

You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board
Terms of reference



**Our mission is to show
Middlesbrough children
that they matter.**

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Middlesbrough Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy

Middlesbrough's Corporate Parenting strategy sets out our vision and action for supporting children & young people in our care. Our strategy is one important element of Children's Services wider Improvement Plan for our whole- system of support for children and young people in Middlesbrough. We are doing some things well, but we still need to do more to improve our support for children and young people in our care. The views and ideas of our staff, our partners and local people are critical to ensuring we have a strong and effective strategy in place. We're proud to say that our children and young people are making a significant contribution to making our strategy work.

The development of our Corporate Parenting strategy has included a programme of work to capture the most up-to-date voices, views and ideas of our children and young people. As well as influencing the content of our strategy, children and young people have shaped our decisions about how we will deliver our Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

We have six guiding principles:

Your home

Your family and friends

Your Education

Your Adult life

Your health and wellbeing

Your voice and influence

Our mission throughout is to show Middlesbrough children that they matter.

Name of Board- You Matter to Us – Corporate Parenting Board

(Name change formally agreed on 13 September 2023)

Purpose of the Board

- To raise awareness of the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities and develop expertise and knowledge among elected Members and officers.
- To provide a forum for elected members to oversee the progress of all looked after children, and care leavers (Care experienced children and young people) through the implementation of the Corporate parenting strategy 2020-2023.
- To encourage all partners, whether they work for health or social care services or the voluntary sector, to work in an integrated manner in the best interests of children looked after and care leavers.
- To lead cultural and behavioural change to promote better outcomes for our care experienced children and young people and Care leavers.
- To hold all partners to account for their role in the delivery of services to our care experienced children and young people and Care leavers.

You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board

Terms of reference

The Board wants to ensure that the Council acts as a good corporate parent to children and young people in care and care leavers, including:

- Young people in residential care
- Children and young people in foster care
- Children placed for adoption
- Children placed at home under Placement with Parents Regulations
- Young people who are living in supported lodgings
- Young people in secure services
- Young people in custody

The Board also want to ensure that we engage and listen to the views of children, young people, and their carers for whom the Council is the parent and, support the Virtual School for looked after children and young people.

Remit of the You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board

You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board will:

- Provide leadership across Middlesbrough to create a more effective and efficient health and wellbeing for care experienced children and young people and Care leavers.
- Take responsibility for the quality of services for looked after children.
 - Work effectively with and through partnership bodies, with clear lines of accountability and communication.
- Agree the strategic priorities for services for children looked after, as a Board
- Make a positive difference, improving the outcomes for all children looked after and those who use our services.

You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board will not:

- Manage work programmes or oversee specific pieces of work – acknowledging that operational management needs to be given the freedom to manage.
- Be focused on the delivery of specific services – the Board will concentrate on the “big picture”.
- Take responsibility for the outputs and outcomes of specific services – these are best monitored at the level of the specific organisations responsible for them.

You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board

Terms of reference

- Be the main vehicle for the voice of looked after children – this will be the responsibility of young people (the children in care council and care leavers forum). The Board will however regularly listen to and respect the views of individuals and the wider looked after children's community.

Support to the Board

- Administrative and governance support to You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board will be provided by Democratic Services.

A Democratic services Officer will be responsible for organising meetings, publishing agenda papers, attending meetings and publishing minutes of each meeting. This officer will also advise the Board on constitutional procedures where necessary.

- Technical support in preparing reports for the Board and giving advice to the Board in relation to looked after children and care leavers will be provided by the Directorate of Children's Services.

Details:

YOU MATTER TO US - CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD (9) plus Ex-Officio Members and Ex-Officio Officers and 4 co-opted representatives

5 LAB: 1 CON: 2 MICA: 1 IND

Membership/Restrictions: Nil

Chair: Mayor – C Cooke

Vice-Chair: Councillor J Walker

Members: Councillors Jackson, Kabuye, Livingstone, Nugent, Uddin, and Wilson

1 vacancy

Ex-Officio Members: Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board

Ex-Officio Officers: Head of Paid Service

Director of Children's Services

Director of Children's Care

You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board
Terms of reference

Director of Education and Partnerships

Co-Opted Members: 1 Foster carer
 3 Care Experienced young people.

Quorum

The Quorum shall be 3 members.

Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board shall be elected from the membership of the Board at the first meeting and thereafter will be agreed by full Council annually.

In the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair shall chair the meeting.

Frequency of meetings

The Board will meet 4 times a year and will focus on themes. These will be chosen by our young people.

Access to Meetings

The public shall have the same right of access to meetings, agendas, reports and background papers as apply to any other advisory body supported by the Council.

Conduct

The Board and its members will operate in accordance with the standards of behaviour and principles required by the Council's Code of Conduct, which applies to both councillors and any person appointed as a co-opted member to a board or committee of the Council.

Have your say- You matter to Us

Prior to the formal meeting of the board, our care experienced young people will be invited to have their say on the key themes. They will meet with members of the board and key officers (as well as support officers) in an informal and safe setting.

Feedback from these sessions will be collated and fed back into the 'You said, we will, we did' and reported to the formal meetings of the board.

Updated 13.9.2023