

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL 2024-2025

Committee name	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ryan Dell – 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 AGM.

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 Haggar OBE, Peter Smallwood 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 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 and Jan Sweeting to be the permanent Elected Members on the Panel. Furthermore, to agree Councillors Becky Haggar OBE, Peter Smallwood 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:

- 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).*
- Senior Officer from Children's Services
- Participation Manager
- Assistant Director for Education and Vulnerable Children
- The Local Authority's designated LAC Nurse or Doctor
- 1 x Foster Carer representative
- Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting and Fostering

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 leavers 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.