

# **Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board held in TLC Hub.**

**Tuesday 9 April 2023 5.30 PM**

## **Committee Members present:**

Councillor S. Elson (Chair)  
Councillor T. Jukes (Vice Chair)  
Councillor A. Hicken

## **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  
Catherine Masterson – Walsall ICB  
Margaret Court - Head of CAMHS Commissioning

## 19. **Engagement Session with Children and Young People**

The Head of Service provided the context to engagement session, which was that housing and mental health had emerged as topics in previous engagement sessions and audits. It was noted that children in care often left home significantly earlier than those leaving a parental household and consideration should be given as to how to support this group.

The following points were raised as points of consideration for the Board:

- 41% of Care Leavers were 'Not in Education Employment or Training' (NEET).
- 87% of Care Leavers had less than 5 GCSEs.
- 26% of the homeless population had care experience.
- Children in Care were 4 times more likely to have mental health issues.
- ¾ of Children in residential homes meet the criteria for psychiatric conditions.
- CAMHS makes up less than 7% NHS budget.
- Children in Care and care leavers make up 1% of the population but 25% of the prison population.
- 27% birth mothers and 19% birth fathers with children place adoption had care experience.

The Head of CAMHS Commissioning stated that transition in Walsall was working well, which was evidenced by the fact that the cohort was not presenting at the acute trust.

Further information was provided on the Walsall House Project which supported young people into independence, this involved intense work with Care Leavers to promote independence. It was agreed that this would be a future agenda item.

The Executive Director stated that a call to action would be taken to seek partnership responsibility to demonstrate commitment through the establishment of a subgroup which fed into the Corporate Parenting Board.

A discussion was held with 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.
- Independent Visitors provided a valuable service to Young People.
- Becoming independent was often isolating for young people.

## 20. **Apologies**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors R. Worrall, V. Waters, and L. Harrison.

## 21. **Substitutions**

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

22. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

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

There was no information in private session.

24. **Minutes**

The Board considered the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Resolved**

The minute of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

24. **Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023-24**

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

**Resolved**

That the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023 – 24 was approved for submission to Council.

25. **Date of next meeting**

The Date of the next meeting will be agreed at Annual Council

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.05 pm.

Signed:

Date: