

## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL – 9 December 2025**

### **MINUTES of the meeting held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone.**

PRESENT: Pamela Williams (Chair), Martin Brice, Dan Bride, Christine McInnes, Stuart Heaver, Robert Mayall, Adrian Kibble, Kayleigh Leonard, Claudine Russell, Nancy Sayer, Tracy Scott, Martin Brice and Caroline Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Christine Palmer (Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services), Joanne Carpenter (Participation and Engagement Manager), Kevin Kasaven (Director of Children's Countywide Services), Connor Cruickshank (Apprentice Participation Worker), Ingrid Crisan (Director for Operational Integrated Children's Services), Jason Read (Youth Justice Service Manager), Louise Fisher (Assistant Director Safeguarding Professional Standards & QA) and Georgia Humphreys (Democratic Services Officer)

#### Election of Vice-Chair

1. Mr Mayall proposed and Mr Osborne seconded that Mr Kibble be elected as Vice-Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
2. As there were no further nominations, the Chair declared Mr Kibble as Vice-Chair of the Panel.
3. RESOLVED that Mr Kibble be elected Vice-Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

#### Apologies and substitutes

Apologies had been received from Mr Horton, Mr Gray and Ms Sayer.

Ms Scott was in attendance virtually.

#### Chair's Announcements

1. The Chair reminded Members that there was still time to promote and donate to the Corporate Parenting Christmas Appeal. Additionally, the Chair expressed thanks to Members and Officers for their work as Corporate Parents.

#### Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2025

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chair.

#### Participation Team update

1. Ms Carpenter, Participation and Engagement Manager, CYPE, and her team introduced the report and gave an overview of the work and activities undertaken in the last period.
2. In response to comments and questions it was said:
  - a. When asked whether there was a feedback loop to young people so they could see how their views were taken into account. Ms Carpenter explained that there was and emphasised the importance of young people knowing their thoughts and opinions were valued.

RESOLVED that the Participation Team update was noted.

#### Verbal Update by the Cabinet Member

1. Mrs Palmer, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, gave a verbal update on the following:
  - a. Mrs Palmer attended the Foster Kinship Care and Supported Homes Host Awards, which celebrated the work of foster carers, kinship carers and supported homes hosts. Mrs Palmer shared that she had the opportunity to hear inspiring stories from foster families.
  - b. Mrs Palmer and Mrs Williams, Deputy Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, attended a pottery painting class with young people.

RESOLVED that the verbal updates were noted.

#### Looked after Children's Integrated Care Board Annual Report

1. The Chair explained that health colleagues were unable to attend the meeting, so the report was taken as read and any questions raised would receive written responses in due course.

RESOLVED that the report was noted.

#### Kent Youth Justice and Children in Care Annual Report

1. Mr Read, Youth Justice Service Manager, introduced the report, describing its purpose and highlighting key points to note.
2. In response to comments and questions it was said:
  - a. Mr Read explained that diversion interventions delivered by Youth Justice or Adolescent Early Help Services, avoid children being unnecessarily charged and appearing in court. Individually tailored

intervention packages were delivered to avoid a child getting a criminal justice outcome and in some cases a criminal record. The Re-Frame scheme was a diversion scheme for children who had been found with low level drug offences such as possession of cannabis. It was explained that not all children who offend need to enter the criminal justice system, in some cases it was more effective to use interventions that would be specific to each child

- b. Ms Bride added that the theory of desistance underpinned the work of the service, emphasising the importance of avoiding negative labels for children and supporting children to develop a pro-social identity. For example, those who were out of education or employment are supported to engage. Challenges were addressed and interventions were layered and tailored to individual needs.
- c. In order to carry out the work effectively, it was essential to understand the impact on victims, to ensure their safety, well-being and hear their views. The police, who were responsible for providing victim details to KCC, are trying to increase the quality and quantity of information they provided. The Child-Centred Policing Team was working hard on this issue, aiming to encourage police officers in Neighbourhood Policing Teams, to ensure that this approach shaped their work.
- d. When asked if the service was doing enough to prevent stigmas around Children in Care entering the Youth Justice System. Mr Read explained that officers worked within the partnership and engaged directly with children. Looked after children were a priority cohort who the partnership tried to avoid criminalising. It was unclear whether the stigma of being in care increased the likelihood of a child committing crime. Some looked-after children experienced significant challenges and officers aimed to support them through these difficulties. These children could be vulnerable to exploitation and were often exposed to factors that increased safeguarding risks. Mr Read shared that he was glad that the Participation Team were meeting with police officers to share their experiences and thoughts.
- e. Mr Kasaven added that national data for care leavers in prison was just under 4%, in Kent this was just under 2%, sharing that he was impressed by the work of the service. Mr Kasaven suggested that the next annual report should capture how the service was supporting children to achieve, it was important to clearly portray that any stigmas were being challenged and addressed.
- f. Mr Read explained that since the closure of HMP Cookham Wood Young Offenders Institution in 2024, most Kent children had been placed in HMP Feltham Young Offenders Institution. No children were placed at the Oasis Restore Secure School following its temporary closure due to concerns raised at an Ofsted monitoring visit in 2025. Mr Read believed it was to reopen, as it was undergoing renovations to improve the facility.

RESOLVED that the report was noted.

Corporate Parenting Annual Report

1. Ms Smith, Assistant Director of Corporate Parenting presented the report and provided a comprehensive overview of its key points.
2. Ms Smith highlighted the hard work carried out by key corporate parenting services over the past year.
3. Additionally, Ms Smith expressed her pride in the Corporate Parenting Christmas Appeal, noting the success of Big Give Week and sharing with the Panel that £22,000 had been raised, with further fundraising activities to take place throughout December.

RESOLVED that the report was noted and the Panel noted their wider responsibilities as corporate parents.