

Terms of Reference of the 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 carers' representatives.

Elected Members (voting):

- Eight elected Members, including the Executive Member for Families, Education and Children, ~~who will be the Chairman~~ and the Deputy Executive Member for ~~Families, Education and Children who will be the Vice-Chairman. Should the Chairman and Vice-Chairman not be present, then a Chairman will be elected to preside at that meeting only one of whom will normally be 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's Services
- Director of Social Care, Health and Housing (or the Head of Housing Services or their representative if the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing is unable to attend the meeting)
- Assistant Director Leisure, Libraries & Countryside, (or their representative if the Assistant Director Leisure, Libraries and Countryside is unable to attend the meeting).

Carers (non-voting):

- Foster carers' co-opted representatives, of whom only four 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 as required.

Quorum

A quorum of the Panel shall consist of three elected Members.

Frequency of Meetings

3. To meet approximately six times a year relative to the needs of the work programme.

Scope

4. 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.

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