

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Terms of Reference of Corporate Parenting Panel (recommended by the Corporate Parenting Panel on 4 January 2010 )**

#### **Purpose**

To ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as corporate parent of looked after children.

#### **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 carers and other stakeholders, as follows:-

#### **Elected Members (voting) :**

- Nine elected members, including the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Learning who will be the Chairman and the Assistant Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Learning who will be the Vice-Chairman.

As far as is practicable the members shall be appointed in proportion to the overall political composition of the Council.

#### **Officers (voting)**

- Director of Children, Families and Learning
- Director of Social Care, Health and Housing

#### **Carers and Schools (non-voting):-**

Four Foster Carers (non-voting members) co-opted representatives.  
Head of Virtual School

#### **Officers to support the Panel (non-voting):-**

- As determined by the relevant Director on a meeting by meeting basis

#### **NHS Bedfordshire Representative (non-voting)**

#### **Quorum**

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

## **Frequency of Meetings**

To meet monthly relative to the production and volume and trend statistics and other performance related data. After 6 months, the frequency of meetings is to be reviewed.

## **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 improving the health, education, employment, training and housing outcomes for children looked after by Central Bedfordshire Council through:-

- (a) Integrated planning and activity for children looked after;
- (b) Improving outcomes for young people previously looked after by Central Bedfordshire Council;
- (c) Ensuring the Council actively promotes opportunities for children looked after by the Council.

To secure effective communication arrangements with the Children in Care Council to ensure the following:-

- (a) that their views are listened to and reflected in service delivery;
- (b) Monitoring that Central Bedfordshire's PLEDGE to all children in care is fulfilled.

To consider quarterly reports on progress of the Care Matters Implementation Plan.

To commission reports as necessary to ensure that members of the local authority have the information that will enable them to fulfil their role as Corporate Parents.

## **Reporting**

To provide a report to the Council on an annual basis outlining the work undertaken during the year and identifying a work programme for the following year.