

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Panel is to act as parent to all the children and young people who are in the care of Milton Keynes Council and to ensure that the Council's pledge to children in care is delivered. The Panel will raise awareness of the needs of children in care across the Council and its partners.

To achieve this, the Panel will:

1. Act as parent by having an understanding of the needs of children and young people in care and influencing service development to meet these needs.
2. Champion the participation of children in care so that they influence service development across the Council and its partners.
3. Support children in care by meeting with them, in particular by meeting with the MK children in care council, which is called 'Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future' (TCTF).
4. Monitor the delivery of the Council's and its partners' pledge to children and young people in care.
5. Provide an advisory and an advocacy function to the Lead Member, the Cabinet and the Children's Trust on behalf of Children in care.
6. Support the Children in Care strategy through monitoring and evaluating the Pledge.
7. Reporting on an annual basis to the Children and Young People Select Committee, full Council and the Children's Trust.
8. Champion the educational achievement of children in care.
9. Encourage the development of local resources to meet the needs of children in care.
10. Undertake Section 33 visits to the Council's residential children's homes.

The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet five times a year and will call on officers and partners to provide information and reports on progress, in accord with its annual work plan.