

TOP TIPS FOR CORPORATE PARENTS

tips from Care Experienced Young People

WHAT MAKES A GOOD CORPORATE PARENT?



"A good Corporate Parent is someone who takes their role very seriously and recognises how important corporate parenting is to us. Someone who builds up, supports and genuinely cares about us. Someone who protects and defends our rights. Someone who goes above and beyond to help us flourish and grow to our highest potential. Someone who understands we are just like everyone else; talented and capable. A good Corporate Parent has the potential to change a Care Experienced young person's life."

— East Lothian Champions' Board

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU GIVE TO CORPORATE PARENTS?

"Be as friendly and approachable as possible. Don't make Care Experienced young people feel like you are only helping us because it is your job to do so. I've experienced lots of situations where I've felt Corporate Parents have only helped me because they are paid to."

"Appreciate how privileged you are to be given the opportunity to support young people to grow and develop in a scary world. Don't waste your chance to make a positive difference"

"Provide us with job and training opportunities. Things like life skills and support groups which may help us gain employment or things like first aid and CPR training."

"Try to listen and remember we have a lot going on in our lives, sometimes we might not be thinking straight"

"Don't hold back from showing us love."

"Don't be afraid to ask us questions" "Listen, Observe, Validate, Encourage"

"Have a more caring approach to Care Experienced young people - be there to help us through stressful situations and provide us with support when we need it. We don't often have anyone else who can be"

"When we come to you with an issue - respect us, trust us and take us seriously. Our views are important and we want to know you understand that and share that opinion"

"Involve us in shaping policy and legislation that will affect us where possible - we are professionals of care in our own right"

"Sometimes you will have to think outside the box. Sometimes we will need more than one opportunity. Sometimes you will need to be patient with us. We are doing our best in amongst the chaos and we appreciate your help."

"Believe in us, the same way we believe in you."



EAST Lothian CHAMPIONS' BOARD

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