

# **PETERBOROUGH CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **Corporate Parenting Panel**

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

Peterborough City Council is committed to raising the quality of life of everyone living within the city. For children in particular, the city 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, narrowing the gap of achievement between children in care 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 and children's homes 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 complaints from looked after children to ensure officers have dealt with these appropriately and made any recommendations for change.
- iii) Raise awareness in Peterborough City 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 committee 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 as Champions for Children in Care in respect of the following strands:
  - Housing
  - Employment and training opportunities within council departments and with partner agencies
  - Health
  - Educational Attainment and access to Higher Education
  - Recreation and Leisure activities
  - Finance and benefits

#### **4. Children in Care Council**

Representatives from the Children in Care Council may attend the Corporate Parenting Panel up until and no later than 8pm .

#### **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.

The Councillor standing membership will consist of up to 14 members, which will be reviewed on an annual basis.

A chair will be appointed by the elected members of the panel.

A vice chair will be appointed by the elected members of panel.

Membership will also include two foster carers and representatives from the Children in Care Council.

## **8. Officer support**

- The 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 Director, Safeguarding, will be the lead officer for the panel together with the Service Managers for Looked after Children, Leaving Care, Adoption and Fostering, the Head of the Virtual School and the Children's Services Participation Officer.
- Democratic Services will provide the administrative arrangements and constitutional guidance to the panel.

## **9. Frequency of meetings:**

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

## **10. Reporting Mechanisms:**

The Corporate Parenting Panel will report to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and to the Scrutiny Panel on a six monthly basis or more frequently if required.

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