



Development of the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP)

Purpose of this presentation

- Present a summary of findings on regional and other Council Corporate Parenting Panels
- Summarise the current position in Central Bedfordshire
- Present options for a development and increased engagement in Central Bedfordshire
- Facilitate Open Discussion for next steps

Background

- Safeguarding and Looked After Children Ofsted Inspection in 2012, highlighted areas for improvement in Central Bedfordshire
- Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Looked After Children service was considered adequate – which resulted in an action plan for improvement
- Outside of the improvement plan, CPP was indentified internally for review and development
- Desktop review undertaken of other Council's CPP
- Visits to Hertfordshire and Norfolk CPP undertaken by different Members and officers

Summary of Findings

- Desk top review of four Corporate Parenting Panels
 - *Lambeth, Gloucester, Luton and Milton Keynes*
 - Member and Officer visits to two meetings held in
 - *Hertfordshire and Norfolk*
- Similar approach across the Councils with mixed representation of Members and Officers
- Frequency of meetings are similar ranging from 4-6 per year
- Formality of meetings vary some committee style but some also have informal meetings with Young People
- Difference is the activity in the strategy/annual plan with Lambeth being the most impressive

Summary of Central Bedfordshire CPP

- Established over 2 year in current format
- Serviced by Committee Services
- Meetings approx 6 times a year
- Forward Plan with regular report schedule
- Children in Care Council (CiCC) attend 3 times a year, including providing an annual presentation
- CPP includes 8 Council members, 4 members of the public, the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services, Director of Adult Social Care Health and Housing and senior officers presenting reports
- CPP is chaired by the Executive Member for Children's Services
- Lead Officer is Children's Services Assistant Director Operations

Summary of Findings

| Location | Findings |
|------------|--|
| Lambeth | <p>Approach by Lambeth Council to Corporate Parenting is impressive. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CP Board organised bi-monthly includes both formal reports and more engagement strong on consultation. •Led by Lead Member for Children’s Services, includes elected members, senior officers from Cultural Services, Housing, Children’s Services, Foster Carers and Children and Young People (looked after and leaving care). •Board oversees the Corporate Parenting Strategy which has delegated responsibilities to Head of Services across departments and partners for the 19 projects/activities undertaken. •Strong web coverage for Corporate Parenting responsibility |
| Gloucester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Consulted Young People on the CPP set up. •Felt committee approach not right forum to support members as corporate parents. Committee approach also not right to meet with young people, carers, front-line staff needed to be informal in light of sensitive issues. •Moved to two committees and four panels per year. Key issues and concerns managed by theme based panels, e.g. health needs of LAC, Leisure, work experience and careers, Virtual School etc |

Summary of Findings

| Location | Findings |
|---------------|--|
| Luton | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Board holds four confidential meetings a year which are reported to Full Council and the Executive. •Chaired by Lead Member for Children’s Services •Group is chaired by lead member for Children’s Services •Decisions are made by consensus •Views/concerns of young people looked after are fed to the board via representatives from the Young People's Panel (Children in Care Council) •Group includes DCS, Heads of Service from Children & Learning, professional staff from social care, schools, the police, youth offending service, housing and health providers |
| Milton Keynes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CPP meets 5 times a year. Chaired by a lead member, •Six other members from all parties •Officers and partners attend to provide information and reports on progress, in accordance with its annual work plan •Panel meets with CiCC on quarterly basis |

Summary of Findings

| Location | Findings |
|---------------|---|
| Hertfordshire | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee Style Panel• Three levels of Corporate Parenting Responsibility adopted• Children's Services and Corporate Parenting Panel is Level 2 - targeted responsibility• Panel includes elected members, members with designated corporate parenting responsibilities (visit children's homes, sit on Fostering or Adoption Panel) and members who carry out Corporate Parenting responsibilities through fulfilling a Scrutiny, Task and Finish function• Strategy document highlights the views of the CiCC and the pledge which the Council and CPP work towards |
| Norfolk | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Children's Services Managed Board•Member Representatives with Officer Involvement•Informal Approach•Does not meet with CiCC•CiCC represented by Participation Officer•Corporate Parenting Strategy supports Board agenda |

Options for Development

| For Consideration | Suggestion |
|---|---|
| <p>Frequency and Timing of Meetings <i>Moving to later in the day would make it easier for YP in education</i></p> | <p>Quarterly Inset Days 4pm</p> |
| <p>Panel Representatives <i>To promote role that we are all corporate parents</i></p> | <p>Officers from other services e.g. leisure, housing transport, health etc</p> |
| <p>More Young People on the Panel <i>To encourage greater engagement and more open to YP comments, ideas and concerns</i></p> | <p>Personal advisors, CiCC, Young People who are not LAC e.g. Youth Parliament</p> |
| <p>Report Arrangements <i>Less formal on reports or arrange report schedule to allow for informal themed YP interaction session</i></p> | <p>Cyclical programme to include other Council services Themed Panels e.g. Health, Youth Provision, Education</p> |
| <p>Key Deliverables - Events and Activities <i>Events to raise awareness ties in with other national awareness days. (As Lambeth)</i></p> | <p>Annual CPP Event Awards Evening and other successes. Consultation events Education workshops etc</p> |

Issues for discussion

- *Representatives for Central Bedfordshire*
- *Frequency and Timing of meeting*
- *Style of future meetings*
- *Annual Programme*
- *Involvement of Young People*

Next Steps

- Based on Findings and Panel Feedback work on a new approach
- Involve CiCC in the process
- Draft the approach for the July meeting
- Agree direction
- Implement from Autumn 2013