



Isle of Man Government

ISLE OF MAN CHILDREN'S CHAMPION TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To listen to and represent the best interests of vulnerable children¹ in the Isle of Man with a particular focus on looked after children.
- 1.2. To promote the rights of children, particularly those set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child².

2. DUTIES

- 2.1. To champion the rights, needs and interests of vulnerable and looked after children and to ensure that their views are heard.
- 2.2. To scrutinise the Government's corporate parent role.
- 2.3. To promote and assist engagement between looked after children and the Isle of Man Government.
- 2.4. To engage with and represent the views and interests of the following groups in particular:
 - looked after children
 - young carers
 - children with complex needs
- 2.5. To Chair the Corporate Parenting Group
- 2.6. To sit on the Voices in Participation Council
- 2.7. To provide responses to relevant consultations, particularly in relation to the planning,

¹ "Children" in this document refers everyone under the age of 18, but the Children's Champion is also interested in the needs of young adults after they leave care at the age of 18.

² <https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/unicef-convention-rights-child-uncrc.pdf>

commissioning or delivery of services for children and young people.

3. SCOPE OF ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

- 3.1. Meeting and communicating with representative groups of children as mentioned in section 2.4 above.
- 3.2. Meeting and informing elected representatives and senior government officers of the rights and needs of vulnerable and looked after children.

4. ATTRIBUTES

- 4.1. To be approachable and responsive to the needs and priorities of vulnerable and looked after children across the Isle of Man.
- 4.2. To remain objective, measured and impartial.
- 4.3. To advocate accuracy in the collation and consideration of statistics, figures and data: drawing on the support and advice of relevant Departments, Boards and Offices as required so as to ensure reliability and robustness.

5. GOVERNANCE

- 5.1. The Children's Champion is appointed by the Chief Minister.
- 5.2. The Children's Champion serves at the discretion of the Chief Minister, who may withdraw the appointment should the standards, attributes and principles of these Terms of Reference not be met; or personal conduct falls short of the high standards required.
- 5.3. The Children's Champion will engage with departments and agencies via Ministers or Chief Officers.
- 5.4. The Children's Champion has no authority to investigate service complaints.
- 5.5. The Children's Champion should follow information sharing guidance when handling sensitive data.

6. SAFEGUARDING

- 6.1. The Children's Champion will be required to hold a valid enhanced disclosure and barring service check.
- 6.2. The Children's Champion will complete Level 2 Safeguarding Children training, as provided by the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board.
- 6.3. The Children's Champion should report any safeguarding concerns immediately through the appropriate channels as defined by the Level 2 safeguarding training. Where a

concern has been raised in a confidential forum, but may include an offence, the Children's Champion must still ensure the concern is reported.

7. ANNUAL REPORT

- 7.1. The Children's Champion will produce an annual report of their work, observations and recommendations.
- 7.2. The annual report should not include details of individual cases.
- 7.3. In preparing an annual report, the Children's Champion will draw on the advice and experience of services delivery agencies and Government Departments.
- 7.4. The Children's Champion will provide the Health, Learning and Social Policy Board with an update six months prior to submitting the annual report.
- 7.5. Reports will be reviewed by the Health, Learning and Social Policy Board on behalf of the Chief Minister.
- 7.6. Departments and agencies involved in the Board will have one month to review and respond to the report
- 7.7. The report and any responses will then be submitted to the Council of Ministers by the Health, Learning and Social Policy Board.
- 7.8. The report will then be published by the Council of Ministers, alongside Council's response.

8. CONTRACTS AND FINANCE

- 8.1. The Children's Champion has no authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the Isle of Man Government, and no budget for expenditure is currently allocated.
- 8.2. The Children's Champion has no allocation of Officer resource. The Secretariat for the Health, Learning and Social Policy Board can provide limited support with the Board's approval.

File Reference:	V2.3	Date Created:	6 March 2018
Approved by:	Social Policy and Children's Committee (Friday 23 March 2018) Council of Ministers (Thursday 29 March 2018)		
Revision No.	1	Revision Date:	13 th February 2024