

Corporate Parenting Select Committee

Terms of Reference and Scope

Terms of Reference

1. To consider the definition of “Corporate Parent” and the variety of roles and duties associated with it.
2. To engage with, amongst others, children and young people in care to better understand what works well for them and what KCC can do to improve the fulfilment of its corporate parenting responsibilities.
3. To investigate best practice across the country and abroad of how elected representatives within local government engage with and support children and young people in care.
4. To examine the extent to which the monitoring mechanisms available to KCC Members are effective in ensuring the safety and well-being of children and young people in care.
5. For the Corporate Parenting Select Committee to make recommendations after having gathered evidence and information throughout the review.

Scope

The complexity of this topic and the tight timeframe of the review require a clear and focused approach. The key themes and aspects to be covered by this review are detailed below:

- 1. To consider the definition of “Corporate Parent” and the variety of roles and duties associated with it.**
 - a. To explore the definition of being a “Corporate Parent” and the legal implications associated with it.
 - b. To examine the roles and responsibilities that KCC Members and officers hold as Corporate Parents.

2. To engage with, amongst others, children and young people in care to better understand what works well for them and what KCC can do to improve the fulfilment of its corporate parenting responsibilities.

a. To engage with, and listen to, children and young people in care in Kent to better understand what works well for them and what KCC, and in particular KCC Members, can do to improve the fulfilment of their corporate parenting responsibilities.

b. To explore, in particular, corporate parenting responsibilities with regards to the educational outcomes of children and young people in care in Kent.

c. To gather evidence from KCC Members and officers, and representatives of relevant external organisations to inform the review.

3. To investigate best practice across the country and abroad of how elected representatives within local government engage with and support children and young people in care.

a. To explore best practice examples, both across the country and abroad, of how local authorities and their elected representatives engage with and support children and young people in care.

b. To consider how this best practice can be replicated to improve corporate parenting in Kent.

4. To examine the extent to which the monitoring mechanisms available to KCC Members are effective in ensuring the safety and well-being of children and young people in care.

a. To examine the extent to which the monitoring mechanisms available to KCC Members are effective in ensuring the safety and well-being of children and young people in care.

b. To identify further mechanisms, if necessary, to improve the effectiveness of this monitoring approach.

5. For the Corporate Parenting Select Committee to make recommendations after having gathered evidence and information throughout the review.