

## **Corporate Parenting Committee**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	27 January 2022
<b>Report Title:</b>	Changes to time of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Review of the Terms of Reference
<b>Report of:</b>	Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children’s Services
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	Not applicable

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<b>Corporate Plan Priorities</b>	<b>Open</b>	An open and enabling organisation	x
	<b>Fair</b>	A council which empowers and cares about people	x
	<b>Green</b>	A thriving and sustainable place	

### **1. Purpose of Report**

**1.1.** This report proposes that from the new Committee year, so for meetings held from April 2022 onwards, the Corporate Parenting Committee is held within usual business hours, so from 10am or 2pm in line with other Committees. rather than 4pm – 6pm as it meets currently. The Committee is also requested to review its terms of reference as this is required on an annual basis.

### **2. Executive Summary**

**2.1.** This report proposes that from the new Committee year, so for meetings held from April 2022 onwards, the Corporate Parenting Committee is held within usual business hours, so from 10am or 2pm in line with other Committees, rather than 4pm – 6pm as it meets currently. The Committee is also requested to review its terms of reference as this is required on an annual basis.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. The Committee is asked to:
- 3.2. Approve that the Corporate Parenting Committee is held within usual business hours from April 2022 onwards.
- 3.3. Review and endorse the terms of reference.

### **4. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1. The Corporate Parenting Committee is currently held from 4pm. This arrangement was put in place to allow children and young people to attend the Committee. Children and young people have since chosen to inform the Committee through meeting as a Shadow Committee, therefore meetings no longer need to be held outside of usual business hours and can be moved back to be in line with other committees.
- 4.2. The terms of reference (Appendix 1) is required to be reviewed annually by the Committee.

### **5. Other Options Considered**

- 5.1. The meeting could continue to be held at 4pm, however, as there is now no rationale for holding the Committee outside usual business hours, it is recommended that the Committee be moved to be in line with the other committees.

### **6. Implications**

#### **6.1. Legal**

- 6.1.1. There are no specific legal implications.

#### **6.2. Finance**

- 6.2.1. There are no financial implications.

#### **6.3. Policy**

- 6.3.1. There are no policy implications.

#### **6.4. Equality**

- 6.4.1. There are no equality implications.

#### **6.5. Human Resources**

- 6.5.1. There are no human resource implications.

#### **6.6. Risk Management**

- 6.6.1. There are no risks to consider as a result of this proposal.

**6.7. Rural Communities**

6.7.1. There are no implications for rural communities.

**6.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children**

6.8.1. There are no implications for children and young people. Should children and young people wish to return to attending the Committee we could move the meetings back to a later time.

**6.9. Public Health**

6.9.1. There are no public health implications.

**6.10. Climate Change**

6.10.1. There are no climate change implications.

<b>Access to Information</b>	
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Appendices:	Terms of Reference
Background Papers:	None

## **Appendix 1: Terms of Reference**

### **Corporate Parenting Committee**

#### **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 Corporate Parenting 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 Corporate Parenting Strategy, Sufficiency Statement and Children and Young People's Plan;
  - 2.3 overseeing the implementation of Cheshire East's Corporate Parenting Strategy and action plan and monitoring the quality and effectiveness of services to ensure that they fulfil the Council's responsibilities;
  - 2.4 monitoring the quality of care delivered by Cheshire East's residential children's homes 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 Corporate Parenting Strategy.

### **Governance**

3. The Committee will:
  - 3.1 meet bi-monthly;
  - 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.