

## **Corporate Parenting Board**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Council Chamber, Walsall Council House**

### **Board Members Present:**

Councillor T. Wilson (Chair)  
Councillor K. Ferguson  
Councillor K. Murphy  
Councillor F. Mazhar

### **Officers Present**

Jackie Alexander	CAMHS Manager (Birmingham Community Healthcare Foundation Trust)
Margaret Courts	Mental Health Commissioner
John Dunning	Children's Commissioner (Walsall CCG)
David Hughes	Children and Young Persons Champion
Alison Jones	Designated Nurse LAC (Clinical Commissioning Group)
Dr Kannath	Community Paediatrics (WHT)
Dr Rambhatla	Community Paediatrics (WHT)
Sally Rowe	Executive Director Children's Services
Jivan Sembi	Head of Service (Children in Care, Provider and Care Leaving Services)
Marlene Vernon	Flash Service

Young people representing the Children in Care Council.

### **Welcome**

At this point in the meeting, the Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present. He also noted that the meeting to the papers, which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage. It was noted that a Shadow Board was held directly prior to the meeting to seek the views and experiences of young people.

The Chair asked the Children and Young Persons Champion to congratulate a young person who regularly attended the Shadow Corporate Parenting Board, as she had successfully gained a place at University to study medicine.

### **13/21 Introductions and Apologies**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Nazir and Worrall.

### **14/21 Substitutions**

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

## 15/21 Minutes

A copy of the minutes of the meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2021 were submitted. The Chair updated the Board on actions within the report.

(see annexed)

### **Resolved (Unanimous)**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2021 copies having previously been circulated to each Member of the Board, be approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.**

## 16/21 Letter from Children's Commissioner

The Board received the letter from Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England.

### **Resolved**

**That the letter from the Children's Commissioner be noted.**

## 17/21 Young People Engagement

The Children and Young Persons Champion described some of the highlights of Children in Care Council (CICC) since the last Board, and provided an update on the activities of the CICC. The Care Leaver Ambassador was introduced to the Board. Members were informed that the CICC had been involved with face to face interview panels, and young people chaired two full days of interviews for the post of Personal Advisors. Young People provided feedback that this had been a positive experience to be involved in.

The Board were informed that a new care leavers group had been launched with the first meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, ten care leavers who had not previously participated in the CICC had attended this first meeting. The CICC had suggested the following items for consideration by the Corporate Parenting Board at future meetings:

- Transition from children's to adult services.
- Support for driving lessons for care leavers.
- Photograph permission in schools and issues around the exclusion of children in care.

The Chair asked for an update in the development of an app for children in care. Young People and Members discussed the use of an app in comparison to a website.

### **Resolved**

**That the Young People Engagement report was noted.**

## **18/21 Child Adolescent Mental Health Service**

The CAMHS Manager spoke to the report (annexed) and highlighted the salient points. The Board were informed that there had been an increase in CAMHS referrals as a result of the COVID19 pandemic.

The FLASH service was described as a therapeutic service which offered a range of interventions to provide support to children and young people who resided within a 20 miles radius of Walsall, and as part of this, young people had access to a range of therapies. The service were in contact with schools who did not engage with CAMHS, to offer support and services.

Feedback from young people in attendance was that improvements could be made to service access after discharge to avoid the requirement to join the waiting list for support for their condition. The Service Manager stated that plans in place meant that young people were reviewed after 3 months to avoid this situation occurring.

The Board were informed of work to ensure that transition arrangements were in place to ensure that young people were able to use CAMHS up to 18 years of age. This new system would also ensure that young people's history was shared when they transitioned to adult services.

The Chair provided feedback from young people which included the difficulty with being removed from school lessons to receive CAMHS services. The Service Manager reassured Members that appointments were now scheduled early/late in the day for Looked after Children and at alternative venues.

### **Resolved**

**That the CAMHS report be noted.**

## **19/21 Annual assurance report (CCG)**

The Health Representative presented the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The Board were informed that the report provided an overview of the statutory health responsibilities of the CCG in relation to children in care and provided further detail of action taken to deliver on-going improvements to health outcomes for Looked after Children.

The Board were informed that 'Initial and Review Health Assessments' (IHA & RHA) were commissioned from Walsall Healthcare Trust (WHT) as the Health Provider by Walsall CCG. However, the process required close working between health and Local Authority colleagues in relation to information sharing, supporting attendance at appointments and reporting. The agreed Key Performance indicators with WHT stipulated the delivery of 80% of IHA's and 90% of RHA's within statutory timescales. RHA's service provision for children placed out of the borough is commissioned from external providers over a 20-mile radius with the WHT Looked after Childrens Team coordinating requests and assuring quality.

Members were informed by the Children's Commissioner (Walsall CCG) that despite the pandemic, the service had adapted and modified the way that it delivered services and as a result key performance indicators delivering 80% of IHA's and 90% of RHA's. It was stressed that throughout the pandemic GPs had maintained support to Looked after Children, however dentists were unable to prioritise routine check-ups over children who were experiencing pain which had impacted performance indicators (in relation to dental) for Looked after Children.

A Member expressed concern that KPI's at 80% were too low and the aspiration should be for this to be much higher. The Health representative stated that this had been increased to 85% across the Black Country but the service were always aiming for 100%. It was stressed that the service was always offered however KPI's were impacted due to 'when' it was offered. The Children's Commissioner stated that the performance of Walsall could be compared to other localities within the Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group, this would be provided to Members outside of the meeting.

The Board were played a draft film which was designed for young people who would be having a health check-up, in order to put them more at ease with the process. Young People in attendance provided feedback on this film, and it was noted that it was aimed at all age groups (noting that the use of emoji's may be too much for older age groups).

Areas for future work were described and further information on these priorities could be provided to the Board.

**Resolved that:**

- 1. The CCG Assurance report be noted.**
- 2. The CCG are asked to review the KPI's for Initial Health Assessments and Review Health Assessments**
- 3. The Chair on behalf of the Board write to NHS England to highlight the importance of dental checks for Looked after Children.**

20/21 **Health passports**

Representatives from Community Paediatrics (WHT) spoke to the presentation and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The Board were informed that information was gathered from Walsall Health Systems and Walsall Child Health Records. The information documented was different for each child for various reasons, such as placement moves or if they weren't born in Walsall, however as much information as possible was included. Information about a young person's family health history was not always available, although where possible family history was gathered from Children's Services documents provided, and information shared within health assessments and information in the Child's Health Records. A discussion with the young people was held to determine if they wanted certain information included. The child's voice was captured at every contact to share with the young person when they were older what life was like for them when they were a child.

Members were provided with details of a Health Passport app which had been trialled in Sandwell, which brings together the NHS app along with helpful information on a variety of different topics. On the NHS app young people would be able to access information such as medications they were on or have had; vaccination summaries; allergies; and to be able to book GP appointments.

All Care Leavers were provided with a copy of their health summary, it was noted that very few declined this provision.

**Resolved**

**That the Health Passports presentation be noted.**

21/21 **Corporate Parenting Strategy**

Members discussed the importance of the report and agreed that it should be deferred to the next meeting to ensure due consideration could be given to the report.

**Resolved**

**That the Corporate Parenting Strategy was deferred until the next meeting.**

22/21 **Work Programme**

The Board considered the work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year. It was noted that the views of the Children in Care Council would be sought on items considered by the Board.

**Resolved**

**That the work programme was noted.**

The date of the next meeting was 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8 p.m.

Signed .....

Date .....

