CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 MAY 2026

Present: Cllrs Duncan Sowry-House (Vice-Chair), Julie Robinson, Cathy Lugg, Jindy Atwal and Carole Jones

Apologies: Cllr Bridget Bolwell

Also present: Simon Hester (NHS Dorset), Cllr Belinda Bawden, Cllr Alex Brenton, Cllr Scott Florek and Louise Maple (NHS Dorset)

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):
Toni Colledge (Quality Assurance Service Manager), Paul Dempsey (Executive Director - Children's Services), Louise Drury (Head of Service Children in Care and Care Leavers), Paula Golding (Corporate Director for Care and Protection), Jane Maclennan (Head of Service Leaving Care, Fostering and Adoption), Kaye Wright (Youth Voice Manager), Megan Cameron-Brown (Head of Quality Assurance and Partnerships), Susan Dallison (Democratic & Governance Services Team Leader), Jen Furnell (Corporate Director for Education and Learning), Kelly Henry (Head of Good Care Provision, Safeguarding and Business Support) and Anna Balistari (Youth Voice Officer)

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

   Cllr D Sowry-House, Vice-chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

   The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

   Cllr C Lugg declared an interest in agenda item 9 as an independent member of the Fostering Panel.

4. **Public Participation**

   There was no public participation.

5. **Corporate Parenting Dataset**

   Louise Drury, Head of Service, Children in Care, presented the Corporate Parenting Dataset. The Board noted the information and agreed to ask questions under the next agenda item, the Corporate Parenting Board Annual report.

6. **Corporate Parenting Board- Annual Report**

Louise Drury, Head of Service, Children in Care, presented the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.

Members asked a number of questions regarding reasons for the increase of the number of children in care over the last 2 quarters, the reasons for the children that had had 3 plus moves in the last 12 months, the classification of unsuitable accommodation, reasons children living more than 20 miles away from home or out of county and the provision of support for boys and young men. Responses were provided by the appropriate officer.

Cllr C Lugg expressed her disappointment that the Corporate Parenting Board had not responded to the Department for Education consultation on Fostering Reforms. Officers confirmed that the Council had responded to the consultation and had liaised with a number of key stakeholders on the response. The Vice-chair agreed to take Cllr Lugg's views on board and look at the frequency of meetings.

Cllr J Robinson asked for an update regarding 2 asylum seekers, officers agreed to provide an update on the welfare of those individuals outside of the meeting.

The report was noted.

7. **Fostering Service- annual report**

Jane Maclennan, Head of Service, Leaving Care, Fostering and Adoption introduced the Fostering Service Annual Report.

Members of the board noted the annual report.

8. **Fostering Panel Chair Report**

In the absence of Deborah Ford, Jane Macellan, Head of Service Leaving Care, Fostering and Adoption, presented the Fostering Panel Chair Report.

Members were advised that laptops would be delivered to foster carers over the coming weeks; the Vice-chair acknowledged that the concerns regarding the delivery of laptops was being addressed by officers.

Members of the board discussed the contents of the report and asked questions regarding: -

The kinship assessment and approval process
The Philomena Protocol
Fostering reforms and regionalisation of fostering services

and detailed responses to the questions were provided by officers.

The Board noted the report.

9. **Leaving Care Service- annual report**

Jane Maclennan, Head of Service Leaving Care, Fostering and Adoption introduced the Leaving Care Service Annual Report.

Members discussed the different categories of care leavers and the different levels of active engagement and service for young people who were in care that went up to the age of 21 or 25. In response to a comment regarding care leavers in BCHA accommodation not knowing what effect working had on their tenancy agreements, the board was advised that the council had 2 housing officers that were part of the care leavers team providing support around tenancy issues and Jane Maclennan agreed to take this point forward. Cllr C Jones also raised the issue that there was scope for Family Hubs to provide support for care leavers, the Vice-chair suggested that this issue could be worked on with the Family Hubs to provide better access.

The Board noted the report.

10. **Youth Voice Strategy for Care Experienced Children and Young People**

Kaye Wright, Youth Voice Team Manager introduced the report on the Youth Voice Strategy.

The Board noted the report.

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next formal meeting would be held on 26th November 2026.
The next informal meeting would be held on 23rd July 2026.

The Chair thanked those members who were not members of the panel but had chosen to attend the meeting, Cllr Bawden, Cllr Brenton and Cllr Florek.

12. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

13. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 3.00 - 4.29 pm

Chairman

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