

Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board held in TLC Hub.

Tuesday 11 November 2024 5.30 PM

Committee Members present:

Councillor S. Elson (Chair)
Councillor T. Jukes (Vice Chair)
Councillor K. Fergurson

Officers Present:

Colleen Male – Executive Director, Children’s Services
Rita Homer – Director, Children’s Social Work
Zoe Morgan – Head of Service
Lorraine Thompson – Head of Virtual School
Elise Hopkins
Hannah Thompson
Deon Rogers
Catherine Masterson – Walsall ICB

48. **Engagement Session with Children and Young People**

The Head of Service provided the context to engagement session, which would be focused on Alliance work and the House Project.

The House Project aimed to build a community of young people based on relationships and supported young people to move to independence in a safe way. Officers stressed that it was trauma informed and was intended to bring young people together. There were 22 house projects nationally and benefits reported included no evictions or tenancy breakdowns for young people. Project planning was at recruitment stage for facilitator posts and would be launched February time.

Members were advised that the Children in Care Alliance aimed to ensure a partnership approach to Care Leavers and children in care. The engagement session would consider if the priorities of the Alliance aligned with those of the young people.

An interactive session took place to demonstrate the priorities of young people to influence the work of the service.

A discussion was held between Members and the Young People with the following points raised for consideration:

- Peer support was valued by young people.
- Relationships with workers supporting young people were important.
- Pathway planning was important.
- Adequate housing for young people was a challenge.
- It could be a challenge to access housing, for care leavers, outside of Walsall.
- Ted talks could be an effective way to interact with peers.

49. **Apologies**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chapman and Hicken.

50. **Substitutions**

There were no substitutions submitted for the duration of the meeting.

51. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

52. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There was no information in private session.

53. **Minutes**

The Board considered the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2024.

Resolved

The minute of the meeting held on 2 September 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

54. **Work Programme 2024-2025**

The Board considered the Corporate Parenting Board annual report 2023-24.

Resolved

That the work programme 2024-2025 was noted.

55. **Date of next meeting**

The Date of the next meeting is 6 January 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.30 pm.

Signed:

Date: