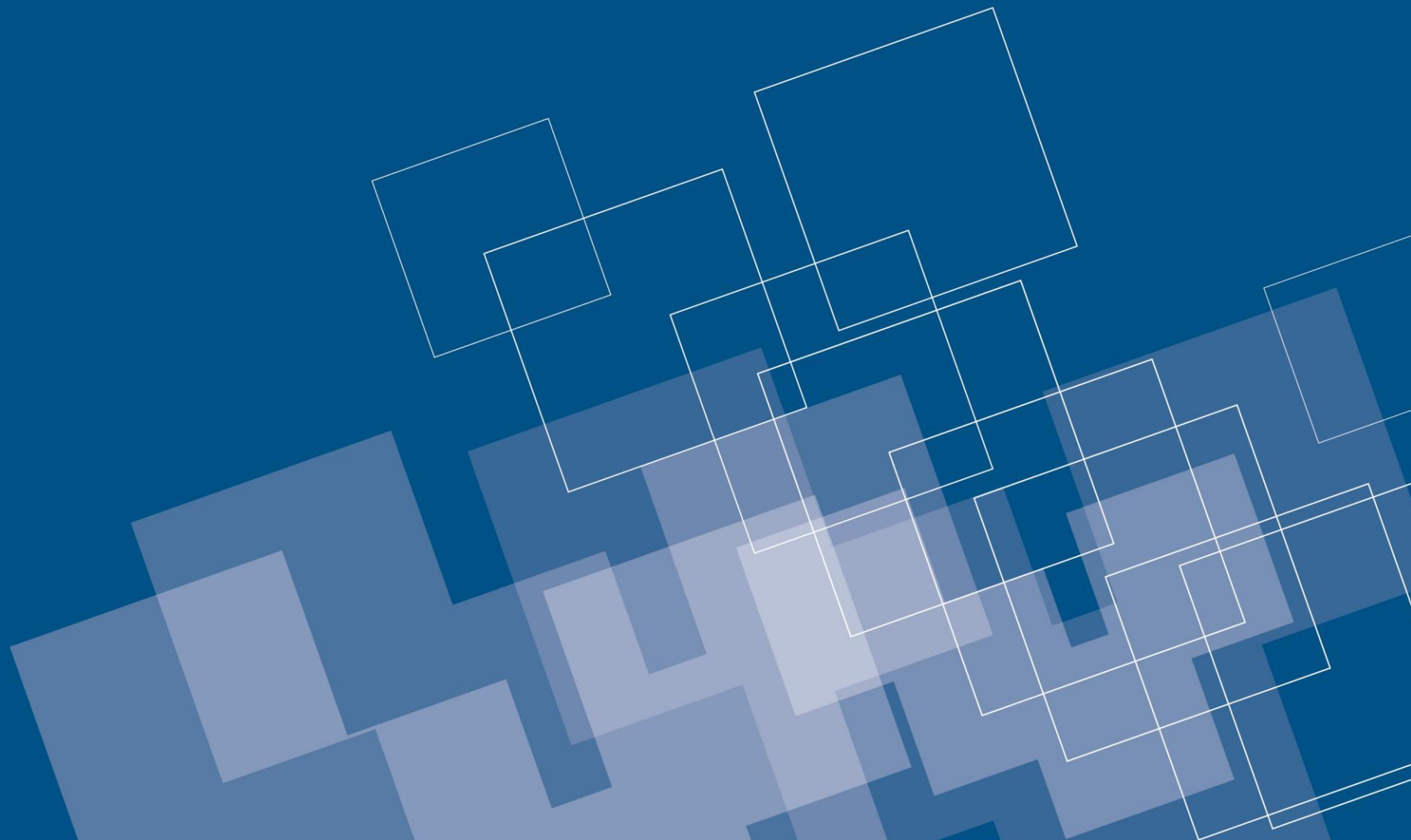


EAST LOTHIAN CORPORATE PARENTING PLAN 2020-23



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East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan 2021 – 2023

The East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2023 plan has been developed in partnership key strategic partners and with the East Lothian Champions Board. The East Lothian Champions Board is a group of care experienced young people that come together to speak up about their experiences of care and what improvements need to be made to make the care system better for everyone. The Champions Board wanted a plan that is easy to understand and has clear improvement actions that will be implemented. Covid has resulted in a delay in producing this plan and that is reflected in the timescale. This plan covers a two-year period (2021 – 2023) to allow strategic planning in East Lothian to be co-ordinated – vitally important to working together for the same ambitions.

Everyone involved in this plan signed up to the **Champion’s Board Commitment pledge**:

“We will unite together to look at the priorities for change. We will invest time and resources to produce results and deliver on promises. We will listen to each other when things go wrong and accept no excuses for lack of progression towards our goals.”

What is Corporate Parenting?

A corporate parent is an organisation or individual who has special responsibilities for looked after children and care-experienced young people. Corporate parenting responsibilities’ extend to all looked after children, aged from birth to when they cease to be looked after. This includes children and young people:

- in residential care
- in foster care
- in kinship care
- in secure care
- who are looked after at home with social work involvement
- care leavers who were looked after on their 16th birthday (or subsequently). The responsibilities continue to apply until the care leaver reaches their 26th birthday.

Corporate parents have many of the same roles as parents do. Corporate parents should do as much as they can to make sure children and young people feel in control of their lives and able to overcome the barriers they face. The Champions Board want all corporate parents to invest in relationships with care experienced young people and ensure that all care experienced children and young people have the same access and opportunities as other children and young people.

What are Corporate Parenting duties?

Corporate parents have a legal duty to promote the interests of children who are care experienced. They must seek to provide with opportunities to participate in activities which are designed to promote their wellbeing and take any action we consider appropriate to help them access these opportunities or makes use of services which we provide. We also need to be alert to matters which might adversely affect their wellbeing.

All corporate parents have a duty to prepare and publish a corporate parenting plan which outlines their approach to fulfilling their corporate parenting duties for every three year period. Corporate parenting plans must be regularly reviewed and progress reported to the Scottish Ministers. Every three years, Scottish Ministers report to parliament on how corporate parenting responsibilities have been exercised throughout Scotland, which includes the progress East Lothian made in fulfilling its Corporate Parenting duties and responsibilities 2017-2020.

How many children and young people are looked after in East Lothian during the period 2021- 2023

In December 2020, there were 244 looked after children in East Lothian compared with 222 looked after children in March 2017. This includes:

- 38 children and young people are in residential care
- 88 children and young people are in foster care
- 50 children and young people are in formal kinship care
- 68 children and young people who are looked after at home with social work involvement
- 47 young people are receiving aftercare support.

Why do we need a Corporate Parenting Plan?

We know that some looked after young people do achieve positive outcomes. Unfortunately, for most care-experienced young people, the outcomes are much less positive, and can result in lower educational attainment, significant under achievement and life chances that are largely reduced. Children and young people who are care experienced or who are looked after have the poorest outcomes of all children and young people in Scotland.

- Almost half of 5-17 year olds in care were diagnosed with a mental health disorder (Office of National Statistics, 2004)
- 33% of young people in prison and 31% of adult prisoners self-reported as having previously been in care. (Scottish Prison Service, 2016)
- 73% of care experienced young people leave school aged 16 or under (Scottish Government, 2016)
- 35% of care experienced young people received 1 or more qualifications at SCQF level 5 compared to 85% of the rest of the school population (Scottish Government, 2016)
- Care experienced young people are eight times more likely to be excluded from school (Scottish Government, 2016).

How has the plan been developed?

The Corporate Parenting Plan was informed by the East Lothian Champions Board. The Champions Board identified priorities for change. These priorities for change are informed by the champions own personal experience of the care system, evidence through viewpoint (our feedback tool) as well as local and national research findings and statistics.

The Corporate Parenting Board and Steering Group is made up of representatives from the East Lothian Champion's Board, Who Cares? Scotland, Housing, Health, Education, Police, Community Learning and Development, Social Work, East Lothian Works, Universities and Colleges. The Corporate Parenting Steering Group built on the corporate parenting for 2017-2020, identifying that many of the original priorities were still vitally important. Using those priorities, we have drawn together actions from all areas to try and address the inequality in this area. This plan reflects that.

As corporate parents we are committed to ensuring that all care experienced children, young people and their families within East Lothian are supported to reach their full potential. Over the last three years, it has become evident that a number of our children young people are educated and live out with East Lothian. The services and supports that they require to meet their needs are not in their home communities. We can and must do better and thus we have started an ambitious program of improvement in East Lothian. This has not been isolated to Children's Services (social work) but considers all our services for children in the local authority area. We will work together to improve the lives of our children, young people and their families. This will be reflected

within this Corporate Parenting Plan of 2021-2023. Covid has provided opportunities and we have embraced them with aspirational thinking for our most disadvantaged in our community.

This plan is ambitious, as we wish to #keepthepromise. We have committed to this and as corporate parents, we recognise the importance of this and embrace that challenge. We are unwavering in our desire to doing this hand in hand with our children, young people and families – their voice and participation is vital, and has shaped this plan and priorities. Their voice will continue to set that agenda going forward. The East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan will be reviewed regularly to ensure it is aligned with ‘The Promise Change Plan 2021-2024’.

We are aware that stigma relating to children, young people and families who have been involved with the ‘care system’ is high. Over the next three years, we will undertake to try and change that perception within East Lothian. Through our communications both internally and externally we will celebrate the successes and achievements of our care experienced population, we will promote the knowledge, understanding and skills of our children and young people with these experiences and endeavour to change that perception. We aim to remove the stigma that is often a barrier to success. These children, young people and their families are important to East Lothian. They are full of potential and skills, and we want to unlock and build that to have confident, caring members of our communities.

How will our plan be implemented, and reported on?

The Corporate Parenting Plan has an Action Plan which says what we will do to put our aspirations into practice. The Corporate Parenting Steering Group will meet six times a year to assess how we are doing and update the Action Plan. We will take this Corporate Parenting Plan to the Corporate Parenting Board who will be updated on progress in implementing the plan. We will engage with elected members and widen our Champions Board and engagement with the care experienced community to build support. The Corporate Parenting Board will send this Corporate Parenting Plan and Progress Reports to the Scottish Government. We will make this plan available to everyone in our organisations so that they are aware of their responsibilities.

Theme 1: Health and Wellbeing

Aspiration – Care experienced children and young people to be able access wellbeing services when they need it, at the appropriate level. This should be a needs led, as opposed to an age led approach.

Care experienced children and young people should enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle.

ACTION	Lead	Supporting Lead	WHEN	MEASURE
<p>Continue to develop our mental wellbeing services for children and young people. This includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a single point of access to mental health and wellbeing services. • access to early intervention and preventative supports and services that promote positive mental health and wellbeing. • training and support for staff in understanding children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing. 	<p>Lynne Binnie (Service Manager, Inclusion and Equality, Education)</p>	<p>Children 1st Charmaine Currie</p>	<p>December 2022</p>	<p>Baseline number of young people offered a service via Single Point of Access</p> <p>Improvement in whole school outcomes of mental health and wellbeing as evidenced in SEE Survey.</p> <p>Increase in staff confidence in supporting CYP mental health and wellbeing,</p>
<p>Develop a forum for 18 – 26 years old care experienced young people to access supports for their mental wellbeing.</p>	<p>Emma Clater (Service Manager, Children’s Services)</p>	<p>Lisa Shine (Service and Practice Development Officer, Children’s Services)</p>	<p>April 2022</p>	<p>Aim to support 30 young people with their mental wellbeing per year.</p> <p>Numbers supported through the wellbeing panel- target of 30</p>
<p>We will reduce the impact of further trauma as we support young people recovering from adverse events.</p>	<p>Emma Clater (Service Manager,</p>	<p>Virtual School Head Teacher</p>	<p>December 2022</p>	<p>Triad of measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of placement moves

	Children's Services)	Independent Reviewing Officers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of social workers • Number of education moves
Develop a service that will support children and young people with caring responsibilities including those who are also care experienced.	Lynne Binnie (Service Manager, Inclusion and Equality, Education) Caitlin McCorry (Service Manager, Connected Communities)	Education Support Officers	December 2022	Service will be in place. Increase in numbers of young carers who are care experienced accessing the Service
Support care experienced young people to engage in and increase activity levels to support physical and mental health and wellbeing.	Ed Hendrickson (Service Manager, Active Schools and Outdoor Learning)	Mark Urwin (Team leader, Active Schools and Outdoor Learning)		-Number of care experienced young people engaging in Active Schools activity. Number of young people supported with bursaries to engage in activity. Number of young people engaging in leadership and training and/or qualifications relating to sport & physical activity.

NHS Lothian are in the process of revising its own Corporate Parenting Action Plan. This will include NHS Lothian's ambitions to improve health outcomes for care experienced children and young people, as well as how it will work in conjunction with its four local authority partners to achieve this. Once completed, themes and actions will be incorporated into the local authority partners plans.

Theme 2: Keeping Loved Ones Together

Aspiration – Children and young people will remain in regular contact with their family they consider important, in particular their brothers and sisters and parents, where this is safe. All decisions should be fully explained to children and young people so that they know if they cannot see people regularly, why not.

Family time should be flexible and individualised. Focus should be on shared experiences.

ACTION	Lead	Supporting Lead	WHEN	MEASURE
Redesign family support within East Lothian, helping families earlier and when needed to keep families together, wherever possible. This involves a more family-based approach – working with families to identifying what support would look like for them.	Lindsey Byrne (Group Service Manager, Children’s Services)	Morven Ross (Family Support Co-ordinator, Children’s Services)	December 2021	<p>Numbers of families being assisted by a redesigned family support service in year one (Jan 2022)</p> <p>Numbers of young people accommodated through statutory measures</p> <p>Numbers of families having a FGDM and remaining together a year later</p>
Continue to grow both the numbers of kinship carers and the support offered to this group.	Emma Clater Service Manager, Children’s Services)	Fostering and Adoption Team Leader Children 1st	December 2022	<p>Increase numbers of kinship carers – baseline of numbers of children/ young people in formal kincare</p> <p>Numbers of kincarers engaging in support offered</p> <p>Number of kincare breakdown</p> <p>Increase in support to children and young people in kinship placements (number of kinship carer children attending the Mini and Midi Champs).</p>

				Number of children and young attending mini champs and champs
<p>Continue to increase the number of foster carers, with a focus on carers who can care for brothers and sisters together.</p> <p>Embed the principles of the Promise within the workforce.</p>	<p>Emma Clater (Service Manager, Children's Services)</p>	<p>Fostering and Adoption Team Leader</p> <p>Workforce Development Officer</p>	<p>December 2022</p>	<p>Increase numbers of foster carers</p> <p>Increase the numbers of foster families that can take sibling placements</p> <p>Increase the numbers of children and young people living in foster care feeling safe in their home (Viewpoint)</p>
<p>Ensure brothers and sisters are placed together unless assessed as inappropriate.</p> <p>Ensure the views of brothers and sisters are obtained for Children's Hearing.</p>	<p>Emma Clater (Service Manager, Children's Services) / Anne Gerry (CHS)</p>	<p>Fostering and Adoption Team Leader</p>	<p>December 2022</p>	<p>Number of children from a sibling group placed with their brothers and/or sisters.</p> <p>% of Children Hearing Reports containing a brothers and sisters assessment.</p> <p>% of reports for Hearings containing information about the views of C& YP s contact with their brothers and sisters.</p>

Theme 3: Housing and Accommodation

Aspiration – All care experienced young people to have appropriate accommodation – no young person will be placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. All care experienced children and young people feel safe where they live, and have a sense of home and belonging.

ACTION	Lead	Supporting Lead	WHEN	MEASURE
Develop a strategic plan for how children’s services and housing will work together to provide housing and housing support for care experienced young people.	Wendy McGuire (Service Manager, Housing) Judith Tait (Head of Children’s Services)	Emma Clater (Service Manager, Children’s Services)/ James Coutts (Service Manager, Housing).	December 2021	Production of a working policy document with appropriate measures. Reduce numbers of young people in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. Ensure that the recommendations of the Home and Belonging: Being Care Experienced in East Lothian are implemented.
Develop a comprehensive web presence with information for aftercare and young people’s options, giving information that can help inform young people of their rights and choices within this area. This will include videos to inform care experienced young people about the maintenance tasks in your house, e.g. changing a lightbulb, caring for your boiler.	James Coutts (Service Manager, Housing)	East Lothian Champions Board	December 2022	% of young people completing lifeskills viewpoint Feeling supported in where they live (Life skills Viewpoint)
Explore housing models for care experienced young people with complex needs including emergency provision, housing first and small shared models.	James Coutts (Service Manager, Housing) Emma Clater	Rebecca Pringle (Team Leader, Housing Strategy)	December 2022	Numbers of young people being considered through the 15+ Housing and Support Panel. Numbers of those young people living in suitable accommodation.

<p>All care leavers will be offered the Tenancy Award to help young people feel ready and equipped for their own home.</p>	<p>Emma Clater (Service Manager, Children's Services)</p>		<p>December 2022</p>	<p>% of care leavers offered the tenancy award % of care leavers completing the tenancy award Numbers of young people supported by the Rock Trust with tenancy transition work.</p>
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Theme 4: Education and Training

Aspiration – All care experienced children will achieve their potential in school. All care experienced young people will leave school and have a positive destination. All care experienced children and young people have skills and talents and as corporate parents we will assist young people to use these. As a Local Authority we will strive for all children to live and learn in East Lothian.

ACTION	Lead	Supporting Lead	WHEN	MEASURE
<p>Undertake a review and redesign of services for children in East Lothian. This will ensure that children are supported at an early stage to remain in their families. Children and young people will live and learn in East Lothian and families supported to meet the needs of their children (Transforming Services for Children/ Redesign of Children’s Services).</p>	<p>Judith Tait (Head of Children’s Services) Monica Patterson (Chief Executive, East Lothian Council)</p>	<p>Members of the Transformation Board</p>	<p>December 2022</p>	<p>Numbers of children and young people at external residential Numbers of children and young people in external foster care will reduce Number of referrals to social work will reduce</p>
<p>We will create an Inclusion and Wellbeing Team in the interface between Children’s Services and Education. This will be early intervention focused and offer support within schools, keeping with the findings of the Promise. Increase in attainment of our care experienced children and young people.</p>	<p>Lindsey Byrne (Group Service Manager, Children’s Services), Lynne Binnie (Principal Educational Psychologist).</p>	<p>Team Leader (Inclusion and wellbeing Team)</p>	<p>December 2021</p>	<p>All children and young people will report feeling safe at school (Viewpoint, wellbeing questionnaire, SEE survey) All care experienced children and young people will achieve their levels at early, first, second and third. Improvement in levels of attendance of young people looked after Increase in the number of care experienced young people leaving school with 3 or more Nat 4’s.</p>

				<p>Increase in the number of care experienced young people leaving school with 3 or more Nat 5's.</p> <p>Increase in the number of care experienced young people achieving level 4/5 literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>Increase in the number of care experienced young people achieving vocational qualifications, one or more.</p> <p>Increase in the number of care experienced young people progressing to Further and Higher Education.</p>
We will promote and encourage alternative achievements and recognitions for our care experienced children and young people.	<p>Jennifer Cairns (Virtual Head Teacher for care experienced young people)</p> <p>Caitlin McCorry (Service Manager, Connected Communities)</p>	East Lothian Champions Board	December 2022	<p>Numbers of care experienced young people accessing Youth achievement award.</p> <p>Numbers of young people participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award.</p>
We will develop and promote a range of vocational progression pathways for care experienced young people.	Alison Hood (East Lothian Works)	Jennifer Cairns (Virtual Head Teacher for care experienced young people)	December 2022	Numbers of care experienced young people supported to move from pre-stage 1 (Personal Social Development) to stage 1 Employability (Steps to Employment).

All care experienced young people will have a positive destination and be supported to sustain/ remain in that destination (if appropriate).	Alison Hood (East Lothian Works)	Jennifer Cairns (Virtual Head Teacher for care experienced young people)	December 2022	Numbers of looked after young people in a positive destination at school leaving age
Increase the numbers of young people accessing and being supported to sustain further and higher education. Increase engagement with and referrals to Hub for Success (https://hubforsuccess.org/) – with the aim of supporting more care experienced young people into College and University.	Catherine McCormack (Edinburgh College)/ Callum McGuire (Queen Margaret University)		December 2022	Numbers of care experienced young people in further and higher education. Numbers of withdrawals for care experienced young people from further and higher education. Number of care experienced young people referred to Hub for Success.
Increase engagement and uptake of Foundation Apprenticeships in East Lothian.	Alison Hood (East Lothian Works)		December 2022	Number of care experienced young people commencing the programme and number of completers.
All care experienced young people will have a positive destination and be supported with their transition from school. Including all preparatory employability support including interview preparation.	Alison Hood (East Lothian Works)	Catherine McCormack (Edinburgh College)	December 2022	Numbers of looked after young people up to the age of 19 in a positive destination. Numbers of care experienced school pupils partaking in the school-college partnership.

Theme 5: Rights and Participation

Aspiration – All children, young people and their families are aware of their rights and are supported to have their rights upheld. Young people to feel listened to and their views heard.

ACTION	WHO	Supporting Lead	WHEN	MEASURE
Develop a multi-agency participation policy.	Lisa Shine (Service and Practice Development Officer, Children's Services) Caitlin McCorry (Service Manager, Connected Communities)	East Lothian Champions Board	January 2022	Production of a working policy document with appropriate measures.
Value and use the voice of care experienced children, young people and their families to improve services.	Lisa Shine (Service and Practice Development Officer, Children's Services) Anne Gerry (SCRA)	East Lothian Champions Board	January 2022	Data on engagement and consultation activities involving children, young people and their families.
Challenge the use of language. We will consider our use of certain terms, e.g. replacing contact with family time, replacing LAC with Looked After Child.	Promise Implementation Lead	East Lothian Champions Board	December 2021	Young people's views on their plan gathered through viewpoint. Do you get to have a say in the things that are planned for you?

<p>Young people will be offered a mentor/trusted adult/befriender.</p>	<p>Independent Reviewing Officers</p>	<p>Jennifer Cairns (Virtual School Head Teacher)</p>	<p>June 2022</p>	<p>Numbers of children and young people with a trusted adult.</p> <p>Numbers of young people being offered a mentor and numbers of young people working with a mentor.</p>
<p>Young people will be offered support/independent advocacy to give their views at Children's Hearings.</p>	<p>Anne Gerry (CHS)</p> <p>Emma Clater (Service Manager, Children's Services)</p>	<p>CAP's</p>	<p>December 2022</p>	<p>Numbers of young people using independent advocacy through the Children's Hearing System.</p>
<p>East Lothian will incorporate the principles of the UNCRC into its work on Corporate Parenting and ensure Children's Rights are heart of all Corporate Parenting Activity.</p>	<p>Emma Clater (Service Manager, Children's Services)</p>	<p>Oli Campbell (NHS Lothian)</p>	<p>August 2022</p>	<p>Numbers of children and young people offered independent advocacy and numbers of young people working with an advocacy worker (including children and young people with a disability).</p> <p>Numbers of young people choosing to remain where they live under continuing care.</p> <p>Numbers of young people participating in champions board activity</p> <p>Numbers of children and young people collaborating in service redesign/ service delivery across different service areas.</p>

Theme 6: Finance

Aspiration – All children and young people will be raised in families not affected by poverty. All children and young people will learn appropriate financial management skills within a context of sufficient funds.

ACTION	WHO		WHEN	MEASURE
Reduce personal debt	Emma Clater (Service Manager, Children's Services)		December 2022	Numbers of care experienced young people working with welfare rights service.
Increase the use of personal budgets to empower families, children and young people to take control of their situation and make decisions re support.	Emma Clater (Service Manager, Children's Services)	Lisa Shine (Service and Practice Development Officer, Children's Services)	December 2022	Number of children and young people benefiting from personal budgets to reach their goals.
Work in partnership with all agencies in East Lothian to reduce the impact of poverty, upon our families.	Paolo Vestri (Service Manager, Connected Communities)	(Service and Practice Development Officer, Children's Services)	December 2022	Number of families living in poverty in East Lothian.
Work with families to assist with income maximisation, ensuring entitlement to all benefits and allowances.	Emma Clater (Service Manager, Children's Services)	Welfare Rights Team	December 2022	Numbers of families working with Income Maximisation work.