

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 08 June 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Corporate Parenting Panel – Update to Terms of Reference
Purpose of Report:	To amend the Terms of Reference for the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health
Responsible Officer:	Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This is an internal matter and therefore no external consultation procedure is necessary
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To seek Cabinet approval regarding a change to the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel to confirm the duration of appointment for Members on the Panel.

Recommendation

1. That the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be amended to confirm that Members appointed or nominated to serve on the Corporate Parenting Panel would do so until the local government elections in 2027.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To confirm the duration of membership for those Members nominated to sit on the Corporate Parenting Panel.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel was appointed by Cabinet on 30th July, 2012.
- 1.2 The report proposes that the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) be amended to confirm that Members appointed or nominated to serve on the Corporate Parenting Panel would do so until the local government elections in 2027.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Elected Members and the Council as a whole have a legal and moral duty to provide the level of support, care and protection to all looked after children that any good parent would give to their own children. It is important, therefore, that this responsibility is understood and that appropriate actions to promote the wellbeing of looked after children are prioritised across the Council.
- 2.2 Corporate parenting responsibilities can be delivered only when there is a clear political commitment and leadership and when senior managers agree that this is a priority that can be made explicit in strategic and business planning. In order to achieve this framework for action, the Council has established the cross-party Corporate Parenting Panel to be chaired by the Executive Lead Member for Social Care and Health (whose portfolio includes Children's Services), the Panel consists of Elected Members, senior officers and a care experienced young person representative.
- 2.3 The previous Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel described the agreed membership of the Panel but did not state for how long those appointed / nominated would serve.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the Terms of reference be amended to make it clear that Members appointed or nominated to serve on the Corporate Parenting Panel would do so until the local government elections in 2027, whereupon Group Leaders would be approached by Democratic Services to ascertain any relevant new nominations for the role.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The report ties in with the Corporate Wellbeing Outcome of an Active and Healthy Vale as well as the approach to integrated planning under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** There are no direct implications as a result of the report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** There are no resource implications arising directly out of this report.

Employment

- 5.2** There are no direct implications as a result of the report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** There are no direct implications as a result of the report.

6. Background Papers

Report to Cabinet - 30th July, 2012

[Cabinet Meeting - 17th June, 2019](#)

[Report to Cabinet – 21st July, 2022](#)



Corporate Parenting Panel

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The role of the corporate parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The local authority has a legal and moral duty to provide such loyal support to the children it is responsible for looking after.

These children will often have faced significant challenges and will need the help of powerful adults who have a responsibility to act as their corporate parents. This is a responsibility shared by all Councillors and all officers of the Council.

As their corporate parents, we are expected to be concerned about children looked after and this concern should encompass their education, their health and welfare, what they do in their leisure time and holidays, how they celebrate their culture and how they receive praise and encouragement for their achievements.

Elected Members, managers and staff have different tasks and levels of responsibility, but all must take an active part in ensuring the best possible care and opportunities are available for children in care.

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health (whose portfolio includes Children and Young People Services) and the Director for Social Services are expected to be responsible for leading improvements in corporate parenting and for ensuring that children looked after are seen as a priority by the whole Council.

Corporate parenting responsibilities can be delivered only when there is clear political commitment and leadership and when senior managers agree that this is a priority and make it explicit in strategic and business plans. In the Vale of Glamorgan, responsibility for this agenda rests with the Corporate Parenting Panel.

A key matter for the Panel will be oversight of the Action Plan linked to delivery of the Corporate Strategy for Children in need of Care and Support.

The Strategy was first endorsed by Cabinet in September 2016 and positively reflects the Council wide commitment to children in need of care and support.

2. Membership

Cabinet resolved on 21st July, 2022 that the Corporate Parenting Panel be re-appointed, with its membership comprising, the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health (Chairman of the Panel), 2 Conservative Group Members, 2 Labour Group Members and 1 Member each from the Plaid Cymru Group, Llantwit First Independents Group and an Independent Member.

Members appointed or nominated to serve on the Corporate Parenting Panel would do so until the local government elections in 2027, whereupon Group Leaders would be approached by Democratic Services to ascertain any relevant new nominations for the role.

Panel will also be attended by each of the Directorate representatives on the Corporate Strategy Management Group, the Director of Social Services, the Head of Achievement for All and the LACE Coordinator.

It is important to ensure that children and young people have a chance to shape and influence the parenting they receive. For this reason, it is intended that the Care Leavers Forum should assist the work of the Panel, receiving appropriate remuneration for doing so.

The Panel will be administered by Democratic Services.

3. Frequency of Meetings

The Panel will meet bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November.

25th May 2023