

# Oldham Corporate Parenting Panel

## Terms of Reference Updated November 2018

### Children and young people friendly version

#### **Introduction**

A main priority for Oldham is that it is 'a place where children and young people thrive'.

This priority is for all children who are looked after and care leavers up to the age of 25 years old. Oldham recognises that many of these children and young people have faced many challenges and may need extra support to be safe, well and achieve their dreams.

#### **What is the Corporate Parenting Panel?**

The Corporate Parenting Panel is a regular meeting of leads of services, both within the council and within other organisations, such as health, the police and housing who will look at services, challenge and support them to make sure they are all working towards the corporate parenting principles.

These principles are:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;

- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
- To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

## **What Should the Corporate Parenting Panel Do?**

### **In Summary:**

- ✓ **Listen to young people, foster carers and residential social worker**
- ✓ **Understand the experiences of children looked after and care leavers**
- ✓ **Ensure services are doing their best to meet the needs of children looked after and care leavers**
- ✓ **Link with other boards and groups to share information**
- ✓ **To understand how looked after children and care leavers are doing in education and how health and safe they are**

### **In Detail**

1. To make sure the panel is finding new and effective ways of listening and responding to children looked after and care leavers and of their parents and carers.
2. To understand well the needs of children looked after and care leavers and how services can best meet these needs.
3. To work with the Children in Care Council to listen to what they have to say and make sure they are fully involved in the Corporate Parenting Panel. The panel will also listen to foster carers and residential workers.
4. To understand services who work with and for children looked after and care leavers and champion the rights and needs of this group of children and young people.
5. To make sure The Looked After Children's Steering Group is doing their job properly. This will include delivering work that is given to them by the Corporate Parenting Panel. The Panel will also give instructions to services to make sure they are doing what they can and should be doing for children looked after and care leavers and where they are not, they will challenge them.
6. The Corporate Parenting Panel will make sure all elected members, staff within the council and staff in partner organisations understand their responsibilities as a corporate parent.

7. To make sure services are delivering all the work and targets within the looked after children and care leavers strategy and Oldham's Pledge to children looked after and care leavers
8. To make sure services are delivering all that is set out in the law or good practice guides.
9. To make sure elected members are kept up to date with findings from the Corporate Parenting Panel
10. The panel should have data presented to them to help them understand information around children looked after and care leavers health and wellbeing, education

### **Who Sits on the Corporate Parenting Panel?**

Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Chair) and five other elected members  
 Deputy Chief Executive – People and Place  
 Director of Children's Services  
 Director of Social Care and Early Help  
 Director of Education and Early Years  
 Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Partnerships  
 Head of Service for Looked After Children  
 Head of Service Safeguarding  
 Head of the Virtual School  
 Principal Homeless Strategy Officer  
 Head of Service Public Health, Youth and Leisure  
 Service Manager Safeguarding and Quality  
 Service Manager Youth Services  
 Corporate Parenting Lead

This also includes people from other organisations:

First Choice Homes  
 Positive Steps (including Youth Justice Team)  
 Oldham CCG  
 Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust (including Healthy Young Minds)  
 Independent Children's Rights and Advocacy provider  
 Bridgewater NHS Foundation Trust  
 Oldham College  
 Leisure Services  
 GMP  
 Voluntary sector representative  
 Foster Carer representatives

Members of the Children in Care Council will also be present at the panel meeting and will be fully involved.

## **Meeting Arrangements**

Meetings of the Corporate Parenting Panel will take place every two months. All reports will be sent out at least one week before to all people who will be attending the panel.

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