

Children's Services

19 – 23 La Motte Street
St Helier
Jersey
JE2 4SY



Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 5 March 2019

Time of Meeting: 3.00 pm

Venue: Jersey Youth Service

Attendees	
Name	Agency
Sam Mezec	Minister for Children & Housing and Chair
Tracey Vallois	Minister for Education
Richard Renouf	Minister for Health
Deputy Rob Ward	Chair of Care Inquiry Scrutiny Committee
Mark Rogers	Director General, CYPES
Andrew Heaven	Director of Children's Policy, Government of Jersey
Susan Devlin	Group Director, CYPES
Sean O'Regan	Group Director, Education
Saboohi Famili	Group Director Young People, Further Education, Skills and Learning
Sheree Maher	Children's Rights Officer
Suzie Phillips	Informatics Manager
Daisy Hefford	Board Administrator
Apologies	
Dierdrie Mezbourian	Chair of Comité de Connétables

	Item
1	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Corporate Parenting Board and introductions were made around the table.</p> <p>The Chair stated that setting up a Corporate Parenting Board had come out of the Ofsted Inspection and the Care Inquiry.</p> <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies Dierdre Mezbourian.</p>
2	<p><u>How Did We get Here</u></p> <p>The Chair handed over to Andrew Heaven who presented 'Corporate Parenting Board – The Journey so far...' which explained the lack of evidence of the commitment by the States of Jersey for looked after children in our care. AH mentioned the commitments that have been made including The Pledge and Children and Young People's Plan.</p>

	<p>AH reminded the Board that our vision as corporate parents was to put children and young people at the centre of our thinking.</p> <p>AH went through the 'Aims and Principles' of the ToR and some key features of a Corporate Parenting Strategy. AH advised that there had been some concerns around the membership of the Board. This has been temporarily resolved by changing some of the roles to observer only.</p> <p>AH advised that the ToR was tabled and if anyone had any further comments on this to contact AH direct. Once any feedback supplied had been taken into account and any amendments made, AH stated that he will recirculate for a final review by the Board. This will then need to be taken back to CoM for sign off.</p> <p>AH also mentioned that there were numerous CPB's around the UK and our Board can use these to help to improve and assist us with development opportunities.</p> <p>It was also suggested, as other CPB's do, that the Board could be held in a different location each time. This will be considered.</p> <p>The Chair stated that at a meeting with young people the previous evening the main questions directed to him were around housing.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><u>Profile of Children in Care and Care Leavers</u></p> <p>SP went through a presentation she had prepared on the profile of looked after children and care leavers. The data was compiled as at end of January 2019 and the key issues noted were:-</p> <p>Looked after Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On average we have 90 – 95 children/young people. • The present figure (87) is the lowest we have had for a while, but the recent drop was down to a number of young people turning 18 at the end of 2018. • Looking at our statistical neighbours this figure is about right for our area. • The CS Improvement Board has made a commitment for the next 3 months to monitor and report on this. • The numbers show that there are looked after children under 5 years of age with most being teenagers. • Ethnicity data showed that the numbers of Portuguese heritage children were much lower than we would have expected in relation to our population make up on the Island. <p>There was a lengthy discussion by the Board. Key Points included:</p> <p>The Board need to remain curious and receive updates about this profile in the future. MR said that we also need to take into account that the age of consent is lower in Madeira than it is in Jersey and we need to think about the legal and cultural differences of our population.</p> <p>MR stated that we would like to see the lower age range decrease as we get more early help in place to support families and keep children in the community with their parents/carers.</p> <p>TV asked if there were any themes that we can identify where we can put in early help. SD responded that the frequency of cases that were about neglect represented an area of focus for Early Help.</p> <p>SP advised the meeting that out of these 87 children/young people they actually represent 45/50 families.</p>

When looking at policy decisions we need to think about how much provision is provided and for how long and look at best practice and what type of fostering is needed for that age group. We also need to ensure that any children moved out of the family home is for the shortest possible time.

SD said that we also need to look at a range of parenting programs re attachment, restorative practice etc. We can do and must do more. MR stated that we have 'Baby Steps' but this only goes up to child aged 2 years. What happens after that? Parents still need support and sometimes more support as the child gets older.

Regarding the children placed off Island it was asked if the profile could distinguish which of these were in long term foster care/specialist placements as there have always been questions about children being placed off Island.

MR mentioned the Sufficiency Strategy which shows that we are looking at more intensive/specialist foster carers to provide some of this care on Island.

MR said that one of the things we need to think about is the length of time in care and the last time the child/young person had an episode of care. We need some policy development on this as an eligible person we do not have any involvement after 18 years of age, but they have no one else to turn to after that age. MR stated that we need to look at packages for young people up to 18 years of age as well as 21 – 25 years of age and over 25 years of age.

The education data showed a pretty poor picture for looked after children. MR asked if we have any data showing any young people going on to higher education. SP said that she would check on this.

4 **Sufficiency Strategy**

Nancy Meehan and Ben Short joined the meeting to present this section. Key points were

- Our Edge of Care service needs improvement to ensure it has sufficient reach.
- Need to re-look at the looked after children and care leavers and review what our offer/package should be for them.
- There was a Fostering and Adoption Review last year and we plan to bring in intensive Foster Carers so that we do not have to put these young people in residential homes.
- We need to be timely around assessments for Foster Carers and approvals. These now need to be completed within 26 weeks instead of in some cases 12 months but maintaining the proper checks etc.
- New recruitment campaign launching that month for more foster carers going live and this is focused on teenagers.
- Officers working with Social Security around the tax implications in relation to Foster Carers to make this tax free as an incentive to get more Carers on-board. This has not been introduced as yet but indication is that Social Security are working on this and appear to be very supportive.
- Edge of Care staff are being trained in 'trauma'
- Investment in staff training as it had been identified that our most vulnerable children/young people were being looked after by the least trained staff.
- A new residential home opening in May. As our Foster Carers numbers increase the aim is to be able to reduce the number of residential homes
- Housing for 16 – 18 year olds is an issue and managers are having talks with Andium to see if we can work with them to provide homes for these young people.

	<p>NM stated that it is harder to keep in touch with our young people off Island. However we are starting to use skype/facetime and other media like this which makes it much easier for more regular contact and the young people like it this way.</p> <p>We are having discussions regarding reciprocal arrangements in the UK and we can also 'tap into' Local Authorities to support us in supporting our young people.</p> <p>NM advised that when we are looking at Pathway Planning the care leavers have told us that they want to see us earlier at 13 years of age and not at 15/16 years of age as that is too late. At 13 the young people are looking at GCSE subjects and looking at career opportunities open to them and this is when they need support.</p> <p>We currently do not have a good oversight of the education needs of the off Island children /young people.</p> <p>Nancy and Ben left the meeting.</p>
5	<p><u>Liverpool Conference – 26 April</u></p> <p>SM advised that this is a National Conference for care experienced people of all ages. Young people still in care, young people who are leaving care and adults who have left care years ago.</p> <p>SM is taking a group of 17 people from Jersey. This includes 2 children under 18, 4 young people 18 – 26 years of age and 4 care experienced adults over 26 years of age plus a number of professionals and support workers that the children and young people know well to ensure that they are kept and feel safe throughout the trip.</p> <p>SM stated that there will be numerous workshops and they all had to select the ones they would prefer to attend. SM said that one of the young people got really excited as she wanted to do all of them, which is great to hear.</p> <p><u>What Next for Jersey</u></p> <p>SM advised that on return from the Conference they are planning a follow up session for the group to share their experiences and learning from the event.</p> <p>SM mentioned that we are creating a Participation Steering Group through Jersey Cares which will be representative of the voices of our children and young people.</p> <p>SM is sure that some of the young people would be more than happy to provide a 'snap shot' of what they got out of the Conference to the Board if they would like this.</p>
6	<p><u>Terms of Reference and Membership</u></p> <p>SD raised this and commented that this was a politically led Board so do we have all the necessary Ministers here e.g. the Minister for Social Security. Officer wise this is mainly CYPES represented and that this needs to be wider to include a broader range of corporate parents such as Police, Health, Probation .</p> <p>TV mentioned that permanency of membership is a concern. TV felt that the Minister for Home Affairs should be included however he may not be able to make every meeting but someone else from the Home Affairs Office could attend on his behalf.</p> <p>It was suggested that we have a political core group and request attendance of other Ministers as and when required.</p> <p>MR stated that as to the number of CYPES Officers in attendance, it is up to the Board how many and who should be on the Board on a regular basis. AH advised that he</p>

	<p>would amend the ToR and send round for everyone to review. Once everyone is happy with this the ToR will need to go back to the Council of Ministers for sign off.</p> <p>RW advised that he had attended as an observer and had found the meeting very interesting but we do need to think about this to ensure legislation is moved forward and is what we need. RW does not think Scrutiny should be at every meeting but could have the flexibility to come every now and then. It was suggested that we send the Agenda and paperwork prior to each Board and invite them to attend if required.</p> <p>TV asked where in the ToR are we reporting to the Council of Ministers and we also need to have some thought of training needed and could we discuss this at the next Board. It was suggested that Corporate Parenting Board should be a standard item at the Council of Ministers Meeting. MR advised that we currently submit a quarterly report to Council of Ministers regarding the CS Improvement Board, so the Corporate Parenting Board could bring a brief update to the same meeting.</p> <p>TV referred back to when we were talking about neglect and asked if we have a common/shared language on this so that everyone understands.</p> <p>SD stated that there are various toolkits/definitions on this, but we do need to ensure that everyone understands the long term cumulative impact of neglect. Level 1 Safeguarding does include neglect so if this is what is required this would work. TV asked if the Judges/Commissioners/Bailiff and Jurats are to have this training. The meeting agreed that they should all have the training and on a regular basis as a 'refresher'.</p>
	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>Date: 11 June 2019 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm</p> <p>Venue: To be confirmed</p> <p>Please advise Daisy Hefford if you are unable to attend the meeting.</p>