

All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Care-Experienced Children and Young People: Terms of Reference – Inquiry on Corporate Parenting

Background:

In May 2022, the [Independent Review of Children's Social Care](#) recommended that the UK Government should introduce legislation to broaden corporate parenting responsibilities – which currently only apply to local authorities - across a range of public bodies and organisations in England, building on learning from reforms in Scotland.

In its Stable Homes, Built on Love strategy, the Government committed to strengthen and extend corporate parenting responsibilities towards children in care and care leavers across the public sector. The Government is expected to consult further on these reforms by the end of 2023.

In advance of this consultation, we will undertake an inquiry to:

- consider the scope and implications of this proposal
- gather the views of stakeholders, including care-experienced children and young people, and
- develop evidence-based recommendations to inform the development of these reforms.

Scope:

Throughout this inquiry, we will examine:

- 1) The ways in which care-experienced children and young people currently interact and engage with a range of public bodies and organisations;
- 2) The extent to which public bodies and organisations currently consider and respond to the needs and views of care-experienced children and young people when delivering and designing their services and policies;
- 3) The potential benefits of extending corporate parenting responsibilities to a range of public bodies;
- 4) Which particular public bodies or organisations corporate parenting responsibilities should be extended to, and the potential impact this could have;
- 5) The ways in which corporate parenting responsibilities could be strengthened or amended to better protect and promote the rights, needs and wishes of care-experienced children and young people;
- 6) What accountability measures are required to ensure that prospective corporate parents fulfil their duties and to maximise the impact for care-experienced children and young people;
- 7) Care-experienced children and young people's views of the term 'corporate parent' and whether this should be renamed.

Aims:

- 1) Collect and analyse evidence from a range of stakeholders about the ways in which public bodies and organisations currently tailor their services and policies to reflect the needs, views, rights and experiences of care-experienced children and young people;

- 2) Develop and disseminate evidence-based recommendations about how corporate parenting responsibilities should be strengthened and extended to a range of public bodies and organisations, and the accountability mechanisms that are required to maximise the impact of these reforms;
- 3) Ensure that the development of the Government's proposed reforms to strengthen and extend corporate parenting responsibilities are informed by robust evidence and by the views, insights and experiences of care-experienced children and young people.

Methodology:

Throughout this inquiry, we will collect information and evidence from stakeholders by:

- 1) Developing and promoting an open call to evidence that will be distributed to the wider APPG membership and a range of stakeholders with lived or professional experience of the children's social care system;
- 2) Holding a range of workshop sessions to hear the views of care-experienced children and young people, including regional sessions and specific engagement with care-experienced young people who share certain protected characteristics;
- 3) Engaging with a range of national and local public bodies and organisations, and Government Departments, through a survey and other means.

Contact:

For further information about this inquiry, please contact appg@becomecharity.org.uk.