

Corporate Parenting Panel – Terms of Reference

Aim

To ensure a structured and effective approach to corporate parenting in Monmouthshire that supports positive outcomes for looked after children and young people by:

- being well-informed about looked after children and young people in Monmouthshire
- giving consideration to the effect of Council decisions on children and young people
- listening to what children and young people have to say about their care experiences and needs
- being a champion for children based on the standard "would it be good enough for my child?"

Objectives

- To ensure that councillors monitor the quality of services to children and young people for whom they have corporate parenting responsibilities.
- To inform and instruct councillors as corporate parents so that they are able to provide effective leadership and contribute to strategic planning processes.
- To ensure councillors have knowledge and understanding of how the needs of children and their families are met by the council.
- To ensure that Monmouthshire County Council has systems in place to meet legislative requirements and national guidance in relation to corporate parenting responsibilities.
- To ensure that all elected members are aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities and that they consider the effect of their decisions on children and young people in care.

Process

Effective corporate parenting requires knowledge and awareness of the needs of children and young people looked after and the services which they receive. The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel is therefore:

- Development and oversight of the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy
- To support the development of integrated services for children looked after and care leavers to improve outcomes.
- To facilitate the development of a Children in Care Council.
- To receive regular performance reports on the Council's and partner's delivery in respect of the key indicators for children looked after and care leavers. Actions will be identified to unblock barriers to improvement.
- To be responsible for the production of an Annual Corporate Parenting Report to Full Council that will include an analysis of performance in respect of corporate parenting and an action plan for the following year.

- To support the development of the skills and knowledge of elected members, professional staff and officers working with looked after children and young people to provide effective learning and continuous improvements.
- To sponsor and support projects and events designed to improve and celebrate corporate parenting including looked after children achievement events and foster carers' events.
- To meet with representatives from the Children in Care Council and to attend the council as required.
- To ensure that children in care are welcomed and facilitated to attend and participate fully in the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- To receive ideas and proposals from children and young people with experience of being in care and consider how these may be developed and put into practice.

Membership

The Panel will be Chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services and will act as an advisory group to the Lead Member for Children's Services.

The Panel will be a working group and members will include as a minimum:

- Five elected Monmouthshire County Councillors
- Service Manager responsible for Looked After Children
- Senior Manager from Education as nominated by the Chief Officer
- A young person who is in care or has previously been looked after.
- Two foster carers
- A Social Worker from Children's Services

Frequency of meetings

It is envisaged that the Panel will meet four times a year. It may be necessary on occasions to hold an additional meeting which will be arranged at the request of the Chair.