

Corporate Parenting Panel

Tuesday, 25 October 2022 at 14:30

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 3 | Terms of Reference | 3 - 10 |
| 4 | Work Programme | 11 - 14 |
| 5 | Corporate Parenting for Councillors – E-Learning Resource | |

Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Adrian Mann (Tel. 0115 804 4609) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

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

For any enquiries about this report, please contact:

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources
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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.

CF0030



Corporate Parenting Panel

1 Background

A Panel established to assist the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties to ensure the Council and partner agencies act as effective corporate parents. The Panel will invite members of the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Partnership Board, the Foster Carers Liaison Group and the No Labels Group (Children in Care Council) to attend meetings and input.

The Department for Education publishes [statutory guidance](#) for local authorities on “Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers”. This includes principles of good parenting that need to be applied for children to thrive. These are:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

2 The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be:

1. To provide an oversight of the safety and quality of care of all places where our children who are looked after by Nottinghamshire County Council live. This would include those children’s homes, foster placements and supported accommodation directly provided by the Local Authority and those commissioned from external providers including the Youth Custody Service.
2. To consider reports from No Labels (Children in Care Council), the Foster Carers Liaison Group (FLAG) and the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership Board, and to make recommendations as a result.
3. To 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 to make recommendations for any improvements.
4. To scrutinise information on children in care’s physical, emotional and mental health, educational attainment and the quality of services they receive, and to make recommendations for any improvements.

5. To consider issues relating to the criminalisation of children in care.
6. To 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.
7. To make recommendations to and support the decision making of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

3 Accountability and Challenge

The Chair of the Panel will be responsible for:

- ensuring that the Panel meets its responsibilities;
- ensuring that the Panel remains focused, that it is clear on its authority, and that its work is actively managed; and
- ensuring that recommendations regarding decisions that require formal agreement are made to the relevant decision-maker, in line with the Council's Constitution.

4 Core Membership

The core members will include:

- 2 members of the Conservative Group (to include the Deputy Cabinet Member with the remit for Children and Young People, who shall Chair the meetings of the Panel), 1 member of the Labour Group and 1 member of the Independent Alliance. The number of Members appointed to the Panel is determined by Full Council. There is no conflict with these Members also being part of the Children and Young People's Select Committee.
- Service Director – Care, Help and Protection
- Service Director – Commissioning and Resources
- Group Manager – Regulated Services
- Group Manager – Looked After Children
- Group Manager – Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement
- Group Manager – Commissioning
- Head of the Virtual School

The Panel shall have a quorum of one-third of its membership, to a minimum of 3.

5 Scope & Responsibilities

1. Considering relevant observations and recommendations from Ofsted inspection and Regulation 44 reports.
2. Considering key local and national reports that make recommendations about practice and strategy in relation to the safety of looked after children.

3. Receiving 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.
4. Taking an active interest in the services delivered by health, justice and school/education partners to children in care.

6 Frequency and Format of Meetings

The Corporate Parenting Panel will be held on a quarterly basis. Meetings will be open to the public.

The final agenda and papers will be available for inspection at County Hall and on its website at least five clear working days before the meeting. Agreed action points will be provided to members within a week of each meeting.

Members of the Panel will meet in private as the 'Looked After Children's Safeguarding Group' following each meeting to discuss any new allegations, investigation progress and outcomes in relation to allegations of physical, emotional and sexual abuse involving children in the care of the local authority, foster carers and residential care staff.

7 Ways of Working

Members should endeavour to read agenda papers in advance of meetings to allow for informed discussion.

Members will identify a suitable deputy to attend in their absence as an exception.

Members will be expected to lead regular visits to care settings in line with local guidance accompanying as appropriate other Elected Members beyond membership of this Panel. Guidance and training will be made available.

Members should upon invitation attend the Children in Care Council meeting to gain views directly from children and young people.

25 October 2022**Agenda Item: 4**

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider and establish the Panel's work programme, as set out in **Appendix A** to the report.

Information

2. The creation of a work programme will assist the Panel in the management of its agenda, the scheduling of its business, and its forward planning.
3. The work programme will be developed using suggestions submitted by Panel members, the relevant Cabinet Member and senior officers. The work programme will be reviewed at each pre-agenda and Panel meeting, where any member of the Panel will be able to suggest items for possible inclusion.

Other Options Considered

4. To not establish a work plan for the Panel: this option is rejected as is important for the Panel to plan its work effectively in carrying out its remit to assist the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties.

Reasons for Recommendations

5. To assist the Panel in preparing its future work effectively, to carry out of its responsibilities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. 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

7. The establishment of the Panel's proposed work plan does not give rise to any additional financial implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) That the proposed work programme, attached as **Appendix 1**, be noted.

Colin Pettigrew
Corporate Director for Children and Families Services

For any enquiries about this report, please contact:

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources
T: 0115 9772590
E: laurence.jones@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

8. The Panel has the authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its Terms of Reference.

Financial Comments

9. 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.

None.

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All.

CF0031

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

Title	Sponsor/ Report Author
Standing items for each meeting:	
Foster Care (FLAG) items	Amanda Collinson
Children in Care Council (No Labels) items	Laurence Jones
Visits schedule and observations from visits	Laurence Jones
Ofsted reports and dashboard - Council run homes and homes commissioned solely for Council use	Laurence Jones
25 October 2022	
Terms of reference & draft work programme	Laurence Jones
24 January 2023	
Preparation for ILACS (Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services) inspection – quality of social work for children in care	Amanda Collinson
Children in Care Council – activity and achievements	Laurence Jones/ Pom Bhogal
2 May 2023	
Health of Children in Care	
Care Leavers annual report	Amanda Collinson
18 July 2023	
Independent Reviewing Officer annual report	Laurence Jones/ Izzy Martin
Reports from Districts on their corporate parenting responsibilities and how they are meeting them	Laurence Jones
November 2023 – date tbc	
Report of the Head of the Virtual School (termly plus annual reports)	Peter McConnochie/ Charles Savage
Sufficiency Strategy	
Fostering Service annual report	Amanda Collinson/ Ty Yousaf

