

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Committee name	Families, Health & Wellbeing Select Committee
Officer reporting	Anisha Teji - Democratic Services
Papers with report	Appendix A – Updated Terms of Reference
Ward	N/A

HEADLINES

The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to update the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel with reference to the meeting schedule and membership.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

- 1. Agrees to amend the Terms of Reference to enable the Corporate Parenting Panel to hold meetings quarterly (as set out in Appendix A);**
- 2. Appoint Councillors Nick Denys, Heena Makwana & Kerri Prince to be the Elected Members on the Panel on the basis of political balance (2 Con: 1 Lab);**
- 3. Appoint Councillors Judith Cooper, Becky Haggar and Jan Sweeting to be named substitutes; and**
- 4. Upon the recommendation of the Chairman of this Committee, to confirm Councillor Nicky Denys as the Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel and Councillor Heena Makwana as the Vice-Chairman.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Meeting schedule

Following a recommendation from the Chairman, it is requested the Committee agree to amend the Panel's Terms of Reference so it reverts back to meeting quarterly rather than 6 times a year. This is set out in Appendix A. This Committee will continue to receive the minutes of the Panel as part of its own agenda, which will provide for regular updates on the Panel's work, where the Panel's Chairman and young people may also attend to present any findings.

Membership

The Committee, under the Constitution, is required to appoint Councillors to be the 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 & Kerri Prince to be the Elected Members on the Panel. Furthermore, to agree Councillors Judith Cooper, Becky Haggar and Jan Sweeting to be the named substitutes.

Implications on related Council policies

The Panel strengthens our consultation and engagement with young people and children in care / care leavers.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

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 with the establishment of the Panel.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Version: 27 July 2021

Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel

The purpose of the Panel is to support the Families, Education and Wellbeing Select Committee in championing corporate parenting across the Council, directly engaging children in the Council's care and care leavers in the democratic and decision-making process, working with them and partners to monitor relevant service and improve outcomes and life chances.

Membership will comprise of:

Voting Members

- a) 3 Elected Members, who be appointed by the Families, Education and Wellbeing Select Committee based upon political balance, one of whom to be appointed as Chairman. A Vice-Chairman may also be appointed. Elected Members do not need to be Members of the parent Committee but cannot be Cabinet Members. 3 named substitutes, appointed by the Families, Education and Wellbeing Select Committee may attend in the absence of the appointed Members of the Panel and that they be from any of the Five Select Committees based on political balance.

Non-voting Members

- b) Up to 5 Children in Care Council Members (one of whom the Chairman or Vice-Chairman may ask to assist them informally in chairing a specific meeting).*
- c) Senior Officer from Children's Services
- d) Corporate Parenting Manager
- e) The Virtual School Head Teacher
- f) The Local Authority's designated LAC Nurse or Doctor
- g) 1 x Foster Carer representative

Advisors

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.

**This gives Children in Care Council representatives, in an informal capacity, a unique opportunity to get experience of assisting the Chairman or Vice-Chairman in the running of the meeting.*

Meetings and Operation

The Panel will meet four times a year and in private*

- a) The Panel will have in place a work programme for its activity.
- b) The Chairman of the Panel, in conjunction with other members, shall agree the dates of the Panel for the ensuing year, where possible.
- c) The Chairman of the Families, Education and Wellbeing Select Committee should authorise any additional meetings that may be required or requested by the Chairman of the Panel.
- d) The Panel will allow themes and agenda topics to be brought to them from the Children in Care Council (CiCC), with themes identified at each meeting.
- e) The Chairman of the Panel will agree agenda items in advance of the meeting.
- f) The Panel cannot establish any other sub-groups or bodies to carry out its responsibilities.

**Unlike the parent Select Committee, the Panel is not required to operate under statutory procedures outlined in the Local Government Act 1972 and access to information rules do not apply. This allows the Panel to be conducted in a flexible way to suit the requirements of the Members and young people participating in it.*

Terms of Reference

- a) To champion the seven corporate parenting principles introduced by the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- b) To support the work of the Families, Education and Wellbeing Select Committee overseeing the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities by providing a strategic overview and monitoring of the statutory services for Looked After Children (LAC) and care leavers across the Borough, reporting back to the Committee on any findings, as appropriate.
- c) To actively engage young people who are looked after by the Council, along with care leavers, in order to ensure they have an opportunity to influence the development of services, participate in the decision-making and democratic process.
- d) To receive annual reports of the work of the Independent Reviewing Officers, LAC Health Team, LAC & Leaving Care Service, Virtual School and Fostering and Adoption Service.
- e) To consider the impact on outcomes for children on other relevant activities linked to LAC and care leavers lived experiences, e.g. emotional wellbeing.
- f) To undertake any associated activity, review or task as requested by the Families, Education and Wellbeing Select Committee, reporting back to the Committee if directed.
- g) That through the Chairman of the Panel, to advise the Families, Education and Wellbeing Select Committee and Cabinet Member for Families, Education and Wellbeing on matters relating to corporate parenting.
- h) To present the minutes of the Panel to a subsequent meeting of the Families, Education and Wellbeing Select Committee, where the Chairman of the Panel, along with any Children in Care Council Members, may attend to update the Committee on the Panel's work.

Extract from the Council's Constitution on the establishment of a Panel [approved 20 May 2021]: '(d) The Families, Health & Wellbeing Select Committee may establish a Panel to oversee the corporate parenting responsibilities of the Council.... The Committee may appoint 3 Members to this Panel based on political balance. Membership may include non-Cabinet Members not on the Committee. The Committee may also appoint relevant Council officers and other external stakeholders to the Panel and agree its chairmanship and operation. In agreeing its operation, the Committee will provide for the Panel not to be able to establish any other sub-group or body to carry out its responsibilities.'