

Corporate Parenting Panel

Terms of Reference



1. Purpose

The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Panel is to act as a parent would 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.

It also refers to Care Leavers who have previously been in the care of the Council up to the age of 25.

- To ensure that the Council and all its partners (residents, businesses, public agencies, and the wider community) understand their role as corporate parents and have a joint commitment to ensure ongoing improvements to services provided to and outcomes for children in care and care leavers.
- To monitor the implementation of key relevant council strategies such as the Looked after Children's Strategy, The Care Leavers Strategy, Placements Sufficiency Strategy; Placements Commissioning Strategy; Early Permanency Strategy. Have oversight of the quality and effectiveness of services, to ensure that they fulfil the council's responsibilities and achieve good outcomes for Looked after Children and Care Leavers.
- To directly receive the views of Looked After Children and Care Leavers through their interaction with representative Groups to ensure their views and experiences directly influence decision making and policy development and have a say in shaping the future development of the service.
- To advise on and monitor:
 - (a) the implementation and progress of relevant legislation and government guidance and its impacts to ensure services are responsive to the needs of looked after Children and Care Leavers;
 - (b) the quality and effectiveness of key services commissioned and delivered across the council and partner agencies;
 - (c) key performance indicators on a quarterly basis regarding the quality of life outcomes for Looked After Children's and Care Leavers in relation to health, placement stability, educational attainment, accommodation, employment, and training; and
 - (d) to commission reports as necessary to ensure that Members of the local authority have the information that will enable them to fulfil their role as Corporate Parents.

- To ensure that the voice and opinions of as wide a range as possible of Looked After Children and Care Leavers, including those with disabilities, are heard and that their views are used to co-produce services, shape policy and monitor performance.
- To receive reports in sufficient detail to undertake their strategic responsibilities on the work of all key agencies that provide services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers including health, adoption and fostering, Virtual School, and Independent Reviewing Officers, Regulation 44 visitors as required from the local authority and partner agencies.
- To maintain a strategic overview of the development of new policies, procedures and initiatives to ensure these are in line with local and national priorities and objectives including the Children in Care Strategy and the Care Leavers' Strategy and that they will effectively meet the needs of our children and young people.
- To make recommendations to decision makers in Milton Keynes Council and its strategic partners as the Panel deems appropriate to fulfil its Corporate Parenting duty.
- To consider recommendations from internal and external inspections and reviews (for example, Ofsted inspections), to approve or endorse the actions needed to address any issues identified, and to evaluate the implementation of any plans agreed that are relevant to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

2. Membership

- Number of Councillors on the Panel be 8 (or as agreed at the Council Annual General Meeting).
- Non-Voting Care Leaver appointed to Corporate Parenting Panel.
- Appointed Non-Voting representative of Adoption / Foster Carers.
- Head of Virtual School to attend all Panel meetings in an Officer capacity.
- Participation Youth Worker to attend all Panel meetings in an Officer capacity.
- Designated Doctor for Children in Care to be invited to attend Panel meetings two times per year.

- Named Nurse Children in Care and Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children and Children in Care to be invited to attend Panel meetings in an Officer capacity two times per year.
- Specific managers to be invited to attend to present reports on their service - e.g. Manager of the Milton Keynes Council managed Children's homes.
- That there be a link to the Youth Cabinet.
- Other organisations / agencies to be invited to attend the Panel.

3. Meetings and Proceedings

- There will be quarterly meetings held throughout the year.
- A copy of the agenda and papers for the meeting will be sent to all board members at least ten working days before the date of the meeting.

4. Review of the Terms of Reference

- The Terms of Reference will be regularly reviewed (at least annually) by members of the Panel to ensure that it continues to fulfil its purpose.

Sivay Heer
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