

# Wiltshire Council Constitution Part 11A Corporate Parenting Panel

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# PART 11A - CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

## 1. Functions

1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is the primary vehicle for Members to meet with key officers and to challenge and scrutinise the performance, quality and efficacy of Wiltshire Council's services.

1.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel will comprise up to 8 Core Members drawn from elected Members politically balanced and nominated by group leaders. Group leaders will ensure that they appoint substitute members to cover absences. Associate Members will include officers from the council and key partner agencies and comprise of:

- Corporate Director – People/~~Director of Childrens Services~~
- Director – Families and Children
- ~~Head of Children in Care and Young People Care, Placements and EDS~~
- ~~Voice and Participation Manager Senior Commissioning Officer Children's Social Care (Voice and Influence)~~
- A Representative from the Children in Care Council
- Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills
- ~~Chair-Representatives~~ of Wiltshire Fostering Association
- ~~Service Manager – Quality Outcomes Conference and Reviewing Service Manager~~
- Designed Doctor ~~and Nurse~~ for ~~Children~~ Looked After ~~Children~~
- Virtual School Headteacher

1.3 If any of the core members are unable to attend a meeting they will send a substitute representative.

1.4 On behalf of all Members acting as Corporate Parents, the Corporate Parenting Panel will ensure delivery of the following ~~seven~~ five strategic priorities so that children and young people are supported to:

- 1.4.1 feel safe and happy in a stable home and in their local community ~~Strengthen the Corporate Parenting Role and Corporate Parenting function across Wiltshire Council as a whole.~~
- 1.4.2 be the best that they can be, to achieve personally and educationally throughout their life and be supported to engage with training and employment opportunities ~~Continue to improve timeliness of permanency for looked after children across the range of permanency options.~~
- 1.4.3 Ensure their physical and emotional wellbeing is supported and at a time and place that suits them ~~Ensure that there is sufficient accommodation for looked after children within Wiltshire which meets the needs of those children. Prioritise placement within Wiltshire.~~
- 1.4.4 have positive relationships with people who are important to them and for them to be part of their local community where they are trusted, respected, accepted and feel

~~included~~ Improve care leavers journey by ensuring an enhanced offer to care leavers across all areas: education, employment and training, independent living, housing options and health.

1.4.5 ~~Ensure their voice is heard and for it to matter and influence decision making and drive change~~ Improve the educational outcomes for looked after children; closing the gap between looked after children and other children in the county.

~~1.4.6 Ensure that looked after children are protected from the risk of child sexual exploitation and reduce the frequency with which some looked after children and care leavers currently go missing.~~

~~1.4.7 Ensure that looked after children and care leavers have timely and easy access to mental health services.~~

1.5 The Panel will appoint a ~~Chairperson~~ Chairman on an annual basis.

1.6 To ensure that strategic oversight and critical challenge is effective, ~~each Panel Members~~ ~~member of board~~ will have a lead role in relation to delivery of ~~one the~~ strategic priorities.

## 2. Quorum

2.1 The quorum of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be ~~50% 75%~~ (46) Members, ~~70%~~ (7) Associate Members in attendance. Where the meeting is not quorate, the ~~Chairperson~~ Chairman will adjourn the meeting.

## 3. Frequency of meetings

3.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet ~~bi-monthly with~~ a minimum of 5 ~~meetings~~ times a year.

## 4. Reporting

4.1 The Panel ~~will~~ ~~outd~~ report its work through the Children's Select Committee. Following each meeting the ~~Panel Clerk~~ ~~Chairperson~~ will send a copy of the Panel minutes ~~and action log~~ to the Chairman of Children's Select Committee.

4.2 On an ~~annual~~ ~~six-monthly~~ basis the Panel ~~Chairperson~~ Chairman will prepare a report for Chairman of the Children's Select Committee, addressing progress against each of the ~~seven~~ five strategic priorities.

4.3 In addition to this the ~~Chairperson~~ Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel will present an annual report to Full Council which will be shared with the Children's Select Committee prior to submission.

## 5. Terms of Reference

~~The~~ Corporate Parenting Panel will:

5.1 Make a commitment to prioritising the needs of ~~looked after~~ children looked after care experienced and young people and their carers and ~~ensure demand~~ that all departments within the Council prioritise the needs of this group;

5.2 Receive reports from the Children in Care Council and act on their views;

- 5.3 Provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting;
- 5.4 Show ambition and aspirations for all ~~our children looked after and looked after children and care~~ experienced young people and adults/leavers;
- 5.5 Ensure that all Members and Wiltshire Council departments are fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents proactively. This may involve, for example, the Corporate Parenting Panel organising specific education and training events for all members to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to be corporate parents;
- 5.6 Investigate on behalf of all Members ways in which the role of Corporate Parenting can be improved, using examples of research and effective practice from other local authorities;
- 5.7 Listen to the views of children, young people and their carers to involve them in the assessment and development of services;
- 5.8 Engage with children and young people who are looked after, or have left care, by inviting them to act as advisers to the Panel;
- 5.9 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;
- 5.10 Scrutinise key performance indicators in relation to children and young people in the care of Wiltshire Council;
- 5.11 Meet with government inspectors, where appropriate, for their input into inspections;
- 5.12 Participate as members of the adoption and fostering panels;
- 5.13 Agree a work plan, review progress, membership of the panel and attainment of its role and terms of reference and report to the Cabinet and Children's Services Select Committee as appropriate, and in any case to the Full Council annually.