

Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference

Purpose

This Terms of Reference sets out Corporate Parenting Panel's responsibilities in relation to the five functional areas detailed in the Council's Constitution.

Function One

Ensure that the Council acts as a good corporate parent to children and young people in care and care leavers including:

- Young people in residential care
- Children and Young People in foster care
- Children placed for adoption
- Children placed at home under Placement with Parents Regulations
- Young people who are living in supported lodgings
- Young People in Secure services
- Young people in custody.

Responsibilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Take an overview of the Councils and partner agencies responsibilities toward CYP in Care and care leavers.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Monitor performance of services for children for whom we are corporate parents, including care leavers, receipt of information on regulation 44 visit and inspections, referring any systemic issues to Cabinet and or scrutiny as required.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Maintain a strategic overview of all developments, plans, policies and strategies for children whom the Council is a corporate parent and make appropriate recommendations for action.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ensure all members of the Council are regularly updated on issues affecting children for whom they are the corporate parent including care leavers through an annual report to Council, Cabinet and scrutiny and inform training.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Receive an overview of Regulation 44 visits and inspections of private children's homes within the County Durham area.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Agree an annual work programme based on corporate parenting strategy priorities.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To receive an update on independent residential homes within County Durham and their Ofsted inspection reports outcomes.</i>

Function Two

To engage and listen to the views of children, young people and their carers for whom the Council is the parent.

Responsibilities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Provide a forum for children and young people in care and care leavers to participate and influence policy and have an opportunity to talk about their experiences of the services they have received.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To ensure that positive experiences are maintained and lessons learnt and changes made in areas that require improvement.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To meet with children for whom the council is corporate parent and their carers on a regular basis and celebrate their achievements.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To participate in Regulation 44 visits quarterly will allow the Panel to improve planning understanding of care in residential homes.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ensure that leisure, cultural, further education and employment opportunities are offered and taken up by our looked after children and care leavers</i> |

Function Three

To work in partnership with other statutory agencies to drive forward improvements in care.

Responsibilities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Examine ways that the Council as a whole and partner agencies can improve life chances of children in care and care leavers.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ensure there is good joined up working with partner agencies.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Develop links with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board including a picture of Serious Case Reviews of Looked After Children</i> |

Function Four

To act as the governing body for the Virtual School for looked after children and young people.

Responsibilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To develop governance arrangements for the virtual school
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To monitor looked after children's educational attainment and performance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To encourage and support each looked after child to achieve optimum educational outcomes at each stage of their schooling

Function Five

To act as the governing body for Aycliffe secure services, monitoring and ensuring the quality of secure accommodation.

Responsibilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To develop governance arrangements for Aycliffe secure services maintaining an overview of these arrangements.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Support and bring challenge to achieve best outcomes for children who are looked after in secure services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Agree the themes and performance, on an annual basis that enhance corporate parenting of looked after children in secure services.</i>

Membership

1. The Corporate Parenting Panel membership will be made up of 21 members of the Council including the member of the Executive for Children and Young People's Services (or deputy), the Chair of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or vice chair).
2. The Corporate Parenting Panel membership will include 6 non-voting co-opted members, consisting of 3 school representatives and 3 representatives from other agencies.
3. The Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel (or vice Chair) will be a member of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Accountability /Governance

1. Prepare and provide an annual written report to Cabinet, Scrutiny and Council setting out the Panels achievements, challenges within the year and priorities for the year ahead.
2. Where appropriate the Corporate Parenting Panel refer matters to Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny for further investigation and similarly the Children and Young People's OSC refer matters to the CPP where appropriate.
3. Regular bi monthly meetings held between the Chair of CPP another panel member, an officer from Children's Services and representatives from Service Direct to discuss the fabric of our children's homes and any repairs that are planned or may be needed.
4. Prepare and publish the Panel's terms of reference and work programme on the Council's website on an annual basis.

Administration

1. The Chair of Corporate Parenting and the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services or person designated as lead officer agree the agenda for each panel meeting as part of an ongoing work plan for the municipal year.
2. Legal and Democratic Services will provide administrative arrangements (including arrangement of meetings, publication and despatch of agendas and minute taking responsibilities) and constitutional guidance to the panel.
3. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, the Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel and the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services will review the terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel on an annual basis.