

Terms of Reference for Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)

Vision

The Corporate Parenting Board will continually strive to secure better outcomes for children in, and leaving our care.

Operating Principles

The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) is a Committee of the Council and is accountable to the Council.

The CPB will provide the strategic direction and overarching strategic priorities for improving health and wellbeing for the population of the Borough.

It will develop the appropriate substructures that enable CPB to discharge its responsibilities in improving and protecting the Borough's health and reducing health inequalities. Specifically, the Board will be supported by the Children in Our Care Strategic Group which will ensure the implementation of the priorities identified by the CPB.

The arrangements will operate in a spirit of open and honest dialogue and collective responsibility for taking decisions.

Strategic Context

The Local Authority (Council) has a strategic responsibility for children in care as documented in legislation and national and local guidance. The Children Act 1989 placed a duty on Health, Housing, Education and Social Care as a minimum, to work together to improve outcomes for children in care. The Children Act 2004 placed a statutory duty on Local Authorities to promote the educational achievement of children in care. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 established seven corporate parenting principles which the Council must have regard to.

Building on the good partnership arrangements that are in place in Stockton-on-Tees, the Corporate Parenting Board brings together representatives of relevant agencies in order to develop a common understanding of agencies' shared responsibilities and to ensure strategic planning across partner organisations takes account of the needs of children and young people who are in our care.

Aim:

1. To take a multi-agency approach to challenging outcomes and promoting the needs and interests of children and young people in care and care leavers in Stockton-on-Tees
2. To oversee the continuing development and implementation of the strategy for children in, and leaving, our care
3. To lead a multi-agency approach to corporate parenting

Objectives

1. Seeking to improve outcomes through sharing good practice, experience and approaches.
2. Identifying opportunities for collaboration and partnership.
3. Further development of a coherent approach to issues relating to children in our care and care leavers.
4. Making recommendations to the Director of Children's Services (DCS), Stockton-on-Tees Health & Wellbeing Board, Children and Young People's Partnership and relevant Partnership Boards as appropriate.
5. Pro-actively celebrating success and achievement of Children in Our Care.
6. Forging productive links with other local, regional and national groups with a focus on Children in Our Care.
7. To ensure that all agencies are enabled to fulfil their corporate parenting role and responsibilities.
8. Oversee the development, review and implementation of the Children in Our Care and Care Leavers Strategy.

Implementation and development

The Children in Our Care Strategic Group will be the operational group, tasked with the role of implementing the strategy, any additional priorities of the CPB and will be accountable to CPB.

Children and Young Peoples Voice

The CPB actively seeks the involvement of children and young people.

The views of children and young people in care will be routinely provided through the children's rights function.

Twice a year, the CPB will jointly meet with children and young people to discuss priorities and issues.