

**SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. Vision for our Children Looked After

“ We want the children we look after, and those young people leaving our care, to be happy and healthy. As corporate parents we want and strive to be ambitious for our children and committed to enabling them to be as successful as they can be, and supported to reach their full potential socially, emotionally and academically. We are committed to listening to, and working with, the children we care for and those that leave our care. We will therefore strive to provide them with the best opportunities available to enable this to happen. “

1.1 It is important that we work alongside our children and young people to enable them to shape, plan and organise our services to ensure we are delivering the right support at the right time. We will strive to ensure that we are providing excellent care and support for every child and young person. We will enable participation in decision making, providing opportunities for their involvement to shape decisions about their lives. We will provide secure and safe environments for them to grow and develop and will take pride in every achievement each child and young person makes. We will work together across all services and alongside our partners, to achieve consistently high-quality parenting for all our children in care and care experienced young people.

2. Purpose of Board

2.1 To raise awareness of the Council’s corporate parenting responsibilities and develop expertise and knowledge among elected members and officers.

2.2 To provide a forum for elected members, with officers to oversee the progress of all children looked after, through the implementation of the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy and our Local Offer to our care experienced young people.

- 2.3 To ensure that all children looked after and young people have a positive experience and that the strategy enhances their outcomes, with the support of the Council and partner agencies.
- 2.4 To encourage all partners, whether they work for health, Education or social care services or the voluntary sector, to work together in the best interests of the children we care for and care experienced young people, acting as Corporate Parents.
- 2.5 To hold all partners to account for their role in the delivery of services to children looked after and care experienced young people.

3. Proposed model

- 3.1 The model has been developed to build on the previous strengths and achievements of the Corporate Parenting Board. It will draw on what has worked well in Southend on Sea City Council and in other Local Authorities.
- 3.2 The Corporate Parenting Board will meet a minimum of 5 times per year on a bi-monthly basis.
- 3.3 The meetings will be administered with clear agendas and a forward plan. These will be administered corporately.
- 3.4 The Corporate Parenting Board will undertake a themed approach to strategic delivery of our Corporate Parenting responsibilities being;
 - Safety – how we keep our children and young people safety and protected.
 - Housing, Fostering and Commissioning – what arrangements do we make for accommodation.
 - Health and wellbeing – ensure healthy living and outcomes.
 - Participation and engagement – encourage direct contribution and activities with our children and young people.
 - Education, Employment and Training – aspiration to achieve the best educational outcomes and support with making contribution.

4. Membership

- 4.1 Corporate Parenting Board will be chaired by the statutory lead member for Children services. In the absence of the chair the meeting should be chaired for by the nominated vice chair, who is to be nominated by the inaugural Corporate Parenting Board.
- 4.2 Other members include:
 - Opposition lead member for Children's Services

- Named Councillors (min of 6)
- Children in Care Council representatives
- Executive Director for Children, Public Health and Learning
- Director for Children's Services
- Director of Education, Inclusion and Early Years
- Director of Housing
- Director of Children's Social Work, Early Help & Youth Support
- Principal Social Worker
- Head of Service Corporate Parenting
- Director of Adult Social Care Operations
- Head of Virtual School
- LAC Nurse
- Senior representative SET CAMHS and Partnerships
- Senior representative Mid and South Essex ICB
- Representative GP
- Representative Foster carer ambassador
- Representative senior police
- Others co-opted officers and representatives from partner agencies as required.

4.3 Quoracy will be a minimum of three members.

4.4 The Board will also have the power to co-opt Councillors and Officers.

5. Governance

5.1 Corporate Parenting Board will report to the Cabinet and the full Council at least once a year.

5.2 It will also inform the Safeguarding Partnership of its activity and findings.

5.3 The Board will be supported by a Corporate Parenting Outcomes Group, that will be an operational meeting to review and implement actions.

6. Frequency of Meetings

6.1 The Board shall meet no less than 5 times a year in addition to a training session.

7. Access to Meetings

7.1 The Corporate Parenting Board is not a public meeting. There is no provision for public attendance or participation at Corporate Parenting Board meetings and is not subject to the Council's public participation scheme. All papers will be marked as exempt.

8. Conduct

- 8.1** The Board and its members will operate in accordance with the standards of behaviour and principles required by the Council's Code of Conduct, which applies to councillors, council officers and any person appointed as a co-opted member to a board or committee of the Council.