

REPORT TO:	CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
AGENDA ITEM NO:	23 June 2022
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, MEMBERSHIP, DATES AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
LEAD OFFICER:	ROISIN MADDEN DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE
WARDS:	ALL
FINANCIAL IMPACT Implementation of the recommendations contained in this report shall be contained within existing budgets.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to:

- 1.1 Consider and review its Membership (including the role of the co-opted members), Terms of Reference, together with dates and frequency of future meetings as set out in Appendix 1, 2 and 3 respectively;
- 1.2 Agree any next steps required;

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has determined that the Corporate Parenting Panel shall be responsible for receiving and considering reports on matters focusing on improving outcomes for children looked after by Croydon Council.
- 2.2 It is good practice for the Panel at its first meeting following Annual Council to consider and, where necessary, review its terms of reference, membership, frequency, dates and timing of its future meetings.
- 2.3 Ensuring the Panel's terms of reference are accurate and effectively supports the work of the Panel.
- 2.4 Members are therefore asked to consider these matters and agree any next steps required.

3. DETAIL

Annual establishment, terms of reference and dates of meetings.

- 3.1 At the Annual Council meeting on Wednesday 25 May the Council approved the proportionality and establishment of Committees and Panels of the authority including the Corporate Parenting Panel and appointment of Members thereto.
- 3.2 It is good practice that, following the Annual Council meeting, the committees that have been established to note their Membership, Terms of Reference (Terms of Reference), and the dates of meetings for the duration of the municipal year. The Membership is set out in Appendix 1 of this report. The Terms of Reference are set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The Constitution requires for Corporate Parenting Panel to meet 6 times per municipal year as set out in Appendix 3. Meetings start at 5pm.

Membership.

- 3.4 Full Council has agreed that the Panel shall be appointed in that the Corporate Parenting Panel shall be composed of 8 Members including 6 non-voting Co-opted Members.
- 3.5 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Maria Gatland, was also appointed as Chair for the municipal year at the Full Council meeting on 25 May 2022.

Terms of Reference.

- 3.6 Members will note in Appendix 2 the Terms of Reference which is re-established annually as an informal advisory body to the Cabinet Member responsible for Children and Young People.

Dates and frequency of meetings.

- 3.7 Members will note from Appendix 3 that the calendar of meetings proposes that the committee meet 6 times throughout the municipal year. Members will also note that there is a separate item relating to the committee Work Programme elsewhere on this agenda.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Members should now consider and, if necessary, review its membership, terms of reference and meeting calendar schedule from previous.
- 4.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel should make any suggested amendments to its membership to Full Council for consideration.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The proportional balance of the Council was reviewed by all members at full council on 25 May and committees and their membership duly appointed. The underlining purpose of this report is to consult the Panel's membership on the issues detailed above.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 N/A

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 N/A

8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS.

There are no HR implications arising from this report for Croydon Council employees or staff. If any should arise these will be managed under the Council's policies and procedures.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 9.1 The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the provisions set out in the Sec 149 Equality Act 2010. The Council must therefore have due regard to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The Equality Act 2011(section 149) places a public sector equality duty (section 146) on the Council. The duty requires the Council to have due regard to *the need to advance equality of opportunity* between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 9.2 Having "due regard" to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to *encourage persons* who share a relevant protected characteristic *to participate in public life* or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

- 9.3 When drawing up the schedule of dates, consideration was given to avoiding school holiday dates and known dates of religious holidays and other key/important dates around culture, diversity and inclusion where at all possible.
- 9.4 The full impacts of Covid 19, the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis may not be apparent at this time and could possibly lead to more parents experiencing additional pressure in relation to physical and mental disabilities and economic hardship. Data on the protected characteristics of service users should be collated by the department to ensure that the impact across communities can be ascertained. Subsequently young people transitioning from Children’s social care to Adults Social Care could impact heavily on budget dependent on the needs of individuals identified

Approved by: Denise McCausland Equalities Programme Manager.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS.

There are no data protection implications arising from the proposal.

CONTACT OFFICERS: Michelle Ossei-Gerning, Democratic Services Officer (ext. 84246)

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

- Appendix 1 – Membership of the Committee
- Appendix 2 – Terms of Reference of the Committee
- Appendix 3 – Dates of future meetings

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Appendix 1
Corporate Parenting Panel

Membership of the Panel

Councillors (including Chair):

Majority Group Members 4	Minority Group Members 4
Maria Gatland (Chair)	Mike Bonello
Sue Bennett	Maddie Henson
Helen Redfern	Tamar Nwafor
Samir Dwesar	Catherine Wilson

Independent Co-opted Members (Non-Voting):

Virtual School Head
Children Looked After Designated Health Professionals
Children in Care Council/EMPIRE
Care Leaver Representative
Foster Carer Representative
Health Commissioners

Terms of Reference of the Panel

Constitution

Part 6.E – TERMS OF REFERENCE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Established: First established 2007 and re-established annually since then as an informal advisory body to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services.

Regularity of meetings: 6 times per year.

Membership: 8 Members - 4:4

4 Members of the Administration, including and to be chaired by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services.

4 Members of the Opposition

6 Co – Opted Members:

- Virtual School Head
- LAC Nurse/Doctor
- Children in Care Council/EMPIRE
- Care leaver
- Foster carer
- Health Commissioner

Proportionality: Not applicable

Democratic Services & Governance Officer:

Michelle Gerning 0208 726 6000 ext 84246

Lead Officers:

- Director of Children's Social Care
- Head of Children's Social Care

Quorum: 3

Access to information:

Due to the nature of the work of the Panel and its Membership, meetings of the Panel are not able to be held in public, however, agenda papers and minutes are made available on the Council's website. Agenda papers are published five clear working days in advance of Panel meetings. Councillors that are not Members of the Panel are permitted to attend meetings at the discretion of the Panel Chair.

Terms of Reference (Revised 2019):

- The Corporate Parenting Panel will focus on improving outcomes for children looked after by Croydon Council.
- To support the Council's development of a corporate parenting strategy and to monitor and review its implementation.
- To monitor performance targets and priorities so far as they relate to children looked after or young people in receipt of leaving care services.
- To consider recommendations from internal and external inspections and reviews and hear the voice of children looked after and care leavers in responding to them
- To monitor the health needs of looked after children, promoting positive engagement of health partners in Corporate Parenting.
- To monitor the education needs of looked after children, promoting positive engagement of education partners in Corporate Parenting.
- To ensure the Council actively promotes opportunities for looked after children across the whole Council.
- To ensure that the voice and opinions of as wide a range as possible of children looked after and care leavers, including those with disabilities, are heard and that their views are used to co-produce services, shape policy and monitor performance.
- To advise the Lead Member for Children's Services on issues relating to Corporate Parenting Policy.
- To report annually to the Council on the work of the Panel.

**Appendix 3
Corporate Parenting Panel**

**Dates of future meetings
Municipal year 2022/2023**

Dates of meetings

23	June	2022
07	September	2022
10	November	2022
11	January	2023
21	February	2023
26	April	2023