

## Report to Governance Committee

13 September 2023

### Update to Constitution - Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference

#### Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Electoral division: Not applicable

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## Summary

Following the revised terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel being agreed by the County Council in December 2021, this report proposes some minor updates to the core membership of the Panel.

## Recommendation

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

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## 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 updated terms of reference that were agreed by the County Council in December 2021, some further minor amendments are proposed to the membership to ensure the Panel is focused and effective. The revised terms of reference are at Appendix 1.

### 2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the revised Corporate Parenting Panel terms of reference at Appendix 1 be endorsed by the Committee, as summarised below:
  - a) **Membership:** It is proposed that it is no longer mandatory for a Foster Panel member to be part of the Corporate Parenting Panel, but that there is regular liaison with the Chairman of the Panel with all Foster Panel members so that any relevant feedback can be passed to the Panel. Foster Panel Representatives will also be

invited to attend Panel meetings for relevant agenda items. Seven councillors sit on the Corporate Parenting Panel, which must include the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, two representatives from the Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Committee and at least one minority party member. Providing more flexibility on how to engage with the Foster Panel members enables the Panel to draw from a wider pool of expertise and experience from members to sit on the Panel.

- b) **The Promise:** The Promise is a partnership commitment to support young people and care leavers. This was added to the terms of reference in 2021 given the key role of CPP to monitor its delivery. The Promise has since been reviewed by children and young people to ensure it is relevant and influences the Service provision. As part of this the name has been updated to Our Aspiration and the terms of reference updated to include this new version.

**3. Resources**

- 3.1 This proposal will have no additional impact on resources. Support for the Corporate Parenting Panel 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 The Corporate Parenting Panel Chairman and the Assistant Director (Corporate Parenting) support the proposal. The four Foster Panel members have been invited to comment on the proposal and any feedback received from them will be reported verbally at the Governance Committee meeting on 13 September. The Corporate Parenting Panel will review the proposal at its next meeting on 21 September. As this is after the date of the Committee meeting, any conclusions the Panel reaches will be included in the report to the County Council on 13 October.

**5. Risk Implications and Mitigations**

Risk	Mitigating Action
That feedback from Foster Panel members will not be input into the Corporate Parenting Panel	<p>Foster Panel members will be invited to attend Corporate Parenting Panel meetings for relevant agenda items.</p> <p>There is regular liaison between Foster Panel members and the Corporate Parenting Panel Chairman.</p>

**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. Policy alignment and compliance**

- 7.1 There are no policy or compliance implications arising from proposals to revise the Corporate Parenting Panel terms of reference.

### **Tony Kershaw**

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## **Appendix 1 - Revised Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference**

### **Background Papers**

None