

KNOWSLEY CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Corporate Parenting Board acts to assist the Council in continuing to fulfil its legal obligations and responsibilities towards looked after children and leaving care, under the Children Act 1989 and Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) acts strategically to ensure that looked after children and care leavers are effectively supported to reach their potential through the provision of excellent parenting, high quality education, and opportunities to develop their talents and skills, and effective support for their transition to adulthood.

This forum has a responsibility to monitor and review the quality and effectiveness of services for looked after children delivered by Corporate Parents; the council, partner agencies and commissioned services; to ensure that every child and young person looked after is supported to be safe, happy, and healthy and to achieve their full potential. In addition, it has a key role in listening to the voice of children and young people looked after and leaving care.

The Corporate Parenting Board has a responsibility to:

- Oversee the implementation of the Knowsley Council Children Looked After and Care Leavers Plan and monitor the quality and effectiveness of services to ensure they fulfil the council's responsibilities and achieve good outcomes for CLA.
- Maintain a strategic overview on the development of all new policies, procedures and initiatives to ensure these are in line with local and national priorities and objectives including the Corporate Parenting Strategy; and that they will effectively meet the needs of children looked after.
- Monitor and review the quality and effectiveness of services across the council, partner agencies and commissioned services to achieve continuing improvements in outcomes for looked after children and care leavers and ensure that appropriate action is taken where services fail to respond to their responsibilities for CLA.
- Ensure that the voice and opinions of as wide a range as possible of children looked after and care leavers are heard and that their views are used to shape policy and monitor performance.
- Ensure that the achievements of looked after children and care leavers are highlighted and celebrated.
- Receive reports on all aspects of children looked after and care leaver's welfare including employment, further education,



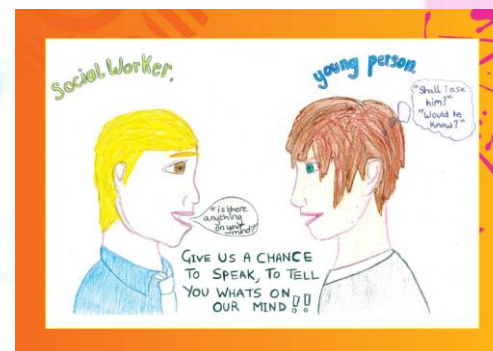
training and housing, regulation 44 visits, as required from the local authority and partner agencies in sufficient detail to enable the Board to undertake its strategic responsibilities for planning, monitoring and evaluation.



- Monitor the performance of the Council by receiving progress reports on the key performance indicators including complaints and compliments, internal audits and external scrutiny including inspection and examine ways in which the Council as a whole and partner agencies can improve the life chances of looked after children and care leavers.
- Consider the commitment to joint-working arrangements between council departments and partner agencies and examine ways in which holistic, integrated and cross-cutting practice can be further embedded and priorities and objectives agreed.

Membership:

The Corporate Parenting Board is chaired by the portfolio holder for childrens' services. Membership of the Board is from councillors, officers and organisations that are responsible for those areas which had a direct impact children looked after and/or care leavers, including education, care, health, employment, leisure and housing. The membership and involvement of children from Knowsley's Children in Care Council (CiCC) is a crucial element of the CPB to ensure young people looked after meet directly with key decision-makers and influence the priorities, decisions and service development.



Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board consists of the following:

- Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Children's Services
- Cabinet Lead Member for Children's Services
- Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Public Health, Wellbeing and Customer Services
- Foster Carers
- Director of Children
- Director of Place
- Assistant Executive Director of Children's Social Care
- Assistant Executive Director of Children's Safeguarding & Quality Assurance
- Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Manager
- Head of Service Permanence and Provision Services
- Police Area Commander
- Virtual School Headteacher
- Named GP - LAC Health
- Deputy Director of Nursing & Quality
- Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children & Children Looked After
- Specific members of the CICC (MADE) will attend for an element of each meeting.

Other officers to attend when required as advisors to the board, as agreed by the board.

Substitutes:

All nominated representatives will be expected to attend each meeting of the Board or make appropriate arrangements for a substitute to attend. However if a nominated representative misses three board meetings in succession or does not attend more than 50% of meetings in a twelve month period, the representative will be asked to discuss their non-attendance with the Chair/ Vice-Chair. The Chair/ Vice-Chair should accept reasonable explanations as to non-attendance. Where reasonable explanations are not provided, the representative's organization or nominating body may be asked to nominate an alternative representative.

Quorum:

The quorum for a Board meeting shall be at least one quarter of the membership of the Board, including substitutes. The quorum must include at least 2 council representatives.

Meetings:

- The Corporate Parenting Board meets bi monthly.
- This body is serviced administratively by the CSC QA Team
- The Corporate Parenting Board agrees an annual work programme setting out its key priorities and areas for action.
- The chair of the Corporate Parenting Board meets with the Assistant Executive Director Quality Assurance & Safeguarding to agree the agenda and review actions and progress outside of the meeting.
- Members of the Board will attend the 'The Voice of the Child Looked After' workshops.

Reporting Mechanisms:

An Annual Looked after Childrens report is prepared that considered the work of the CPB and is presented to the LSCB.

