

Stockton-On-Tees Children in our care strategic group

Draft January 2018

Terms of Reference

Context

The children in our care strategic group is a refreshed group charged with supporting the newly established Corporate Parenting Board.

It is specifically charged with the lead role in implementing the priorities of the Corporate Parenting Board, and specifically, the delivery of the strategy for children in, and leaving, our care 2018-21.

Building on the good partnership arrangements that are in place in Stockton-On-Tees, the group will bring together representatives of relevant agencies in order to develop a common understanding of agencies and shared responsibilities to ensure planning and development work cuts across partner organisations and takes account of the needs of children and young people who are looked after and leaving care with a view to improving outcomes.

It will also be specifically established to reflect the priorities in the strategy and will have lead roles identified for members of the group.

Aim:

1. To take a multi-agency approach to improving outcomes and promoting the needs and interests of children in care and care leavers in Stockton-on-Tees.
2. To undertake tasks prioritised at Corporate Parenting Board in order to ensure the development and implementation of the strategy and any other priorities identified.

Objectives:

1. Delivering the priorities in the strategy
2. Seeking to improve outcomes through sharing good practice, experience and approaches.
3. The development of a coherent approach to issues relating to looked after children, young people and care leavers across a range of agencies.
4. Making recommendations to CPB and respective senior managers in represented agencies with a view to service development and accessing resources.
5. Pro-actively celebrating success and achievement of looked after children and care leavers.
6. Forging productive links with other local, regional and national groups with a focus on looked after children and care leavers.
7. To ensure that all agencies are enabled to fulfil their corporate parenting role & responsibilities.
8. To ensure there is flexible support for those looking after our children and young people.
9. Ensure actions, work streams and task groups are targeted and focused and deliver on the objectives set in the strategy for children in, and leaving, our care.
10. To share the learning from inspections.

Governance

Meetings

Meetings will be bi monthly and will be organised and facilitated by the Chair. Task and finish work groups may also be arranged to focus on specific issues and tasks and may involve other professionals who are not members of the group.

Minutes

Minutes from all meetings will be produced and circulated.

Agenda Items

Agenda items should be sent to the Chair at least 5 working days prior to the next meeting.

Agenda Papers

Agenda papers will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Chair

The Chair will be the Assistant Director Safeguarding and Looked After Children. The vice chair will be the Service Manager for Looked after Children's Resource Services.

Implementation and development

The Children in Our Care Strategic Group (CIOCSG) is the operational group, tasked with the role of implementing the Looked After Children and care Leavers Strategy and will be accountable to MALAP.

Membership

Representation will from the following areas. It is recognised that not every agency will need to be represented at each meeting and attendance will be dependent on the agenda or work stream at any given point in time.

As a minimum, the core members will include:

- Assistant Director – Safeguarding and Looked After Children (Chair)
- Strategic leads:
 - Involved theme: Independent Review Unit Manager
 - Relationships theme: Service manager – Youth Direction
 - Accommodation: Service manager - Resources
 - Be safe – Youth Offending Team and Targeted Support Manager
 - Be Healthy – Designated Nurse – Looked After Children
 - Have quality education and skills – Virtual School Head
 - Be supported in transition to adulthood and as care leavers – Service Manager – Looked After Children and Complex Needs
- Team Manager Child Placement Service
- Resource Team Manager
- Looked after Children Nurse – Foundation Trust
- Children's Rights representative

- North Tees & Hartlepool Foundation Trust
- Public Health – Early Intervention Manager
- CAMHS Team Manager
- Economic Development and Growth Service
- Leisure, Culture and Events

A link representative for the agencies including Police and Housing will be identified to attend as appropriate.

Members will contribute to the work of the group by:

- Being active participants and attending meetings ;
- Representing their agency and to take forward actions on its behalf with the appropriate delegation.
- Assisting with the monitoring, reviewing and communication of developments within their agency which impact on the effectiveness of provision for looked after children and care leavers. Including participating and/or assisting with multi-agency Looked After Case File Audits

Children and Young Peoples Voice

The group will actively seek Children and Young People's views via the Lets take action group and Children's Rights and participation function, delivered by Youth Direction.