

CORPORATE PARENTING FORUM

MONDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Stuart Carroll (Chairman), Amy Tisi (Vice-Chairman), Gerry Clark, Carole Da Costa and John Story

Officers: Sarah Moran, Natalie Bugeja (virtually), Marie Bell (virtually), Rebecca Hatch (virtually), Lin Ferguson, Suzanne Parrott, Nikki Craig, Shungu Chigocha and Laurence Ellis

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from Lynette Jones-Jardine and Elaine Keating.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Da Costa declared her husband ran an education programme around budgeting and money that was being considered from Achieving for Children.

MINUTES

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2022 be approved as a correct record.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the motion to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting be approved.

KICKBACK/CARE LEAVERS' FORUM UPDATE

This item was not discussed due to the relevant officer being unavailable.

KICKBACK ACTIVITY

This item was not discussed due to the relevant officer being unavailable.

COMMENTS ON DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

Lin Ferguson, Director of Children's Social Care and Early Help (AfC), started off the item by expressing appreciation for the comments she had received. One comment from Kickback and Care Leavers, Lin Ferguson stated, suggested a one-page version of the strategy, requesting that workstream groups look into this and formulate something.

Lin Ferguson then explained that the final comments would be combined and then be presented to Full Council at the end of November 2022 as part of the corporate parenting annual report.

Lin Ferguson then discussed the letter from Kickback which contained some suggested actions. She then explained that she took their action plan and added to each action, the work stream that could work on the particular issue. She stated that Kickback would be happy for those actions to become part of the action plan for the work streams after asking them. Lin Ferguson then explained that she had given each workstream a lead officer.

Lin Ferguson then stated that Kickback would like all Forum members to write a small biography as they would like to know more members of the Corporate Parenting Forum.

Regarding the Forum members' biographies, Councillor Da Costa asked if Kickback wanted an up-to-date version or biographies from members who had not done one. Lin Ferguson replied that it was for members who had not done it; requesting everyone to submit a biography or an updated version, which would then be published in a Kickback newsletter to young people.

ACTION: CPF Members to send mini biographies of themselves for Kickback.

Suzanne Parrott, Executive Headteacher, Virtual School (AfC), announced that she had already met her workstream which had already made some good progress.

The Forum noted the update.

PLANNING FOR 'NEW LOOK' CORPORATE PARENTING FORUM

Lin Ferguson explained the 5 workstreams, each one led by a senior officer:

- 'Your Voice', chaired by Elaine Keating (Youth Engagement Officer) with support from Lin Ferguson (AfC Director of Children's Services).
- 'Your Journey to Independence', chaired by Sarah Moran (Deputy Director, Children's Social Care).
- 'Your Education, Training and Employment', chaired by Suzanne Parrott (Executive Headteacher, Virtual School).
- 'Your Physical and Mental Health Wellbeing', chaired by Lynette Jones-Jardine (Safeguarding Lead and Designated Nurse for Children and Young People in Care).
- 'Your Safety, Stability and Permanency', chaired by Marie Bell (Associate Director for Children in Care and Care Leavers).

Lin Ferguson then explained that each of the workstreams were to present a draft action plan for scrutiny at the next Corporate Parenting Forum meeting in December 2022, detailing 4 or 5 key priorities to focus on over the next year.

An outstanding action, Lin Ferguson explained, was to have an Elected Member Champion attached to each workstream whereby the Councillor assigned to the workstream group would champion the particular issue.

Councillor Clark asked for an elaboration of what being a Champion meant. Suzanne Parrott explained that it could involve the Elected Member Champions raising the particular issue of the specific workstream in other meetings or outside of meetings.

The Chairman suggested identifying Forum members for each workstream with a substitute for each one. The Forum agreed each member would be an Elected Member Champion for each of the following workstream:

- The Chairman – 'Your Physical and Mental Health Wellbeing'.
- Councillor Da Costa – 'Your Journey to Independence'.

- Councillor Tisi – ‘Your Education, Training and Employment’.
- Councillor Story – ‘Your Safety, Stability and Permanency’.
- Councillor Clark – ‘Your Voice’.

The Chairman stated it would be useful to have a definition and guidance on what being an Elected Member Champion meant and what the role would entail. Lin Ferguson agreed.

The Forum noted the report.

MEMBERS TRAINING

Lin Ferguson stated that 1st December was the planned date for corporate parenting training.

The Forum noted the update.

FORWARD PLAN FOR THE FORUM

The Forum noted the Corporate Parenting Forward Plan.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Panel noted the future meeting arrangements:

- 13th December 2022
- 8th February 2023
- 18th April 2023

The meeting, which began at 5.31 pm, finished at 6.36 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....