

Revised Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference

Our Vision:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of our children and young people.
- To encourage our children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings and to challenge each other if their voices are not actively listened to and acted on.
- To listen, hear and do something when our children and young people tell us things.
- To make sure our children and young people know how to access, and make the best use of, services provided by us as a local authority and partners.
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for our children and young people.
- For our children and young people to be safe, and have stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and to prepare our children and young people for adulthood and independent living.
- This will make sure that our children and young people are not placed at significant disadvantage when compared with the support any child or young person may receive from their family.

Our Promise

THE PROMISE 2020

The Promise 2020 is a partnership commitment to support young people in care and care leavers. It has been written by young people in care, care leavers, professionals who work with them and the West Sussex Corporate Parenting Panel.

INVOLVING YOU WE PROMISE

- To ask your views, listen and act on what you tell us
- Tell you what you need to know
- To give you information you need at the right time, to help you make the right decisions
- To be a good friend

HEALTH AND HAPPINESS WE PROMISE

- That you will have somewhere safe to live
- To help you stay in touch with people who are important to you
- To support you to be happy and healthy

SUPPORT AND ADVICE WE PROMISE

- To avoid unnecessary changes
- To make sure you know who will support you and that important people keep in touch with each other to help you
- You will get the support and resources you need to help toward your goals
- You will have a social worker and have access to other professionals you might need

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND WORK WE PROMISE

- We will help you develop skills for life and work
- To celebrate your successes with you
- To champion your education
- To help you get the qualifications, interview skills, training and opportunities you want

LEAVING CARE WE PROMISE

- To put in place what you need when you leave care
- To help you make a clear plan for your life ahead after care

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Constitution

A multi-agency advisory panel to the Council with seven members of the County Council appointed from those with the most relevant experience but including the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, at least one minority group member and one from the foster panels. At least two County Council members of the Panel will also be members of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee.

The core membership of the Panel is set out below. The Panel can decide to invite representatives from across the Council and partner agencies as required, depending on agenda items.

Core Membership:

- Seven elected members including Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
- Children in Care Council (CiCC) representatives
- Care Leavers Advisory Board (CLAB) representatives
- Foster Carer
- Adopter
- WSCC Executive Director Children's Services
- WSCC Assistant Director of Corporate Parenting
- Strategic leads for Health (WSCC & NHS – designated nurse)
- WSCC Strategic lead – Voice and Participation
- WSCC Strategic lead for Education (Head of Virtual School)
- WSCC Area team representation (Service lead for Corporate Parenting and other area service leads as required)
- WSCC Quality Assurance Service Manager
- WSCC Independent Reviewing Officer
- District and Borough Officer representative

The Chairman of the Panel is the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, the Vice-Chairman to be appointed by the Leader. The Chairman of the CiCC or CLAB will be Co-Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel. The quorum is four elected members (including the Chairman or Vice-Chairman), three CiCC/CLAB members and one Executive Director or Assistant Director.

The Panel shall meet no less often than four times a year, with thematic workshops to be held between main Panel meetings if required.

Meetings will be held in private. Reports and minutes for the Panel will be reported in a confidential manner. A summary of the work of the Panel will be available to elected members and an Annual Report will be reported to full Council each year.

The agenda and supporting papers for the Panel meetings will be circulated to Panel members two weeks in advance of each meeting.

The Panel will set up sub-groups to carry out work on specific areas in relation to outcomes for our children and young people including, but not limited to, journey to independence, education, health and wellbeing and children we care for. These groups will report on their work to each Panel meeting. Each sub-group will include lead officers, an elected member and a representative from CiCC/CLAB. Each elected member will be assigned to a special interest area,

based on their area of expertise, and attend the sub-groups relating to that area. Special Interest areas are:

- Adoption and Fostering
- Education, Employment and Training
- Health (physical and mental wellbeing)
- Children placed out of county
- Children we care for and asylum-seeking children
- Care experienced young people
- Edge of care and residential

Purpose

- To act as a consultative panel for the Council and other professionals, to raise awareness of the Council's universal corporate parenting responsibilities and duties.
- To oversee the progress of our children and young people including all health and wellbeing needs (education, physical and mental health).
- To monitor the delivery of our 'Promise' and how we are ensuring our children and young people have the power to develop and influence the service.
- To ensure that all children, young people have a positive experience and that the strategy enhances their outcomes.
- To encourage all partners to work together (support and challenge each other) in the best interests our children and young people.
- For frontline teams to be active members of the panel.
- To lead cultural and behavioural change to promote better outcomes for our children and young people, ensuring everyone is on a level playing field and is approached openly and honestly.
- To engage and hold all agencies to account (including; Children in Care Council (CiCC), County Council, District and Borough Councils, Education, Health, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Children's Social Care and voluntary organisations) for their role in the delivery of services to our children and young people.

Remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel

The Panel will:

- Take responsibility for exploring the quality of services for our children and young people and produce an annual report.
- To have a clear line communication with the full council and scrutiny (via the chairmen of the Panel) on matters of interest or those that require escalation.
- Explore the priority needs for services for our children and young people, as a panel and make recommendations to the appropriate forums as required.
- Celebrate successes of what has been achieved between panel meetings, what this has led to and the impact this has had on the lived experiences of our children and young people.
- Maintain high values, treating all children and young people as if they were your own family, and make a positive difference, improving the outcomes for our children and young people and those who use our services (both statutory and non-statutory responsibilities).
- Produce a blog/newsletter with our children and young people after each meeting and share this with all other professionals and elected members.
- Hold thematic workshops when required to focus on specific priorities/issues.

- Ensure that the Panel maintains oversight of the County Council's placement strategy, understands placements and resources availability for children (both in and out of county) and how they are being used.
- When actions are identified, these will be assigned to a specific person(s) to take forward and then reported back to the panel.
- Receive feedback on the learning from children safeguarding practice reviews.

The Panel won't:

- Oversee specific pieces of work for individual children, acknowledging that area teams are responsible for this. However, the Panel will take responsibility for any themes that are identified and act on these immediately for a child.
- Be the main vehicle for the voice of our children and young people, this will be the responsibility of the Children in Care Council. The Panel will however regularly listen, respect and act on the views of children and young people.