

Terms of Reference of Corporate Parenting Panel

Purpose

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

Membership

2. The Panel will be a working group of elected members and senior Officers, including foster carer's representatives.

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 of whom only 2 will be expected to attend at any one meeting.

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

- **As determined by the relevant Director on a meeting by meeting basis**
- **NHS Bedfordshire Representative (non-voting) as required**

Quorum

A quorum of the Panel shall consist of three elected members. The Panel will be chaired by the 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.

3. **Frequency of Meetings**

To meet initially monthly relative to the needs of the work programme.

4. **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:-

Improving outcomes for young people both in care and previously looked after by Central Bedfordshire Council and:-

- (a) Ensuring integrated planning and activity for children looked after
- (b) 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

5. 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.