

Terms of Reference

Corporate Parenting Partnership Board
and Corporate Parenting Working Group

1.0 Purpose and Aims

- 1.1 To improve the lives of infants, children & young people who are Looked After by, or are care leavers of, Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 1.2 To seek outcomes for our Looked After children and young people that every good parent would want for their own children –“if this were my child...”, if this were my baby, if this were my son/daughter moving into independence.
- 1.3 To ensure that the whole Council and Partner Agencies have a joint commitment to Corporate Parenting in order to achieve continuing improvements in the lives and outcomes for looked after children, young people and those who are care leavers.
- 1.4 Elected Councillors have a crucial role in making sure that the interests of all Looked After infants, children and young people come first in all aspects of their work. Councillors set the strategic direction of the Council's services and determine policy and priorities for the local community within the overall objectives set by Government.

All Councillors should be prepared and ready to champion the interests of Looked After infants, children and young people in their community.

2.0 Principles and strategic overview

Cambridgeshire County Council will work to the following principles when carrying out its responsibilities as corporate parent:

- all aspects of infants, children and young people's lives are considered - not only those parts which have led to a period of separation from home;
- looked after children and young people are provided with care and support, access to good health care and education according to their needs;
- looked after children and young people are encouraged to participate in decision making and contribute to appropriate plans about their lives, and that these plans are rigorously recorded and acted upon;
- mechanisms for consultation and participation are positively promoted for looked after children and care leavers and that the Council actively listens and responds to the views and experiences of these children and young people, including those with disabilities and very young children;
- the achievements and successes of looked after children and care leavers are positively recognised and celebrated;
- continuity in the lives of children who are being looked after are promoted so as to reduce or where possible eliminate, disruption;
- young people are provided with help to leave care and support into independence, recognising that most young people do not leave home until they are in their 20s and continue to return frequently.

3.0 Corporate Parenting Action Plan

The strategy will form an action plan under the headings:

Outcome1: Looked After Children fulfil their educational potential

Outcome 2: Care leavers successfully gain employment

Outcome 3: Looked After Children have good health and wellbeing

Outcome 4: Looked After Children and care leavers are well equipped to be parents

Outcome 5: Cambridgeshire Looked After Children and young people placed outside the county are not disadvantaged

4.0 Terms of reference

- 4.1 The role of the Corporate Parenting Board is to ensure that the Council fulfils its responsibilities to Looked After Children and Care Leavers in accordance with the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-2018 and the Council's Pledge to Looked After Children.
- 4.2 Corporate Parents including Members, Officers and Partners are to oversee the effective consultation and engagement of children and young people and carers in the planning and delivery of services.
- 4.3 To receive regular reports on the provision of services for Looked After children and care leavers - as required in legislation and fulfilling the purpose of monitoring and offering advice.
- 4.4 To offer advice and monitor:
 - plans, strategies or policies for Looked After children, young people and Care Leavers to ensure performance a) realises the objectives of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and b) fulfils statutory requirements
 - The commissioning and use of placements outside the Council area for the accommodation and/or education of all looked after children.
 - Placement stability
 - The outcome targets for educational attainment, and other associated activities in relation to looked after children's educational achievement are achieved.
 - The outcome targets for LAC health – including health assessments – are achieved and will include psychological health, substance use, sexual health, teenage pregnancy.
 - To ensure children in care are able to participate in plans for their care and developments for service planning and delivery.
 - Permanency Planning Monitoring group to report on timeliness of permanent placements
 - Themes from Regulation 44 visits and matters arising
 - Feedback from Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services
 - Relevant information and actions arising from Serious Case Reviews and management reviews to ensure learning is translated into improved practice
- 4.5 To oversee and monitor the work plan for children in and Not in Education, Employment and Training and apprenticeship schemes within the Council and with its contractors.

5.0 Membership of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board

5.1

Elected Councillors:

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Chairperson – Councillor Lis Every, supported by Councillor Ann Hay and Councillor Adela Costello

Advice from the Head of Democratic and Members Services is that the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board (CPPB) does not have to be politically proportionate. However, the membership and representation of the group will ultimately need to be agreed by the Leader of the Council.

All newly elected Members will receive an induction to Corporate Parenting and their responsibilities. All elected Members are expected to champion the interests of Looked After infants, children and young people in all aspects of their work in the community.

Children and young people in care and Care Leavers will attend every other meeting.

5.2 **CYPS:**

- Interim Executive Director – Wendi Ogle-Welbourn
- Interim Service Director – Theresa Leavy
- Director of Learning - Keith Grimwade
- Service Director, Strategy and Commissioning – Meredith Teesdale
- - Sarah-Jane Smedmor
- Head of LAC – Fiona Mackirdy
- Head of Disability Services – Sasha Long
- Head of Safeguarding – Jitka Kohoutova
- Head of Children in Need – Fiona Van Den Hout
- Head of Safeguarding and Standards (Interim) Lisa Reid
- Participation Manager – Michelle Dean
- Head of Clinical Psychology – Rachel Watson
- Area Team Manager Youth Offending – Tom Watt
- Performance and Development Manager Youth Service – Jeanette Perkins
- Head of Commissioning – Helen Carr
- Service Development and Commissioning Manager – Jacqui Barry
- Head of Virtual School – Jo Pallett

5.3 **Cambridgeshire NHS:**

- Head of Commissioning for Children's Health and Wellbeing, Cambridge & Peterborough Councils - Janet Dullaghan

- Senior Public Health Manager – Lin Guo
- Cambridgeshire Clinical Commissioning (CCG) – Nicola McLean
- Designated Lead LAC Nurse - Deborah Spencer
- - Nick White
- General Manager Children Services CAMH – Sarah Spall

5.4

5.5 **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (mental health) :**

- Assistant General Manager CPFT Children and Young People's Services -

5.6 **Foster Carer representative**

- To be advised

5.7 **Co-opted members:**

- Housing representative – to be advised
- HR and work experience/apprenticeship co-ordinator – Andy Sanders
- Principle Educational Psychologist – Helen Phelan
- Detective Superintendent - Lorraine Parker
- Other members may be co-opted as appropriate

5.8 **Children and Young People and Care Leavers**

Each member of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board shall nominate a deputy who will attend in their absence, if appropriate and subject to the agreement of the Chair

Officers from within the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board services/agencies will be available to offer support and give guidance and advice as required

5.9 The Corporate Parenting Partnership Board shall be subject to annual review

6.0 **Membership of Corporate Parenting Steering Groups**

6.1 Chair of the Corporate Parenting Steering Groups will be:

- Jo Pallett - Looked After Children fulfil their educational potential
- Jeanette Perkins/Mark Cowdell - Care leavers successfully gain employment
- Deborah Spencer - Looked After Children have good health and wellbeing
- Jo Sollars/Claire Betteridge - Looked After Children and care leavers are well equipped to be parents
- Head of Commissioning (to be appointed) Cambridgeshire Looked After Children and young people placed outside the county are not disadvantaged

Updates on the progress on each of the action plans, including statistical data will be presented in writing in advance of Corporate Parenting Board meetings

7.0 Frequency and conducting of meetings

7.1 Corporate Parenting meetings will be divided between:

- i) the strategic Partnership Board to meet every 3 months
- ii) The Corporate Parenting Steering Groups to meet no less than every three months

Meetings will be timed to fit with the meetings of Voices Matter (Children in Care Council) to ensure flow of information between the groups

7.2 CPP Board meetings will be chaired by the Lis Every or in her absence, Councillor Anne Hay and Councillor Adela Costello. In their absence, the Board will be chaired by Interim Service Director Theresa Leavy

7.3 The Corporate Parenting Partnership Board has no quorum. Administration will be provided by Children's Social Care

- Co-ordination of agenda preparation
- Convening of meetings
- Publication and circulation of agendas and supporting papers at least five working days in advance
- Taking and distribution of minutes
- Monitoring and progressing actions agreed by the Corporate Parent Working Group

The agenda will be agreed by the CPP Board.

7.4 The CPP Board will report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to Voices Matter (Children in Care Council).