

PETERBOROUGH CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

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 Committee members ensure that the Council provides such care, education and opportunities that the Committee would be afforded to their own children.

2 PURPOSE:

- 2.1 To ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as Corporate Parent for all children and young people in care and care leavers and holds partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 To ensure that children in care are protected and supported to develop as healthy citizens, able to participate in their community.
- 2.5 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 COMMITTEE:

- 3.1 To act as advocates for looked after children and care leavers.
- 3.2 To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.
- 3.3 Ensure that the needs of looked after children and care leavers are addressed through key plans, policies and strategies throughout the Council overseeing interagency working arrangements.
- 3.4 Review complaints from looked after children to ensure officers have dealt with these appropriately and made any recommendations for change.

- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.
- (a) 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.
 - (b) Ensure that leisure, cultural, further education and employment opportunities are offered and taken up by our looked after children and care leavers.
 - (c) Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.
 - (d) Hold 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.
 - (e) Monitor the ongoing commitment to providing support, training and clarity of expectations to foster carers to achieve excellent and high quality care.
 - (f) To appoint elected members as Champions for Children in Care in respect of the following strands:
 - i) Housing
 - ii) Employment and training opportunities within council departments and with partner agencies
 - iii) Health
 - iv) Educational Attainment and access to Higher Education
 - v) Recreation and Leisure activities
 - vi) Finance and benefits

4 WORK PROGRAMME

The Corporate Parenting Committee will formally agree a skeleton work programme annually which will be reviewed at each formal meeting. In reviewing the work programme, the Committee may agree to request reports on particular matters of their own preference or as advised by the lead officer.

5 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

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

- (a) Placement stability
- (b) Independent child care reviews
- (c) The performance of all care standards regulated services
- (d) Adoption and adoption support
- (e) Fostering
- (f) Children's homes

- (g) Service to care leavers, including accommodation, education, employment and training
- (h) The health needs of children in care
- (i) Educational attainment of children in care

6 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

- 6.1 There will be a standing membership of the Corporate Parenting Committee to provide continuity and consistency. Councillors outside the standing membership will be invited to discuss issues and raise questions within a standing agenda item.
- 6.2 The Councillor standing membership will consist of 11 members. All Councillors are invited to attend the informal meetings.
- 6.3 The Committee may also co-opt non-voting members. Membership will include four foster carers and representatives from the Children in Care Council. The Committee may invite participation from non-members where this is relevant to their work.

7 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

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

8 OFFICER SUPPORT

- 8.1 The Corporate Director People and Communities is responsible for ensuring that the Committee has sufficient officer support to lead the Council's corporate parenting strategy.
- 8.2 The Assistant Director, for Children's Social Care, will be the lead officer for the Committee 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.
- 8.3 Democratic Services will provide the administrative arrangements and constitutional guidance to the Committee.

9 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:

- 9.1 Meetings will be six times a year bi-monthly preceded by an agenda setting meeting.
- 9.2 At least three meetings will be formal committee meetings and three informal meetings. The purpose of the informal meetings will be to engage with children, young people and their representatives.

10. REPORTING MECHANISMS:

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

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