

Isle of Man Children's Champion

Terms of Reference

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Amended by:			
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1. Purpose

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

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

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.

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 has no authority to investigate service complaints.

6. Safeguarding

- 6.1. The Children's Champion will be required to hold a valid disclosure and barring service check.
- 6.2. The Children's Champion should report any safeguarding concerns immediately through the appropriate channels. 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 and publish an annual report of their work, observations and recommendations.

7.2. In preparing an annual report, the Children's Champion will draw on the advice, experience and resources of services delivery agencies and Government Departments.

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.