

**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 Voice and Participation Manager
- A Representative from the Children in Care Council
- Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills
- Representatives of Wiltshire Fostering Association
- Service Manager – Quality Outcomes
- Designed Doctor and Nurse for Children Looked After
- 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 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
- 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
- 1.4.3
- 1.4.4 Ensure their physical and emotional wellbeing is supported and at a time and place that suits them 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
- 1.4.5 Ensure their voice is heard and for it to matter and influence decision making and drive change

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

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

## **2. Quorum**

2.1 The quorum of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be 50% (4) Members, in attendance. Where the meeting is not quorate, the Chairman will adjourn the meeting.

## **3. Frequency of meetings**

3.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet a minimum of 5 times a year.

## **4. Reporting**

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

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

4.3 In addition to this the 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 children looked after care experienced young people and their carers and ensure 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 care experienced young people and adults;
- 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.