

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Committee name	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Anisha Teji - Democratic Services
Papers with report	Appendix A – Terms of Reference
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 local elections.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

1. **Appoint Councillors Nick Denys, Heena Makwana & Gursharan Mand to be the permanent Elected Members on the Panel on the basis of political balance (2 Con: 1 Lab);**
2. **Appoint Councillors Roy Chamdal, Peter Smallwood & TBC to be named substitutes on the basis of political balance (2 Con: 1 Lab); and**
3. **Upon the recommendation of the Chairman of this Committee, to confirm Councillor Nick Denys as the Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel and Councillor Heena Makwana as the Vice-Chairman.**

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 leavers in the democratic and decision-making process, working with them and partners to monitor relevant service 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 & XX to be the permanent Elected Members on the Panel. Furthermore, to agree Councillors Roy Chamdal, Peter Smallwood & XX to be the named substitutes.

Permanent Members can be any Councillor not in the Cabinet. Substitute Members may be drawn across the 5 select committees, 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:

- 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)
- Senior Officer from Children's Services
- Corporate Parenting Manager
- The Virtual School Head Teacher
- The Local Authority's designated LAC Nurse or Doctor
- 1 x Foster Carer representative

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-chairman and chair meetings of the Panel. This gives a great opportunity for a young person to get experience of assisting the Chairman or Vice-Chairman 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 leavers in the Council's democratic and decision-making processes.

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

None.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Appendix A - Terms of Reference

Version: 12 May 2022, approved by the Full Council

Corporate Parenting Panel

Terms of Reference as approved by the parent Select Committee

The purpose of the Panel is to support the 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 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 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 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 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 Select Committee, reporting back to the Committee if directed.
- g) That through the Chairman of the Panel, to advise the Select Committee and relevant Cabinet Member on matters relating to corporate parenting.
- h) To present the minutes of the Panel to a subsequent meeting of the 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.