

Terms of Reference – Corporate Parenting Committee

3.	CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	
Appointed by: The Council under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972	Number of Elected Members: Eight	
Chair and Vice-Chair appointed by: The Council	Political Proportionality: The elected Members shall be appointed in accordance with Political Proportionality	
Quorum: Three elected Members	Co-opted Members to be appointed by Corporate Parenting Committee: (i) A nominated representative from Open Door (ii) Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Children in Care Council (iii) Chair and Vice-Chair of the Foster Carers Association	
<p>Functions determined by Council:</p> <p>1. Purpose</p> <p>1.1 The Committee exists to ensure that all elements of the Council work together to ensure that the children looked after by Thurrock get the best possible service that can be offered.</p> <p>1.2 The Committee will serve to aid elected members to drive the improvement of the service forward including by interacting with the looked after children</p> <p>1.3 The Committee will monitor, review and update the looked after children strategy.</p> <p>1.4 In carrying out this role, the Committee has set as its Mission Statement: “We want to ensure that all children looked after by Thurrock Council are given the same opportunities, the same level of support and given the same amount of attention as would be given to our own children. We acknowledge that because children looked after have often had very difficult and damaging experiences in their lives, at times they need extra support and resources in order that they can benefit from the same opportunities as other children in our community as well as ensuring that young people have access and knowledge of their elected members who run the authority for the LAC and therefore give them a voice”.</p> <p>2. Objectives</p> <p>2.1 To champion and promote the best interests of all children and young people who are, have been in care or may be at risk of becoming looked after children, particularly in relation to the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and well-being • Ability to stay safe • Ability to enjoy and achieve • Ability and opportunity to make a positive contribution • Achievement of economic well-being <p>2.2 To promote the role of all councillors as corporate parents and provide the robust vehicle for their mandate to be exercised on behalf of young people</p> <p>2.3 To bring together members/officers/representatives of partner agencies with corporate parenting responsibilities, with the Chair having discretion to extend invitations to attend</p>		

meetings of the Committee as appropriate.

- 2.4 To routinely examine the performance data relating to looked after children and, as necessary, seek to inquire into those areas where performance is poor or of concern.
- 2.5 To explore the extent to which the Council as a whole is contributing to meeting the needs of looked after children and to identify and pursue areas where there could be improvement.
- 2.6 To receive effective 'preventative' and qualitative information in order to hold senior officers to account in relation to meeting the needs and improving the outcomes of looked after children.
- 2.7 To oversee the strategy for looked after children and ensure that the various elements within it are being delivered in a holistic and comprehensive way by all responsible.
- 2.8 To identify and celebrate the achievements of individual children and young people who are or who have been looked after.
- 2.9 To see the service shaped and influenced by those it serves i.e. young people.
- 2.10 To prepare an annual report on the work of the Committee for consideration by the Council.
- 2.11 To make recommendations to the relevant executive decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the executive
- 2.12 To report to the relevant scrutiny committee any matter which it believes that committee should give consideration to.
- 2.13 The Corporate Parenting Committee shall be responsible for setting its own work programme, taking into account the wishes and preferences of the members of the Committee, together with any suggestions from Officers of the Council for particular topics to be considered.

Matters reserved for decision

There are no specific matters reserved to this committee.

The reason for this is that the role and function of the committee is to review and monitor the council's role as a corporate parent. This involves the participation of members on a cross political group committee. However any specific actions the committee might identify as necessary would be executive functions and need to be taken by a cabinet decision maker, in accordance with cabinet responsibility for functions.

Functions determined by Statute