

Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee Terms of Reference

Membership: 12 Councillors

Additionally, the committee is informed by representative young people from My Voice (Cheshire East's Children in Care Council) to advise the committee.

The Chair is the Lead Member for Children and Families.

Functions

1. The purpose of the Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee in its role as an advisory committee to the Children and Families Committee is to ensure that the council effectively discharges its role as corporate parent for all children and young people in care and care leavers from 0- 25 years of age and holds partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities.

2. The committee's responsibilities include:

2.1. acting as advocate for cared for children and care leavers, ensuring that their needs are addressed through key plans, policies and strategies throughout the council and its commissioned services

2.2. ensuring key strategic plans relating to children in care and care leavers are in place and are delivered including the Cared for Children and Care Leaver's Strategy, Sufficiency Statement and Children and Young People's Plan

2.3. overseeing the implementation of Cheshire East's Cared for Children and Care Leaver's Strategy and action plan and monitoring the quality and effectiveness of services to ensure that they fulfil the council's responsibilities

2.4. oversight and scrutiny of the quality of care in residential children's homes for Cheshire East children and young people through visits and reports, including summary reports of Ofsted inspections

2.5 reviewing the performance of the council in relation to outcomes for children and young people in care via the scrutiny of both quarterly performance reports and annual reports including the Health of Cared for Children and Care Leavers, the Virtual School, Fostering and the Independent Reviewing Service

2.6. establishing an environment whereby Councillors and young people work together to address the needs and aspirations of Cheshire East's children and young people in care and empower children and young people to participate in decision making with adults

2.7. overseeing with the Children and Families Committee the implementation of best practice principles in all aspects of service delivery, with the aim of producing positive outcomes for children and young people in care

2.8. supporting the work of foster carers and adopters in making a difference to the care and support they provide

2.9. making sure that staff and partners commit to follow the pledges to cared for children and young people and care leavers set out in the Cared for Children and Care Leaver's Strategy

Governance

3. The committee will:

3.1. meet quarterly

3.2. report to the Children and Families Committee on at least an annual basis

and

3.3. review its terms of reference annually

4. The Committee will be serviced by Democratic Services

5. Minutes and agendas will be distributed and published no later than 5 clear working days prior to the meeting