

Member Arrangements for Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Children

Barnsley Council fully acknowledges the responsibilities of Members as corporate parents to children in care and, similarly, responsibilities in respect of keeping children safe (safeguarding), in addition to those of the Lead Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Executive Director, People as Director of Children's Services.

In order to fulfil these duties, the following arrangements are in place:

A Corporate Parenting Panel acts as a reference group for all matters concerned with the provision of care services for children in Barnsley. It ensures that Elected Members are informed about, and influence the way in which care is provided and promotes the wellbeing of children in care. It is aligned to but separate from the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements.

The Panel is Chaired by the People (Safeguarding) Cabinet Spokesperson, whose Cabinet Support acts as Vice-Chair in their absence. Eight Non Executive Members also serve on the Panel and are appointed by the Full Council each May.

The Panel meets every two months, with support from officers from the People Directorate, including from Children's Social Care, Public Health Nursing and the Virtual School Head Teacher, as well as the Designated Nurse CCG for Safeguarding and Named Doctor for Children in Care. It also formally links to Care 4 Us (Children in Care Council) through the attendance of the Chair and receipt of the annual report. The Panel produces an annual report, which is considered by the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) keeps under review the performance of the Council and other relevant organisations providing educational and other services to children and young people and especially in carrying out their corporate responsibilities for safeguarding of children and young people.

The OSC receives a monthly report 3 times per year during its plenary meetings providing information on the activity in relation to Children's Social Care. This sets out the number of cases considered by the service and comparison with the previous month's position and against statistical neighbours and the national average. This ranges from Early Help Assessments through to formal Child Protection activity and Care proceedings. It also sets out monitoring and planning for children in the "Looked After" system. Although this report is considered by the Committee in private, the issues raised are part of the public record, providing for appropriate transparency in respect of this challenge.

Safeguarding considerations will be a feature of all 12 of the OSC's meetings to ensure services are protecting the most vulnerable. However, safeguarding will be a key feature of the OSC's 'People Achieving Their Potential' workstream in challenging services to ensure they are achieving the outcome that 'children and adults are safe from harm'.

More information on the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is available on the [Council's website](#).