

Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference Update

Committee Name	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ryan Dell, Democratic Services
Papers with report	Appendix A – Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference
Ward(s)	All

HEADLINES

The purpose of this report is to allow the Corporate Parenting Panel to update its Terms of Reference to include the Head of Corporate Parenting under non-Voting Members; and to update the wording of the voting Members paragraph.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Children, Families and Education Select Committee:

1. Note the contents of the report and;
2. Approve the updates to the Corporate Parenting Panel's Terms of Reference

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This report reflects the updated structure of the Corporate Parenting team, and better reflects the positions of the Panel's named substitutes.

Implications on related Council policies

There are no implications on related Council policies.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

Select Committees directly engage residents in shaping policy and recommendations and the Committees seek to improve the way the Council provides services to residents.

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.

Updates to Terms of Reference

Update one

Within the Voting Members paragraph (a) of the attached appendix, the Corporate Parenting Panel wishes to replace the last sentence which currently reads:

“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.**”

To be replaced with:

“3 named substitutes, appointed by the Select Committee may attend in the absence of the appointed Members of the Panel and that they **need not be Members of the parent Committee but cannot be Cabinet Members**”.

Update two

With the Non-voting Members paragraphs (b) to (g), the Corporate Parenting Panel wishes to add “(h) Head of Corporate Parenting”.

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.

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.