

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE



Wednesday, 25 March 2020

Democratic and Members' Services

Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer

16:00

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Room 128

Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

Meeting Theme: Being and Feeling Safe

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Guidance on declaring interests is available at
<http://tinyurl.com/coc-conduct-code>

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 15 January 2020

The minutes of the meeting on 15 January 2020 can be viewed at:

[Minutes of the meeting on 15 January 2020](#)

3. Action Log

5 - 8

4. Petitions and Public Questions

5. Participation Report

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6.	Implementation of the Family Safeguarding Model and how this supports Children in Care	19 - 24
7.	Practice and Performance Update and Impact of MACE	25 - 32
8.	Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan	33 - 36
9.	Agenda Plan	37 - 42

The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee comprises the following members:

Councillor Lis Every (Chairman) Councillor Anne Hay (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Anna Bradnam Councillor Adela Costello and Councillor Elisa Meschini

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact

Clerk Name: Richenda Greenhill

Clerk Telephone: 01223 699171

Clerk Email: Richenda.Greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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three working days before the meeting. Full details of arrangements for public speaking are set out in Part 4, Part 4.4 of the Council's Constitution:

<https://tinyurl.com/CommitteeProcedure>

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**CORPORATE
PARENTING
SUB-COMMITTEE**

Minutes-Action Log



Summary

The Action Log is a list of all of the things that people have been asked to do at earlier meetings. It is included at each meeting so that members can check that everything is being done. It was last updated on **16 March 2020**.

Minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2019

93.	Actions taken by the Council in response to Child Sexual Exploitation and County Lines Gang Exploitation	Fiona van den Hout	To invite Dave Sargeant, an ex-police officer working with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, to help co-ordinate thinking on this issue and to deliver a training session. This might also be opened to members of the Children and Young People Committee.	23.10.19: Mr Sargeant has confirmed his availability for February 2020 to delivery Members training on this topic to tie into Sub - Committee theme of being and feeling safe in March 2020. Members are requested to bring available dates to the Sub-Committee in November. 20.02.20: Training delivered on 19 February 2020.	Completed
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Minutes of the meeting on 18 September 2019					
117.	Young People's Participation	Sarah-Jane Smedmor	The Assistant Director, Children's Services stated that an Instagram Story could be produced which would outline the topics that had been discussed at the Sub-Committee meeting. The Chairman supported this as an approach.	07.11.19: The Assistant Director is taking a request to the next Voices Matter panel for them to help officers think through how we can make an Instagram story of the Committee purposeful for them. Tony Darnell from the CCC communications team is involved with this work. A further update will be provided after the discussions with Voices Matter.	On-going
Meeting on 20 November 2019					
126.	Education transport for children in care and care leavers	Fiona van den Hout Kate Knight	To meet with the Strategic Education Place Planning Manager and the Lead Corporate Parenting Manager to discuss how to start collecting the necessary information now to inform future decision-making on Post-18 education transport provision.	10.01.20: Joe Gilbert and Rebecca McCullen to progress this with Clare Buckingham as part of their wider work on the Local Offer. 04.03.20: Officers are collating and costing journey information for the past three years. The results will be presented to the Sub-Committee when this work is complete.	On-going
127.	CCC Guide to Corporate Parenting for Elected Members	Fiona van den Hout	The Head of Corporate Parenting stated that there was a clear process around enquiries received from councillors or MPs and that she would reflect on how best this might be presented in the guide.	10.01.20: The Head of Corporate Parenting discussing how best to present this with the Complaints Team. It is likely to be provided via the monthly Members' Newsletter.	On-going
131.	Local Offer for Care Leavers	Lesley Liston	To establish with HR what the Council currently did in its role as an employer to support care leavers and what more could potentially be done in the future. Members also wanted to know the Council's current policy in relation to employing care leavers and what allowances, if any, were or could properly	09.12.19: Raised with HR. There is not currently a policy specifically looking at this. A meeting will be arranged to update them on the discussions at the Sub-Committee meeting on 20 November 2019 and so HR can look potential processes to encourage managers to consider Care Leavers when recruiting. Discussions have also taken	On-going

			be made in relation to employing care leavers who might not hold comparable formal qualifications to their peers.	<p>place with the LGSS Apprenticeship Team and this is something that they are looking at in relation to National Apprenticeship week in February 2020. A further update will be provided.</p> <p>19.02.20: The Local Government Association are currently working with CCC to support the development of an Apprenticeship Strategy and Action Plan. Officers have fed into this work that the needs of Children Leaving Care need to be taken into account and will provide further feedback as the work progresses.</p>	
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Meeting on 15 January 2020

138.	Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of children in care and care leavers	Sarah-Jane Smedmor	To ensure that an acronyms are fully explained in future reports and appendices.	13.02.20: Officers will ensure that this is done.	Completed
			A progress report to be brought back to the Sub-Committee in around six months' time.	26.01.20: Added to the agenda plan for July 2020.	Completed
139.	Virtual School – Children in care unvalidated end of year data	C Hiorns	To circulate links to the training videos available on YouTube.	17.01.20: Links sent to Sub-Committee members by email.	Completed
			To include a brief narrative as a footnote to provide context to the data where appropriate.	27.01.20: Information will be provided as requested in all future reports	Completed

		Cllr Every	To provide officers with information about the work being funded by the Combined Authority around pre-NEETs.	09.03.20: Cllr Every will provide this information when it is available.	On-going
140.	Draft Annual Corporate Parenting Report 2018/19	Fiona van den Hout	Percentages should be included on charts so that the data was accessible when viewed in black and white text. The use of acronyms should be avoided where possible and those that were used should be clearly explained.	04.03.20: Request from Sub-Committee members has been acted upon and the annual report amended accordingly.	Completed
			To reflect on the practicality of arranging more Siblings Forever events and to report back.	04.03.20 The next Sibling Forever event will take place on 17 th - 19 th April. Frequency of events are planned alongside other activities already planned with children and in accordance with their care planning.	Completed
141.	Agenda Plan	Mark Cowdell	The six month update report on the refreshed strategy for reducing the number of children in care and care leavers who were not in education, employment and training (NEET) to the Sub-Committee in March 2020 to include details of what work is being done with providers to support English and maths skills Post 16.	04.03.20: The update report has been deferred to the May meeting as it relates to the meeting theme of Preparing for Adulthood. The report will include details of what work is being done with providers to support English and maths skills Post 16.	To be included in the May Sub-Committee report
142.	Sub-Committee workshop and training plan	Fiona van den Hout	To circulate diary invitations for any training sessions. To include time, venue (including room number) and parking arrangements if not at Shire Hall.	13.02.20: This will be done for all future training sessions.	Completed

PARTICIPATION REPORT

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 25 March 2020

From: Claire Betteridge - Service Development Manager

Electoral division(s): All

Purpose: To provide an update on Participation Service news and events.

Recommendation: To comment or provide feedback on the range of consultation events and activities the Participation Service provide for children in care and care leavers.

<i>Officer contact:</i>	<i>Member contact:</i>
Name: Claire Betteridge Post: Service Development Manager Email: csc.participation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01480 372493	Name: Councillor Lis Every Role: Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Email: Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: (office) 01223 706398

Summary:

- There is a plan for participation activities throughout 20/21.
- The team continue to promote the use of the Mind of My Own (MOMO) APP offering individual and group training.
- The Participation Team hosted a number of activities over the February half term.
- The Care Leaver Forum continues to run in Wisbech and Cambridge and is beginning to develop plans and projects to work on.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee requested an update on the work of the Participation Service at each of its meetings.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Update on Involvement of Young People

Consultation

- 2.1.1** The participation team continues to have discussions with young people who might be interested in being co-opted members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee, to ensure optimum attendance by young people at each meeting. We are keen to consider alternative ways of engaging young people in this meeting and to this end we are meeting on the 2 April 2020 to explore this. This meeting we will also discuss one of the areas for improvement that was identified in the Cambridgeshire ILACS Focus Visit of our Children in Care service which took place in February 2020, to strengthen the evidence of the impact of children's involvement and participation, so that children are told what is being done in response to their views and wishes, both for their own individual case plans and when contributing to strategic service planning.

The current co-opted member of the committee has indicated that they can no longer commit to attend as they have been offered a training opportunity which will have an impact on their availability. His contribution during his term of his office has been acknowledged by a letter of thanks from the Chairman.

Voices Matter (Children in Care Council (CICC))

- 2.1.2** The last Voices Matter meeting took place on the 17 February 2020. This coincided with Care Day, on the 14 February, which is a celebration of children and young people with care experience.

The Voices Matter meeting involved a session with a local celebrated artist Xidus Pain. Xidus specialises in delivering Lyric Writing workshops. Six young people attended, three of whom had not been to a Voices Matter meeting before and, and at the end they said they want to get further involved with the activities and meetings we offer.

During the course of the day the group worked with Xidus to produce their own lyrics about being in care, their family and interests. Xidus talked about his work and how he had made a rap to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee. The session started with Xidus playing six tracks and asked the group to think about how the music made them feel and what kinds of images it made them think of, and they each shared their thoughts. The group then had time to write phrases or words on a sheet of paper, which he used this to do some "freestyle rap" as well as incorporating some elements of The Promise.

The words that the group wrote on the sheet included:-

- Winding roads
- Sun
- Countryside
- Motorcycle
- Voices Matter
- Rejection
- We all have problems but we are strong enough to overcome them
- Cars
- Racing
- Pumping the ride
- Good to do homework

The young people were then asked to write key things about themselves and life, this was the beginning of the lyrics for the young people's own rap which they went onto record later on in the afternoon. It was agreed with the young people that they would wait to hear their own recording to decide if they wanted to showcase it at the Awards Ceremony in April. We will also explore with the young people if their recording can be used in training for the children's social care workforce.





Feedback from young people about the meeting

- Everything was good nothing was bad
- I liked it and would come again
- Making our own rap, everything was good
- I liked rapping, it was fun to express myself

Impact

- The session with Xidus pain supported the group of young people to express themselves and get creative.
- By the end of the day the three young people who had not met any of the group were well integrated and working well together as a group and as individuals, to produce a rap of their own.
- Themes that came out from the discussions held on the day including not having contact arranged with significant people that young people had asked to see, being able to visit the grave of a deceased parent and having purposeful activities to get involved in when a young person isn't able to attend school. All of these issues have been passed to the relevant teams to address and advise us of follow up actions so we can feedback to the young people and support any further related work that may arise.

- Going forward, we plan to hold more frequent Voices Matter meetings - at least six times per year - in order to further enhance the work of this CICC and provide more opportunities for consultation and co-production work. Where possible, themes will align with the themes of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee which will be used as discussion points within the CICC meeting. The next Voices Matter meeting is on the 7 April 2020, and will have a theme of preparing for independence.

2.1.3 Just Us Groups

We hosted a Just Us Group over the February half term which was a joint session with colleagues from the 'library presents' team and offered a Samba drumming session. 12 young people came along to this session, five of whom had not been to any events previously. Eight foster carers also joined in with the activity.



Impact

- The session provided the Participation Team the opportunity to meet children and young people and promote our events to encourage their involvement.

The children and young people feedback was:-

- It was good, it would be better with more instruments
- Great event, perfect for 'all'
- Great family activity!
- Drumming rhythm happy
- Happy
- Happy & Calm!
- Learnt rhythms
- Enjoyed drumming today, great feeling :-)
- Stress relief!
- I really enjoyed drumming today, made me feel happy
- It was good.
- It was ok but it would have improved by having more things to play
- I loved the drums
- Noise! Legitimate co-ordinated noise!
- I don't have as much rhythm as I thought!

- Alive :-)
- Yes drumming and I am happy

Going forward we will introduce a more structured approach for consulting with the young people who attend this group over themes and issues that are important to Children In Care, and feeding back the difference their contributions have made to practice. Where possible, themes will align with the themes of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee which will also feed into discussion at the CICC meeting.

2.1.4 Care Leaver Forum

Since November 2019 we have been supporting two groups of care leavers to meet in either Cambridge city or the Wisbech area. The meetings are taking shape with a steadily growing group of regular participants who are interested to be consulted about their experiences and engage in wider participation and co-production activities.

The Cambridge group have identified access to affordable housing for care leavers as an area they want to focus on and the plan is to invite Phil Turton, a Specialist Personal Adviser (PA) in the leaving care service, to help them think about how they want to progress with this area of work.

Impact

- These meetings are providing valuable opportunities for young people to share their views in a relaxed environment with adults who understand the issues that arise when a young person has been looked after and the challenges that they can sometimes face when leaving care.
- The young people are now proactively taking forward a topic that is important to them to discuss with key officers of the council how they may be able to affect service improvement in the area of affordable housing for care leavers.

2.1.5 Children in Care Council (CICC) contribution to the OFSTED ILAC Focussed Inspection February 2020

We made contact with 15 young people to invite them to meet with the inspectors. Whilst most of the young people were interested, they were unable to get involved due to other commitments which could not be rearranged. On the day we supported two young CICC members to meet with the lead inspector. They talked positively about their foster carers, the support they were afforded in various areas of their lives, such as education and the plans they have for the future. They were able to talk about some of the activities and meetings that they have attended with the participation team. The Inspectors enjoyed meeting these two young people and appreciated their time. As noted above, we know we need to strengthen how we complete the feedback loop and evidence the impact of the work of the CiCC and this includes working with CiCC members to develop a range of means by which they can contribute to future inspections which may also include via Skype and telephone calls.

2.1.6 Networking and Embedding Participation

We continue to attend operational based team meetings to share feedback from the children and young people who have engaged in the different activities and events we have hosted, and to share the planned participation activities and how practitioners can support young people getting involved. We have dates to meet with other colleagues over the next couple of months including a cohort of social work students and practitioners who have completed their ASYE year. The bi-monthly strategic participation meeting with key senior managers across children's social care supports the participation communication strategy; proactively considers and promotes co-production opportunities; and increase the number of children and young people engaging in and contributing to the participation strategy. Our next meeting is 26 March 2020.

2.2 Events from other organisations we have supported

The Bigger Picture hosted by the Fitzwilliam Museum offered a session over the February Half Term. However due to only two young people registering an interest they cancelled this. We are exploring with them how to engage young people in the events they offer and they are looking at hosting an afternoon tea with a visit to the Fitzwilliam for young people to come and meet the team and see what activities they can get involved with.

2.3 Activities and Work Planned

- We continue to work with a group of young people on the regional film project which will be a useful training tool. The last meeting during the February half term included working with colleagues and young people from Peterborough.
- We now have the job description for being involved in foster carer training and other job descriptions need to be finalised. Some of the young people who attend the care leavers' forum have expressed an interest in being involved in such roles, and we will be running workshops to prepare them.
- The training planned to support a group of interested young people get involved in the commissioning and contract monitoring process will be re-visited when staffing in the commissioning service allows.
- We are in the final stages of planning the annual awards ceremony which will be held on the 3 April 2019. Young people have chosen the theme for the event - a night at the movies - where everyone will be encouraged to come dressed as their favourite movie star.
- We have a Voices Matter meeting planned for the 7 April 2020, where the theme will be a discussion around planning for independence.
- We also plan to host two Just Us meetings over the Easter holidays in two areas of the county.
- The Fitzwilliam Museum are also looking to host a taster session to promote the Arts Award they offer.
- We are reviewing our Participation Strategy and Action Plan as well as preparing our annual programme of activities. A key priority is to strengthen our practice to both ensure and evidence the impact of children's involvement and participation, so that children are told what is being done in response to their views and wishes, both for their own individual case plans and when contributing to

strategic service planning.

2.4 Participation Service

Staffing

The Participation Team currently has a manager, two participation workers and some support from a business support assistant. The apprentice who was in post to promote the use of the Mind of My Own APP has now left the team as his apprenticeship came to an end. We had a leaving lunch and we will keep in touch. He plans to continue to attend the Care Leavers Forum and get involved in other co-production opportunities.

Mind of My Own

The team continues to offer training and support as a team or on a one to one basis to enhance practitioners understanding in how to use the application to capture the voice of the child. The information in Appendix 1 summarises Mind of My Own activity for January and February 2020.

3.0 CONCLUSION

We are committed to promoting and encouraging our children in care and care leavers to access various activity based events as the vehicle through which their voices can be heard, and they can also become involved in activities to influence service improvement and development. We are pleased that there is a continuing increase of new children and young people coming to events and getting involved. We will work at pace to strengthen our feedback loops to children and young people and evidencing the impact of their contributions and work.

4.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 A good quality of life for everyone

- Supporting vulnerable children and young people to achieve the best possible outcomes has longer term benefits for them as well as to the wider population. Where children are enabled to remain safely with their families or provided with good quality care, they are most likely to develop resilience and be more likely to remain in good physical, mental and emotional health, make better quality relationships and contribute more to the community.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

- Promoting the best outcomes for children and young people means that they are most likely to make a positive economic and social contribution into adulthood.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

- A Children's service that is effective overall will ensure that vulnerable children and young people are supported to achieve good outcomes, including by enabling families to provide permanent, safe and loving homes to their children wherever possible.
- Where children and young people are identified as being at risk of harm, children's services take action in order to ensure that these risks are minimised.

5.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

None identified

Source Documents	Location
None	

IMPLEMENTATION OF FAMILY SAFEGUARDING MODEL AND HOW THIS SUPPORTS CHILDREN IN CARE

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **25 March 2020**

From: **Sam Howlett
Head of Service: Safeguarding**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To report on the implementation of Family Safeguarding and how the model can support Children in Care.**

Recommendation: **The Sub-Committee is recommended to:**

- a) note the information within the report relating to the implementation of the Family Safeguarding model.**
- b) note how the Family Safeguarding model can support Children in Care.**

	<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>
Name:	Sam Howlett	Names :	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Head of Service Safeguarding	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email:	Samantha.howlett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 507248	Tel:	(office) 01223 706398

Summary:

- Family Safeguarding is a new way of working.
- It will help the adults in families to make changes that will make sure that their children have safe living conditions and lifestyles.
- The aim of Family Safeguarding is to work with children and families so that less children need to come into care.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 This report focuses on providing an update on the progress being made in relation to the delivery and implementation of the Family Safeguarding approach across Cambridgeshire and will include how the model can support Children in Care. The aim of Family Safeguarding is to keep families together safely, improve the health and educational achievements of children and reduce emotional, physical harm and neglect
- 1.1.2 At the time of writing this report seven Adult Practitioners are in post and have completed their induction. Three remaining Adult posts are in the process of being recruited to.

2. MAIN ISSUES**Update on the Implementation of Family Safeguarding**

- 2.1.1 The Family Safeguarding Model went live in Cambridgeshire on 10th February 2020. The launch of the Model was attended by representatives from Childrens Social Care and partners; Change Grow Live, Barnardo's, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust and Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire CRC. At the launch of the model all partners signed a Pledge, an undertaking to ensure Cambridgeshire will work towards;
- 2.1.2 Children and Families in Cambridgeshire experience a high quality service from appropriate, skilled and responsive multi-agency practitioners when involved with the Family Safeguarding Teams
- 2.1.3 Children and their families will be able to access support without delay and there will be fast access to resources between services
- 2.1.4 Appropriate services are offered to the Adults within families to assist them with achieving changes to ensure their children have safe living conditions and lifestyles
- 2.1.5 Strong local partnership working arrangements maximise the impact of the Family Safeguarding teams intervention on outcomes for children and their care givers

- 2.1.6 The views and experience of children and their families influence and shape the services we develop, commission, fund or deliver
- 2.1.7 Services continue to improve as a result of our joint agency learning and we work together to financially sustain this multi-agency practice going forwards

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 2.1.8 Child Practitioners, Social Workers, Senior Practitioners, District Safeguarding Managers and Heads of Service working within the Family Safeguarding Teams across Cambridgeshire have completed training in Motivational Interviewing, Group Supervision and using the Workbook embedded in Liquid Logic prior to the launch of Family Safeguarding.
- 2.2 A key component of Family Safeguarding is Motivational Interviewing. Motivational Interviewing functions as a framework for practice and is a strengths-based approach designed to better engage and structure conversations with families.
- 2.3 Family Safeguarding provides a multi-disciplinary team approach to working with Children and Families including specialist adult workers with domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health expertise working within Social Work teams. Group case supervisions are also held with all workers allocated to a case.
- 2.4 The electronic workbook is a new method of recording case notes and modules with the aim of improving information sharing, streamlining processes and reducing the amount of time spent reporting.
- 2.5 All our workers are trained in working with and supporting families to understand why we are involved to support families to make the necessary changes in the various issues families can face such as domestic violence, substance and alcohol misuse and mental health difficulties.
- 2.6 A 12 month skill development programme is in place for all staff together with a rolling programme of training for new workers.
- 2.7 In preparation for Family Safeguarding, Cambridgeshire changed their database to Liquid Logic. A key component of Family Safeguarding is the workbook embedded in Liquid Logic. Staff started training on Liquid Logic in autumn 2019 in readiness to go live in January 2020.

FAMILY SAFEGUARDING TEAMS

- 2.7.1 There are nine Family Safeguarding Teams across Cambridgeshire: two in Cambridge City, two in South Cambridgeshire, one in East Cambridgeshire,

two in Huntingdon and two in Fenland. Family Safeguarding Teams are made up of the following professionals;

- 2.7.2 **Social Workers** – working directly with parents and children to support them make the changes in their lives to keep their children safe.
- 2.7.3 **Child Practitioners** – working directly with children and parents and providing support to Social Workers.
- 2.7.4 **Domestic Abuse Practitioners** – working to support victims of domestic abuse, helping them to recognise domestic abuse, support them to make changes to safeguard their children and themselves and help them identify the impact of domestic abuse on their children and themselves.
- 2.7.5 **Domestic Abuse Officers** – working with perpetrators of domestic abuse to support them to recognise the impact of their actions and how these can affect their children, achieve change to stabilise their relationships and keep their children safe.
- 2.7.6 **Recovery workers** – working with parents who are experiencing difficulties with either drugs or alcohol or both, support them to make positive lifestyle changes and enable them to care for their children.
- 2.7.7 **Mental Health Practitioners** – working with parents who are experiencing mental health difficulties.
- 2.7.8 Over the last six months Cambridgeshire prepared for the implementation by aligning our model to sit within a Family Safeguarding structure. This included improving front line management.

HOW THE FAMILY SAFEGUARDING MODEL IS SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN CARE

- 2.7.9 A focussed visit by Ofsted to inspect Children in Care took place in February 2020. They found “*astute investments in evidence based initiatives that are designed to improve services for families and strengthen Social Workers impact are helping the Local Authority to safely reduce the numbers of children who need care*”.
- 2.7.9 Family Safeguarding is expected to deliver long term reductions in the numbers of children entering into care in Cambridgeshire. Our statistical neighbour Hertfordshire evidenced a 50% reduction of children subject to Child Protection plans within the first year of Family Safeguarding and a 38% reduction in care proceedings. Hertfordshire reduced expenditure by £2.6m in the first yea. This reduction included legal and placement costs. They also evidenced a 3% improvement in recruitment and retention.

2.7.10 Over the last six months Cambridgeshire have already evidenced a 63% reduction in the number of children subject to Child Protection Planning and a reduction of 44% in children subject to care proceedings over the same time period. Comparing the data from Hertfordshire with our model there is evidence to indicate the impact on reducing the number of children in care is on a trajectory for the numbers to continue to decrease over the next year.

2.7.11 In addition, the Reunification and Placement Stability Service, an intervention to rehabilitate children to the care of their parents or wider family when safe to do so, contributes to the reduction of children in care. This service also supports Social Workers to prevent children coming into care.

2.7.12 Cambridgeshire continue to review and monitor outcomes for unborn babies via the Unborn Baby Panels. This process seeks to secure early permanence for unborn babies when appropriate to do so

2.7.13 The aim of Family Safeguarding is to work with children and families to prevent children coming in to care.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

- Supporting vulnerable children and young people to achieve the best possible outcomes has longer term benefits for them as well as to the wider population. Where children are enabled to remain safely with their families or provided with good quality care, they are most likely to develop resilience and be more likely to remain in good physical, mental and emotional health, make better quality relationships and contribute more to the community.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

- Promoting the best outcomes for children and young people means that they are most likely to make a positive economic and social contribution into adulthood.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

- A Children's service that is effective overall will ensure that vulnerable children and young people are supported to achieve good outcomes, including by enabling families to provide permanent, safe and loving homes to their children wherever possible.
- Where children and young people are identified as being at risk of harm, children's services take action in order to ensure that these risks are minimised.

4 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category

Source Documents	Location
Letter from Ofsted regarding Focussed visit in February 2020	Sam Howlett Samantha.Howlett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE UPDATE AND THE IMPACT OF MACE

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **25th March 2020**

From: **Jenny Goodes
Head of Service, Integrated Front Door**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **An update report was requested on practice and performance and the impact of MACE.**

Recommendation: **To note and comment on the report.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
Name:	Jenny Goodes	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Head of Service IFD	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email:	jenny.goodes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01480 379794	Tel:	(office) 01223 706398

Summary:

- Staff in the Missing Exploited Trafficked Hub (MET Hub) carry out interviews with children and young people who are found after they have gone missing.
- A team of police officers also works with these children to help them talk about what is happening and make sure action is taken to keep them safe if this is needed.
- Meetings are held each month to look at what can be done to reduce the risk of individual children or groups of children being exploited (taken advantage of) and to keep them safe. These are called MACE (Missing and Child Exploitation) meetings.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Within Cambridgeshire, we are aware that some exploitation of children and young people is taking place. There is evidence that there are an increasing number of young people involved in county lines and in organised drug gangs and that they are drug running significant amounts of cannabis and Class A drugs both within the county and to neighbouring counties. There is evidence that some of these young people are being sexually exploited as a way of controlling them both within county lines, criminal exploitation cases and gang related crime. We know that a number of our young people are experiencing high levels of violence and assault and that the threats made are often carried out as a means of warning, punishment and to maintain control. Families can feel powerless to challenge and protect their children, and occasionally may be threatened and harmed if they try. Sexual exploitation of some young people is occurring as part of gang membership acceptance rituals, as a result of criminal exploitation and by adult males who target underage females grooming them, supplying alcohol/drugs and then exploiting them sexually.

Criminal exploitation creates a particularly demanding context, and police acknowledge nationally that the investigation of these crimes and targeting of offenders is extremely challenging. This is in part due to the speed at which the perpetrators work and change locations, the fact that victims do not often recognise themselves as victims, or when they do they are in fear of violence to them or family members if they withdraw from the behaviour / speak to the police.

The Local Authority is working hard with other professionals to understand, respond to and reduce the risks to children in Cambridgeshire from all forms

of exploitation. The strategic leads under the guidance of the Safeguarding Board have been working on updating the countywide child exploitation delivery plan which is focussed on the following objectives:

- Working to prevent children becoming victims and offenders of child exploitation and by challenging the attitudes, behaviours and environments which foster it
- Ensuring that we have an agreed assessment mechanism and threshold to identify, manage and mitigate the risk to vulnerable victims across the county
- Ensuring that we work in a way that encourages partnerships planning around the child and have an agreed core offer for those children at all levels of risk
- Working to pursue those perpetrators who seek to cause harm by exploiting vulnerable children in our communities

Underneath this sits the operational MACE (Missing and Child Exploitation) meeting. The monthly MACE meeting is a multi- agency forum that reviews and updates on any emerging or significant concerns about individual children, groups of children or areas that are giving cause for concern in respect of possible exploitation taking place. A themes and trends report is produced by the MET HUB and individual children are discussed to ensure that there are appropriate safety plans in place and that any appropriate disruption action has been taken.

The police present a report which identifies the children most at risk of exploitation, any alleged perpetrators that are coming to their attention and any “hot spots” in the county where there is intelligence to suggest that sexual or criminal exploitation is taking place. The report is produced as a result of the collation of information gathered from Return Home Interviews, police intelligence and information received from all professionals who work with children in Cambridgeshire.

Mapping meetings are used to investigate exploitation issues affecting a specific district or area highlighted at the Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting or emerging themes and trends identified by District Leads/MET Hub. The multi-agency group looks at available information and intelligence and formulates an appropriate response plan specifically to tackle emerging issues of gangs and county lines, on behalf of the Chair. Updates on progress are reported back to the MACE meeting. Currently there are a number of pre mapping meetings taking place at a number of locations in Cambridgeshire specifically Cambridge City and Huntingdon to identify if threshold met for full mapping activity to be undertaken. Within Fenland area there has been mapping activity and an enhanced offer has been made to relevant school staff at the schools in question.

As part of the mapping activity any location highlighted as a cause for concern has had disruption activity through the Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) disruption toolkit, this has included intervention by wider partners such as:

- Fire Service
- HMRC
- Trading standards
- Food Standards Agency

- Local Authority

Since April 2019 the Local Safeguarding Children Board lead Dave Sargent has presented to over 800 members of staff with regards to Child Exploitation training including 120 teachers as part of their CPINs training.

The SAFE team was formed in Oct 2019 to work exclusively with some of those children deemed to be moderate/significant risk of CCE. Whilst this funding is initially only available for a year it is hoped that this will be extended. Further to this Cambridgeshire have bid successfully for a two year funded pathfinder post working exclusively on CCE, the post holder commences on 16th March and will play a significant role in how we tackle CCE going forward.

The MACE meeting hears the most high risk Safe Team cases, the high risk exploitation cases and missing cases enabling multi-agency decisions and actions to be taken, multi-agency scrutiny to be offered and multi-agency challenge and resolution when partnership work gets stuck. Cases can also be escalated through MACE to senior managers to ensure that there is an awareness and ownership of the risk management plan when cases are particularly causing high level concern.

The MACE meeting has provided a forum for reviewing our young people who are causing significant concern due to the risks from going missing or from exploitation and has enabled the partnership to have a good sense of this cohort. It has enabled new cases to be identified and responded to quickly and has supported the improved safety planning around these young people. MACE has provided oversight of mapping activities and has co-ordinated interventions in complex abuse situations. MACE within Cambridgeshire is still developing and work is needed to improve the consistency of membership and to further improve how we measure the impact on quality of practice, reduction of risk and improved partnership response.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Return Home Interviews should be held within 72 hours of a child being found and are undertaken by MET Hub workers, unless they fall outside of the 70 mile radius. All information obtained is reviewed and key information is presented in a monthly report to the MACE meeting. There is clear evidence that going missing can increase vulnerability to being exploited and frequent missing episodes can be an indicator that a child may be a victim of exploitation.

The following table shows the number of Cambridgeshire young people that went missing over the last 6 months and their status:

	August 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020
Total number of missing episodes each month	94	112	98	136	94	108
Total Number of children	71	76	75	79	64	74

who had a missing episode						
How many of these young people were Children in Care	30 42%	25 33%	32 43%	32 40%	32 50%	21 28%

This table shows the number of Return Home Interviews (RHIs) completed over the last 6 months. Each month there will be a number of RHIs that are not completed due to refusals either by young people or by their parents and there will be a small number of exemptions where a decision has been made not to offer a RHI. Return Home Interviews can also not be completed due to some young people going missing again as soon as they have been found.

	August	September	October	November	December	January
Episodes	94	112	98	136	94	108
RHI Completed	73 (78%)	89 (82%)	89 (96%)	121 (87%)	82 (87%)	94 (80%)
Within 72 hours of Found	24 (33%)	39 (44%)	39 (44%)	41 (34%)	25 (30%)	44 (47%)

Performance in terms of meeting the statutory timescale of the undertaking the Return Home Interview within 72 hours of the child or young person being found has not been at the level that we would have expected over the last 6 months. This is due to a number of factors including long term sickness within the staff team, some impact from young people being found at weekends which has reduced time available to complete, sometimes there are delays in receiving found notifications and sometimes young people can agree to an appointment and then fail to be in when a visit is made. There was also a notable delay in the service level agreement being signed off with NYAS which has meant that the team have continued to complete all Return Home Interviews regardless of geographical distance.

The primary reason given by young people for going missing tends to be wanting to spend time with friends or to visit boyfriends or girlfriends (44%) with the second most common reason given as difficulties in relationships with parents or carers (25%).

Any child who is deemed to be at risk has an exploitation risk assessment completed and this enables us through analysis of all available information and intelligence to establish whether the child is at emerging, moderate or significant risk of exploitation and whether the risk comes from sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, or gang related exploitation.

At the time of writing this report within Cambridgeshire there were 333 children on the exploitation tracker. These children will have had a completed risk assessment and have been identified as at some risk of Child Sexual Exploitation CSE (177) /Criminal Exploitation CCE (156) or in some cases both.

The Exploitation Risk Assessment categorises whether a child is assessed as being at Significant, moderate or emerging risk which then informs the level of intervention required. In respect of children and young people who are Children in Care and recorded as being at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation or Criminal Exploitation we can see that the numbers are as follows:

Young person	Emerging	Moderate	Significant
CSE – Total 177	99	66	12
CiC – Total 35	18	14	3
CCE – Total 156	67	63	26
CiC- Total 20	8	6	6

Some of the children and young people who are vulnerable to criminal exploitation or who are being criminally exploited/exploited by gangs or involved in county lines are known to the Youth Offending Service.

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) run Risk Management Panels which are multi-agency in make up to ensure that high risk cases are well tracked and managed. At the lower end of the scale there is the offer of a preventative programme of intervention to children called “Which Way” which is delivered in YOS, the Early Help District Teams and in the Adolescent Teams to support children and young people to move away from gang affiliations and criminal behaviour.

The SAFE Team are currently working with 29 young people who are identified as being at significant risk of harm due to criminal exploitation. Work is planned with the young person, their parent and other professionals who are involved. The aim is to identify risk, needs and desired outcomes. This enables the worker to determine the resources required to enable positive change with the young person and potential means of reducing their vulnerability to exploitation. Services are delivered in a variety of ways including awareness work, community integration, enabling access to resources, positive activities, elements of disruption and safety planning. The work utilises contextual safeguarding approaches and a trauma informed model to enable intervention and engagement. Interventions with the SAFE Team are not time limited and they will continue to engage and support safety plans for as long as is appropriate to enhance the young person’s safety.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Report authors should evaluate the proposal(s) in light of their alignment with the following three Corporate Priorities.

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

Deliver consistent preventative messages into the community with the aim of creating communities where exploitation is unacceptable /not tolerated.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

Disruption of exploitation /reduction of risk posed by those identified as perpetrators of exploitation of children

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

Disruption of exploitation /reduction of risk posed by those identified as perpetrators of exploitation of children

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications N/A

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications N/A

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications N/A

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications N/A

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications N/A

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement N/A

3.7 Public Health Implications N/A

Source Documents	Location
None	None

Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan 2017/18

Summary

Each committee at the County Council has its own training plan to help its members learn more about the business that the Committee covers. Each training session is listed and a record is kept of which members of the committee attend.

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance by:	% of Elected Members Attending
1.	We are all Corporate Parents	To discuss councillors' role and responsibilities as Corporate Parents.	High	12.01.18	<i>Fiona MacKirdy, Head of County Wide and Looked After Children</i>	Seminar	All county councillors	Cllr Bradnam Cllr Costello Cllr Cuffley Cllr Every Cllr Hay Cllr Joseph Cllr Whitehead (only members and subs of CPSC shown)	80%
2.	Looked After Children and Care Leavers	To brief Members on all areas of the Council's work in relation to looked after children and care leavers	High	11.04.18	<i>Jacqui Barry, Service Development Manager, District Safeguarding Manager</i>	Presentation and discussion	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members	Cllr Every Cllr Hay Cllr Bradnam Cllr Richards Cllr Cuffley	80%

3.	Safeguarding training and visit to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	To refresh and update Members' safeguarding training and offer them the chance to see first-hand the work being done at the MASH.	High	11.04.18	<i>Lou Williams, Service Director, Jenny Goodes, Head of Service – Integrated Front Door</i>	Presentation, tour of facilities and discussions with staff	Children and Young People Committee and Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members and substitute members	Cllr Every Cllr Hay Cllr Bradnam Cllr Cuffley	60%
4.	Corporate Parenting Strategy refresh	To discuss corporate parenting strategies going forward.	High	12.06.18	Jacqui Barry	Workshop	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members	Cllr Every Cllr Hay	40%
5.	Fostering	To meet Service Managers and discuss current practice and future developments.	Medium	24.07.18 17.04.19	John Heron, Residential and Placements Provision Manager	Presentation/ workshop	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members	Cllr Every Cllr Bradnam Cllr Richards	60%
6.	Mental Health	To include developmental trauma and mental health, parent infant mental health, school aged children, adolescence and mental health and resilience	High	22.01.19	Pam Parker, Clinical Psychology Lead	Presentation and Workshop	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members	Cllrs Bradnam, Costello and Every	60%
7.	The Local Offer for Care Leavers/ Access to Universal Credit and	To brief Members on the Local Offer and benefits	Medium	14.06.19	Kate Knight, Lead Corporate Parenting	Members' Seminar	All Members	Cllrs Ashwood, Bailey, Boden, Bradnam, Bywater,	80%

	benefits for care leavers	available to care leavers			Manager/ DWP officers			Costello, Count, Criswell, Every, French, Gowing, Hay, Hunt, Rogers, Sanderson, Wotherspoon	
8.	Permanence planning for children	To brief Members on the importance of permanence planning for children	High	03.10.19	Kate Knight Lead Corporate Parenting manager/Julie Ann Saunders/John Heron	Training session	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members	Cllrs Every, Hay and Bradnam	
9.	Missing and Exploited Children - Being and Feeling Safe Training Workshop	To brief Members and provide training on missing and exploited children	Medium	19 February 2020 (to link with the March theme of feeling and being Safe)	Dave Sergeant	Workshop	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee	Cllrs Every, Hay, Bradnam, Costello and Meschini	100%
10.	The Role of the Personal Advisor and update on the Local Offer	To brief Members of the role of the Personal Advisors and specialist PA roles in the context of the Local offer and opportunity to meet with PA's	Medium	April TBC (to link with the May meeting theme of Preparing for Adulthood)	Joe Gilbert Local Offer Personal Advisor				
11.	Care Leavers	Members' Seminar	Medium	12 June 2020	Joe Gilbert Local Offer Personal Advisor	Members' Seminar	All Members		
12.	Case Studies for Wraparound Care	The Reunification and Placement Stability Service will deliver Members' training	Medium	October 2020 (to link with the November meeting	The Reunification and Placement	Training session	Sub-Committee		

		on the work they do to reunify children with their birth family where it is safe to do so. This training will include an overview of research that has been commissioned by the Corporate Parenting Service on this topic and will also include case studies, with specific focus on Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).		theme of Achieving Stability and Permanence)	Stability Service		All Members TBC		
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CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD AGENDA PLAN

Published 16 March 2020

Agenda Item No: 9

Summary

The Forward Agenda Plan shows the dates and times of future meetings, where they will be held and what reports will be considered.

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Assistant Service Director	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
Wednesday 25 March 2020 – 4.00pm – Room 128 Shire Hall – Theme: Being and Feeling Safe					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Participation Report (standing item)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Implementation of Family Safeguarding Model	S Howlett	Not applicable		
	Practice and performance update and impact of MACE	J Goodes	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Assistant Service Director	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
Wednesday 20 May 2020 – 4.00pm – Room 128, Shire Hall – Preparing for Adulthood					
	Notification of the Chair and Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2020/21				
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Performance Report	K Knight	Not applicable		
	Refreshed NEET Strategy: Reducing the number of Children in Care who are Not in Education, Employment or Training <i>Six month update report</i>	M Cowdell	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan <i>(standing item)</i>	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Participation Report <i>(standing item)</i>	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Child and Adolescent Mental Health issues for Cambridgeshire's Children in Care: Update	N Curley	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 15 July 2020 – 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge Theme: Hearing the voices of children and young people					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Participation Report <i>(standing item)</i>	C Betteridge	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Assistant Service Director	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Virtual School: Themed Report	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Independent Review Officer's Annual Report	O Grant	Not applicable		
	Draft Annual Corporate Parenting Report 2019/20	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Children in Care Health Assessment: Six Month Update report	J Peberdy, CCS D Spencer, CCG	Not applicable		
	Improving the emotional health and well-being of children in care and care leavers: six month update report	N Curley	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 9 September 2020 – 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge – Theme TBC					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Participation Report (standing item)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Performance Report (approx. quarterly)	K Knight	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	F van den Hout	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Assistant Service Director	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
	Virtual School Headteacher's report	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 18 November 2020 - 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge Theme: Achieving Permanence and Stability					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Participation Report (standing item)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Siblings Forever Annual Report	O Grant	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 13 January 2021 - 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge Theme: Being healthy and living a healthy lifestyle					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Participation Report (standing item)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Performance Report (approx. quarterly)	K Knight	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	F van den Hout	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Assistant Service Director	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
	Virtual School: Unvalidated Results	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 24 March 2021 - 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge Theme: Being and feeling safe					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation (standing item)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 9 June 2021 – 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge Theme: Hearing the voices of children and young people					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Participation Report (standing item)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Performance Report (approx. quarterly)	K Knight	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		

