

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Corporate Parenting Panel

**Report Title**

Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Terms of Reference

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Name of Strategic Director

Nicola Curley

**Report Author(s)**

Laura Gough, Head of Service

Laura.Gough@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

All

**Report Summary**

This report introduces the proposed Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel.

The proposed Terms of Reference propose a small number of changes to the Corporate Parenting Panel, which will provide accountability and scrutiny to the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024 – 2027, Local Offer (in production) and Leaving Care Action Plan 2023, which all underpin the care provided to children in care and care leavers in Rotherham.

The main changes are:

- It is proposed that the meeting moves from a public panel meeting to a closed Board meeting.
- The proposed Terms of Reference have replaced the name Corporate Parenting Panel to Corporate Parenting Partnership Board to reflect children's wider needs including health and education colleagues.
- It is proposed that the frequency of meetings, increase from four meetings to six meetings a year to ensure sufficient capacity for business to be completed.

The Terms of Reference are being presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel for noting and are subject to approval by Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.

**Recommendations**

1. That the new Terms of Reference are noted.

### **List of Appendices Included**

- Appendix 1 Corporate Parenting Partnership Board ToR 2023 - 2024
- Appendix 2 Corporate Parenting Panel April ToR 2019
- Appendix 3 Corporate Parenting Strategy

### **Background Papers**

See Appendix

### **Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Corporate Parenting Panel – 23 January 2024

### **Council Approval Required**

No

### **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

### **Error! Reference source not found.**

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1.1 The DfE Statutory guidance, applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers, for local authorities is about the role of local authorities and the application of corporate parenting principles as set out in section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Local authorities must have regard to the seven needs identified in the Children and Social Work Act when exercising their functions in relation to looked-after children and care leavers (relevant children and former relevant children). It should be read and applied alongside the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: care planning, placement and case review and The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: planning transition to adulthood for care leavers.
- 1.1.2 All children in care and care leavers deserve to be provided with the highest quality service, which supports them to transform their life chances and have better futures. We expect all of our children in care and care leavers to experience safe, stable, and nurturing homes, with strong relationships and high levels of resilience. We intend to support all of our children to develop appropriate independence, to express their views and to make positive choices. In Rotherham we want to give every child and young person the best opportunities to be successful in their adulthood, and the Corporate Parenting Panel has an important role in ensuring that this happens.
- 1.1.3 To support our ambition for children in our care and care leavers and support the above Strategy, Local Offer and Action Plan the Corporate Parenting Panel has refreshed the Terms of Reference, and which is presented to the Panel on the 23 January 2023.

- 1.1.4 The proposed Terms of Reference set out how the Corporate Parenting Panel will fulfil its statutory functions with regards to children in care and care leavers in Rotherham.
- 1.1.5 The proposed Terms of Reference are in respect of children in care and care leavers. As of January 2024, there are 504 children in care and 344 care leavers. The proposed Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Partnership panel are in regard to these children and young people and the care and parenting afforded to them.
- 1.1.6 The proposed Terms of Reference are being presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel for noting.
- 1.2 The Legal Context  
When a child comes into care, the council becomes the Corporate Parent. 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, become responsible for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are cared after by the council. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council hold the main legal duty of Corporate Parent for children in care and care leavers.
- 1.2.1 The DfE national Corporate Parenting Principles set out seven principles that local authorities will have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to children in care and care leavers and which can be found at [Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk). The Corporate parenting Partnership Board will have consideration of the principals when exercising their duties.

## 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Council hold the main legal duty of care for Corporate Parenting for children in care and care leavers. They are required to produce a Corporate Parenting Strategy, and a Local Offer. Both these documents will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel agenda for review and approval.
- 2.1.2 The Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel review of the Terms of Reference has paid attention to the legislation, strategies and local needs and requirements of children and young people. With that in mind there were key changes to the proposed Terms of Reference.

These are:

- 2.1.3
- The Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference were reviewed in 2023 and it is proposed to be retitled to Corporate Parenting Partnership Board. This change is to reflect that corporate parenting is more than the council, and the Board includes professionals to represent wider needs of children in care and care leavers and ambitions for their futures.

- 2.1.4 • The meeting is proposed to move from a public panel meeting to a closed Board meeting out of the public arena. It was recognised that by having the meeting as a public meeting, it added complications to how the business was undertaken, and information shared. This includes the possibility of members of the public requesting to attend and additional measures required to managing any confidential aspects, that some agenda items required additional authorisation and sign off prior to publication and holding a public meeting presented additional issues when inviting children and young people to the meeting.
- 2.1.5 • The frequency of meetings is proposed to increase. Meetings are held quarterly. However, it has been recognised that this frequency does not provide sufficient time and opportunity for the level of scrutiny and assurance required. An addition of two further meetings, taking the meeting frequency to six meetings a year, offers opportunity for comprehensive discussion and scrutiny on all areas. The additional meetings will add value to the governance arrangements, whilst ensuring that all reports will continue to have the same level of governance arrangements and sign off process.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 Option one, to note the proposed Terms of Reference.  
The new proposed Terms of Reference provide a current reflection of the local needs and are aligned to the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-2027.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The new proposed Terms of Reference are to be noted at the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting.

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 The new proposed Terms of Reference will be implemented following approval at Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, subject to the call-in period.

### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

There are no financial implications

### **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

Approval of the proposed changes

**8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

There are no HR implications

**9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is a legal requirement, which aims to scrutinise and hold to account the council and relevant partners and with regards to children in care and care leavers in Rotherham. This has a significant impact for children, their safety, wellbeing, and welfare now and in the future. The proposed Terms of Reference sets out how the Panel will fulfil this role.

**10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 Equality and human rights are considered within the Corporate Parenting Strategy and proposed Terms of Reference.

**11. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 There are no implications.

**12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 Implications for partners are reflected in the proposed Terms of Reference Document.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 Risks and mitigations have been referred to in this document recommendations.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (If appropriate)	Amy Leech	Click here to enter a date.
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Please select the relevant Strategic Director	Click here to enter a date.
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Please select the relevant Cabinet Member	Click here to enter a date.

*Report Author: Laura Gough, Head of Service*  
*Laura.Gough@rotherham.gov.uk*  
 This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

## Appendix

### Appendix 1 Terms of Reference 2019



Corporate Parenting  
Panel - Revised Terms

### Appendix 2 Terms of Reference 2024



ROTHERHAM  
CORPORATE PARENT

### Appendix 3 Corporate parenting Strategy 2024-27



Appendix 1 -  
Corporate Parenting S