellbeing Report from Lynette Jones-Jardine, Safeguarding Lead and Designated Nurse for Children and Young People in Care (NHS Frimley).	Verbal Report

	Deep Dive- your health and wellbeing workstream	
9	To receive an update on the 'Your Health and Wellbeing' Workstream from Lynette Jones-Jardine, Safeguarding Lead and Designated Nurse for Children and Young People in Care (NHS Frimley).	Verbal Report
	Fostering Update	
10	To receive an update of Fostering from Matthew Edwards, Associate Director for Provider Services (AfC).	Verbal Report
	Care Leavers Participation Report/ Care Leavers Participation Week	
11	To receive updates on the Care Leavers Participation Report/ Care Leavers Participation week by Laura Roche, Team Manager for Care Leavers (AfC).	17 - 20
	Children in Care/ Care Leavers Data	
12	To receive an update on Children in Care/ Care Leavers Data from Marie Bell, Associate Director for Corporate Parenting (AfC) or Sarah Moran, Deputy Director Children's Social Care & Early Help (AfC).	Verbal Report
	Permanence and School Stability Reports	
13	To receive an update on Permanence and School Stability Reports from Marie Bell, Associate Director for Corporate Parenting (AfC).	21 - 22
	Members Training	
14	To receive an update on Members Training by Sarah Moran, Deputy Director Children's Social Care & Early Help (AfC).	-
	Forward Plan	
15	To note the Forward Plan.	23 - 26
	Dates of Future Meetings	
16	To note the dates of future meetings as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th January 2024 • 21st March 2024 • 7th May 2024 	-

By attending this meeting, participants are consenting to the audio & visual recording being permitted.

Please contact Mikey Lloyd, Mikey.Lloyd@rbwm.gov.uk, with any special requests that you may have when attending this meeting.

Published: Wednesday 15 November 2023





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MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Registerable Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

Any Member with concerns about the nature of their interest should consult the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Non-participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your DPIS (summary below, further details set out in Table 1 of the Members' Code of Conduct) you must disclose the interest, **not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room** unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted by the Monitoring Officer in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a DPI.

Where you have a DPI on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet Member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

DPIS (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- *Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.*
- *Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses*
- *Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.*
- *Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the council.*
- *Any licence to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.*
- *Any tenancy where the landlord is the council, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest in the securities of.*
- *Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:*
 - a) *that body has a place of business or land in the area of the council, and*
 - b) *either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.*

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests (summary below and as set out in Table 2 of the Members Code of Conduct), you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.** If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other Registerable Interests:

- a) any unpaid directorships
 - b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
 - c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)
- of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

Disclosure of Non- Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a DPI) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, or a body included under Other Registerable Interests in Table 2 you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer) you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
- c. a financial interest or well-being of a body included under Other Registerable Interests as set out in Table 2 (as set out above and in the Members' code of Conduct)

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied.

Where a matter (referred to in the paragraph above) **affects** the financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other declarations

Members may wish to declare at the beginning of the meeting any other information they feel should be in the public domain in relation to an item on the agenda; such Member statements will be included in the minutes for transparency.

Agenda Item 4

CORPORATE PARENTING FORUM

Wednesday 13 September 2023

Present: Councillors Amy Tisi (Chair), Carole Da Costa (Vice-Chair), Catherine Del Campo, Helen Taylor and Genevieve Gosling

Also in attendance (virtually): Lynette Jones-Jardine and Jennifer Hardy

Officers: Nikki Craig, Matthew Edwards, Lin Ferguson, George Holder, Laurence Ellis and Mikey Lloyd

Officers (virtually): Sarah Moran and Marie Bell

Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from Suzanne Parrott, Executive Headteacher of Virtual School (AfC), and Councillor Cross, who was substituted by Councillor Taylor.

Declarations of Interest

George Holder, RBWM Policy and Projects Officer, declared he was a governor at Cox Green School.

Councillor Da Costa declared that she donated some her Councillors allowance to Kickback.

Minutes

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

To consider passing the following resolution: "That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting whilst discussion takes place, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1-7 of part I of Schedule 12A of the Act."

Deep Dive - 'Your Education, Training and Employment' Workstream

As the relevant officer, Suzanne Parrott, Executive Headteacher of Virtual School (AfC), was not available to attend the meeting, this item was postponed and skipped during the meeting.

Deep Dive - 'Your Safety, Stability and Permanence' Workstream

Marie Bell, Associate Director for Corporate Parenting, gave a verbal update to the 'Your Safety, Stability and Permanence' Workstream in which she chaired. She explained that the

Workstream had a particular focus around the safety element of children in care and care leavers. This was divided into 3 sections: personal safety, housing/environmental safety, and the vulnerability and exploitation element.

On the progress that had been made, Marie Bell informed that AfC (Achieving for Children) had managed to add a section to the Care Plans and Pathway Plans which focused on safety, which had helped improve discussions with young people in care and care leavers on their views of safety. Feedback from this would be brought back into the Workstream with common themes being identified.

Additional progress included an element of safety being added as part of quality assurance within the Commissioning Services. Therefore, questions on safety were part of that Q/A process to ensure that the placements that were offered and sourced had a focus on safety for young people. This was also linked to the work with the 'Independence' workstream. Marie Bell opined that her 'Safety' Workstream fitted with other Workstreams; and mentioned that there had been suggestions in joining the 'Safety' Workstream with other Workstreams as some of its work was related to, for example, the 'Education' and 'Independence' Workstream.

Some stable connections had been made with colleagues. This included links with a designated community police officer who was available to provide training sessions for children in care and care leavers. There was also an opportunity made available from the Windsor and Maidenhead libraries. With some Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) money, Marie Bell and the libraries sought to create safety spaces in the libraries to allow practitioners and Council employees (e.g., Fire and Rescue Service) to allow Q/A sessions and clinic sessions with young people in care and care leavers on, for example, safety issues.

Connections had also been made with housing providers, namely Abri and Housing Solutions, whereby there was consideration to include a question regarding the young person's care experience as part of their interviews and communications with young people on housing. This was to ensure the young person was still connected to services (e.g., PAs) or not if they decided not to use the services, as well as to consider the young person's vulnerability. Further work with the housing providers was required to add the question.

As part of the connections with housing providers, there were also links within RBWM, namely the Strategy Enabling Projects Team which covered housing.

In terms of outstanding tasks, there were plans to create a leaflet to inform them at a glance on who they could reach out to in regard to safety and security as well as any available offers. However, there was a consensus amongst young people that they would prefer something accessible on their smartphones, possibly a QR code. As this would be more complicated than a leaflet, additional work was required to figure out how to produce this.

Marie Bell sought to build connections with local business which offered tangible items (like ringing doorbells) for children and young people in care. She asked whether any meeting attendees had any connections with local businesses.

Another outstanding action was identifying care leaver friendly tradesmen, with consideration required on what it meant for businesses to be listed.

There was a big section within Care Leavers' Week which covered on safety, including sessions with Fire and Rescue Service, environmental health, home safety with Abri, and personal safety with the community police officer.

On doorbells, Councillor Del Campo wondered whether Thames Valley Police (TVP) could help with this as they had a security scheme for elderly people. She then asked what made a trades person 'care leaver friendly'. Marie Bell answered, while it was still in development, suggestions included care leavers having a preferential treatment and possibly a discount. In

addition, there was consideration on the language and communication being used when interacting with care leavers.

As Suzanne Parrott, Executive Headteacher of Virtual School (AfC), was unable to attend the meeting, Lin Ferguson, Director of Children's Social Care and Early Help (AfC), conveyed that Suzanne Parrott had forwarded a report to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) on what more the Council could do on corporate parenting, in which Stephen Evans, RBWM Chief Executive, had an interest in.

Lin Ferguson also informed that there were discussions on Suzanne Parrott and the Virtual School arranging another 'Better Futures' event which would target local businesses and trades people. It was planned to take place in Legoland in February 2024. She added that Suzanne Parrott had linked up with the Place Directorate at RBWM to make use of the Borough's connection to local businesses. Lin Ferguson suggested that Marie Bell could link up with Suzanne, Andrew Durrant, Executive Director of Place Services and the Place Directorate to make use of the Council's connections and link up with businesses.

Lin Ferguson then asked for some elaboration on the stability performance. Marie Bell replied that the focus on stability had generated a lot of proactive activity within the services. This was a significant change at AfC, where the stability process had been instigated. As a result, there was an improved framework which react according to issues of instability. Overall, stability and permanence were much higher on the agenda for practitioners and the new commission services.

Sarah Moran, Deputy Director Children's Services (AfC), highlighted that a stability report from Marie Bell had been presented at a Performance Board meeting, and suggested that this could be added to the next meeting agenda. Marie Bell agreed with the idea.

ACTION: Bring the Stability Report to the next Corporate Parenting Forum meeting.

Based on the last time she looked at the data, Lin Ferguson commented that the Borough's stability was improving, whereby children in care were staying in care for much longer. She then asked Marie Bell whether she wanted to explain more about the Permanency Panel which reviewed the permanency of children and young people in care. Marie Bell explained that the Panel was held weekly every Thursday afternoon and was composed of the Virtual School and adoption agency. The Panel would be held when a child was in early stages of care and potentially in care proceedings, and thus focused on the permanency of the child at the very beginning. The Panel would reach a conclusion once the child had reached permanency. The benefit of the Panel was that it generated the actions and activities, not just from social care but from other workers in order to stimulate stability. Marie Bell added that long-term and short-term permanency was better than the Borough's statistical neighbours and fared well compared to the national average.

On the ring doorbell scheme, the Chair raised that she managed to acquire funding from Thames Valley Police in 2022 for a Community Safety Fund which awarded ring doorbells and door chains to elderly people. She stated that it was a simple process (an online form) and could something worth applying for. She added that the Neighbourhood Watch provided some security, and that Valerie Pike was one of the coordinators.

Lin Ferguson suggested to invite the Neighbourhood Watch during Care Leavers' Week. The Chair also suggested community wardens.

Marie Bell commented that she had contacted the head of the community wardens, Andy Aldridge, and had received recommended individuals who would be best to attend. Some had been confirmed, while there were a couple of others which Marie Bell hoped to invite, such as Andy Aldridge. She said she would follow up with this. Marie Bell also liked the suggestion of inviting Neighbourhood Watch to Care Leavers' Week.

Councillor Gosling said she could get in touch with the relevant people. Lin Ferguson requested for the details to be forwarded to her, and then she would then forward them to Marie Bell.

ACTION: Acquire the details for the Neighbourhood Watch and forward them to Marie Bell.

Sarah Moran made a couple of points. Firstly, she commented that there needed to be some more work with housing providers on what was working or not working for young people, particularly as there was an issue with one of the commissioning services, Frogmore Court. Secondly, she informed that she recently joined the Fostering Team meeting in which there were some discussions on the challenges in recruiting in-house foster carers. Some factors included foster carers needing spare bedroom space for the fostered child. This then led to speculation on what the Borough could do with one suggestion including foster carers being prioritised for bigger properties. She then asked Matthew Edwards, Associate Director for Provider Services (AfC), if this was worth revisiting.

Mathew Edwards replied that there were some risks with mainstream carers being offered a property before approval as it could lead to the idea that becoming a foster carer was a potential route to securing larger accommodation. However, he believed that there needed to be more proactiveness in supporting friends and family (kinship) carers by, for example, helping the carers acquire property if they were caring for multiple children.

Councillor C. Da Costa, Vice-Chair, commented that people who wanted to do foster caring were not always in a position to move into a larger property; and that there were people who would like to foster but did not have a spare bedroom in their current house and therefore do not put themselves forward. She added that residents being part of a housing association would be easier as they could get priority bidding, in contrast to residents who were homeowners or privately rented.

Matthew Edwards responded that fostering babies under 2 years of age did not require a spare room. The Chair commented that she was unaware of this and that many people would not have known about this.

Lin Ferguson highlighted that Stephen Evans was keen to do a fostering campaign at around Christmas 2023.

George Holder, RBWM Policy and Projects Officer, explained that when his wife wanted to do foster caring at Wolverhampton, the fostering agency stated that her salary could not be taken into account and that his salary was reviewed on whether he and his wife were financially viable to foster. This was despite their combined salaries and the receipt of fostering allowance meant that they would be fine to foster. He wondered what the policy was in Windsor and Maidenhead. Matthew Edwards commented that approved carers received a fee and an allowance.

Councillor Del Campo asked whether there were lower cost methods to help people with foster caring, particularly with their current home property, such as decluttering or discounts for 6 months.

Councillor Gosling asked if there was a limit on fostering children, to which Matthew Edwards answered that carers could foster up to three children.

Going back to babies being fostered, Lin Ferguson clarified that babies up to the age of 2 may share the foster carer's bedroom.

Going back to Sarah Moran's point on the provisions at Frogmore Court, Marie Bell commented that the provision was providing supported living accommodation which was funded by the Council. There had been some changes in the last few years, including the funding as well as the calculation in relation to benefits. As a result, Frogmore, as a provider, had to increase rent which forced some young people into a benefits cap. As a result, care leavers would be unable to live at the accommodation and be supported, even if they were in employment, because the rent would be too high as they would not be entitled to claim those benefits. Overall, a provision was lost as AfC could not be allocated there if they were in employment.

When asked by the Chair that young people could only live at Frogmore Court if they were in education or unemployed, Marie Bell confirmed this.

The Chair then asked whether Frogmore Court in Maidenhead was only supported living accommodation in which young people in care were allocated. Marie Bell replied that Frogmore Court was only place that was promoted by the Borough, which would use other supported accommodation in Windsor, Slough and other areas that would be a separate commissioned provider that would be sourced and then find placements for young people. Marie Bell added that the idea of Frogmore Court was that it provided accommodation for any resident of the Borough which required support and not only care leavers.

Councillor C. Da Costa asked whether the Borough should be covering the shortfalls as it had a duty of care toward care leavers up to the age of 25 years. Sarah Moran responded that funding for shortfalls were reviewed and approved by AfC at a case-by-case basis. She sought to meet up with housing and commissioning colleagues and consider solutions to manage the shortfall. The solutions, Sarah Moran explained, should involve young people being employed and close to carers as well as the solutions being financially viable.

Matthew Edwards informed that AfC managed two semi-independent accommodations in Richmond and Kingston which was very cost effective. He added that AfC was working with Andrew Durrant, Executive Director of Place Services, to find a space suitable for a children's home, and that there were considerations on whether there might be something suitable semi-independent accommodation. This depended on finding a site which was suitable.

The Chair asked whether the Council commissioned places at Wellesley House in Windsor, stating that it used to house mothers and babies. Lin Ferguson was uncertain but stated that she would investigate this. Councillor C. Da Costa believed that it originally provided temporary accommodation for homeless pregnant mothers.

Marie Bell conveyed that Wellesley House in 2018 was supported living accommodation for single mothers, but it did not house under-18s.

After thanking Marie Bell for her update, the Chair sought to assign Forum members to the workstreams. Councillor Del Campo stated that she was happy to be attached to 'Your Safety, Stability and Permanence' Workstream with Marie Bell. Councillor C. Da Costa was keen to be assigned to 'Your Health and Wellbeing' Workstream with Lynette Jones-Jardine, Safeguarding Lead for Children and Young People in Care (NHS Frimley).

While she was originally assigned to the 'Your Education, Training and Employment Workstream with Suzanne Parrott, Executive Headteacher of Virtual School (AfC), she suggested that she could have an oversight over all the workstreams as there were five CPF members and four workstreams.

Councillor Gosling opted to be assigned to the 'Your Voice' Workstream with Elaine Keating, Youth Engagement Officer (AfC). When she asked what the Councillors assigned to a workstream did, the Chair explained that they attended workstream meetings, learn what the workstream was doing and consider how they themselves could help out.

The 'Your Independence' Workstream with Sarah Moran would continue to go through the other workstreams.

The Chair assigned Councillor Cross, who was not present at the meeting, with the 'Your Education, Training and Employment' Workstream with Suzanne Parrot as it was the final workstream with no assigned CPF member.

In summary:

- Councillor Cross – 'Your Education, Training and Employment' Workstream (Suzanne Parrot),
- Councillor C. Da Costa – 'Your Health and Wellbeing' Workstream (Lynette Jones-Jardine),
- Councillor Del Campo – 'Your Safety, Stability and Permanence' Workstream (Marie Bell),
- Councillor Gosling – 'Your Voice' Workstream (Elaine Keating),
- Councillor A. Tisi (Chair) – Oversee all the workstreams.

Members Training

Lin Ferguson opened the update on members training by saying that there needed to be a discussion about what training was put on. Lin Ferguson said she did some training for all new Councillors on corporate parenting a little while ago and said she believed some thought should go into doing something again for the wider group of Councillors. Lin Ferguson said instead of setting up something new, could there be something done within the Councillors existing training events. Lin Ferguson said it could be of use for Councillors to bring concerns they might have.

Nikki Craig, Assistant Director of HR Corporate Projects and IT, spoke about how at the last CPF meeting, it was discussed about how all employees for RBWM completed online iHasco training in safeguarding for adults and safeguarding for children and there was a request for elective members to acquire access to the training. Nikki Craig said a member of her team had been speaking to Kirsty Hunt, Service Lead – Electoral and Democratic Services, about other courses being available, not relating to safeguarding, such as cyber security. Nikki Craig said there were live conversations at the moment and the overall answer was that this was possible but it was just about how to organise it.

Cllr C. Da Costa asked Nikki Craig if these courses could be mandatory.

Nikki Craig said this would be a question to Kirsty Hunt but believed this could be possible.

Nikki Craig said the training was mandatory for colleagues and staff, but it would be for Democratic Services to work with Councillors.

The Chair said she believed Councillors had access and she had done safeguarding training.

Lin Ferguson said the training probably would not be specific to RBWM, to which Nikki Craig confirmed.

Lin Ferguson asked if there was something already set up so officers could do some training with all elective members on how to refer and Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

The Chair said Councillors received training, but it was always on a specific topic, such as having some training on finance and scrutiny. The Chair mentioned that there had been some discussions on doing an event and having young people come in but was unsure if these events could be combined. The Chair suggested to have a social first and then some training, rather than having the training before a Council meeting.

Lin Ferguson asked if there could be an action to give thought about when to do training.

Nikki Craig believed that there needed to be a conversation with Kirsty Hunt, as she had planned for some training, to see what could be lined up and then see if it could be combined with a social event.

ACTION: Discuss with Kirsty Hunt and Democratic Services on corporate parenting training.

The Chair said that Councillors had to go through mandatory training if, for example, they wanted to sit on a Licencing or Planning Panel.

Lin Ferguson said she believed there needed to be regularly training rather than one-off session, stating it was a key issue.

Cllr C. Da Costa said that Councillors being able to recognise what would be a safeguarding issue was important, as it was not for them to decide whether something was a safeguarding but if they could report it and let the experts make the decision.

The Chair said there could be a flow chart on the wall in Members' Room of who to contact.

Cllr C. Da Costa said it could also be added to the Members' Hub.

Lin Ferguson said that it would be helpful to link up with Kirsty Hunt and get something in the Forward Plan.

Lynette Jones-Jardine said, on training, that she would be happy to support from a health side if there were particular things Councillors wanted to cover off.

Diary Dates

Sarah Moran spoke about Care Leavers Week which ran from 25 October to 1 November 2023, in line with the national Care Leavers Week. Sarah Moran said it was a full week of events culminating to a barbeque on 1 November 2023 between 6pm-8pm.

Sarah Moran said she was unsure if Elaine Keating had circulated any communications about activities happening during the week.

ACTION: Sarah Moran to speak to Elaine Keating about circulating activities to Corporate Parenting Forum members.

Sarah Moran said the week was shaping up nicely, namely 'Parenting as a Care Leaving' and 'Independent Living'. Sarah Moran said as part of the Care Leavers Week, the Senior Leadership Team had been linked with two personal advisors who were linking with the care leavers allocated to them. They had also set up individual meetings with the care leavers and senior leadership team. Sarah Moran said they would be talking to them about how they could better engage with care leavers going forward as AfC had not been as successful as they wanted.

Sarah Moran said a few of AfC officers had managed to meet with some young people. Sarah Moran said she met with her first young person about three weeks ago and had some brilliant feedback which was being written up. Sarah Moran said that in the CPF meeting in October 2023, Laura Roche, team manager for the care leavers, would present some of the findings and some recommendations.

Sarah Moran said an example of some feedback from care leavers was to separate the participation aspect and questions with the fun social events. She said she believed there was going to be some interesting feedback which was great.

The Chair asked if Care Leavers' Week would take place at the end of half term and Sarah Moran confirmed this.

Lin Ferguson said that young people had said they wanted an opportunity to meet with councillors more regularly, and she asked if there would be an opportunity to offer something at that week.

Marie Bell said that it was a full packed week, but the last activity would be the barbeque, in which the last event at the barbecue was the social event, which was going to be used for any *ad hoc* things or allow questions from young people. Marie Bell suggested that Councillors could be available for young people at the social event. Marie Bell asked Lin Ferguson if that would work of if she wanted something more structure within the week.

Lin Ferguson said it would a good opportunity to have something in that week where young people could meet with councillors and that could be the barbeque as it was more informal.

The Chair asked what Councillors had to offer, and what would young people want from them.

Lin Ferguson said she had met with representatives from all young people participation groups; and when she met with them last time, they said they wanted an opportunity to meet some of the new Councillors and see who they were.

Lin Ferguson said that after the barbeque in August 2023, there were a number of Councillors who managed to get there, and the young people were really impressed with this. Lin Ferguson said the young people did not just want to be heard but to feel like people cared. Lin Ferguson said that Councillors may not have had to say anything exciting or enlightening but it was about just being there and being visible.

The Chair emphasised that the barbeque was not just for the CPF members but for the wider members and that you were allowed come as well.

Cllr C. Da Costa said it was like a family event, where attendees may not speak to everyone at the event, but they know people would be there and they were a part of their 'family'.

Cllr Del Campo said that Councillors received a lot of emails, and they may miss an invitation that came via email; therefore, she suggested to send out calendar invites so that they were in Councillor calendars.

Lin Ferguson asked Marie Bell to take on-board the feedback so invites could be sent out. Marie Bell confirmed this.

The Chair said that if dates were passed onto Democratic Services, they could help send out invites.

Marie Bell said that if Elaine Keating had an invitation list of core CPF members and wider members, she would be able to send out invites for everything they had.

The Chair said it would be helpful to have a list of dates for Kickback as Councillors receiving a list of dates at the start of the year could be easily forgotten.

Dates of Future Meetings

The Forum noted the next meeting on 17 October 2023.*

Mikey Lloyd, Democratic Services Officer, noted that the meeting in April 2024 had been moved back one week and would be taking place on 23 April 2024.

*After the meeting, the CPF meeting schedule had been changed to the following dates (all at 5:30pm):

- 23rd November 2023
- 10th January 2024
- 21st March 2024
- 7th May 2024

Forward Plan

The Chair noted that the deep dive with the ‘Your Education, Training and Employment’ Workstream would need to be rescheduled to the next meeting in October 2023.

Matthew Edwards asked if the Annual Fostering Report could be added to the agenda for the next meeting in October 2023. He also suggested to have a regular update with the sufficiency work.

The Chair asked Democratic Services to look into the Forward Plan.

ACTION: The Forward Plan to be amended.

Laurence Ellis, Democratic Services Officer, informed that Suzanne Parrott may present the annual Virtual School Report if it was ready. Lin Ferguson stated it was fine to move this item to the next meeting in December 2023.

Lynette Jones-Jardine added that she was doing her deep dive with ‘Your Health and Wellbeing’ Workstream and the Annual Health and Wellbeing Report.

Due the next agenda having a lot of content, the Chair suggested that the agenda may need to be amended.

Marie Bell gave reminder that there were care leavers out of borough and for the Forum to think if there was there anything it could do to support its children in other areas, such as linking with other local authorities.

Lin Ferguson asked who could do the vlog. The Chair then gave a brief explanation that after each meeting, Elaine Keating arranged for a CPF member to do a short video which gave a brief summary of the meeting to young people. Councillor Del Campo offered to do it this time round.

The meeting, which began at 5.31 pm, finished at 6.42 pm

Chair.....

Date.....

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Corporate Parenting Forum - Report Summary for Kickback

Report title:	Care Leavers Participation Report / Care Leavers Participation week
Who's presenting the report	Laura Roche Team Manager - Children in Care Team 3 & Leaving Care Team Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF Email: laura.roche@achievingforchildren.org.uk
The main things we have found are	When targeting the 18+ cohort around issues of significance to them, very purposeful engagement is received.
The reason we did this report	In AfC we are passionately focussed on enhancing the voice of our Care Leavers and committed to promoting their active participation in decision-making processes about their own lives and improving service design and delivery. This requires active engagement with Care Leavers as well as collaboration between key stakeholders to ensure Care Leavers receive comprehensive and tailored support as they transition into adulthood. This report provides an overview of participation activities with Care Leavers in AFC; what is working well; what we are worried about and areas for development.
What we did to get the information in this report	Information has been collated for this report through a review of the various different participation activities taking place. Leaving Care Personal Advisors; the Children, Young People & Families Engagement Lead; the Virtual College and Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Team have provided information which contributed to this report.
What we have found that is working well	<p>Finding 1: Engaging with individual Care Leavers about issues that are relevant to them has been successful - the Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers up to 25, agreed in October 2021, was achieved in co-production with Care Leavers whose participation was achieved through individual emails and text messages.</p> <p>Finding 2: The Care Leaver Covenant, is a promise made by private, public or voluntary organisations to support care leavers aged 16-25 to live independently. The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) provides the governance to support the delivery of the Care Leaver Covenant and promote a 'Whole Council Approach' to being a corporate parent. Five strategic partnership boards have been created involving political leadership, Directors and representatives from each Council department and external key partners. The workstreams focus on: Independent Living; Education Training and Employment opportunities; Safety and Security; Mental & Physical Health; and Finance.</p> <p>Finding 3: A Care Leaver Champion post has been created and a care experienced person appointed to support the Engagement Lead to enhance</p>

	<p>participation with care leavers through the development of social media campaigns; and regular communication about the services available and decisions affecting them.</p> <p>Finding 4: The ‘Changing Voices’ Group - provides the opportunity for care leavers to meet with and speak to the Director of Children’s Services and Lead Member. These meetings are held virtually, 6 x times a year, which ensures accessibility for young people who live outside of the borough.</p> <p>Finding 5: The Big Conversation - was held during September 2023 and provided an opportunity for Care Leavers to meet with the Children’s Social Care Senior Management team (CSMT). 10 Care Leavers participated and shared their views on a range of issues (please see attached questionnaire) Care Leavers said they valued the opportunity to meet 1:1 with CSMT.</p> <p>Finding 6: Care Leavers Week took place from 25th October - 1st November 2023 to coincide with National Care Leavers Week. A series of events and workshops aimed at specific groups of care leavers were held. Workshops included: Parenting as a care leaver (5 parents / 5 children attended); Independent living (5 attended); UASC workshop (13 attended); Support for Care Leavers not in education, employment or training (NEET) - (0 attended); Support for Care Leavers in further and higher education (3 attended); and the BBQ / social event (9 attended) Some Care Leavers attended multiple sessions. (Please see attached schedule schedule of sessions)</p> <p>An evaluation session was held on 14th November 2023 and learning will be used to inform planning for future participation events. This includes drawing on support from the Corporate Parenting Board to access resources from council departments, such as Housing and external stakeholders, such as Merlin Entertainment.</p> <p>Finding 7: The ‘Have My Say’ digital consultation tool has been co-produced with children and young people and is designed to provide another tool for participation. This has been implemented for young people under 18 and discussions are taking place to extend the app to Care Leavers.</p> <p>Finding 8: The Welcome Programme - has provided opportunities for engaging with UASC Care Leavers. Feedback from a participation session held on 12th July 2023 included: <i>“I like learning English/School”</i>; and <i>“I like where I live - it’s clean and in a nice area”</i>. Young People asked for more help with <i>“learning English”</i>; <i>“access to a solicitor”</i> and <i>“more activities for our mental health”</i>.</p>
<p>What we have found that we are worried about</p>	<p>Finding 9: The Care Leavers Hub - sessions are held bi-monthly and are a mixture of information, social and discussion themes linked to the Corporate Parenting Strategy. Despite personal invites, financial incentives, adjustments to dates / times etc attendance has been extremely limited with an average of 1 person attending, and some sessions having no attendance.</p> <p>Finding 10: The Care Leavers Christmas social in 2022 was cancelled due to only 1 person accepting the invite. They were given vouchers for a meal instead. There is a need for Care Leavers to continue to have options to attend social events, particularly at times of the year such as Christmas when they may be isolated.</p>

	<p>Finding 11: Care Leavers do not want to be asked to complete surveys. The last large-scale attempt to gain the views of Children in Care and Care Leavers via a survey was in 2021. A service decision was taken not to continue approaching Care Leavers in this way following their feedback that they did not experience this as a purposeful exercise.</p>
<p>Recommendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation activities must engage Care Leavers with issues that are pertinent to them. 2. Regular social groups should be offered to specific groups of care leavers, such as parents and children and UASCS, building on the success of care leavers week. 3. The Big Conversation should be an annual event. 4. The viability of the Care Leavers Hub needs to be reviewed. 5. Care Leavers Champion and Engagement Lead to continue developing digital engagement tools such as Whatsapp groups to engage Care Leavers. 6. Have My Say App to be used to gather Care Leavers feedback for Pathway Plan meetings. 7. Participation strategy to be updated and reflected in Service Improvement plans across all services to create a joined up approach. 8. Embed a framework for monitoring and evaluating participation through audit activity.
<p>Other documents to read</p>	<p>Questionnaire for the Big Conversation: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aO-fEDr-vxPFBggJ8P5dmI2OvJY0eZIJ5N7bJNGmRzI/edit</p> <p>Schedule for Care Leavers week: https://app.luminpdf.com/viewer/6554e99e6cda7c90b21867d3</p>
<p>Did you attend a Kickback session to discuss your report prior to writing it?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Do you intend on attending a Kickback session to discuss the report after it has been completed?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Was there anything specific that Kickback highlighted when you spoke to them about your report</p>	<p>N/A a this time</p>

Please see example report as a best practice model:

 [Best Practice Example Corporate Parenting Forum Report Summary for Kickback July...](#)

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Corporate Parenting Forum - Report Summary for Kickback

Report title:	School Stability Report AfC RBWM
Who's presenting the report	Marie Bell, Associate Director
The reason we did this report	The data on school stability shows performance in this area has declined by 10% which is lower than it has been in the last two years. The purpose of this deep dive was to consider the accuracy of this data, to explore the reasons for children changing schools, to comment on the quality and effectiveness of the current process and identify any learning or recommendations needed to improve stability for these children.
The main things we have found are	<p>24% Natural move 21% Planned move 24% Court proceedings to family 31% Placement breakdowns</p> <p>We are confident in our approach to ensure school moves are considered carefully and only done if it is really the last option. Children and young people are facing more difficulties (complex needs) and there are not enough choices of families and homes locally or in the country.</p>
What we did to get the information in this report	A list of the 29 children was compiled by the AfC Virtual School Intelligence staff. This child level data was reviewed by the Associate Director for Corporate Planning alongside discussions with staff and reading files to gain what children and young people were saying.
What we have found that is working well	<p>Absence for children in care remains low; only 12% of children who have a recorded absence of below 90% (persistent) are our children in care (3 of 24) There is a robust process and a great deal of support and activity to try and prevent a school move. There are a number of children with additional transport to prevent a move. Some moves are planned and right for the child/young person and they have meant that their needs are better met by a move. This included listening to a young person who didn't want to be at her school. Some moves following court proceedings meant children were able to live with connected carers so while there was a school move, they could live with family.</p>
What we have found that we are worried about	<p>Placement breakdowns are still the main factor for a school move. All the children had what we would describe as complex needs; which meant they had lots of difficult things going on for them at the same time. A lack of local placement to live either those in RBWM or near to where a child / young person may already be living meant a move too far away to maintain the school.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Early permanency planning which robust matching to support the right placements early on. Focus and investment on sufficiency for RBWM to offer more options locally.</p>

	Keep reviewing the process and performance to help identify any themes.
Other documents to read	Virtual school report
Did you attend a Kickback session to discuss your report prior to writing it?	No, I have not had the opportunity since writing the report.
Do you intend on attending a Kickback session to discuss the report after it has been completed?	<p>I would like the young people to decide if they would like me to attend and discuss.</p> <p>My thoughts are that feedback about what it feels like to have to move schools and to discuss their own experiences may be preferred. It would be good to know who they would like to talk to about this; myself/managers/social workers/virtual school?</p> <p>NB: In the role of reviewing if a school move should happen I always ask the virtual school, the social worker and the IRO what would the child or young person tell me?</p>
Was there anything specific that Kickback highlighted when you spoke to them about your report	TBC

Please see example report as a best practice model:

[Best Practice Example Corporate Parenting Forum Report Summary for Kickback July 2021](#)

Agenda Item 15

Corporate Parenting Forum – Forward Plan

2022/2023

October 2022
Kickback/Care Leavers Forum update - Elaine Keating
Kickback/Care Leavers Hub Activity - Elaine Keating
Comments on the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy - Lin Ferguson
Planning for ‘new look’ Corporate Parenting Forum - Lin F
Forward Plan for the Forum - Sarah Moran
Letter from Kickback - Lin Ferguson
Annual Health Report and wellbeing Report (NHS Frimley ICB Children in Care Annual Report) Lynette Jones-Jardine
Exam Results/Education Report (including NEET/Virtual College) Suzanne P/Michael Guard
Exploitation/Missing/Substance Misuse Report (CiC and Care Leavers) Danny Gomm/Carly Reeve
Members training - Lin Ferguson
Diary Dates - Elaine Keating

December 2022 - new look CPF
Kickback/Care Leavers Forum update - Elaine Keating
Kickback/Care Leavers Hub Activity - Elaine Keating
Presentation of draft action plans from each workstream - Lynette Jones-Jardine; Suzanne Parrott, Marie Bell, Sarah Moran, Elaine Keating
Members training - Lin Ferguson
Diary Dates - Elaine Keating
Forward Plan - Sarah Moran

February 2023
Kickback/Care Leavers Forum update Elaine Keating
Kickback/Care Leavers Hub Activity - Elaine Keating
Deep Dive - ‘your voice’ workstream -Elaine Keating/Lin Ferguson -progress report against action plan (to include relevant performance data and quality assurance activity -
National Review Report - Sarah Moran
Annual CiC Impact Report - Marie Bell
Key highlights from other workstreams - brief report from each of the chairs
Members training - Lin Ferguson
Diary Dates - Elaine Keating

April 2023
Kickback/Care Leavers Forum update Elaine Keating
Kickback/Care Leavers Hub Activity - Elaine Keating
Deep Dive - ‘your independence’ workstream - Sarah Moran -progress report against action plan (to include relevant performance data and quality assurance activity
Independent Visitor and Advocacy Report - Shula Tajima
Annual Care Leavers Impact Report - Marie Bell
Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Service - Shungu Chigocha
Key highlights from other workstreams - brief report from each of the chairs
Members training - Lin Ferguson

Forward Plan - Sarah Moran

Diary Dates - Elaine Keating
Forward Plan - Sarah Moran

June 2023
Kickback/Care Leavers Forum update - Elaine Keating
Kickback/Care Leavers Hub Activity - Elaine Keating
Deep dive -your safety, stability and permanence workstream -Marie Bell (Postponed to September 2023) -progress report against action plan (to include relevant performance data and quality assurance activity) -update on missing and exploitation
Annual Adoption Report - Claire Corcoran/Teresa Rogers
Annual CiC and Care Leavers Sufficiency Report - Matthew Edwards
Annual Fostering and panel report - Natalie Bugeja
Key highlights from other workstreams - brief report from each of the chairs
Members training - Lin Ferguson
Diary Dates - Elaine Keating
Forward Plan - Sarah Moran

September 2023
Kickback/Care Leavers Forum update - Elaine Keating
Kickback/Care Leavers Hub Activity - Elaine Keating
Deep Dive -your education, training and employment workstream - Suzanne Parrott (Postponed to January 2024) -progress report against action plan (to include relevant performance data and quality assurance activity)
Annual Report of the Virtual School - Suzanne Parrott (Postponed to January 2024)
Deep dive -your safety, stability and permanence workstream -Marie Bell (Rescheduled from June 2023) -progress report against action plan (to include relevant performance data and quality assurance activity) -update on missing and exploitation
Key highlights from other workstreams - brief report from each of the chairs
Members training - Lin Ferguson
Diary Dates - Elaine Keating
Forward Plan - Sarah Moran

November 2023
Young people co-chairing the Forum/ Membership of the Forum and Work Streams - Sarah Moran
Kickback Activity and Care Leavers Hub Report and Activity - Elaine Keating
Diary Dates - Elaine Keating
Annual Health and Wellbeing Report - Lynette Jones-Jardine
Deep dive - your health and wellbeing workstream - Lynette Jones-Jardine

January 2024
Kickback Activity and Care Leavers Hub Report and Activity - Elaine Keating
Deep Dive -your education, training and employment workstream – Suzanne Parrott (Rescheduled from September 2023)
Deep Dive - ‘your voice’ workstream - Elaine Keating/Lin Ferguson -progress report against action plan (to include relevant performance data and quality assurance activity)
Annual Report of the Virtual School – Suzanne Parrott (Rescheduled from September 2023)
Annual Fostering Report – Mathew Edwards

-progress report against action plan (to include relevant performance data and quality assurance activity)
Fostering Update – Matthew Edwards
Children in Care/ Care Leavers Data - Marie Bell
Care Leavers Participation Report/ Care Leavers Participation week – Laura Roche
Permanence & School Stability Reports – Marie Bell
Members training - Sarah Moran
Forward Plan - Sarah Moran

Children in Care/ Care Leavers Data - Marie Bell
Annual Participation Report - Elaine Keating and Shungu Chigocha
Key highlights from other workstreams - brief report from each of the chairs
Members training - Lin Ferguson
Diary Dates - Elaine Keating
Forward Plan - Sarah Moran

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