

# **Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Corporate Parenting Board**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose of the Corporate Parenting Board**

Looked after children as well as young people leaving care are 'our children'. As a Council, we are extremely ambitious for each individual child/young person we are responsible for, to reach their full potential.

A key priority for MTCBC is that it is a place where our children thrive. As corporate parents, both elected members and officers of the Council, with the support of colleagues within other statutory agencies, we have a duty to ensure that during our children's time in care, and subsequently as they leave care, their voice and experience is heard; that their needs are met and they are afforded the same life chances as any other child.

For this to be achieved, it will be necessary for:

- Elected members to champion the needs of our children;
- Partners to have high expectations for our children;
- Corporate Parenting Board and other partnership Boards e.g. the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board to provide effective leadership and contribute significantly to the development of services, which are audited for effectiveness.

In exercising its duties, the panel will be mindful to promote the following for the children the Council is responsible for:

- Physical, mental and emotional wellbeing;
- Protection from abuse and neglect;
- Education, training and recreation;
- Family and personal relationships;
- Involvement in the local community;
- Securing rights and entitlements, inclusive of not living in poverty; and
- Living in suitable accommodation.

The legislative context is Section 78 Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014, which places a duty upon councils to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child it looks after in addition to every care leaver.

## **Responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Board**

1. To ensure that the Council's children's champions and children in care champions continue to advocate on behalf of our children.
2. To receive and scrutinise reports in relation to services for our children.
3. To rigorously monitor and challenge service improvement and the impact of social work practice upon improving outcomes for our children.
4. To monitor and challenge the effectiveness of services in improving the educational attainment of our children.
5. To monitor and challenge the effectiveness of services in improving the physical and emotional health of our children.
6. Ensure that leisure and cultural opportunities are offered and taken up by our children.
7. To raise members' awareness and understanding of our children, their needs and experiences both within the Council and across the wider community.
8. Ensure that all elected members are able to fulfil their role as corporate parenting champions and advocates for our children by offering appropriate training and development opportunities.
9. To be aspirational and ambitious in driving better outcomes for our children.
10. To ensure that the voice and experience of the child is central to the work of the whole Council and to creatively consider ways in which the Corporate Parenting Board will hear and respond to the views of our children.
11. To develop expertise in issues affecting our children.
12. To provide the inter-agency strategic direction to achieve good outcomes for our children.
13. To contribute to the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy; to challenge and hold to account for its delivery.
14. To deliver the Council's 'pledge' to our children.
15. To report to the Council annually outlining the work undertaken during the year and identifying a work programme for the following year.

## **Membership and Governance of the Corporate Parenting Board**

Meetings will take place on a quarterly basis preceded by an agenda setting meeting.

### **Members**

Chief Executive (Chair)

### **Elected Members**

Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Social Services

Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Education

Cabinet member with Portfolio Member for Housing

Elected Member representative from Social Services Scrutiny

Children's Champion

### **Officers**

Director of Social Services

Director of Education

Head of Children's Services

Principal Managers - Children's Services

Representative from Housing Services

Independent Reviewing Officer

Senior Manager Education and Inclusion

LACES Team Manager

Team Managers - Children's Services including CLA and 16 plus

### **Others to be invited**

Young Person Representative

Representative from CTM Health Board

Representative from Foster Wales

Representative from Advocacy Service

The Director of Social Services is responsible for ensuring that the board has sufficient officer support to lead the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The Head of Children's Services will be the lead officer for the board with support from service leads for looked after children and care leavers, residential & fostering and advocacy.

Executive Support will provide the administrative arrangements to the Board. Agenda and reports to be circulated one week in advance of the meeting.