

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cared For Children and Care Leavers Committee

held on Tuesday, 24th June, 2025 in The Capesthorne Room - Town Hall,
Macclesfield, SK10 1EA

PRESENT

Councillor Laura Crane (Chair)
Councillor J Saunders (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Beanland, S Bennett-Wake, D Clark, R Fletcher, E Gilman,
S Holland, B Posnett and B Puddicombe

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dawn Godfrey, Executive Director, Children's Services
Tracy Stephen, Director of Family Help and Children's Social Care
Laura Rogerson, Head of Service, Inclusion
Nicola Wycherley, Designated Nurse
Alison Sollom, Interim Head of Cared for Children and Care Leavers
Kristy Broadhurst, Service Manager, Cared for Children
Samantha Derbyshire, Head of Provider Services
Jessica Hillman, Service Manager, Cared for Children
Annie Britton, Participation Lead
Jennifer Ashley, Democratic Services Officer

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Laura Crane be appointed as Chair for the 2025/26 municipal year.

That Councillor Jos Saunders be appointed as Vice Chair for the 2025/26 municipal year.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor George Hayes.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2025 be approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Laura Rogerson, Head of Service, being noted as in attendance.

5 REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The committee received the report on the review of the committee's terms of reference, as required on an annual basis.

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference be noted.

6 UPDATE FROM THE CORPORATE PARENTING EXECUTIVE BOARD

The committee received an update on the work of the Corporate Parenting Executive Board.

Details were provided on three workstream areas:

- Good Homes For All - A housing workshop took place on 22 May 2025 with 10 of housing providers, along with 4 Youth Ambassadors to develop a Charter for Care Experienced Young People.
- Good Health and Wellbeing - 2 meetings of this group had taken place with good engagement and attendance
- Good Educational Skills - An action plan workshop had taken place with partners to map out priorities in relation to this workstream. Task and finish groups will be established to progress actions.

Information relating to performance updates from the virtual school and corporate parenting scorecard were also provided.

In addition, the committee received a presentation from the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Shadow Committee that provided details on

- Care Leavers experiences of moving into Independent Accommodation
- The redesign of Independence Packs, with input from the Participation Team and Care Leaver Service, Care Leaver Ambassadors and partner agencies
- Cared for Children engaging with the recommission of Independent Visitor and Advocacy Service with 20 young people taking part

- Cared for Children and Care Leavers had been involved in the recruitment of Senior Managers across the Local Authority

RESOLVED:

That the updates from the Corporate Parenting Executive Board and the Care Leavers Shadow Committee be noted.

7 FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

The committee received the Fostering Service Annual Report for 2024/25.

It was highlighted to the committee that although the number of Fostering Carers had increased, work was required to recruit and retain more. The service had made improvements and strengthened the service with consistency of staffing.

Members requested information be circulated regarding how they can promote Foster Caring in their wards.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

8 CARED FOR CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS COMMITTEE QUARTER 4 SCORECARD

The committee received the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee Q4 scorecard for 2024-25.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.20 pm

Councillor Laura Crane (Chair)