

## **Scrutiny Committee, 9 March 2016**

### **Information Bulletin – Addendum**

#### **Update from Member with Special Responsibility for Children in Care (and for Specialist Provision from 1 March 2016).**

##### **Purpose and Objectives**

- To ensure that focus and consistency is brought to the delivery of services for children in Suffolk County Council's care, through its Corporate Parenting activities, primarily through Suffolk's Fostering and Adoption Service, and the authority's 5 residential homes.
- To monitor and shape the direction of support provided by working with officers, and carers to highlight and make changes as necessary to service provision.
- To analyse trends and changes in service processes and monitor budgets accordingly, working to suggest alternative strategies in order to react to changing and increasing demand pressures.
- Working alongside and supporting the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education & Skills.

##### **How this is done**

- Ensuring that the Council's statutory duties and objectives are fully supported in relation to:
  - Children's safeguarding and wellbeing.
  - Securing appropriate placements for children in care, either by adoption or fostering.
  - Receiving regular reports from the IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer) on the performance of our residential children's homes (section 44).
  - Providing scrutiny of educational attainment and support for all children in care.
  - Undertaking visits to, and communicating with, service teams, children's homes managers, fostering service, delivery partners.
  - Reporting regularly to the Corporate Parenting Board.

##### **Service Delivery Boards & Working Groups**

As part of my Special Responsibility I am a member of, attend, or have attended, the following:

- Corporate Parenting Board
- Children's Services Accountability Board
- Virtual Schools Governing Body (and Sub Group)
- Fostering & Adoption Panels
- Cabinet Member Briefings
- The MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) based in Landmark House

- Visiting Children's Homes
- County Resource Panel
- Suffolk Fostering Conference

I usually attend all Cabinet meetings, and if relevant, the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, and the Health Scrutiny Committee. Also attend various workshops and training events usually associated with the Fostering & Adoption Teams.

### **Other Activities**

- Work to promote the Fostering & Adoption service through media and other networking opportunities.
- Work with Fostering Panel members to highlight and suggest alternative ways of working, tackling service blockages and reporting to Corporate Parenting Board.
- Promoting the role of 'Corporate Parent' which all elected members should be conscious of.
- Contribute to the development of policies, strategies and initiatives.
- Research current trends, legislation, and what's happening in other authorities etc.

From March 2016 commencing to widen my responsibilities to include:

### **Specialist Provision for Children & Young People with SEN.**

- Support in schools
- Transition into Adulthood & Independent Living
- Residential & Supported Care
- Specialist Support Services

Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Member with Special Responsibility for Children in Care

### **Update from Member with Special Responsibility for Suffolk - the Most Active County"**

- Board Member of Suffolk Sport which has an overall look at Sport as passed down by Sport England - first actual Chair of the Board and liaised with Bedford Office in getting it set up.
- Trustee with Abbeycroft Leisure who is I believe an exemplar in how to deliver Health/Sport in not just West Suffolk.
- Promotion of mental Health issues - I believe I am making good links with not just Suffolk Mind but also other Voluntary Organisations.
- Committed not only to raise awareness but funding as well - to show my commitment I will personally be raising funding to promote their cause.
- Intend to do half marathon - not walking the walk but running the run.
- Linked with a Basketball Club in Bury and also Youth Football.

Councillor Terry Clements, Member with Special Responsibility for Suffolk - the Most Active County