

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Terms of Reference

Vision

The Corporate Parenting Panel is designed to provide the necessary leadership that drives an ambitious and multiagency approach to improving outcomes for our children in care and care leavers. Our desire to provide our children and young people with everything they need that a good parent would naturally want for their own children is set out in The Bradford Corporate Parenting Strategy for children looked after and young people leaving care. We want our children and young people to work with us, along with their parents and carers, in shaping how we manage and organise the planning, resources and services that support and care for them. We want our children and young people to be happy and healthy, both physically and emotionally, to be safe and protected from harm and exploitation, and to be supported each step of the way to adult life. We want them to achieve their potential, especially at school, to make the most of their learning opportunities and for them to participate in the decisions affecting their care and their lives. We want their transition to adulthood to be as smooth as possible with continuity of support, access to good jobs and higher education, while living in good housing and being financially secure. Our strategy invites us to work together with common purpose, putting our looked after children at the heart of everything we do.

Purpose of Corporate Parenting Panel

- To raise awareness of the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities and develop expertise and knowledge among elected Members and officers.
- To provide a forum for elected members to oversee the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the progress of all looked after children.
- To ensure that all looked after children and young people have a positive experience and that the strategy enhances their outcomes
- To encourage all partners, whether they work for the police, health, education, social care services or the voluntary sector, to work in an integrated manner in the best interests of looked after children and care leavers;
- To lead cultural and behavioural change to promote better outcomes for looked after children and care leavers;
- To hold all partners to account for their role in the delivery of services to looked after children and care leavers.

Bradford Corporate Parenting Panel will:

- Provide leadership across the city to create a more effective and efficient health and wellbeing for looked after children and care leavers;
- Work with members of the councils Executive to develop policy and services relevant to children in care and care leavers.
- Take responsibility for the quality of services for looked after children and care leavers.
- Establish a Working Group, accountable to the Corporate Parenting Panel, to act as the Governing body for the Virtual school.
- Will establish subgroups to support the work of the panel as deemed necessary.
- Work effectively with and through partnership bodies, with clear lines of accountability and communication;

- Share expertise and intelligence and use this synergy to provide creative solutions to complex issues;
- Agree the strategic priorities for services for looked after children and care leavers
- Make a positive difference, improving the outcomes for all looked after children and care leavers.

Support to the Panel

- Governance support to the Corporate Parenting Panel will be provided by Committee Secretariat. Childrens Services will attend meetings and publishing minutes of each meeting.
- A Committee Services Officer will be responsible for organising meetings, publishing agenda papers and minutes of each meeting.
- An Officer from Children's Services will be responsible for capturing actions from the minutes and tracking progress to report into future Corporate Parenting Panels.
- This Committee Officer will advise the Panel on constitutional procedures where necessary.
- Technical support in preparing reports for the Panel and giving advice to the Panel in relation to looked after children and care leavers will be provided by the Directorate of Childrens Services.

Details

1. Name

- 1.1 The Panel will be known as the Bradford Corporate Parenting Panel

2. Membership

- 2.1 The Membership of the Panel will consist of up to 12 Members.

Members must be drawn from:

- The Executive Member and portfolio holder for Childrens and Families.
- 4 Elected Members proportionate to controlling party and other ratios
- Senior Health representative
- Senior Police Officer
- Foster Care representative
- Virtual School Head Teacher

The Panel will also have the power to co-opt 3 Members in a non-voting capacity.

3. Constitutional Status

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is established in the Council's Constitution and as such will adhere to its constitutional rules around the convening of meetings and publication of business.

4. Quorum

- 4.1 The Quorum shall be 3members.

5. Chair

- 5.1 The Chair shall be the Executive Member and portfolio holder for children and families. Both the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Panel shall be determined by the Regulatory and Appeals Committee.
- 5.2 In the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair shall chair the meeting.

6. Frequency of Meetings

- 6.1 The Panel shall meet no less often than six times a year.

7. Conduct

- 7.1 The Panel and its members will operate in accordance with the standards of behaviour and principles required by the Council's Code of Conduct and Bradford Behaviours, which applies to both councillors and any person appointed as a co-opted member to a Panel or committee of the Council.

DRAFT 13th Jan