

ROTHERHAM CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Corporate Parenting Panel

1. Our Commitment to Children and Young People in care:

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is committed to raising the quality of life of everyone living within the borough. For children in particular, the council aims to provide high quality opportunities for learning and ensure children are healthy and safe. It is important that the Corporate Parenting Panel members ensure that the Council provides such care, education and opportunities that the Panel would be afforded to their own children.

2. Purpose:

- i) To lead on behalf of the Council and partners of the Local Authority to ensure that all services directly provided for children and young people in care and care leavers are scrutinised to deliver to a high standard and to all statutory requirements.
- ii) To raise the aspiration, ambitions and life chances of children and young people in care and care leavers, narrowing the gap of achievement between children in care, care leavers and their peers.
- iii) To ensure that children in care are protected and supported to develop as healthy citizens, able to participate in their community.
- iv) To ensure that all elected members are aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities and that all Council services are mindful of the needs of children in care and respond accordingly within their particular remit.

3. Functions of the Panel:

- i) To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children (LAC) services, children's homes, and the virtual school with a view to recommending any changes.
- ii) Ensure that the profile of the corporate parenting agenda is incorporated into key plans, policies and strategies through out the Council overseeing interagency working arrangements. Review reports relating to complaints from looked after children to ensure officers have dealt with these appropriately and made any recommendations for change.
- iii) Raise awareness in Rotherham Council and the wider community by promoting the role of members as corporate parents and the Council as a large corporate family with key responsibilities.
- iv) Raise the profile of the needs of looked after children and care leavers through a range of actions including through the organising of celebratory events for the recognition of achievement.
- v) Ensure that leisure, cultural, further education and employment opportunities are offered and taken up by our looked after children and care leavers.

- vi) Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Panel to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.
- vii) Undertake meetings with children and young people in care, frontline staff and foster carers to inform the panel of the standards of care and improvement outcomes for looked after children.
- viii) Monitor the ongoing commitment to providing support, training and clarity of expectations to foster carers to achieve excellent and high quality care.
- ix) To appoint elected members to undertake visits to residential children's homes alongside the appointed regulation 44 visitor where appropriate.
- x) To participate in the QA Visits to Out of Authority Visits alongside the Placements and Commissioning Team.
- xi) To undertake QA visits to their teams and services in and related to the LAC Service to improve understanding of the functioning of the service and contribute to service development.
- xii) To appoint elected members as Champions for Children in Care in respect of the following strands:
 - *Housing – Cllr Watson*
 - *Employment and training opportunities within council departments and with partner agencies – Cllr M Elliott*
 - *Health (including mental health)- Cllr J Elliott*
 - *Educational Attainment and access to Higher Education – Cllr Watson*
 - *Foster carer recruitment and retention – Cllr Cusworth*
 - *Response to those who go missing – Cllr Clark*

4. Children in Care Council

Representatives from the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers' Forum will contribute to the Corporate Parenting Panel through methods agreed with them

5. Work Programme

The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet every two months, formally agreeing a skeleton work programme annually and reviewing at each meeting. In reviewing the work programme, the panel may agree to request reports on particular matters of their own preference or as advised by the lead officer.

6. Performance Monitoring

The Corporate Parenting Panel will scrutinise and monitor outcomes for children in care and care leavers. To this end, the panel will develop and agree a core data set which it wishes to receive at each panel meeting. Additional detailed monitoring reports will be presented in accordance with the agreed work programme on the following key aspects of care:

- Placement stability

- Independent child care reviews
- The performance of all care standards regulated services:
 - Adoption and adoption support;
 - Fostering; and
 - Children's homes
- Service to care leavers, including accommodation, education, employment and training
- The health needs of children in care
- Educational attainment of children in care

7. Membership of the Panel

There will be standing membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel to provide continuity and consistency. Councillors outside the standing membership will be invited to discuss issues and raise questions within a standing agenda item.

Membership to include key partners and will include senior local police officer, Virtual Head Teacher, a representative from Housing and designated Health lead.

The Councillor standing membership will consist of up to 10 members, which will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Advisory Lead Member will be chair the panel.

The CPP has nominated Cllr Cusworth to be the vice chair of the Panel.

Membership will also include a foster carer and representatives from the Children in Care Council.

8. Officer support

- The Strategic Director of Children's Services is responsible for ensuring that the panel has sufficient officer support to lead the council's corporate parenting strategy.
- The Assistant Deputy Director, Children and Young People's Services, will be the lead officer for the panel together with the Heads of Service/ Service Managers for Looked after Children, Leaving Care, Adoption and Fostering, the Head of the Virtual School and the Children's Rights lead.
- Democratic Services will provide the administrative arrangements and constitutional guidance to the panel.

9. Training

Appropriate training will be commissioned for corporate panel members as required.

Total Respect training is to be recommended and commissioned for Corporate Parenting Panel Members.

10.. Frequency of meetings:

Meetings will be bi-monthly preceded by an agenda setting meeting.

11. Reporting Mechanisms:

The Corporate Parenting Panel will report to the Local Safeguarding Children Board, the appropriate Scrutiny Panel, Health and Well Being Board and the Children and Young People's Partnership on a six monthly basis.

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