

Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference

Overall purpose:

The overall purpose of this panel is to provide an opportunity for the Children in Care Council representatives (Care Council Crew) to meet with the Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services, Chair of Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny and the Children and Young People's Champion and appropriate senior officers and its partners and to ensure that the needs of Shropshire's Looked after Children are met. The Panel will listen to the Care Council Crew representatives and consider how services support their needs and how these services might need to be further developed to improve the outcomes for these young people for whom we have corporate parenting responsibility. This Panel will provide a forum through which our looked after children can hold the Council to account as their corporate parent.

Chairing:

The Panel will be chaired by the Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services.

Membership:

- Care Council Crew representatives
- Senior Manager representatives from all Directorates
- Senior PCT representatives (joint commissioning)

Frequency of Meetings:

The Panel will meet on a quarterly basis commencing July 2009.

Agenda setting:

This will comprise items from the Children in Care Council, officers and members.

Tasks of the Corporate Parenting Panel:

- To ensure that the requirements of the Care Matters legislation are followed
- To ensure that the commitments in the corporate parenting pledge are owned and progressed
- To regularly consider feedback from the Care Council Crew ensuring that their views influence service developments
- To listen to the views of the Care Council Crew representatives and for the members of the panel to respond as representative corporate parents

Additional Actions for the Care Council Crew:

- The Care Council Crew will support the training events on the role and function of corporate parents

- The Care Council Crew will attend appropriate formal Cabinet and panel meetings to contribute to the discussions relating to Looked After Children eg service provision, development and performance

June 2009