

**Manchester City Council**

**Terms of Reference**

**for**

**Corporate Parenting Panel**

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Panel is to ensure the Council with its partners effectively discharges its responsibilities as Corporate Parents to all children and young people looked after and care leavers.

As a Corporate Parent to all children and young people looked after and care leavers the Council and its partners must act as a responsible and good parent would act.

Every good parent:

- Ensures their children are kept safe and have a secure and stable environment in which to grow and thrive.
- Supports their children to remain healthy and promotes their emotional well-being and resilience.
- Protects their children from harm and ensures they know how to keep themselves safe and are supported to cope with the dangers and challenges life presents.
- Hold high aspirations for their children's future and wants the bests for their children and encourages and supports them to attend education regularly and reach their potential.
- Nurtures their children and prepares and supports their transition to adult life promoting their economic prospects and preparing them to become responsible citizens.
- Recognises, celebrate and shares in their achievements and celebrates them.
- Listens to their children's views and ensures they are taken into account.

**‘A child who is looked after by the Council or a care leaver has the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a responsible and good parent’.**

## 2. Membership

Cabinet Portfolio Lead Member (Chair)  
Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny  
Elected Members representing all political parties  
Representative from the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Council  
Director of Children's Services  
Strategic lead - Social Work  
Head of Quality Assurance for Safeguarding  
Strategic Lead Looked After Children  
Director of Education and Skills  
Head teacher - Virtual School  
Designated Doctor - Looked After Children  
Designation Nurse - Looked After Children  
Foster Carers Association  
Barnardos - Care Leaver Services  
Coram Voice - Independent Visiting and Advocacy Services  
Housing Representative  
Children's Legal Services  
Additional members as identified by the Board

## 3. Meeting Schedule

The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet a minimum of six times per year.

#### **4. Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel are as follows:

- To examine ways in which the Council as a whole and partner agencies can work together effectively to improve the life chances of all children and young people looked after and care leavers.
- To ensure there are good joint working arrangements between the council and partner agencies. Maintaining an overview of services to children and young people looked after and care leavers and holding them to account.
- To monitor and seek assurance that priority objectives outlined in the LAC Strategy are being delivered.
- To advise the Council's Cabinet of key issues and actions that need to be taken.
- To bring to the attention of the Council's Scrutiny Committee any areas that may warrant being 'called in' for Scrutiny consideration.
- To provide an opportunity for representatives of Children in Care and Care Leavers Councils to report on their work to the Board and influence.
- To maintain a strategic overview of new developments, initiatives, plans policies and strategies that impact on services for looked after children and care leavers.
- To monitor the performance of the Council by receiving regular progress reports, annual reports, regulation 44 reports, Ofsted reports, performance data and quality of practice audits undertaken relating to services to looked after children and care leaver services.
- To receive regular reports on the needs of care leavers including the suitability of accommodation, employment, education and training.
- To receive statutory annual reports from the Adoption and Fostering and Independent Reviewing Officer services.
- To agree an annual work programme setting out its key priorities and areas for action.
- To prepare an Annual Report in the areas considered by the Board, including its work programme, for presentation to Council and Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board.
- To acknowledge and celebrate in the achievements of children and young people in care in areas of education, drama, sport and employment, and participate in annual celebration events.
- To take account of the experiences of children and young people when leaving care and other key stakeholders and to ensure they influence the improvement of services and policy development.