

Minutes of Corporate Parenting Board



Date: 3 September 2019

Time of Meeting: 3.00 pm

Venue: 19-21 Broad Street

Attendees	
Name	Agency
Sam Mezec	Minister for Children & Housing and Chair
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
Sheree Maher	Children's Rights Officer
Amanda Kelly	Consultant
Suzie Phillips	Informatics Manager
Carly Glover	Brightly / Jersey Cares
Belinda Hansen	Minute taker
Apologies	
Tracey Vallois	Minister for Education
Deidre Mezbourian	Chair of Comité de Connétables
Richard Renouf	Minister for Health
Len Norman	Minister for Home Affairs

	Item
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received.</p>
2.	<p>Previous Minutes and Actions</p> <p>It was noted that there were not enough Assembly members to hold a quorum. It was decided that principle decisions could be agreed and then ratified later. C Glover asked if future changes to Minutes could be marked up. Action points should be clearer.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the March minutes and the presentation about the number of children in care, wording needs to be reviewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action – revisit wording (A Heaven) <p>Discussion around Minutes of the Meeting – A. Heaven will revisit plan to put them on Gov.com</p>

	<p>A Heaven discussed Corporate Parent training, progressing a brief with Scottish, for training and piloting. C Glover explained what kind of training was going to take place. R Ward was interested in receiving information on it.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Looked after Children Population Profile</p> <p>Key Points from Presentation:</p> <p>The number of children in care is reducing. There were 98 children in January 2019 and at the time of the Board meeting the number was 89 children.</p> <p>This equates to approximately 40 children per 10,000 children and young people. This rate is relatively low when compared to other jurisdictions.</p> <p>The numbers of children on child protection plans is closer to average figures in the UK.</p> <p>Reductions in children in care aged 0 to 5 year may be attributed to adoption practise which is a good quality.</p> <p>It was noted that Children aged 16+ form 22% of our looked after children.</p> <p>There were 24 children in care who are placed off-island at end of July 2019.</p> <p>There have been 10 Adoptions in 12 months.</p> <p>Care Leavers – 29 known to Children’s Service and we are in touch with 25.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the quality of data has improved since MOSAIC had been introduced. But more still needs to be done to improve the collection and analysis.</p> <p>Key Discussion Points</p> <p>C Glover questioned some of the terms used in relation to accommodation/housing for example what is deemed suitable accommodation for Care Leavers.</p> <p>Board discussed drivers for children coming into care. Better data has allowed improved understanding of different aspects of neglect. Acknowledged insights need to drive future Commissioning Framework.</p> <p>Direct commission activity is currently focused on ‘off island’ and ‘specialist placements’. Most placements off Island have been longer term in nature.</p> <p>Agreement that increased capacity in edge of care team and intensive fostering and better wrap around support for fostering will make a difference to the number of children placed off Island.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Language that Cares</p> <p>S Butcher raised awareness regarding how we talk about children in care. There were examples of terminology that needs to be challenged and changed e.g. absconding children (implication that it is their fault).</p> <p>There is a need to think about how we refer to children, discourage the use of the acronym SIN and LAC. A Heaven suggested that this could be used in Corporate Parent Training. S Devlin commented that people need to be given a steer on the use of words. S Butcher finished by saying that we need to ask ourselves why children are doing what they are doing.</p> <p>Action: Circulate Report.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Children’s Service Sufficiency Strategy</p>

	<p>S Butcher said that the quality of activity data was improving which will make it easier to examine and understand issues going forward. S Phillips is the lead for collecting activity data and reporting on key benchmarks. This analysis will support social work teams to understand trends and patterns and improve quality of the service provided.</p> <p>A Kelly posed the question as to what our benchmark was. Near neighbour bench marks are being developed.</p> <p>C Glover questioned whether the data presented could be challenged. Clarity was sought as to the period the activity data applied to.</p> <p>A Heaven thought that there would be a benefit for a standard agenda item which allowed the most recent and appropriate analysis to be shared.</p> <p>Action – Continue to bring Data to the next board</p>
6.	<p>Government Corporate Parenting Priorities</p> <p>S Mezec as written to the other Council of Ministers asking them to identify their Corporate Parenting priorities. AH now has a long list of actions that can now be prioritised. A small working group will progress this work and report back to the Board.</p>
7.	<p>Entitlement for Children in Care and Leaving Care</p> <p>There was a Power Point presentation.</p> <p>Questions and discussions included :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation during holidays for students • Upper age limit for entitlement • Should we assist children to save/save for children • Chair of Scruity asked for another word to be used rather than ‘entitlement’ • Chair of the Board raised the point that a lots of families on low incomes are not able to provide what the Board is wanting to offer. <p>The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.</p>
	<p>Next Meeting: 3.00pm to 5.00pm Date: 3 December Venue: Broad Street, 1st Floor, La Pulante</p>