

Hampshire Corporate Parenting Board

DRAFT Terms of Reference

The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) is a Board made up of Hampshire County Council's elected councillors representing all parties, as well as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Care Experienced Adults Council. Multi-agency partners in Hampshire, who are responsible for delivering good and effective corporate parenting for children and young people, are invited to attend the Board to provide updates that evidence their positive impact on children and young people.

The Board confirms the joint commitment to improving services and outcomes for children looked after (CLA) and care leavers for whom the Council is corporate parent. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board are drawn from Hampshire County Council's elected councillors.

PURPOSE

The Corporate Parenting Board acts to assist the Council in continuing to fulfil its legal obligations and responsibilities towards children looked after (CLA) and leaving care, under the Children Act 1989 and Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

The key role for members of the Corporate Parenting Board is to listen to the voice of children and young people looked after and leaving care and ensure that their views influence service design, delivery and improvement. The Board should be able to clearly demonstrate its impact and communicate this to children and young people.

The Corporate Parenting Board acts strategically to ensure that children looked after and care leavers are effectively supported to reach their potential through the provision of excellent parenting, high quality education, opportunities to develop their talents and skills, and effective support for their transition to adulthood.

The Corporate Parenting Board has a responsibility to oversee and review the quality and effectiveness of services for CLA delivered by Corporate Parents, this includes the council, partner agencies and commissioned services, to ensure that every child and young person looked after is supported to be safe, happy, healthy and to achieve their full potential.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

The Corporate Parenting Board is chaired by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board shall be appointed by County Council in accordance with Standing Order 6.2. There will be nine Members in the Corporate Parenting Board, in addition to Substitute Members, who shall be appointed by the County Council in accordance with Standing Order 24.

The involvement of young people from Hampshire's Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Care Experienced Adults Council (CEAC) is a crucial element of the Board's functioning to ensure young people who are looked after or care experienced meet directly with key decision-makers and influence the priorities, decisions and service developments. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Care Experienced Adults Council will be co-opted on to the Board and will be able to contribute to the work and impact of the Board and agree recommendations. The Chair of the Hampshire Fostering Network will also be co-opted on to the Board.

The Executive Member for Education shall have a standing invitation to attend and observe meetings of the Board.

ATTENDANCE AT THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD:

The role of officers and partner agencies at the Board will be to update and complement the Board's knowledge of the priorities, service delivery and service improvements in relation to children in care and care leavers.

- **Officers:**

Officers with responsibility or strategic lead for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Participation will be standing attendees of the Board.

- **Partner agencies:**

The Chair will write to senior executives within Health, Police and District Councils on an annual basis, to remind them of their corporate parenting responsibilities and to ensure representation at all Board meetings. Partners will be invited to contribute to agenda items and respond to queries from members, which will evidence the impact that hearing the voice of children in care and care leavers is having on their organisation.

- **Other attendees:**

Other officers or representatives may be asked to attend the Board to present specific items on the agenda as agreed by the Chair and the Director of Children's Services.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Proposed as four times per year, with a separate non-public meeting with CiCC and CEAC members that takes place in tandem with the main Board meeting and at other times as required, when agreed by the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board.

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).