

GOVERNANCE

DESCRIPTION OF WHAT PROPOSED RESPONSIBILITY COVERS:

The area committee will provide support and challenge to ensure that local partnership arrangements are effectively contributing to city priorities and that city priorities and strategies are influenced by local needs.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS – HOW WOULD LOCAL MEMBERS DEAL WITH THE PROPOSED RESPONSIBILITY:

Local members, within their designated corporate roles would act as champions for children's services and act to influence where appropriate.

Each Area Committee will be asked to nominate a Corporate Carer to sit on the Council's Corporate Carer Group. This Group, established by the Council in 2006, helps elected members fulfil their responsibilities as 'corporate parents' for those children in the care of the authority (looked after children). It does so by providing performance, monitoring and broader information about the services provided for looked after children in Leeds. By having an elected member from each Area Committee on this group it ensures representation across the city and a link between each Area Committee and wider issues relating to looked after children. This in turn helps contribute to the high priority being given to improving outcomes for looked after children.

There are also elected members who have been acting as Children's Champions for each area committee who sit on the current area based Children Leeds partnerships. It is intended to review these arrangements in the context of the new locality Leeds Initiative arrangements. If it is determined that Area Committees will nominate 'thematic champions' to support these new locality arrangements, then a 'champion' will be identified for each of the area based Children Leeds partnerships.

It is anticipated that the 5 Children Leeds partnerships will move to the 3 area model and align with the new locality Leeds Initiative arrangements.

All cluster governance groups will be expected to include at least one elected member (it might be more appropriate for 2 places in larger clusters). The nomination process for elected members will be agreed through the Member Management Committee.

There would also be other specific roles where members are involved in children's centres, act as school governors or as members of ALMO boards or regeneration boards.

HOW / WHEN WOULD THE SERVICE / FUNCTION REPORT TO THE AREA COMMITTEE:

(E.g. formal and informal arrangements, frequency)

A minimum of 2 reports outlining progress against key indicators will be made available to each Area Committee.

The nominated Corporate Carer representative for each Area Committee will be given a regular suite of data about the looked after children cohort in their area.