

Corporate Parenting Board – Terms of Reference

The Corporate Parenting Board supports the delivery of a Corporate Parenting Strategy across the Council and is driving the improvements in corporate parenting as identified in the Improvement Action Plan arising from the recommendations made by Ofsted following their Inspection in September 2016.

At the meeting of Council on 24 June 2015, a decision was taken to establish a Corporate Parenting Board and since then the Board has been reconstituted annually and the Terms of Reference updated. This Board is non-decision making and is not subject to access to information rules. This report seeks approval for the Board to be re-constituted for the 2019-2020 Municipal Year on a 1:1:1:1 ratio and based upon the Terms of Reference as set out below;

Purpose: To ensure that the Council fulfills its responsibilities as good corporate parents for all their children in care.

The Corporate Parenting Board is accountable to Full Council through its Cabinet. Initial reporting of concerns will be escalated by the cabinet portfolio holder to appropriate governance bodies including Cabinet.

The Board will meet for a minimum of six times per annum (bi-monthly).

Membership:

Cabinet Portfolio Holder (with responsibility for Children)
Elected Members representing all political parties
Chair of Children's Scrutiny Panel (ex-officio Member) or his/her nominee
Director of Children's Services
Service Director, Family Support and Child Protection
Service Director, Learning and Early Support
Service Director, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships
Chair of Governors
Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency)
Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)
Virtual School Head Teacher
Virtual School Chair or Vice Chair of Governing Body
Integrated Commissioning Manager
Principal Social Worker
Interim Head of Service (Safeguarding and Quality Assurance - Children)
Designated Nurse for Looked after children
Representatives from Kirklees Fostering Network
Care Leavers Advocate (Family Support and Child Protection)
Social Work Practice Lead (Team Manager for Children's Rights, Compliments and Complaints Unit and Legal Project Officers)

Representatives from a range of services and partner agencies will be invited as appropriate and will receive papers including: Kirklees College, Calderdale and Kirklees Careers, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, Sufficiency Team, Performance Team and Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing

Terms of Reference:

- 1 There is a requirement that all Board Members will make enquiries or visit services and partners to assist in exploring the role of the Council as a Corporate Parent and report back to the Board.
- 2 To consider and recommend ways in which the Council can improve the life chances of all children in care and care leavers.
- 3 To advise the Council's Cabinet and other governance bodies of actions that need to be taken.
- 4 To bring to the attention of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee any areas which may warrant Scrutiny consideration
- 5 To ensure there are good partnerships between council departments and partner agencies and that Council services and partners are held to account for their strategies and operational delivery.
- 6 To provide an opportunity for the voice of our children and young people to inform the considerations and recommendations of the Board.
- 7 To maintain a strategic overview of new developments, initiatives, plans, policies and strategies that impact on services for children and young people in or leaving our care.
- 8 To monitor the performance of the Council by receiving regular progress reports on all performance data relating to Corporate Parenting Services.
- 9 To receive regular reports on the progress and needs of care leavers including employment, further education, training, housing and health.
9. To consider statutory reports from the Adoption and Fostering Services, Independent Reviewing Officers, Residential and Youth Offending Teams and make recommendations.
10. To agree an annual work programme setting out its key priorities and areas for action.
11. To prepare an Annual Report on the areas considered by the Board, including its work programme, for presentation to Council and Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 11 To acknowledge and celebrate in the achievements of children and young people in care and support and participate in annual celebration events.

12 Review on an annual basis the Statements of Purpose of the Kirklees Fostering Service and Kirklees Registered Children's Homes

13 To receive an Annual Report on:-

- One Adoption (West Yorkshire)
- Children who go missing from care
- Health of looked after children
- The educational outcomes for looked after children
- The work of the Leaving Care Service
- Children and young people placed outside the Kirklees boundary
- Youth Offending Team relating to their work with children in care
- Private Fostering Service
- Children's Rights and Advocacy
- Complaints and Compliments
- Membership and Terms of Reference of the Board
- The Sufficiency of Placements for Children in Care