

**Terms of Reference – Corporate Parenting Board**

**1.0 Role of the Board**

- 1.1 All elected Councillors are responsible for the welfare of children and young people in care i.e. "corporate parenting". The Corporate Parenting Board meets on a bi-monthly (every other month) basis to consider matters which affect children and young people in care.

**2.0 Purpose of the Board**

- 2.1 Provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting.
- 2.2 Ensure that all Councillors and City of Wolverhampton Council Service Groups are all fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents proactively.
- 2.3 Make a demonstrable commitment to prioritising the needs of children and young people in care and their carers.
- 2.4 Show ambition and aspirations for all children and young people in care and care leavers.
- 2.5 Undertake regular monitoring of the outcomes associated with the above priorities as they are articulated in the 'Corporate Parenting Pledge'.
- 1.6 Set objectives for monitoring the work of and evaluating the progress of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board.
- 2.7 To receive regular reports on the level and quality of services to children and young people in care and care leavers from the Children and Young People's Service Group and other Service Groups and external organisations.
- 2.8 Ensure that Councillors undertake a programme of visits to children's homes.
- 2.9 Promote achievement and acknowledging the aspirations of children and young people in care by supporting celebration events.
- 2.10 Champion the provision of Council based work placements and apprenticeships for young people in care and care leavers.
- 2.11 To determine ways in which the role of corporate parenting can be improved, using examples from other local authorities and countries.
- 2.12 To be responsible for ensuring that the views of children and young people and their carers are involved in the assessment, development and delivery of services.
- 2.13 Engaging with children and young people in care or who have left care including inviting them to act as advisers to the Board on a regular basis.

- 2.14 Engaging with foster carers including inviting them to act as advisers to the Board on a regular basis.
- 2.15 Meeting with Government inspectors where appropriate, for their input into overall inspections such as the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and individual inspections of fostering/adoption services and children's homes.
- 2.16 Through appropriate mechanisms, to report to Cabinet or other appropriate bodies on the work of the Board.

### **3.0 Membership and Quorum**

- 3.1 The Membership of the Board will consist of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People and up to nine Members on political proportionality. Membership and Chair arrangements of Corporate Parenting Board are agreed at each Annual General Meeting of the Council.
- 3.2 The Chair is the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People.
- 3.3 The Vice Chair will be appointed from the membership and agreed at the Annual General Meeting of the Council or the first meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board.
- 3.4 The quorum for Corporate Parenting Board is three Councillors including the Chair or Vice Chair.

### **4.0 Frequency**

- 4.1 The Board meets on a bi-monthly (every other month) basis to consider matters which affect children and young people in care.

### **5.0 Access to information**

The Board will be recorded and communicated as follows:

- 5.1 All agendas and accompanying paperwork will be published online in accordance with legislation on the Council's public-facing website by the nominated Democratic Services Officer.
- 5.2 Full meetings of Corporate Parenting Board will be conducted in public unless confidential information is to be disclosed. Reports that are of a confidential nature (i.e. containing exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972) will be restricted from public access and discussed following exclusion of press and public.
- 5.3 The Democratic Services Officer will record the minutes and decisions of the Corporate Parenting Board and publish to the Council's public-facing website.

Exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 will be restricted from public access.

5.4 Meetings of Corporate Parenting Board are currently held virtually and streamed live via the public-facing Council website. Streaming ceases during exclusion of the press and public.

## **6.0 Review**

6.1 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis at the beginning of each municipal year. The last review was 25 November 2021.