

## Governance Arrangements and Terms of Reference for Corporate Parenting Panel

### Governance Arrangements

#### Purpose

On behalf of all Councillors acting as corporate parents, the Corporate Parenting Panel's purpose is

- To secure councillor involvement and commitment throughout the Council to deliver better outcomes for children and young people in public care.
- To ensure that corporate parenting is a key mechanism by which councillors and officers can ensure that for children and young people in its care, Lincolnshire County Council is providing the following services:
  - Warm, welcoming and safe accommodation, a place they can call home and is home
  - High quality care, nurturing supportive and meaningful relationships that encourage the growth of self-esteem, confidence and resilience; enabling young people to cope with change and difficult times
  - The highest standard of education for all and consistent with the needs and abilities of the child
  - Opportunities and encouragement for self-development and keeping fit and healthy
  - Encouragement to take up hobbies, acquiring life skills and being a good citizen
  - Opportunities for the transition to work, including open days and work placements
  - Assistance with the transition from care to looking after themselves including the provision of suitable accommodation
  - Placement stability that will avoid disruption and maintain continuity of care, education placements and relationships
- To scrutinise the performance and quality of the Council's services, identify key areas across the services where councillors wish to see an improvement in the outcomes for children and young people in public care, and make proposals for improvement.

#### Membership

The Corporate Parenting Panel consists of elected councillors and additional members who may be children and young people, carers, lay members and nominations from partner organisations. The Membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel will consist of: -

- Seven Lincolnshire County Council elected members  
(4 Conservative, 1 Independent, 1 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat)
- Six additional members who are not county councillors, which include
  - 1 Chairman of the V4C the Children in Care Council
  - 1 National Youth Advocacy Service representative
  - 1 Lincolnshire Community Health Services representative
  - 1 Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust representative
  - 2 Foster Carers

Up to six non-county council members can sit on the Corporate Parenting Panel at any one time. The Corporate Parenting Panel can co-opt, if required, an additional non-county council member from any relevant partner organisation, subject to the agreement of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

If further additional members are deemed necessary, the Corporate Parenting Panel must refer this request to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for approval. A corresponding increase in the county councillor element of the membership would also be required so that the Corporate Parenting Panel retains its democratically-elected majority.

The Executive Councillor or the Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services and Adult Learning will be invited to attend each meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

### **Chairman and Vice Chairman**

The Corporate Parenting Panel will elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman who will be one of the seven county council members of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be elected at the first meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel following the County Council's elections and will serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman for two years, subject to any resignations from post.

### **Quorum**

The quorum of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be four with at least one of the county council Corporate Parenting Panel members in attendance. Should less than four Members be in attendance the Chairman will adjourn the meeting.

### **Frequency of meetings**

The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet on a quarterly basis and as otherwise required.

### **Reporting**

The Corporate Parenting Panel will report its work through to the Lincolnshire County Council Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Following each meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel, a written report, including the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting, will be presented to the next meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. This report should be presented by the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel or another member if the Chairman or Vice Chairman is unavailable.

## **Terms of Reference**

### **The Corporate Parenting Panel is authorised to undertake the following activities:-**

1. Ensure that all councillors and Lincolnshire County Council Directorates are fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents proactively. This will involve the Corporate Parenting Panel organising specific education and training events for all councillors to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to be corporate parents
2. Provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting
3. Investigate on behalf of all councillors ways in which the role of corporate parenting can be improved, using examples from other local authorities and countries
4. Ensure that councillors undertake their annual programme of visits to children's homes
5. Ensure that the needs of children and young people in public care and their carers are prioritised by councillors and officers
6. Receive quarterly reporting of key performance indicators relating to children and young people in public care
7. Receive regular and/or annual reports on the level and quality of services to children and young people in public care from the Children's Services Directorate, other Directorates and organisations
8. Monitor the performance, quality and outcomes of the Council's services in relation to children and young people in public care and identify any areas for improvement
9. Engage with children and young people who are in public care or have left care by inviting them to act as advisers to the Corporate Parenting Panel
10. Listen to the views of children, young people and their carers and to involve them in the assessment and development of services
11. Champion the provision of Council based work placements and Apprenticeships for looked after young people
12. Promote achievement and acknowledge the aspirations of children and young people in public care by supporting celebration events
13. Meet with Ofsted inspectors where appropriate for their input into inspections
14. Participate as members of the adoption and fostering panels
15. Agree a work plan, reviewing progress, membership of the Panel and attainment of its role and terms of reference
16. Report back formally on these matters in writing to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee after each meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

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