

REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

10 DECEMBER 2018

CHILDREN IN OUR CARE STRATEGIC OFFICER GROUP (CIOCSG) UPDATE

The group had their second meeting on 29 October 2018 when the Terms of reference and membership were agreed and signed off.

The priorities agreed by the CPB:

Mental health
Early years in care
Growing up and moving on

Were discussed in the context of the refreshed CIOC and Care Leavers strategy with the aim that at our next meeting we would consider how we might develop services identify gaps and improve practice. Points 2, 5 and 7 of the strategy will be the focus of the next meeting i.e. (2) We promise that Children and Young People will have productive relationships: family friends and community life (5) We promise that Children and Young People will be healthy (7) We promise that Children and Young People will be supported in the transition to adulthood and as Care Leavers.

Areas of discussion:

Virtual School

Work is currently being undertaken around schools inclusions which are high (to note - the scope of this work is wider than just CIOC). Based on the 'Brighton and Hove' model LRB is in the process of arranging a meeting to consider how our current culture could be changed.

LRB is to share the VS Head teacher annual report at the next CIOCSG. The headlines will be shared with the CPB.

Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

Work remains ongoing around SDQ's – a focus of this work is to standardise the consistency of data. The CIOCSG will be focusing on SDQ's at their next meeting.

Health Assessments

A report has recently been undertaken by the Foundation Trust which is to be shared at the next CIOCSG. The headlines will be shared with the CPB

CIOC numbers

We currently have just over 500 CIOC, a position that cannot be sustained. This position is not unique to Stockton but is generally a national trend leading the Government to refer to it as the 'Care crisis'. A number of projects are currently ongoing to reduce these numbers in a safe and planned way including focus on a re-unification framework and what services and

resources we might need in order to successfully return children either to Stockton or to their birth families.

CAMHS

The group heard that the CAMHS service is under huge pressures but are committed to CIOC and have asked the CIOCSG for a steer in terms of priorities.

CAMHS would particularly like to support teachers but are aware of a number of training/schools initiatives currently being undertaken. It is important that we don't duplicate services. Further discussion to be undertaken at the next CIOCSG which will 'tie into' the CPB's key priorities.

Rhona Bolland
Chair CIOCSG
27 November 2018