

# CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL MINUTES

## 9 JANUARY 2018

**Chair:** \* Councillor Aneka Shah-Levy

**Councillors:** \* Simon Brown Lynda Seymour  
Janet Mote † Anne Whitehead  
\* Mrs Christine Robson

**Non-Voting  
Advisory Member:** \* Valerie Griffin

\* Denotes Member present

† Denotes apologies received

### 168. Attendance by Reserve Members

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance.

### 169. Declarations of Interest

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members.

### 170. Minutes

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2017, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

### 171. Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations

**RESOLVED:** To note that no public questions, petitions or deputations were received at this meeting.

## RESOLVED ITEMS

### 172. INFORMATION REPORT - Harrow Children Looked After Health (CLA) Annual Report

The Panel received a report of the Head of Children's Services and Operations, CNWL NHS Foundation, which set out the delivery of health services to Harrow's Children Looked After (CLA) during 2016/17 in line with national guidance. The report reviewed performance indicators, clinical work undertaken by the CLA health team, service improvements, including gaps or challenges identified.

Emma Hedley, Named Nurse – CLA Harrow/CNWL, introduced the report and reported initially on the key aspects of the quarterly position, as follows:

- bi-monthly monitoring meetings between the CCG and the Council continued, including the monitoring of tuberculosis (TB) and blood screening referrals. Whilst the data obtained was good, officers would continue to look at methods of improving data collection and monitoring;
- training had been delivered to ten social workers and students and weaning sessions with foster carers would continue. In response to a question from a Member, Emma Hedley clarified that information and training on weaning, including attachments, would be provided to carers and that the official advice from the Department of Health stated that babies should start to be weaned from milk alone onto solid foods at six months;
- she was proud to have attended the CLA awards ceremony at The Hive Football Stadium, a wonderful event which celebrated the achievements of CLA and their carers;
- the creative and advocacy work being undertaken in relation to health assessments, as set out in the examples in the report, indicated that multi-agency approach was paying dividends.

Emma Hedley also reported on the Annual Report on Children Looked After Health Service (Harrow) 2016/17, as follows:

- partnership working had strengthened and partners were developing procedures and processes in order to maintain high standards of care. Emma explained that due to CNWL administrative issue 93% of Review Health Assessments (RHAs) were achieved in June compared to 100% every month despite the high increase in the number of CLA. Comparatively, 93% of RHAs was higher than the England average but slightly lower than statistical neighbours;
- the data collected on the RHAs was good and that every assessment was quality assured. A dip sample had shown that all CNWL assessments were graded either excellent or good;

- immunisation data required attention but the direction of travel was positive. It would take a few years to improve the take up. The number of dental checks had increased by 4.6% to 93% and, in the last year, 100% of children under five had had up to date developmental assessments;
- in relation to emotional health, improvements had been made in the levels of CLA who had completed Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) due to a concerted effort from the social workers and CLA health team.
- medical summaries for all CLA was requested from GP's practicing in and out of the borough. Members welcomed this approach;
- tuberculosis (TB) screening process was working well but it was important to recognise that the NHS had introduced new processes. The CLA health team worked closely with the TB service at Northwick Park Hospital and had implemented a process for all UASCs to be referred for new entrant TB screening. Recently, this had been replaced with a directive from the NHSE, where for those over 16 who were eligible for IGRA screening, were referred to their GP. In response to this change the CLA health team were undertaking a project to ascertain the impact on UASC. Since the publication of the annual report, the original TB screening process that the CLA health team had introduced had been re-instated;
- the development of health passports, including a health questionnaire from non-attendees, had had a positive start. This initiative had allowed officers to obtain views about the service from CLA and Care Leavers to obtain their views about the service. It was intended to move from health passports for 16-17 year olds to each child at the point when they entered the care system. The CLA health team had undertaken a survey focusing on the health needs of CLA and had also completed its first client satisfaction audit;
- an audit of the health needs of Harrow's CLA had shown the following order of ranking: (1) immunisation, which included TB screening (2) dental health (3) substance use (4) emotional needs. Transparent partnership working and co-location had helped to reap benefits in these areas and health was now rated 'good' by Ofsted instead of 'inadequate'. In response to a question from a Member, Emma outlined the practical steps and strategies - access to mosaic, compiling lists of all CLA, communicating effectively with social workers, carers, IROs and GPs – that were applied to improve the immunisation process. She added that some 16-17 year old CLA were refusing immunisation and parents were refusing their children MMR vaccine. Moreover, additional vaccines were being recommended which had resulted in a number of anomalies. Due to the mobile nature of CLA, GPs were now requested to look at the history of CLA rather than make assumptions.

Members were pleased with the outcomes and it was acknowledged by all that the service had come a long way. Members were pleased with the transformation achieved and applauded the partners for their efforts in weaving together the various services to achieve positive outcomes for CLA. They noted that the feedback received was shared with CLA, particularly those that chose to exclude themselves from making use of the health services available with a view to encouraging their participation. Members noted that a further report on sharing of information and the methods adopted would be presented to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the Annual Report of Children Looked After Health Services (Harrow) 2016/17, including the interim health report of CLA for October and November 2017, be noted;
- (2) it be noted that a report on the sharing of information and methods adopted would be presented to a future meeting.

**173. INFORMATION REPORT - Harrow Virtual School: Headteacher's End of Academic Year Report 2016/2017**

The Panel received a report of the Corporate Director of People, which provided an overview of the Performance and Standards of Children Looked After (CLA) by the end of key stage, an analysis of attendance and exclusions, an overview of the work of the Virtual School and development priorities for the Virtual School for 2017-18.

The Headteacher of Harrow Virtual School introduced the report and set out the key aspects of the report. She informed Members that since April 2017, the remit of Virtual Headteachers had changed in that they now assumed new duties concerning promoting the educational achievement of previously CLA, such as the provision of advice and information to adopted children and their parents, those with special guardianship orders and school staff.

The Headteacher provided an overview of the key areas monitored by Harrow Virtual School in the academic year 2016/17, and drew attention to the various statistics provided in the report, as follows:

- year 1 phonics test – there were four children who were eligible to sit the assessment and they all met the expected standard;
- key stage 1 – of the five children in Year 2, only one pupil was able to sit the SATs papers. The cohort had had various needs, including complex ones, and close monitoring was required;
- further analysis of CLA schooled in Harrow compared to those outside was required to identify the issues in attainment and how these could

be addressed. Currently, CLA schooled in Harrow performed better than those outside the borough;

- headteachers often sought advice from the Virtual Headteacher prior to making a decision to exclude CLA. To assist, intervention and support was provided to schools to ensure that extremely vulnerable children were not unnecessarily excluded. Recent figures showed that more girls than boys had been the subject of fixed term exclusions (FTEs) and the pie chart in the report showed the types of behaviours that led to exclusions, including physical assaults. For secondary schools, the number of FTEs increased, particularly for those with Special Educational Needs (SEN);
- key stage 2 – performance in SATs of CLA children was good. The results obtained in reading, writing and mathematics of 60%, 90% and 70% respectively were considered to be good. There was no regression due to the support provided which had helped to ensure momentum and pupil engagement;
- key stage 4 – the grading structure for GCSEs had been amended and there had been a move from letters to numbers 9-1 where 9 was equivalent to A\*. Level 4 was considered a pass at GCSE. Last year there had been four CLA who passed eight GCSEs. There were two CLA who passed eight GCSEs of level 4 and above. 58% of CLA passed 1 GCSE and, overall, CLA were better at getting through five GCSEs instead of eight. The challenge for social workers was to increase these figures;
- ethnicity also played a part in achievement levels and further work was required to understand and improve poor levels of attainment in order to meet the national average. A number of measures and support had been put in place, such as the use of EAL consultants (English as an Additional Language). The use of visual methods, including for carers, buddying systems and assessments had been put in place;
- further support was required key stage 3 to ensure that there was no regression in pupil progress as they entered key stage 4. The attainment levels of CLA children at key stage 2 were good but they dipped when they entered secondary school. Overall, children who had been in care for longer periods performed better at school;
- personal education plans (PEPs) - the quality of PEPs rather than the quantity needed to be improved and an action plan had been put in place to address this issue;
- education health and care plans (EHCPs) – the trajectory was that CLA were receiving their statements on time but they had gaps in education/learning difficulties. There were a number of students in HVS with identified learning difficulties who did not meet the criteria for

an EHCP. Work with SEN teams was underway to improve the situation.

The Panel was informed that comparison of data with raw data was required and that further work would be carried out. Additionally, figures on the number of care leavers attending University would be provided.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the performance of, and standards being achieved, by Harrow's CLA, in particular the improved performance of CLA at the end of Key Stage 4, be noted;
- (2) the work of the Virtual School and the strategies used to improve CLA outcomes be noted;
- (3) it be noted that comparative data would be present to the Panel, including University attendance.

**Reason for Decision:** To be availed of the performance of CLA pertaining to their attainment, progress and attendance, which, although improving, remained below England's averages for CLA of Statutory School Age. To note the priority for Harrow Virtual School.

#### **174. INFORMATION REPORT - Activity and Performance**

The Panel received a report of the Corporate Director of People, which set out activity for Children Looked After (CLA) and care leavers at 30 September 2017, where available, as well as provisional performance position at end of October 2017-18. Where appropriate, national and comparator data had also been included to provide context.

The Head of Business Intelligence introduced the report and referred to the earlier discussions which had alluded on the key challenges and successes regarding the activities of the CLA. He added that whilst the number of CLA had decreased following the historic high, the figure was not at its lowest level.

The Divisional Director of Children and Young People and the Head of Business Intelligence agreed that there was a long way to go to meet the challenges and that, to assist, a Children's Analysis Tool ( 'CHAT') had been introduced with gusto. It provided the opportunity for standardised holistic screening and assessment. The CHAT was the tool that would be used by Ofsted for data analysis in future inspections and the Divisional Director of Children and Young People had suggested it be used now as part of 'business as usual' and would feed into the performance reports on an ongoing basis.

Overall, the indicators had shown that the direction of travel was positive and Members were informed that Ofsted had commented that the Council understood the challenges it faced and was self-aware of its role as corporate

parent for CLA. Ofsted had carried out a further visit in November 2017 and the outcome had been positive. There would be further annual visits from Ofsted until the next Inspection in three years. The Inspectors had thanked the Head of Service of Corporate Parenting for solidifying the care arrangements of CLA.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**Reason for Decision:** To be availed of performance in the role as Corporate Parents.

#### **175. Corporate Parenting Panel Forward Planner**

The Panel received the Forward Planner, which set out the items planned for future meetings. The Divisional Director of Children and Young People reported that an information report on foster care allowances would be presented to the next meeting. He added that foster care allowances had been reviewed recently by stakeholders and different ways of remunerating foster carers would be included in the report. It was intended to implement the scheme in the 2018/19 financial year.

**RESOLVED:** That the Forward Planner be noted and that an additional item on foster care allowances be included in the Planner for reporting to the next meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 27 March 2018.

**Reason or Decision:** To be availed of the programme for future meetings.

[See also Minutes 172 and 173 regarding additional reports.]

#### **176. Urgent Business**

##### Start Time of Corporate Parenting Panel Meetings

The Chair suggested a 7.00 pm start time for future meetings of the Panel. Members were of the view that this had previously been raised.

The clerk stated that in, accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution, she would consult the nominated Member and report back. She added that the Chair had the power to alter the time if she believed it to be appropriate for the conduct of the business of the Panel.

##### **Officers Present:**

Daksha Ghelani	Senior Democratic Services Officer [Clerk to the meeting], Harrow Council
David Harrington	Head of Business Intelligence, Harrow Council
Emma Hedley	Named Nurse for CLA, Harrow/CNWL

Paul Hewitt	Divisional Director, Children and Young People, People Directorate, Harrow Council
Zoe Sargent	Head of Children's Services and Operations, CNWL
Mellina Williamson Taylor	Headteacher, Harrow Virtual School, Harrow Council

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.34 pm, closed at 8.55 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR ANEKA SHAH-LEVY  
Chair