

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - Terms of Reference

Our Commitment to Children and Young People in Care and Leaving Care Slough Borough Council is committed to raising the quality of life of everyone living within the Borough.

Slough Borough Council leads on the corporate parenting agenda and ensures that Slough Borough Council and its partner agencies fulfil their statutory duties and responsibilities in relation to looked after children and care leavers.

In meeting with their responsibilities, the council has a Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) to ensure that it fulfils its corporate parenting responsibilities and to monitor performance in terms of improving outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.

Members of the CPP should constantly ask: "Would this be good enough for my child?" If it is not good enough then the panel needs to act to make it so.

The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel will provide an annual report on its activities to Cabinet. This will usually be provided in March each year.

Legislation and guidance that guides these Terms of Reference:

1. Section 27 of the Children's Act 1989, amended 2006, places a duty on Housing, Education and Health Authorities to assist with Corporate Parenting;
2. Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 To increase support to young people leaving care;
3. Promoting the Health Care needs of Looked After Children, Nov 2002;
4. Adoption and Children's Act 2002;
5. Guidance on the Education of Children and Young People in Public Care 2000.
6. Statutory guidance on the duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children under section 52 of the Children Act 2004
7. Children and Young persons Act 2008
8. Statutory guidance securing sufficient accommodation for looked after children (March 2010)
9. Promoting the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities 2010

10. The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and statutory guidance

11. Volume 3: Planning Transitions to Adulthood for Care Leavers: Statutory Guidance on the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010

Purpose of the Corporate Parenting Panel in scrutinising and developing services for Looked After Children and care leavers

- To work together, acting on behalf of the Council to ensure all of Slough Borough Council's services and those of partner agencies to children and young people in care and leaving care are of a high standard.
- To improve the life chances of children and young people in care in line with their peers. We need to encourage, protect and support this vulnerable group of children and young people in order that they can grow up and contribute and participate as good citizens in their community.
- Ensure that the profile of the corporate parenting agenda is incorporated into key plans, policies and strategies throughout the Council overseeing interagency working arrangements. Ensure feedback on complaints and quality assurance in respect of children and young people in care and care leavers is fully utilised.
- Raise awareness of our corporate parenting responsibilities by promoting the role of elected Members as corporate parents and Slough Borough Council as a large corporate family with key responsibilities.
- Celebrate the achievements of children and young people in care and care leavers by organising celebratory events including an annual achievement awards ceremony.
- Ensure children and young people in care and leaving care are clear about Slough Borough Council's commitment to them as a corporate parent.
- Develop and review the Council's Pledge to children and young people in care and leaving care with children and young people on an annual basis.
- Promote the development of participation and ensure that the views of children and young people are regularly heard through the CPP.
- Members of the panel are encouraged to meet regularly with children and young people, foster carers and front line staff at SBC to keep in touch with views of service users and emerging issues in the Children and Families team.
- Monitor the ongoing commitment to providing support, training and clarity of expectations to foster carers.

- The Panel may make recommendations to Cabinet on any matters within the Panel's remit.

~~• The Work Programme of the Panel~~

~~The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet 6 times a year with one additional meeting being held for the purpose of a hosting event or to visit a relevant external organisation.~~

Key Responsibilities

During the Panel's 6_4 standard meetings it shall undertake the following key responsibilities:

~~1) Performance Monitoring~~

~~The Corporate Parenting Panel will scrutinise Performance Indicators and monitor outcomes for Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers and compare them with national data.~~

~~• The report will be provided by the Performance team. In addition the following monitoring reports will be presented to the panel:~~

~~• Reports on Family Placements Service activity- Bi monthly,~~

~~• Annual Family Placement Service Report- May~~

~~• Member visits to services~~

~~• Regulation 33 visits to Mallards~~

~~• Ofsted reports as published~~

~~• Report from the Education and Wellbeing team- Bi monthly~~

~~• Annual Corporate Parenting Managers Report to July panel for previous year April to end March~~

~~2) Feedback and Response to Children & Young People~~

~~The panel will receive feedback by :~~

~~• CiC through The Big Up newsletter twice each year.~~

~~• Children and Young People can make direct presentations to the panel through a standing invitation on the agenda of every meeting~~

~~• Regular reports from the Children in Care Council presented by the Participation officer- Bi monthly~~

- To agree and monitor the Corporate Parenting Strategy and associated plans, to ensure outcomes fulfil the council's responsibilities towards children in care and care leavers.
- To monitor the development of, and the adherence to, the Pledge to Slough Children in Care and to establish an effective partnership with the Children in Care Council.
- To receive information about comments, compliments and complaints made by children in care. In respect of complaints to monitor the nature, number and how complaints were resolved.
- To ensure children in care are able to participate in plans for their care and developments for service planning and delivery, with progress being reported on a quarterly basis.
- To receive reports from and monitor and scrutinise the work of the following groups:
 - Berkshire (East) Healthy Care Partnership
 - The Slough 'Virtual School' Body (not yet established)
 - Independent Reviewing Officers
 - Relevant services within the Council
 - Other groups as relevant
- To ensure that Members and officers undertake a programme of visits to front line services and children's homes (in accordance with Children's Home Regulations) and receive reports on the findings of the visits.
- To receive regular reports on relevant key performance areas showing trends, performance against targets and comparisons with other local authorities.
- To consult with children in care, young people and their carers and celebrate their achievements.
- To celebrate the achievement of the Council, partner agencies and their staff in the provision of quality services and challenge when this is not the case.

Membership of the Panel

- Commissioner for Education & Children (Chair)
- Commissioner for Community & Leisure (Vice Chair)

- Five Councillors (The seven Members of the Panel will be appointed on a politically proportionate basis)

~~Involvement of partners and foster carers~~

- ~~• In addition to regular presentations from Officers and Young People, the panel will invite presentations from partners and foster carers on relevant topics~~

~~Observers~~

- ~~• The panel will always welcome up to two members of the CiCC as participant observers at their meetings.~~

~~Advisors to the Corporate Parenting Panel~~

~~The CPP will be supported by key officers:~~

- ~~• Strategic Director of Education & Children's Services;~~
- ~~• Group Manager, Services for Looked After Children, Children & Families~~
- ~~• The Corporate Parenting Manager~~
- ~~• Young People's Participation Officer~~
- ~~• All Officers across the Council who have responsibility for Looked After Children as and when required.~~

1. Children's Services representation at the panel

- Strategic Director of Wellbeing
- Assistant Director, Children, Young people and Families

2. The work of the Panel to be supported by the regular attendance of the following officers:

- Head of Service Child Protection and Looked After Children and Care Leavers
- Head of Service Placements and Resources
- Virtual Head Teacher
- IRO Manager

3. Representation from other council services at Assistant Director Level

- Young People's Services
- Skills and Employment
- Housing

4. Senior manager representation from partner agencies.

- The Clinical Commissioning Group

- Schools
- FE providers
- Cambridge Education

5. Representation from Children in Care Council

2 or 3 regular attendees (to include looked after children and care leavers), supported by the Participation Officer

Frequency of meetings:

~~The Panel's standard meetings will take place 6 times a year in January, March, May/June, July, September, and November and will be held in private.~~

Frequency of Meetings

To be held 4 times a year

Reporting Mechanisms:

~~The CPP chair will report to Cabinet on an annual basis in March.~~

~~Training for Members of the Corporate parenting panel.~~

~~Induction and refresher training will be provided to Panel Annually in May~~

Reporting

To report annually to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny and Cabinet (dates to be determined)

Review of the Terms of Reference:

Where the CPP recommends any necessary amendments to the TOR, the Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to make any necessary amendments to the TOR, following consultation with the Portfolio holder for Children's Services, the Strategic Director of Education and Children's Services and the Chair of the CPP.