

## Kirklees Parenting Board – Terms of Reference

### Draft March 2024

Version & Date:	Name of lead officer	Date of approval
Version (1) March 2024	Joel Hanna HoS CP.	
Version (2) April 2024	Joel Hanna HoS CP.	ELT 09/04/24
Version (3) April 2024	Joel Hanna HoS. CP	Cllr Kendrick 10/04/24
Version (4) April 2024	Joel Hanna HoS. CP	Tom Brailsford 11/04/2024

#### **Aim.**

Kirklees Council is committed to delivering the best possible services to meet the needs of children and young people living in and leaving care in the local authority. The council has established a strong corporate parenting ethos across the authority recognising that to maximise opportunities and provide the best possible outcomes for our care leavers and children in our care we need to maintain a strong partnership.

All children need love and stability to thrive. Our strong corporate parenting ethos means that everyone in the authority from the Chief Executive to our front-line staff, all elected council members and our statutory and wider partners are committed to delivering the best for our children and care leavers as if they were their own family.

The aim of the board is to provide, promote and embed a culture where council officers and partners do everything possible to ensure that our corporate parenting partnership is the best 'parent' it can be, always thinking '**would this be good enough for our own children**'.

The Corporate Parenting Board will ensure that the council work collectively to make sure children in Kirklees's care get the best possible support and services through their care and care leavers journey.

#### **The Objectives**

The key objectives of our Kirklees Parenting Board are to:

- ❖ agree and set the strategic plan for children in care and care leavers ensuring that key priorities are effectively delivered.
- ❖ ensure that the voice of children and care leavers is listened and responded to in relation to their experiences of being in care and the kinds of services they want.
- ❖ examine and challenge key data relating to children in care and care leavers and support continuous improvements.
- ❖ explore the extent to which the Council and its partners are contributing to meeting the needs of children in care and care leavers.
- ❖ ensure that the strategic plans for children in care and care leavers are being effectively delivered.

- ❖ Identify and celebrate the achievements of individual children in care and care leavers.
- ❖ be a champion for children in care and care leavers in the Council and across partners promoting the philosophy of : “**would this be good enough for my child?**”
- ❖ ensure those planning, delivering, and monitoring services have taken account of inclusion, diversity and equality issues affecting children in care and care leavers.
- ❖ monitor the implementation of agreed actions, in particular actions taken in response to the views of children and young people.
- ❖ ensure that all members of the board promote the opportunities and understanding of the needs of children and young people across their area of specialism.

**These objectives will be delivered by:**

- ❖ Listening to the feedback from children and young people and making proposals for action within the Council and across our partnership to improve services to children in care and care leavers.
- ❖ Monitoring progress and development of children and young people in key areas such as education, health, accommodation, and employment opportunities by using management information.
- ❖ Making recommendations to the Council on ways of improving development opportunities for children and young people, and the quality of care offered to children in care and care leavers in Kirklees.
- ❖ Engaging in opportunities to obtain direct feedback and experiences of those in receipt of or who deliver our services.
- ❖ Engaging in annual ‘take over’ events with the children in care council and care leavers forum.

**Board Membership:**

Our corporate parenting partnership is supported by a broad membership committed to delivering our strategic priorities. The board is supported by council officers listed below as supporting Officers. Where board members are unable to attend, they should make efforts to send a suitable nominee able to represent their organisation.

**Board Members:**

Lead Members for Children’s Services (Co-Chair)  
 Chief Executive Officer of the council (Vice-Chair)  
 Representative from the Kirklees Care Leaver’s Forum  
 Representatives Elected Members from all political groups in the council  
 Director of Children’s Services  
 Chief Quality and Nursing Officer ICB  
 Designated Nurse for Children Looked After  
 Designated Doctor for Children Looked After  
 Representatives from Kirklees Fostering Network  
 Representative from Kirklees College  
 Huddersfield Town Foundation Trust  
 Representative from Huddersfield University

Representative from Locala  
West Yorkshire Police District Commander  
Service Director from Neighbourhood & Housing  
National Probation Service  
Public Health Kirklees Council

**Supporting Officers:**

Service Director, Family Support and Child Protection  
Service Director from Adult Services  
Service Director, Learning and Early Support  
Service Director, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships  
Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency)  
Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)  
Head of the Virtual School Head  
Head of contextual Safeguarding and Youth Engagement Services  
Integrated Commissioning Manager

**Board Observers/ ex officio. members and for papers.**

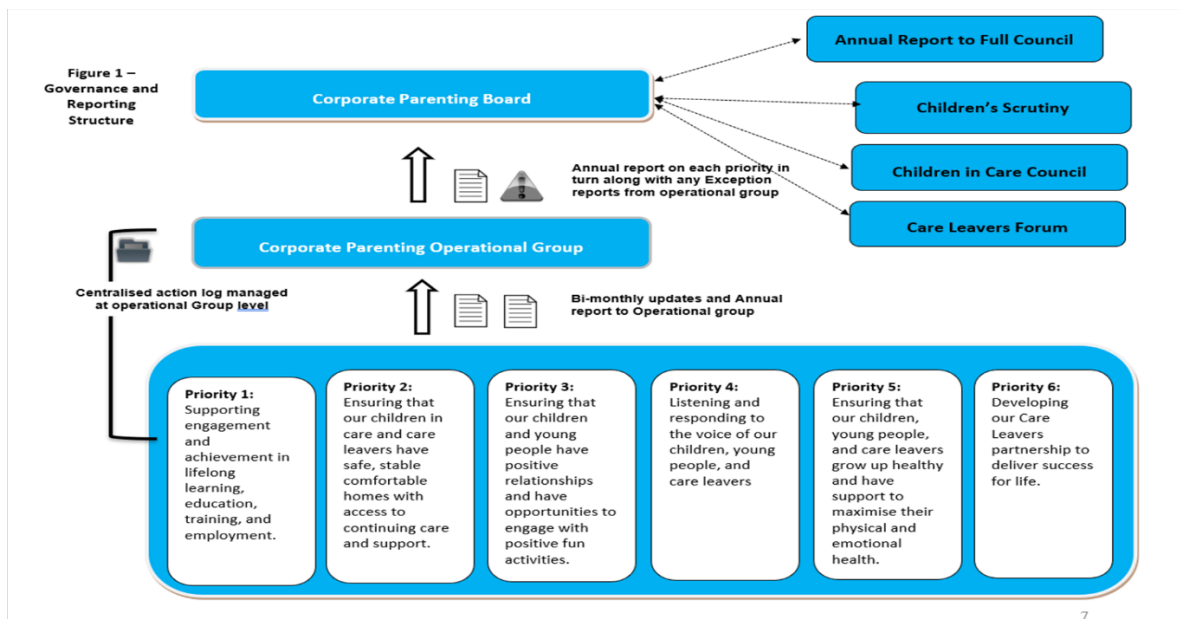
Chair of Children's Scrutiny Panel or his/her/their nominee  
Leader of the council

**Administration and arrangements**

Kirklees Corporate Parenting Board brings together a broad partnership of senior council officers, elected members and partner organisations and agencies to deliver the agreed **strategic plan for corporate parenting** across the authority. The Board will meet a minimum of six times per annum (bi-monthly) ensuring the children and young people in care and/or care leavers voices are represented within each meeting. Progress of each of the agreed strategic priorities will be presented for an overview and update report to the board with one priority reported in turn as the substantial agenda item for discussion and consideration.

The board will report progress on delivering the authority's corporate parenting strategy to full council on an annual basis. *figure 1* below. The board will also receive an update on our children's residential homes outlining inspection and independent visitor feedback.

**Fig 1**



Agenda and papers for each meeting will be circulated 5 working days prior to each meeting and the forward plan for board meetings will be arranged to maximise attendance and engagement for Care Leaver's Forum representatives through 50% evening meetings. Minutes and agenda for all board meetings will be shared with the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers forum for comment and contribution via the Head of Service for corporate parenting.

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