

### Central Bedfordshire Corporate Parenting Panel

#### (Original) Terms of Reference

##### **Purpose**

To ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as corporate parent of looked after children. The Corporate Parenting will be accountable to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

##### **Membership**

The Panel will be a working group of elected members and senior officers from the Children, Families and Learning Directorate, other Central Bedfordshire Directorates and partners, including representatives of looked after children, their carers and other stakeholders as follows:-

Elected Members:

- Eight elected members, including the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Learning, and a member of the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

As far as is practicable the members shall be appointed in proportion to the overall political composition of the Council. The members appointed to serve upon the adoption and fostering panels shall be drawn from the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Service Users, Carers and Schools (non-voting):-

- Two Foster Carers (non voting members) co-opted representatives.
- Two Looked After Children
- One Designated teacher

Senior Officers to support the Panel:-

- Head of Specialist Services
- Director of Children, Families and Learning
- Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
- Service Managers for Children's Participation (Social Care), Adoption & Fostering and Commissioning (Extended Community Placement), Disabled Children, Head of Behaviour & Attendance.

NHS Bedfordshire representative

Other officers may be invited from time to time.

Quorum A quorum of the Panel shall consist of three elected members. The Panel shall normally be chaired by the Portfolio holder for Children, Families and Learning. Should the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson not be present, then a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be elected to preside at that meeting.

## **FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

To meet monthly relative to the production of volume and trend statistics and other performance related data.

Quarterly meetings held to review Regulation 33 report – Children home meetings.

## **SCOPE**

To consider matters pertaining to the Council's role as a corporate parent to children looked after by Central Bedfordshire Council, in particular with regard to:-

- (a) integrated planning and activity for children looked after;
- (b) improving the health, education, employment, training and housing outcomes for children looked after by Central Bedfordshire Council;
- (c) improving outcomes for young people previously looked after by Central Bedfordshire Council;
- (d) ensuring the Council actively promotes opportunities for looked after children.

To agree the annual programme of quality assurance audits relating to LAC services and to consider their outcomes, including complaints, feedback and independent reviewing procedures.

To monitor the performance targets and the Children and Young Persons Plan as far as they relate to vulnerable children and young people in respect of volume and trends.

To consider quarterly reports on progress against trends in the annual Children's Services Service Plan in respect of LAC.

To have lead responsibility for ensuring effective participation arrangements for looked after children and care leavers with the Council and its partners.

To consider reports of visits to children's homes carried out under Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001

To ensure that a programme of Members' visits to children's homes is established and sustained.

To consider specific anonymous case examples, which illustrate problematic decisions in respect of policy, budget and decision-making.

To consider reports from Regulatory bodies (CSCI/Ofsted) on services for LAC – Children's homes, Fostering and Adoption.

To receive reports on the activity of the Children's Trust under the headings Looked After Children and Safeguarding agenda.

## **REPORTING**

A twice-yearly Report on the activities of the Panel be presented by the Chair of the Panel to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.