

**Report to:** Corporate Parenting Panel

**Date of meeting:** 14 October 2016

**By:** Director of Children's Services

**Title:** Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference and ways of working

**Purpose:** To note the proposals to amend the Council's Constitution in relation to the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel.

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Panel are recommended to note the proposal to amend the Council's Constitution in relation to the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel as set out in paragraph 2.3 below.

---

**1 Background**

1.1 In April 2015 the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 came in to force. These Regulations introduced new provisions for the inspection of Children's Homes, which East Sussex County Council have complied with since that time.

1.2 However, the Terms of Reference listed in the Council's Constitution for the Corporate Parenting Panel need updating. As a result, a report is being taken to the Governance Committee recommending that Members of the East Sussex County Council approve altering the Terms of Reference in the Constitution. This alteration will ensure the terms of reference reflect the updated requirements for home visits as set out in the 2015 regulations. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Corporate Parenting Panel that this item is being put before the Governance Committee on 15 November 2016 and will then be taken on to full Council on 6 December 2016.

**2 Supporting Information.**

2.1 Prior to the 2015 Regulations coming into force, the inspection of children's homes was carried out in-house via the Safeguarding Unit. Since then visits to children's homes have been carried out by an independent visitor from Aidhour, Executive Social Work Management Services.

2.2 Regulation 44 of the 2015 Regulations sets out the following requirements for visits and reports by an Independent Person:

- 1) The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month.
- (4) The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether —
  - (a) children are effectively safeguarded; and
  - (b) the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being.

2.3 It is proposed that the revised terms of reference will read as follows (with amendments highlighted in tracked changes):

- i) To discharge the statutory responsibility of the County Council by receiving copies of reports of monthly visits to East Sussex children's homes by an off-line manager [Regulation ~~22~~ 44]
- (ii) To receive inspection reports from ~~the East Sussex Inspection Unit and~~ Ofsted concerning East Sussex homes.
- (iii) To monitor progress in meeting high standards in residential care for children in East Sussex homes.
- (iv) To monitor and participate in programmes seeking the views of looked after children in residential and foster care.
- (v) To receive the views of young people leaving care.
- (vi) To receive a report summarising complaints made by looked after children as part of the regular quarterly reports on statistics. ~~To receive a report summarising complaints made by looked after children on a six monthly basis.~~
- (vii) To meet annually with representatives of the East Sussex Foster Care Association and other foster parents.
- (viii) To meet annually with representatives of the Adopted Families Group
- ~~(ix)~~ To receive reports on how the health needs of looked after children are being met and their educational achievements.
- ~~(ix)~~ To provide an annual report to the Cabinet.

### **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The terms of reference as set out in the Council's Constitution for the Corporate Parenting Panel require updating to reflect important changes introduced by the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015.

**STUART GALLIMORE**

**Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Hannah Matthews

Telephone Number: 01273 335138

Email: [hannah.matthews@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.matthews@eastsussex.gov.uk)

### LOCAL MEMBERS

All Members of East Sussex County Council