

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORE SERVICES CABINET ON 20 MARCH 2019

MEMBER REPRESENTATION ON THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE GROUP

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek the formal appointment of Elected Members to the Virtual School Governing body.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the People (Achieving Potential) and People (Safeguarding) Cabinet Spokespersons and the respective Cabinet Support Members be appointed to serve on the Virtual School Governance Group, together with six further Elected Members to be appointed at Full Council.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The People Directorate have been progressing arrangements to establish a governing body for Barnsley's Virtual School for Children in Care, separate from the current Corporate Parenting Panel. Interim arrangements have been in place to provide this governance, but these arrangements have now been formalised.
- 3.2 The two People Cabinet Spokespersons, and their respective Support Members, have been serving on the interim body together with a number of Members drawn from the Corporate Parenting Panel, namely Councillors Carr, Pourali, Charlesworth, Wilson, Coates and C. Johnson.
- 3.3 The terms of reference for the proposed Governance Group are set out in the Appendix. In particular, it works to ensure good or outstanding experiences and outcomes for children looked after by Barnsley, to agree and monitor the relevant policies and monitor, evaluate, celebrate and challenge the work of the Local Authority and the virtual school.
- 3.4 In addition to Elected Members, the Governance Group will initially comprise the Headteacher of the Virtual School, the Head of Service for Children in Care, and the Designated Nurses for Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children. Further development of the Governance Group is also proposed to include members from professional groups within the Council beyond People Directorate and representatives of the Council's partners, for example local businesses.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 It is proposed that the People (Safeguarding) Spokesperson, as Chair, and People (Achieving Potential) Spokesperson, as Vice Chair, and their respective Cabinet Members shall be members of the Governance Group, together with six additional Elected Members. The six Members will be appointed by Full Council in broad political proportionality.
- 4.2 Members involved in the interim arrangements have been drawn from the Corporate Parenting Panel. However, this is not a requirement for the new governance body. Indeed, there may be some merit in broadening out the number of Members involved in corporate parenting responsibilities.

5. Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference of the Virtual School Governance Group.

6. Background Papers

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

Report author: Ian Turner, Service Director Governance and Member Support

Barnsley Virtual School for Children in Care Governance Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

- The Governing Body of Barnsley's Virtual School for Children in Care (CiC) needs to take a strategic role, act as a critical friend to the school and be accountable for its decisions. It should agree and monitor policies and monitor, evaluate, celebrate and challenge the work of the local authority and the Virtual School for CiC in its role of ensuring good or outstanding experiences and outcomes for children looked after by Barnsley.

Membership

- The Governing Body will comprise councillors sitting on the Corporate Parenting Panel, The Virtual Headteacher of the Virtual School, the Head of Service for Children in Care, the Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children.
- The Chairperson is to be the Cabinet Spokesperson: Safeguarding at the time of the meeting
- The Vice Chairperson is to be the Cabinet Spokesperson: Achieving Potential at the time of meeting

Meetings

- The governing body will meet bi-monthly, as part of Corporate Parenting Panel meetings
- Dates for the meetings are to be set a year in advance
- Governing body meetings are to last a maximum of 90 minutes, and will form the second half of Corporate Parenting Panel meetings
- Governing Body meetings will be clerked by a member of BMBC's Business Support Team as part of their duties to the full Corporate Parenting Panel
- In the absence of the Chair, the governing body meetings will be chaired by the Vice Chair.
- In the event of a tied vote the Chair or acting Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
- The draft minutes of each meeting will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting and will be presented at that meeting by the Chair.

Term

- The role of chair will transfer with any change in the Cabinet Spokesperson: Safeguarding
- The role of vice chair will transfer with any change in the Cabinet Spokesperson: Achieving Potential
- Remaining councillor membership will reflect membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel

Quorum

- At least half of the councillors must be present for the meeting to be considered quorate

Role and Responsibilities

1. To receive and agree the Annual Headteacher report in order to:
 - review and evaluate the examination/national test results for children looked after by Barnsley;
 - review and evaluate the annual level of exclusions of children looked after by Barnsley;
 - review and evaluate the annual school attendance of children looked after by Barnsley.
2. To receive, approve and monitor the School Development Plan for Barnsley's Virtual School for Looked After Children.

3. To receive and agree termly Virtual School Monitoring reports in order to:
 - monitor the educational attainment and progress of children looked after by Barnsley;
 - monitor the level of exclusions of children looked after by Barnsley;
 - monitor the school attendance of children looked after by Barnsley .
4. To review and approve Barnsley’s policy and procedures for managing the Pupil Premium Grant Plus funding as it relates to children looked after by:
 - monitoring the level of, and distribution of, Pupil Premium Grant Plus Funding;
 - monitoring the impact of work funded by Pupil Premium Grant Plus Funding.
5. To maintain an overview of the staffing of the Virtual School.
6. In consultation with the Headteacher, to determine the staffing structure of the school.
7. To oversee the appointment procedure for staff to the Virtual school.
8. To bring matter to the attention of the full Corporate Parenting Panel as their significance demands.

Date reviewed and adopted:.....

Date of next review:.....

Signature of Chair of Governors:.....