

Southend on Sea Borough Council

Corporate Parenting Group

Terms of Reference

Reviewed: June 2016

Website: www.southend.gov.uk



TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background

- 1.1. In September 1998, , the Secretary of State for Health, launched 'Quality Protects', a five-year programme to transform children's services. This introduced the concept of corporate parenting and placed collective responsibility on local authorities to achieve good parenting for all children in the public care. It requires ownership and leadership at a senior level and includes all elected members.
- 1.2. The Children Act 2004 placed a new duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children and the Children and Young Persons Act reformed the statutory framework for the care system to ensure that children and young people receive high-quality care and support and to drive improvements in the delivery of services focused on the needs of the child

2. Aim

- 2.1. To champion the needs of looked after children and care leavers.
- 2.2. Monitor the impact of services on improving the life chances of looked after children and care leavers.
- 2.3. Drive continuous improvements in performance.

3. Objectives

- To lead on the corporate parenting agenda and ensure that Southend Borough Council and its partner agencies fulfil their statutory duties and responsibilities in relation to looked after children and care leavers.
- To support the delivery of Southend's Children and Young People's Plan in relation to looked after children.
- To promote the Pledge to looked after children and measure its impact.
- To consider performance management information, both quantitative and qualitative, from all services delivering to looked after children and care leavers

Draft terms of reference
Southend Borough Council Corporate Parenting Group

- To oversee the development of the Virtual School and receive regular activity reports from the Virtual Head teacher
- To ensure that the work in Southend is influenced by national and regional research, best practice and new innovations.
- To inform the LSCB on performance and issues identified that relate to corporate parenting.

4. Membership

4.1. Membership of the group will be as follows:

Head of Children's Services (Chair)

Group manager, Placements and Resources (Vice Chair)

Executive Member for Children's Services

Elected Members to represent cross party membership as appointed at full council

Group manager: Fieldwork Services

Principal Independent Reviewing Officer

Head of Virtual School

Representative of Foster Families Council

Operations manager: Integrated Youth Support Service

Named Nurse for looked after children (SEPT)

Designated nurse for looked after children

Head of Safeguarding Children (SEPT)

4.2. The Chair of the Corporate parenting Group will seek the contribution of other partners and/or key individuals as and when required.

4.3. Representatives for Voice for All are full members of the Corporate Parenting Group and have chosen to attend when they wish to bring specific issues or topics for discussion.

5. Responsibilities of Corporate Parenting Group members

5.1. To act as a champion for 'looked after children' and care leavers within their own party or organisation and to ensure their needs are represented within all decision making forums.

Draft terms of reference
Southend Borough Council Corporate Parenting Group

- 5.2. To understand corporate parenting and fulfil their responsibilities as corporate parents
- 5.3. To have sufficient authority within their own organisation to contribute effectively to the decisions of the Corporate Parenting Group.
- 5.4. To feedback information in relation to Corporate Parenting to colleagues within their own service and to influence how these services are delivered
- 5.5. To ensure that children and young people are treated with respect as equal members of the group and that they have an effective voice
- 5.6. To attend all meetings and actively contribute to the agenda
- 5.7. To prepare, present and read reports as requested.

6. Frequency of meetings

- 6.1. The Corporate Parenting Group will meet at 6 weekly intervals.

7. Governance arrangements

- 7.1. The Corporate Parenting Group is responsible to the LSCB which is a partnership with local authority lead.
- 7.2. The Corporate Parenting Group will provide reports to LSCB twice yearly on its achievements in improving outcomes for looked after children, contributing to the Children and Young People's Plan and influencing positive outcomes for 'looked after children' and care leavers.
- 7.3. The Corporate Parenting Group will also provide thematic reports to both the LSCB Children Group and the LSCB Executive on relevant issues such as outcomes and learning from statutory inspections.
- 7.4. The Corporate Parenting group will provide an annual report to the Council's Cabinet on its statutory duty, effectiveness and forward plan.