

APPENDIX 2CORPORATE PARENTING PANELDRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**Purpose**

1. To ensure that the Council is fulfilling its duties towards Looked After Children corporately and in partnership with other statutory agencies.
2. To consider matters referred to the Panel within its terms of reference and to make recommendations to Cabinet/Portfolio Holder as appropriate including:
 - a. Approving annually the Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Service
 - b. Approving annually the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service

Role of the Panel

1. To take an overview of the Council's and partner agencies responsibilities towards looked after children
2. To examine ways in which the Council as a whole and partner agencies can improve the life chances of looked after children and care leavers.
3. Ensure there are good joint working arrangements between council departments and partner agencies.
4. To provide a forum for Children Looked After (CLA) to participate and influence policy and enable CLA to have opportunity to talk about issues relating to their own direct experiences of services they have received. Hence the Board will ensure that the positive experiences/services are maintained and lessons are learnt and changes made in the areas that require improvements.
5. To comment on and contribute to plans, policies and strategies for looked after children and make appropriate recommendations for action.
6. To have a monitoring role, by receiving regular progress reports on a number of key PI's e.g. educational attainment (including implementation of Personal Education Plans), health assessments and implementation of Local Area Agreements for CLA.
7. Monitor the plans/needs of children in Secure Accommodation.
8. To receive regular reports on the needs of care leavers including employment, further education, training and housing.
9. To receive annual reports on the following services
 - Adoption
 - Fostering
 - Complaints
10. To meet with CLA and their carers on a regular basis to consult and celebrate achievements, festivals etc.
11. To manage and arrange Member visits to
 - Children's Homes
 - Foster Placements
 - Frontline Services (as indicated in the Victoria Climbié Audit)

Membership

The Corporate Parenting panel will comprise:

A proportionate number of 6 Elected Members

Service Users, Carers and Schools (Non-Voting)

- 2 Children Looked After
- 2 Foster Carers
- 1 Designated Teacher

Senior Officers (advisors to the Panel – to attend as appropriate to the work of the Panel)

- Director of Children's Services
- Group Manager + Children and Families
- Group Manager Safeguarding and Family Support
- Group Manager Fostering, Adoption and Residential Care
- Senior Professional (Inclusion)
- Principal Educational Psychologist
- Senior Coordinator (Children Looked After)