

Corporate Parenting



Corporate Parenting Board Meeting
27th March 2024



**Corporate Parenting Board
27th March 2024
13:00-15:00
Education Committee Room**

ATTENDEES

Minister for Children and Families
Minister for Housing
Minister for Health and Social Services
Minister for Justice and Home Affairs
Representative from Comité de Connétables
Interim Director of Children's Services
CEO, Jersey Cares (online)
CE, Brightly
Representative for Jersey Foster Care Representative

Chief Officer CYPES (online)
Assistant Director of Policy
Associate Director for Participation and Engagement
Jersey Cares, Development Lead for Policy and Participation
Virtual School Head
Head of Children's Health and Wellbeing
Associate Director Children's Social Care Service
Manager, Independent Reviewing Officer and Child Protection Service
Fostering and Adoption Team Manager
Private Secretary
Research and Administration Officer

APOLOGIES

Interim Head of Service Fostering and Adoption
Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
Assistant Minister for Children and Families
Residential Improvement Lead

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions.

The Minister for Children and Families welcomed the board. He noted his responsibility as Chair and the responsibility of the board as a corporate parent. The Minister raised his concerns regarding missing children, both in care and in school, as well as the importance of mental health.

2. Previous minutes and actions.

The 18th December 2023 minutes approved, subject to the amendments suggested via email.



ACTIONS UPDATE

STATUS	ACTION
Outstanding	Private Secretary to set up a system to write to children and congratulate them on milestone achievements.
Outstanding	The Head of the Care Leavers Team with input from Jersey Care to develop the care leavers offer guidance documents and to engage with care leavers to identify gaps in both the delivery and also content of the care leaver offer with the possibility of extending items in the offer. Associate Director of Children's Social Care Services to discuss with Voluntary Sector Representative.
Outstanding	The Chief Officer of CYPES to work with States of Jersey Police Representative to develop a data dashboard for the Corporate Parenting Board.
Outstanding	The Associate Director for Children's Services to review sufficiency in the system for the number of children currently in care and potential future capacity needs.
Outstanding	Associate Director for Children's Social Care Services to develop operational frameworks to sit alongside the care leavers offer.
Complete	The Representative Comité des Connétables to advise the Board of the conclusions reached by the Constables sub-group on exemptions from parish rates for care leavers up to 25.
Completed	Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference to be formally signed off and agreed.
Completed	All Board members to send their thoughts and suggestions around data capture and usage by the Board to the Research and Administration Officer in early January.
Complete	The Assistant Director of Policy to develop a Forward Plan for the Board for 2024 and circulate agenda options to Board members.
Complete	The Head of Skills Jersey to provide employments, skills, training and, NEET data for care leavers. The Head of the Virtual School and Head of Care Leavers Team to assist with this data and destination tracking.
Complete	Research and Administration Officer to organise meeting to discuss Forward Plan 2024.
Complete	Commissioning Officer to develop plans for a corporate parenting newsletter.
Complete	Research and Administration Officer to organise the remaining three Corporate Parenting Board meetings for 2024.
Complete	Associate Director for Participation and Engagement to follow up with Sue Butterworth on details of a previous consultation on Care Leavers and respond to the Development Lead for Policy and Participation as soon as possible.
No action required	The Team Manager Improvement and Redesign to organise a visit to the therapeutic children's home site for the Corporate Parenting Board.



No action required	The Associate Director for Children's Social Care Services to outline the staffing plan for the Therapeutic Children's Home.
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3. Verbal update – therapeutic home.

The Minister for Children and Families highlighted the decision not to move forward with the purchase and confirmed officers are no longer looking into this. He discussed the alternative idea of providing therapeutic services within existing homes. Additionally, the Minister for Children and Families highlighted the word therapeutic had not been defined and therefore needs more research. The Chief Officer of CYPES highlighted officers are re-evaluating a sufficiency strategy on how many places would be needed in residential and foster care.

4. Update on Children in Care Council

The Associate Director for Participation and Engagement introduced the Development Lead for Policy and Participation and the CEO of Jersey Cares to the board. Jersey Cares are to independently lead on the Children in Care Council. The Government of Jersey are working with Jersey Cares to support this service. The Development Lead for Policy and Participation provided an overview of the Jersey Cares report, outlining if there are any issues not highlighted within the report to discuss these with himself or the CEO of Jersey Cares. The Development Lead for Policy and Participation highlighted the importance for members of the board to feel like they have the appropriate support and information.

Over the next month the Children in Care Council are to come up with a name, values and ideas on how they would like to engage with the Corporate Parenting Board. This will consist of 4 or 5 people initially. The Minister for Children and Families questioned whether they have children in an existing group already. The Development Lead for Policy and Participation confirmed they are looking into this at present as there are some young people on island. They are also exploring digital connections for those off-island in the UK. The Interim Director of Children's Services highlighted this group will be led by the young children as a collective. Jersey Cares will be looking at developing programmes to promote interaction between the children and the board, for example a Christmas Connection event.

The Development Lead for Policy and Participation outlined they are aware of a previous consultation on Care Leavers. The Associate Director for Participation and Engagement confirmed to follow this up with Sue Butterworth and respond to the Development Lead for Policy and Participation as soon as possible.

5. Virtual school lead and education report

The Virtual School Head presented the Virtual School Lead report and discussed the boards responsibilities. She highlighted they would like to change the way children are referenced as 'cases' which is not appropriate. The board agreed.



The Chief Executive of Brightly questioned how many children in the Corporate Parenting Boards care have a mental health diagnosis. The Virtual School Head could not give a definitive figure.

The Interim Director of Children's Services asked if the board write to children when they complete milestone achievements to congratulate them. The Minister for Children and Families agreed this would be a positive action.

The Representative from Jersey Foster Care raised concerns regarding 2022-2023 GCSE results being significantly below average for those in care. The Virtual School Head agreed this was a concern.

The Virtual School Head outlined children in care should be exempt from exclusions. The Representative from Jersey Foster Care questioned what the alternative metric would be. The Virtual School Head believed this would be recorded as an exclusion, but the outcome would be different for a Child in Care or Care Leaver.

6. CAMHS emotional and MH needs report

The Head of Children's Health and Wellbeing introduced and presented the CAMHS report, highlighting he is happy to provide any further data from CAMHS for future boards. He also highlighted care experienced children have priority to their service and this will continue. The Head of Children's Health and Wellbeing outlined in late 2022 CAMHS appointed a service manager specifically for those care experienced, as well as a psychologist within the fostering and adoption service. Additionally, mental health reviews take place within 72 hours for children once admitted to Greenfields. He highlighted there is funding in 2024 for an additional psychologist and an additional family therapist to help those in care and the care experienced population. CAMHS are hopeful to increase flexibility within the service regarding location and increased choice on the types of therapies. They are looking to explore an increased outreach approach.

7. Missing lead and report

The Associate Director of Children's Social Care Services introduced the Missing Lead report and offered apologies from Rebecca as she could not attend the meeting. The Associate Director of Children's Social Care Services outlined the data shows a decrease in the number of children missing but highlighted there is not enough being done regarding the reasons children are going missing. She outlined this will be a future area of focus, aiming to understand the risks, as well as creating unique safety plans for each child. The Fostering and Adoption Team Manager highlighted the importance of individual safety plans rather than taking a broad one size fits all approach which is not appropriate. An additional area of focus is improving return home interviews.

The Representative of the Jersey Foster Care Association questioned the statistics. The Associate Director of Children's Social Care Services clarified the numbers. The



CEO of Jersey Cares outlined in the missing report that many children who are reported missing are also out of school, highlighting the importance of a dedicated dashboard of data to allow enhanced cross referencing. The Interim Director of Children's Services agreed, highlighting the ongoing work with the States of Jersey Police to explore all of the reasons why children go missing.

8. IRO report

The Manager, Independent Reviewing Officer and Child Protection Service presented the IRO report. The report recognised improvements within the IRO service. The Manager, Independent Reviewing Officer and Child Protection Service highlighted not everyone is familiar with the function of the service and this needs further work. Areas of improvement include improving relationships with children off island, as well as supporting children in care and children based off island that do not have the same housing entitlement as they would in Jersey. As part of the service they are exploring how they can come to an agreement on this.

9. Foster Carers Association lead and report & short JFCA report

The Fostering and Adoption Team Manager outlined the current statistics regarding fostering homes in Jersey. Since January, 7 new fostering families have been approved by the fostering panel, another 11 fostering households are under assessment. The Jersey Foster Care Association has re-structured into 4 teams to increase productivity and are focusing on staff retention. The Fostering and Adoption Team Manager noted there is a new clinical psychologist in the team to support foster carers.

The Minister for Housing raised concerns regarding siblings not being housed together. In response, the Associate Director of Children's Social Care Service outlined best practice would be that they stay together, however, assessments identify whether it is best for siblings to separate or not, which is based on the best interest of the children. 'Family time' is offered if children were split to stay in contact. The Fostering and Adoption Team Manager highlighted the housing gateway scheme has led to a sibling group being reunited. The Minister for Housing noted his thanks and gratitude for this information.

The Representative of the Jersey Foster Care Association presented the report highlighting the importance of diversity across foster carers. He explained they have reversed many issues across the service; however, the number of social workers children have in a year is still high. Some children have experienced 6 different social workers in a year. The Representative of the Jersey Foster Care Association outlined positive progress is being made as more foster carers are recruited. He cited recruitment issues were due to the high cost of living in Jersey and agency social workers on short contracts.

The Minister for Children and Families identified that previously, 60% of social workers were agency staff down to 40% in the last year. The Associate Director Children's



Social Care Service identified that contracts have now been changed to last 18 months to 2 years rather than 6 months. There was recognition across the board of improvement in the past year as agency workers are starting to stay longer.

10. Chat tool for children in care with comprehensive data collection

The Interim Director of Children's Services gave an overview of the statistics, highlighting there are still some children in residential care that would be better placed in foster homes. Officers are looking at how to move these children in a planned and careful way, as the priority is long term placement stability. The Representative of the Jersey Foster Care Association questioned some of the long-term placement figures. The Associate Director Children's Social Care Service agreed to take this back to the team.

The CEO of Jersey Cares highlighted the importance of creating our own metrics in Jersey, not following the UK, to ensure long term placement stability and to create our own definition of suitable accommodation.

11. AOB

The Minister for Children and Families expressed thanks for the board's attendance. The CE of Brightly queried the status of previous work between the Corporate Parenting Board and the Resolution Centre. The Minister for Children and Families outlined he is meeting with the Resolution Centre in the coming weeks.