

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE, APRIL 2011

1. To develop expertise that enables Members to fulfil their role as Corporate Parents and act as Champions for Kent children who are looked after;
2. To consider statistical information that includes staffing levels, relevant indicators from the National Indicator Set (NIS) and national Looked After Children returns.
3. To consider reports from the Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB), Kent Children's Trust Board, and in relation to Looked After Children, and any changes to relevant legislation and guidance;
4. To work alongside the Staff Advisory Group and Children in Care Council in order to gather feedback from all those involved in and working with or on behalf of Looked After Children. This will include ongoing engagement with Foster Carers and other user groups;
5. To lead on ensuring that the targeted Corporate Parenting roles and responsibilities of the Local Authority are being met, including:-
 - a) To be aware of national expectations regarding the service to Looked After Children and Care Leavers, including those contained in Every Child Matters, the Healthy Care Initiative and the Care Matters agenda;
 - b) To have access to qualitative as well as quantitative information on the service, and to ensure that Corporate Parenting Panel Members have enough background knowledge to understand and evaluate this information;
 - c) To consider ways in which the Corporate Parenting Panel will hear and respond to the views of Looked After Children, their parents and carers;
 - d) To have an understanding of the arrangements that need to be in place in order to be an effective Corporate Parent;
 - e) To undertake an in-depth analysis of the needs of the County Council's care population and all aspects of the service required to meet those needs, so there is clear evidence to inform future action.
 - f) To take action continually, in conjunction with officers and partner agencies, to improve the service and ensure it responds to changing needs.
 - g) To report in a timely manner to the relevant local Member(s) as and when such may be required.

- h) To support the Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel in undertaking their specialist Level 3 Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
- i) To highlight issues relevant for scrutiny
- j) To act as the Governing Body to the Virtual School for Kent.