

OPEN

**Cared for Children and Care Leavers  
Committee**

**18 June 2024**

**Review of the Terms of Reference**

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**Report of: Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director Children's  
Services**

**Ward(s) Affected: All wards**

**Purpose of Report**

- 1 This report requests that the committee's terms of reference are reviewed as this is required on an annual basis.
- 2 The Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee contributes to delivering the priority in the council's Corporate Plan 2021-25 to be the best corporate parents to cared for children and care leavers.

**Executive Summary**

- 3 This report requests that the committee's terms of reference are reviewed as this is required on an annual basis.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
The Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee is recommended to:  1. Review and approve the terms of reference for the committee (appendix 1)



**Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4 The constitution requires that the terms of reference (appendix 1) are reviewed on an annual basis.

## Other Options Considered

Option	Impact	Risk
Do not review or approve the terms of reference	Committee will not be compliant with its own terms of reference within the constitution	There is a risk that the committee is not fulfilling its terms of reference

## Implications and Comments

### *Monitoring Officer/Legal*

- 5 The constitution requires that the terms of reference (appendix 1) are reviewed on an annual basis.

### *Section 151 Officer/Finance*

- 6 There are no financial implications or changes required to the MTFS as a result of the recommendation in this report.

### *Policy*

- 7 There are no policy implications.

	<b>Be the best Corporate Parents to our children in care.</b>	
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### *Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion*

- 8 There are no implications for equality, diversity or inclusion.

### *Human Resources*

- 9 There are no human resources implications.

### *Risk Management*

- 10 The Committee has a role in overseeing and scrutinising the quality of services to cared for children and young people and care leavers, and ensuring that risks that could impact on the quality of services are prevented or effectively mitigated.

### *Rural Communities*

- 11 Vulnerable children and young people are present in all communities in Cheshire East.

*Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)*

- 12 The Committee aims to improve the outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people.

### *Public Health*

- 13 Same as the implication above.

### *Climate Change*

- 14 There are no implications for climate change because of this report.

<b>Access to Information</b>	
Contact Officer:	Lauren Conway, Business Manager <a href="mailto:Lauren.conway@cheshireeast.gov.uk">Lauren.conway@cheshireeast.gov.uk</a>
Appendices:	Appendix 1: Terms of Reference
Background Papers:	None

## Appendix 1

### **Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee (formerly the 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 Cared for Children and Care Leavers 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 Leavers' Strategy, Sufficiency Statement and Children and Young People's Plan;
  - 2.3 overseeing the implementation of Cheshire East's Cared for Children and Care Leavers' 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 delivered 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 Leavers' 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.