

Draft Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Board

Overall Purpose:

To advise the relevant Executive Member(s) in relation to the Council's requirement to be a Corporate Parent for children in care and care leavers; to support the overall effectiveness of the Council's corporate parenting function.

Objectives:

To provide holistic, member driven engagement with the key areas of the corporate parenting function. These include:

- (i) The views of children in care about the services they receive from the Council.
- (ii) Methods to raise the aspiration, ambitions and life chances of children in care and care leavers, narrowing the gap of achievement and outcomes between children in care (CIC) and their peers.
- (iii) Raising awareness amongst all elected members of their corporate parenting responsibilities as per Part 1, Chapter 2, paragraph 3.2.7 of the County Council's Constitution.
- (iv) Ensuring that all Council services are mindful of the needs of children in care and care leavers and respond accordingly within their remit.
- (v) The outcomes of Ofsted inspections as they may arise and any actions that are required to improve services to children in care and care leavers.
- (vi) The promotion of excellent and innovative practice in relation to the Corporate Parent role from which others can learn.

To pro-actively engage with forums that include and represent children in care and care leavers in Hampshire; in particular with the Hampshire Care Ambassadors. To pro-actively engage with other relevant partners and stakeholders in pursuance of achieving positive outcomes for children in care. Such engagement may include members of the Corporate Parenting Board attending formal or informal events involving partners and stakeholders with the objective of gaining a better understanding of the key issues. The Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Board may also extend an invitation to relevant partners and stakeholders, including representatives of the Hampshire Care Ambassadors to attend meetings of the Board to seek their view on appropriate agenda items.

Frequency of Meetings:

Proposed as three times per year

Governance:

All formal meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board shall be conducted in accordance with the County Council's Constitution, in particular with Part 3, Chapter 1 (Standing Orders) and Part 3, Chapter 4 (Public Access to Information).

Membership

The Corporate Parenting Board shall consist of a sufficient number of County Councillor members as is agreed appropriate by the County Council.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Board shall be appointed by County Council in accordance with Standing Order 6.2.

The members of the Corporate Parenting Board, including substitute Members, shall be appointed proportionately by the County Council in accordance with Standing Order 24.