

Appendix 1 | Terms of Reference (to be agreed and approved)

Supportive Parenting Partnership- Terms of Reference

Together for Children and Sunderland City Council

1. Purpose of the Supportive Parenting Partnership

- 1.1 The Supportive Parenting Partnership is the vehicle to demonstrate the commitment of Together for Children, Councillors, Sunderland City Council and partners to deliver improved outcomes to cared for and care experienced children and young people
- 1.2 The Partnership is the process which ensures that services meet the needs of cared for and care experienced children and young people
- 1.3 This includes:
 - A high standard of education, which meets the needs and abilities of children
 - Opportunities to access further education, employment and training including work placements and apprenticeships
 - Access to services that provide high quality care, that develop self-esteem, confidence and growth, including suitable health resources
 - Support with the transition for young people into adulthood so that they are able to care for themselves, which includes the provision of suitable accommodation

2. Responsibilities of the Supportive Parenting Partnership

The Partnership will:

- 2.1 Provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting
- 2.2 Receive relevant reports on the range and quality of services provided to cared for and care experienced children and young people and consider areas for improvement
- 2.3 Receive reports on agreed performance and quality indicators (as set out in the data and performance framework)
- 2.4 Engage with and support the work of the Change Council, Vokel and Stars groups
- 2.5 Take into consideration the views of children, young people and their carers and involve them in the development of services
- 2.6 Champion the provision of dedicated council based, and wider employer work placements and apprenticeships for cared for and care experienced young people
- 2.7 Meet Ofsted inspectors (where required) for their input into inspections
- 2.8 Report formally to the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee every six months
- 2.9 Agree an Annual Work Plan based on agreed priorities each year

3. Membership

3.1 Membership will be reviewed annually as follows:

- For the council by the relevant political groups, at the commencement of each municipal year
- Nominations to the Board will be received annually at the commencement of each municipal year

3.2 To avoid any potential conflicts of interest, the chair and members of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee shall be prohibited from being members of the Supportive Parenting Partnership

3.3 All ?? elected members appointments to the Board will be made on a politically proportionate basis

Chairing the Partnership

3.4 The Partnership shall be chaired by Sunderland City Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills

3.5 Consider co-chairing with a member of the Change Council, (Vokel or Stars)

3.6 Vice chair will be confirmed at the commencement of each municipal year by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills

Voting members

3.7 The Partnership will be made up of voting members

3.8 The Partnership will always seek to reach a consensus; however, should the need arise, the members of the Partnership that can cast a vote on any matter shall be as follows:

- The council's Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills
- ?? councillors
- Chief Executive – Together for Children
- Director of Childrens Social Care
- Sunderland City Council rep e.g. Chief Executive
- Head of Service Cared for Children
- Up to 3 Change Council Representative
- Head of the Virtual School
- Housing Lead, Sunderland City Council or representative
- Northumbria Police representative
- Designated Nurse Cared for Children
- CNTW Representative
- Transport Lead Sunderland City Council or representative
- When required Service Managers for Children's Social Care

3.9 The quorum of the Board shall be a minimum of three voting members

3.10 If a vote is called, and there are equal votes for and against the vice chair will have a second and casting vote

4. Operation of the Partnership

Meetings

- 4.1 The Board will meet a minimum of 6 times per year
- 4.2 Each meeting will consider the progress on the agreed plan
- 4.3 Each meeting will be updated about the work of the Change Council, Vokel and Stars groups
- 4.4 The agenda for each meeting will be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and the chair of the Supportive Parenting Partnership

Administration

- 4.5 Administrative support will be provided by Sunderland City Councils Democratic Services Team, who will arrange the meetings of the Partnership; maintain the Work Plan, circulate and publish the agendas and minutes of the meetings. Agendas and papers will be circulated five working days before the meetings
- 4.6 An officer from the council's Democratic Services team will be responsible for minuting the meetings
- 4.7 Attendance at the meetings and access to the minutes will be restricted to members of the Partnership and those listed under voting and non-voting members, as noted in section 3 above

Accountability and Governance

- 4.8 The Board will provide a child friendly response to any issues raised by the Change Council, Vokel or Stars Groups that require a formal response to be taken back to their groups. This will be completed within 14 working days of the meeting taking place
- 4.9 The Board will provide a report twice per year to the Children, Education and Skills Committee setting out the work within the Board.

Review

- 4.10 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Chief Executive of Together for Children and Chair of the Supportive Parenting Partnership
- 4.11 Any revisions must be agreed by the Partnership

