

Expert by Experience Board

08th December 2021

Attendees

Board members:

- Angela Frazer-Wicks (Chair)
- Janet Kay
- Chris Wild
- Esi Cathline
- Chris Hoyle
- Margaret Mulowska
- David Akinsanya
- Helen Bell
- Rhiannon Parkinson
- Asif Salarzai

Review Team:

- Josh MacAlister, Chair
- Duncan Dunlop, Independent Adviser to the Review
- EbyE Secretariat
- Review Team Members

Apologies:

- Chloe Robinson
- Judith Denton
- Charmaine Orchard

Agenda Item 1: Minutes

The Board agreed previous minutes from October.

Agenda Item 2: Vision Statement

The vision statement is a starting point for the review team to begin thinking about recommendations. This has been shared with the evidence group who have also provided some feedback and the review team would like to test this to make sure the vision is pitched correctly. The team are likely to publish this in the final report and will consider all feedback beforehand.

Discussion

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- Working to reunite families should be included if possible but also note reunification may not always be the end goal
- “Grow up and grow old” wording well received
- To make sure that carers of children in care are supported by the state also to ensure that they can provide effectively for their children
- Agree with the word love being a priority
- Welcome emphasis on birth family support

Agenda item 3: Update on progress

- a) Tools
- b) **Headline recommendation areas**
- c) **Plan for the new year**

The review team updated the Board on the policy tools that have been used since the review started, including the engagement work. The team also shared a high-level summary of the draft themes that recommendations would go into. It was also explained how the team will be working after Christmas. The Board should consider how they wish to feed into the report and discuss this next year.

Discussion

- Agree with high level themes as being the priority ones but must consider how they would be implemented for any recommendation to be meaningful
- Should ensure recommendations include providing stability and support to families
- Foster carers need to be more empowered to make some of the decisions and take some of the actions that social workers do right now. Mockingbird focuses on relationships in care
- Who do we mean by the state? Who has the responsibility to be a pushy parent?
- Need to keep education for care experienced people in focus

Actions

The Board would like to have a follow up conversation on how they feed into recommendations once they have seen more detail. The Board would also like to think about how they can work after the review is completed and then hold those running the system to account for delivering the recommendations. (10,1)

Agenda Item 4: Celebration of the Board’s contribution this year

The review team thanked the Board for their contribution this year and celebrated the number of events, documents, videos, and blogs the Board have contributed to and led as well as all of the advice and input they have given to the thinking so far. Board members acknowledged how much work the review has done this year and agreed they have enjoyed working together.



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Agenda item 5: AOB and check out activity

The chair thanked Board for joining and reminded Board members of the next meeting in January.

