

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL 2025-2026

Committee name	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ryan Dell, Democratic Services
Papers with report	Appendix A – Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel
Ward	N/A

HEADLINES

The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to update permanent and substitute Councillor membership on the Corporate Parenting Panel, following the AGM, for the 2025-26 municipal year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Children, Families and Education Committee:

- 1. Appoint Councillors Nick Denys, Heena Makwana and Jan Sweeting to be the permanent Elected Members on the Panel on the basis of political balance (2 Con: 1 Lab);**
- 2. Appoint Councillors Becky Haggard OBE, Peter Smallwood OBE and Tony Gill to be named substitutes on the basis of political balance (2 Con: 1 Lab); and**
- 3. Upon the recommendation of the Chair of this Committee, to confirm Councillor Nick Denys as the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel and Councillor Heena Makwana as the Vice-Chair.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

About the Panel

The Panel was established a number of years ago to support this Select Committee in championing corporate parenting across the Council, directly engaging children in the Council's care and care experienced young people in the democratic and decision-making process, working with them and partners to monitor relevant services and improve outcomes and life chances. The Panel can make recommendations to this Committee on any changes or improvements required, who in turn can formally present these to the Cabinet.

Membership

The Committee, under the Constitution, is required to appoint Councillors as permanent Elected Members on the Panel on the basis of political balance (2 Con; 1 Lab). The Committee is asked to confirm Councillors Nick Denys, Heena Makwana and Jan Sweeting to be the permanent Elected Members on the Panel.

Furthermore, the Committee is asked to confirm Councillors Becky Haggard OBE, Peter

Smallwood OBE and Tony Gill to be the named substitutes.

Permanent Members or substitutes can be any Councillor not in the Cabinet. However, it is useful to have some membership ties, where possible, with this parent committee.

Along with the elected Members, the Panel also comprises the following as standing members:

- a) Up to 5 Children in Care Council Members (one of whom the Chair or Vice-Chair may ask to assist them informally in chairing a specific meeting)
- b) Senior Officer from Children's Services
- c) Participation Manager
- d) Assistant Director for Education and Vulnerable Children
- e) The Local Authority's designated Looked After Children Nurse or Doctor
- f) 1 x Foster Carer representative
- g) Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting and Fostering
- h) Advisors
- i) Relevant Council officers, e.g. from Social Care, Early Intervention and Prevention, Housing Service, along with external representatives, e.g. Department for Work and Pensions, may attend relevant Panel meetings as advisors. Council officers should attend the Panel to present any reports to the Panel regarding their service area.

In practice, the Panel is a private meeting and not bound by the same rules regarding formal committee meetings, however, the minutes are published and presented to this Committee for democratic record and transparency.

It is also common for one of the Children in Care Council members to act as co-chair and chair meetings of the Panel. This gives a great opportunity for a young person to get experience of assisting the Chair or Vice-Chair in the running of the meeting.

Implications on related Council policies

The Panel enables direct consultation and engagement with young people and children in care/ care experienced young people in the Council's democratic and decision-making processes.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

The Panel gives young people in Hillingdon a valued role within our democratic process and enables Councillors to work directly with them and hear their views.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.