

KNOWSLEY CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Corporate Parenting Board assists the Council in continuing to fulfil its legal obligations and responsibilities towards looked after children and children leaving care, under the Children Act 1989 and Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. The role of local authorities and the application of seven key Corporate Parenting principles is set out in section 1 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

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, opportunities to develop their talents and skills, and effective support for their transition to adulthood.

The Board 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, 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;

- act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children looked after and care leavers;
- encourage children looked after and care leavers to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children looked after and care leavers;
- help children looked after and care leavers gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for children looked after and care leavers;
- ensure that children looked after and care leavers are safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
- prepare children looked after and care leavers for adulthood and independent living;
- oversee the implementation of the Knowsley Council Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy and monitor the quality and effectiveness of services to ensure they fulfil the Council's responsibilities and achieve good outcomes for children looked after;
- 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 external scrutiny and inspection to 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 partnership arrangements between Council departments and partner agencies to enhance the services delivered to children looked after and care leavers.

Meetings

- The Corporate Parenting Board meets bi-monthly.
- This body is serviced administratively by a children social care business support officer
- 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 Director of Children's Services to agree the agenda and review actions and progress outside of the meeting.

Reporting Mechanisms

The Corporate Parenting Board reports into the Children and Families Board. It is expected to report into the Children and Families Board on an annual basis.

Membership

Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board consists of the following:

- Cabinet Member for Children's Services, KMBC (Chair)
- Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, KMBC
- Specific members of the Children in Care Council (MADE) will attend for an element of each meeting supported by MADE participation officer.
- Care Leavers Forum
- Foster Carers
- Director for Children's Services, KMBC
- Assistant Executive Director of Children's Social Care, KMBC
- Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Manager, KMBC
- Head of Service, Children Looked After and Care Leavers, KMBC
- Strategic Housing Manager, KMBC
- Head of Libraries and Cultural Services, KMBC
- Head of Service Permanence and Provision Services, KMBC
- Chief Inspector, Merseyside Police
- Virtual School Headteacher
- Assistant Director of Nursing & Quality, North West Boroughs
- Mental Health Commissioner, CCG
- Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children & Children Looked After, CCG
- Children Looked After Named Nurse, North West Boroughs
- Chief Executive, Knowsley Youth Mutual

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

All nominated representatives will be expected to attend each meeting of the Board or make appropriate arrangements for a substitute to attend.

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.