

Part 12-4A – Role and Function of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

Corporate Parenting Panel

Composition

The Corporate Parenting Panel will comprise up to 12-8 elected councillors ~~nominated by group leaders~~ politically balanced and nominated by group leaders.

Group leaders may also appoint substitute members to cover absences.

Role and Function

To secure councillor involvement and commitment throughout the council to deliver better outcomes for children and young people who are looked after.

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, Wiltshire Council is providing:

- warm, welcoming and safe accommodation
- 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
- assistance with 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.

The Corporate Parenting Panel will:

- undertake regular monitoring of the outcomes associated with these priorities
- make a commitment to prioritising the needs of looked-after children and young people and their carers
- receive reports from the Children in Care Council and act on their views

- provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting
- show ambition and aspirations for all looked-after children and care leavers
- ensure that all councillors 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
- receive regular/annual reports on the level and quality of services to looked-after children and care leavers
- promote achievement and acknowledge the aspirations of children and young people looked after by supporting celebration events
- investigate on behalf of all councillors ways in which the role of corporate parenting can be improved, using examples from other local authorities
- listen to the views of children, young people and their carers to involve them in the assessment and development of services
- engage with children and young people who are looked after, or have left care, by inviting them to act as advisers to the Panel
- meet with government inspectors, where appropriate, for their input into inspections
- ~~anticipate~~participate as members of the adoption and fostering panel
- champion the provision of council-based work experience placements and apprenticeships for looked after young people
- 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.

Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

1. Background

In response to the April 2012 Ofsted report on Safeguarding and Looked After Children a number of recommendations were put to Cabinet in 18 June 2013. Cabinet agreed to establish a Safeguarding and Young People Panel. This would be in addition to the robust scrutiny of safeguarding, undertaken by the Children's Select Committee or a task group. The Panel should run in a similar manner to the Corporate Parenting Panel, in the following ways:

- Membership to include both members and officers;
- Close liaison with the broad range of teams and local agencies involving parents, children and young people (when appropriate) to develop policy; and
- A clearly defined and mutually agreed distinction between the Panel's liaising role and the monitoring and scrutinising role of Scrutiny.

2. Purpose

The Panel's purpose will be to secure councillor involvement and commitment throughout the council to deliver better outcomes to ensure that all Wiltshire children and young people are safe.

3. Structure of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

The Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel will comprise up to 8 elected councillors politically balanced and nominated by group leaders.

Group leaders may also appoint substitute members to cover absences.

The Cabinet member with responsibility for Children's Services will be an observer to the meeting.

The Associate Director and other relevant Council Officers will be part of the Panel, including front line Social Workers.

Core members will include:

- Health Visitors/ School Nurses
- Child protection Social Workers
- Wiltshire Police
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

Relevant partner agencies and children and young people and their families/carers would be invited to attend as appropriate.

4. Responsibilities of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

The Safeguarding Panel is a key mechanism by which councillors and officers can ensure that children and young people are safe by:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

5. Chairing

The Panel will be chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services' designated representative. The Vice Chair will be appointed by the Panel.

6. Administration

- Democratic Services, Wiltshire Council will be responsible for the preparation of the agenda in consultation with the Chairman and relevant officers and minutes for the meetings of the Panel.
- The agenda and papers will be issued in advance of the meeting.

7. Cancellation of Meetings

Meetings where not required may be cancelled following consultation with the Chairman.

8. Links with existing groups

The Panel will maintain links with other bodies with a focus on safeguarding children. These should include but not be limited to:

- Cabinet
- LSCB
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Children's Trust Commissioning Executive
- Complex Families Project Board
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Commissioning Group
- 13 to 19 Strategy Board
- Children in Care Commissioning Group
- Corporate Parenting Panel
- Wiltshire Association of Secondary Heads
- Primary Heads Forum