

Report to Governance Committee

24 September 2021

Update to Constitution: Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Electoral division: Not applicable

Summary

Changes to the terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel are proposed in order to further improve the outward-focus of the Panel and to ensure that the voice of the child is central to all its work. The changes include revisions to the core membership, updating the quorum and revising the vision, purpose and remit of the Panel.

Recommendation

That the revised terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel, as set out in Appendix 1, be endorsed for recommendation to the County Council.

Proposal

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 The County Council's Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) is a multi-agency advisory Panel that meets at least four times a year to ensure the voice of the child is at the centre of services for children looked after and care leavers.
- 1.2 Following the updates to the CPP's terms of reference that were agreed at the County Council on 17 December 2019, further work has been done to review the remit and purpose of the Panel. This includes reviewing the membership to ensure it is focused and effective and that the voice of the child is central to its work.
- 1.3 It was agreed by the County Council on 17 December 2019 that the terms of reference be further reviewed following engagement with the Children in Care Council. On 11 March 2021, the CPP reviewed its terms of reference with input from the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Advisory Board, with a final updated terms of reference being endorsed by the CPP on 24 June 2021. These revised terms of reference are at Appendix 1. Although the changes are minor the format of the document has been changed significantly and therefore the changes are not shown

in track changes. The current version of the terms of reference can be found in Appendix 12 of the Scheme of Delegation in the [Constitution library](#).

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the revised CPP terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 1, be endorsed by the Committee for recommendation to the County Council.
- 2.2 As set out in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.3 it was agreed that the terms of reference be reviewed by the Children in Care Council to ensure they were fit for purpose. It is therefore proposed that the attached terms of reference replace the current version in the Constitution. A summary of the changes is set out below:
 - a) **Membership:** The membership of the CPP includes officer representation from key service areas to enable any issues raised at the Panel to be fed directly back to the relevant teams and actioned upon. An officer representative from a District and Borough Council has also been added to the core membership of the Panel.
 - b) **The Promise:** The Promise is a partnership commitment to support young people and care leavers. It was agreed that this should be included in the CPP terms of reference as a key role of Panel is to monitor the delivery of this and how children and young people have the power to develop and influence the service.
 - c) **Vision, purpose and remit:** These have been refocused to highlight how the CPP will measure progress for children and young people and hold itself accountable to carry out actions and measure the impact and outcomes of the actions put in place. It has also added ways of celebrating successes and its role in promoting Corporate Parenting responsibilities to the wider County Council. The language used in the terms of reference has been reviewed to ensure it is accessible for all members of the Panel.
 - d) **Quorum:** It is proposed that the quorum be increased to include a minimum number of young people representatives as well as officer attendance in addition to elected members. This is to reflect the multi-agency nature of the Panel and that the young people's voice is central to the Panel's work.
 - e) **Special Interest areas:** It is proposed that elected members and young people are given leads on special interest areas within the remit of the Panel. These members and young people will work together with lead officers on the sub-groups set up relating to those special interest areas to provide a co-production of work and ensure that the voice of the child is central to all its work.

3. Resources

- 3.1 This proposal will have no additional impact on resources. Support for the

CPP is provided by lead service officers within the Children, Young People and Learning directorate and meeting support is provided by Democratic Services.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 All CPP members, which includes the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, councillors appointed to the Panel, the Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning, Assistant Director – Corporate Parenting, Foster Carer and Adopter representatives and representatives from the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Advisory Board, were consulted on the revised terms of reference.

5. Risk Implications and Mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action
None	

6. Other Options Considered

- 6.1 The other option is to make no changes to the Panel’s terms of reference. The changes proposed are designed to improve the work of the CPP and its ability to influence and improve outcomes for children and young people and ensure that the voice of the child is central to its work. If no changes are made, the opportunity to improve and develop the CPP would be missed.

7. Equality Duty

- 7.1 The report does not engage the public sector equality duty as it relates only to the internal governance of the Council.

8. Social Value, Crime and Disorder Act and Human Rights Implications

None.

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Appendix 1 - Revised Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference

Background Papers

None