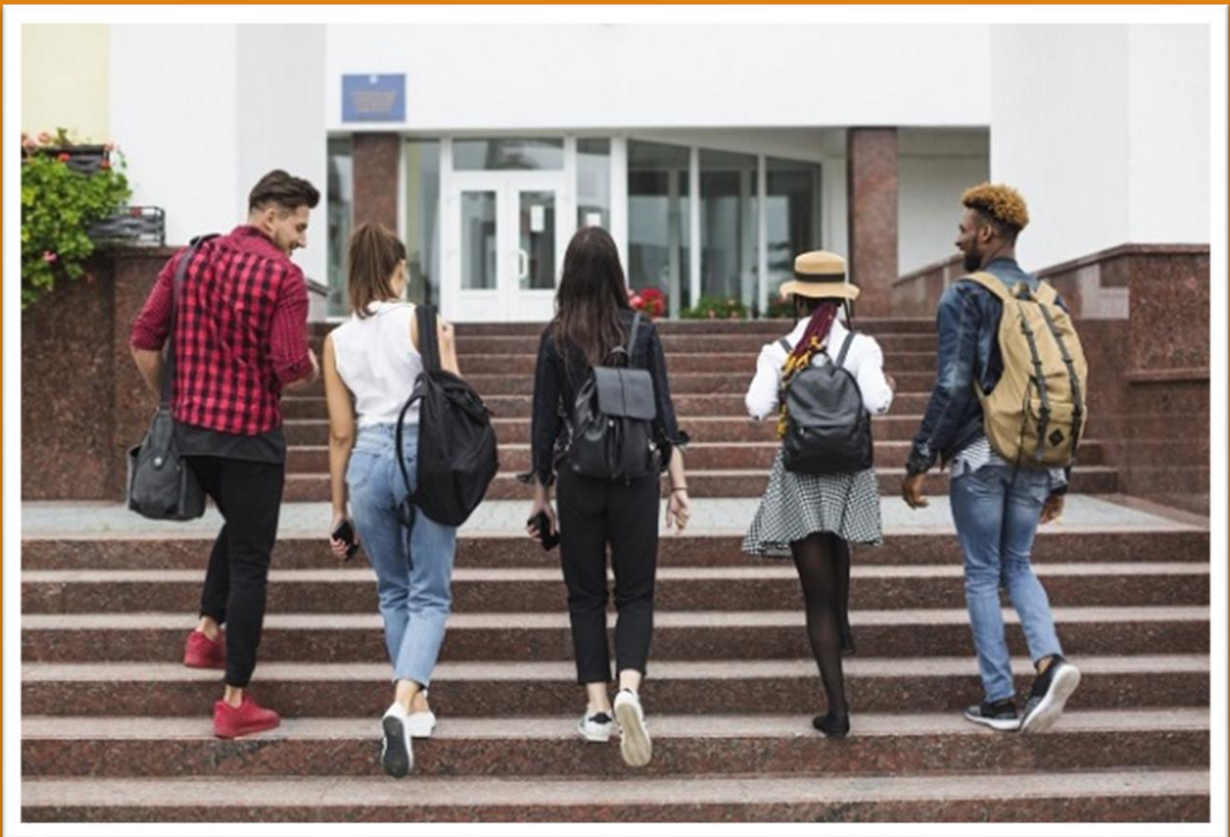


Swindon Corporate Parenting Terms of Reference



Swindon Corporate Parenting – Terms of Reference

1.0 Our legislative responsibility under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 means that for any child or young person who comes into our care, we need to act as their corporate parent. This means that as a local authority we should:

- act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
- encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account, while promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for them
- make sure they have access to services
- make sure that they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work
- prepare them for adulthood and independent living.

1.1 Every councillor and officer within Swindon Borough Council has a responsibility to act for those children and young people as a parent would for their own child. As corporate parents, councillors need to recognise the uniqueness of the children in their care, and make sure each child is getting what they need to do their best. Under the Children Act 2004, local authorities have a duty to promote cooperation between ‘relevant partners’, including the police, the NHS and education providers, while those partners have a duty to cooperate with the local authority in turn. Guidance on the Act highlights that corporate parenting is a “task [that] must be shared by the whole local authority and partner agencies”.

1.2 There is a statutory requirement to provide information on a number of areas that relate to the improvement of outcomes for Children looked after and those with Care Experience. Swindon is committed to ensuring all our children and young people are given every opportunity to experience good care and achieve their potential. As corporate parents, we are taking steps to ensure that our children are provided with a wide range of services in order to support their individual needs and help them grow up feeling supported and with a sense of belonging.

1.3 As corporate parents we need to understand our strengths, our areas of challenge, and take actions to address any identified improvements.

2.0 Corporate Parenting Board Roles and Functions

2.1 As soon as elected, a councillor become a corporate parent to the children and young people in the care of Swindon Council and those with Care Experience. These children look to their corporate parents and trust us to ensure they get the best support, guidance and opportunities possible.

2.2 As a member of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Board, we have an increased role in helping to ensure that the aspirations and experiences of the children and young people in care and those with Care Experience are improved and enhanced. We also have a responsibility to encourage our colleagues to take their role effectively.

2.3 As a Champion for Children in Care, we are responsible for:

- Making sure that the whole council and partner agencies commit to the principles of excellent corporate parenting;
- Encouraging all councillors to become active corporate parents;
- Listening to the views of children in care and their carers; Ensuring that the voice of the children and young person in care influences both policy and the services that they receive;
- Setting high expectations and improving outcomes for all children in care;
- Being proactive and raising the profile of children in care and their carers and act as champions for their needs and rights;
- Actively promoting and celebrating the successes of children in care and those with Care Experience;

3.0 Developing an informed view of Council provision and services.

3.1 The Corporate Parenting Advisory Board reviews outcomes for services to Children Looked After and Young People who are Care Experienced, including Management Information and Performance Indicators monitoring all aspects of Children in Care. The data details the following:

- The number and age range of Children Looked After;
- Health information;
- The distance children are placed from their home address;
- Education attainment and attendance;
- Personal Education Plan compliance;
- The number of young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET);
- The number of statutory visits completed within the timeframe;
- The number of Children and Young People who have up-to date plans.

4.0 Our Pledges and the annual cycle of reporting

4.1 A forward planning cycle of reporting has been agreed that incorporates our Children and Care Leaver Pledges – ‘Respect You’; ‘Care for You’; ‘Support You’ and ‘Help You Grow’

- CiCC and the Care Experienced forum to meet the month before the Corporate Parenting Advisory Board (CPAB) and review Pledge area - and provide report feedback through Children in Care Council (CiCC) representative and Service Manager CLA, Care Experienced and Corporate Parenting;
- CPAB meets and utilises CiCC/Care Experienced feedback within their meeting. Understanding what is good, and where issues lie. Meetings will focus on actions needed to resolve issues. The CPAB agenda reflects and supports the feedback cycle.
- CPAB Councillor (Rota) to attend next meeting of CiCC / Care Experienced meetings to report back on the CPAB discussions and what actions were agreed to address any concerns that they had;
- Details the promise within each themed Pledge area that will be discussed at each meeting; across the year this will ensure that CPAB focus on all Pledges / promises;
- Information and Reports that will come to each CPAB to be used in discussions these will be fronted with a one page child-friendly summary of the report;
- Shaping Governance Improvement planning session - Members, Officers, Carers and CiCC/Care Experienced focusing on the key areas that CPAB should focus on - learn, share, improve
- Annual CPAB report which can then feed in to whole council training event -ensuring all councillors understand their role and how they can exercise this role effectively

- Starts the cycle again but in addition CiCC /Care Experienced will review the impact of the CPAB actions over the last year - you said, we did approach.