

TERMS OF REFERENCE Cheshire East Corporate Parenting Committee

Functions

This is a cross party advisory committee appointed by the Cabinet Children and Families Committee.

It has 12 Members who are appointed on a politically proportionate basis and nominated by the political groups.

The Committee is informed by representative young people from the Children in Care Council to advise the Committee.

The Chair is the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families.

Purpose

The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Committee in its role as an advisory committee to ~~the Cabinet~~ 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.

Terms of Reference

1. Act as advocates 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. Ensure key strategic plans ~~and reports~~ relating to children in care and care leavers are in place and are delivered including the Corporate Parenting Strategy, Sufficiency Statement and Children and Young People's Plan.
3. Oversee the implementation of Cheshire East's Corporate Parenting Strategy and action plan and monitor the quality and effectiveness of services to ensure they fulfil the council's responsibilities.
4. Monitor the quality of care delivered by Cheshire East's residential children's homes via the provision of reports including summary reports of Ofsted inspections.
5. Review 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.

6. Establish an environment whereby Elected Members 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.
7. Oversee, with the Children and Families ~~Overview and Scrutiny~~ 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.
8. Support the work of foster carers and adopters in making a difference to the care and support they provide to children and young people in care and those adopted.
9. Make sure that staff and partners commit to follow the pledges to cared for children and young people and care leavers set out in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Governance

The Committee will:

- meet ~~bi-monthly~~quarterly;
- report to the ~~Council's Cabinet~~Children and Families Committee on at least an annual basis;
- ~~report to the Council's Scrutiny Committee annually; and~~
- involve young peoples' representatives from My Voice (Cheshire East's Children in Care Council); and
- review its terms of reference annually.

Administration

The Committee will be serviced by Democratic Services.

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

~~The meetings will take place out of school hours to enable cared for children and young people to participate.~~