

**25 October 2022****Agenda Item: 3****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
SERVICES****CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL – TERMS OF REFERENCE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To establish the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel ('the Panel'), as set out in **Appendix A** to the report.

**Information**

2. The Panel was established by Full Council at the meeting on 12 May 2022 to assist the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties, and to ensure that the Council and partner agencies act as effective corporate parents. Full Council resolved that 2 members of the Conservative Group, 1 member of the Labour Group and 1 member of the Independent Alliance shall be appointed to the Panel.
3. The Department for Education publishes statutory guidance for local authorities on applying corporate parenting principles to looked after children and care leavers, and this includes principles of good parenting that need to be applied for children to thrive. In this context, the scope and responsibilities of the Panel are:
  - to consider relevant observations and recommendations from Ofsted inspection and Regulation 44 reports
  - to consider key local and national reports that make recommendations about practice and strategy in relation to the safety of looked after children
  - to receive data reports that can be used to formulate questions and investigations into different aspects of the safety, wellbeing, progress and quality of care for looked after children; and
  - take an active interest in the services delivered by health, justice, and school and education partners to children in care.
4. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Panel will:
  - provide an oversight of the safety and quality of care of all places where children who are looked after by the Council live
  - consider reports from No Labels (the Children in Care Council), the Foster Carers Liaison Group (FLAG), and the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership Board, and make appropriate recommendations

- scrutinise information relating to children in care who are alleged victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, at risk of sexual exploitation or who commit sexually harmful acts whilst in a care setting, and make appropriate recommendations for any improvements
  - scrutinise information on children in care's physical, emotional and mental health, educational attainment, and the quality of services they receive, and make appropriate recommendations for any improvements
  - consider any issues relating to the criminalisation of children in care
  - ensure that the views of children and young people receiving care (and, where relevant, their parents or carers, foster carers, and residential staff) are considered in the development of safe and effective services; and
  - make recommendations to and support the decision-making of the Cabinet Member with the remit for Children and Young People.
5. The core membership of the Panel will also include appropriate senior officers from the relevant service areas, to support members in carrying out the Panel's responsibilities.

### **Other Options Considered**

6. To not develop Terms of Reference for the Panel: this option is rejected as the Panel has been established to assist the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties, and it is important that the Panel's purpose, scope and responsibilities are set out in appropriate Terms of Reference.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

7. To ensure that the Panel's purpose, scope and responsibilities are set out in an appropriate Terms of Reference, so that it can assist the Council effectively in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and, where such implications are material, they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues, as required.

### **Financial Implications**

9. The establishment of the Panel's proposed Terms of Reference does not give rise to any additional financial implications.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1) That the proposed Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel, attached as **Appendix 1**, be approved.

**Colin Pettigrew**  
**Corporate Director for Children and Families Services**

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### **Constitutional Comments (CEH 13/10/22)**

10. As part of its consideration of a report on the 'Establishment of Committees' on 12 May 2022, the Full Council resolved that the Panel shall establish its Terms of Reference.

### **Financial Comments (CDS 13/10/22)**

11. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Establishment of Committees – report to Full Council on 12 May 2022 \(item 13, Appendix B\)](#)

['Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers – Statutory guidance for local authorities' – Department for Education, February 2018](#)

### **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

All.

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