

REPORT TO: Cabinet

MEETING DATE: 16 January 2018

BY: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: The East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-2020

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to share and seek Council endorsement of the East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-2020. The plan has been approved by the multi-agency Children's Strategic Partnership on 29 November 2017.
- 1.2 The East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-2020 has been informed by the East Lothian Champions Board in partnership with a wide range of organisations including East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, Who Cares? Scotland and Queen Margaret University.
- 1.3 Corporate Parenting duties and responsibilities were expanded within Part 9 of the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 and includes those children in foster care, residential care, secure care, looked after at home on compulsory supervision orders and those in formal kinship care.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to endorse the East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-2020 and note the new responsibilities in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 to prepare, publish and review its Corporate Parenting Plan every three years.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Section 59 of the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 Act requires a corporate parent to:
 - Prepare a corporate parenting plan for how it proposes to exercise its corporate parenting responsibilities.
 - Keep its plan under review.

- Before preparing or revising a plan, a corporate parent must consult such other corporate parents, and such other persons, as it considers appropriate.
 - Publish its plan, and any revised plan, in such manner as it considers appropriate (and, in particular, plans may be published together with, or as part of, any other plan or document).
- 3.2 Corporate Parents have a legal duty to promote the interests of children who are care experienced. They must seek to provide them with opportunities to participate in activities which are designed to promote their wellbeing, and take any action they consider appropriate to help them access these opportunities or make use of services, which they provide. Corporate Parents also need to be alert to matters which might adversely affect the wellbeing of children, young people and young adults who are care experienced.
- 3.3 The multi-agency Corporate Parenting Planning and Delivery Group is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-2020 to the Children's Strategic Partnership.
- 3.4 The Draft Plan has existed for some time and work has already progressed with some actions having been completed within 2017.
- 3.5 An all Members Briefing on Corporate Parenting duties and responsibilities will be offered in due course.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Corporate Parenting Plan has implications for care experienced young people who are looked after and receiving continuing care up until their 21st birthday and those in receipt of aftercare up until their 26th birthday.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment was completed. The implementation of the action plan will continue to advance equality of opportunity for care experienced children and young people.
- 5.2 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - Partner agencies and individual Council services contribute to delivery of the Corporate Parenting Plan from within their existing resources.

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 The East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-2020

7.2 Appendix 1 - List of Corporate Parents as detailed in Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Schedule 4

7.3 [Statutory Guidance on Part 9 of Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)

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DATE	04 January 2018

APPENDIX A SCHEDULE 4

CORPORATE PARENTS

(introduced by section 56)

- 1 The Scottish Ministers
- 2 A local authority
- 3 The National Convener of Children’s Hearings Scotland
- 4 Children’s Hearings Scotland
- 5 The Principal Reporter
- 6 The Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration
- 7 A health board
- 8 A board constituted under section 2(1)(b) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978
- 9 Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- 10 The Scottish Qualifications Authority
- 11 Skills Development Scotland Co. Ltd (registered number SC 202659)
- 12 Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland
- 13 The Scottish Social Services Council
- 14 The Scottish Sports Council
- 15 The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland
- 16 The Scottish Police Authority
- 17 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- 18 The Scottish Legal Aid Board
- 19 The Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland
- 20 The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland
- 21 The Scottish Housing Regulator
- 22 Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- 23 Creative Scotland
- 24 A body which is a “post-16 education body” for the purposes of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 200



East Lothian
Council

Corporate Parenting Plan

2017 to 20

**getting
it right**
for every child

It takes a whole community to raise a child

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About the East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-2020



The East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan has been informed by the East Lothian Champions Board in partnership with a wide range of organisations including East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, Who Cares? Scotland and Queen Margaret University.

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 want a Corporate Parenting Plan that is easy to understand and has clear improvement actions that will be acted upon.

Everyone involved in putting this plan into action should sign up to the Champions Board Commitment statement "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 except no excuses for lack of progression towards our goals."

The following sections will provide you with a clearer understanding of why we need a Corporate Parenting Plan in East Lothian and how will we know that things are improving for care experienced young people.



What is Corporate Parenting?

A corporate parent is an organisation or individual who has special responsibilities for care-experienced young people. Corporate parenting responsibilities' extend to all care experienced children and young people 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 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. Corporate parenting plans must be **regularly reviewed** and progress **reported** to the Scottish Ministers. Every three years, Scottish Ministers must report to parliament on how corporate parenting responsibilities have been exercised throughout Scotland.



Who are Corporate Parents?

The new Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places corporate parenting duties and responsibilities on a wide range of other agencies including all Council Departments, Health Boards, the Scottish Sports Council, Skills Development Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority, Creative Scotland, Police Scotland, and the Fire and Rescue Service among others.

How many children and young people are looked after in East Lothian?

In March 2017, there were 222 looked after children in East Lothian. This includes:

- 65 children and young people are in residential care
- 91 children and young people are in foster care
- 46 children and young people are in kinship care
- 65 children and young people who are looked after at home with social work involvement
- Approximately 80 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 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)

‘A Corporate Parenting Plan should clearly show what it is going to do to improve these outcomes for care experienced children and young people.’

How has the Corporate Parenting plan been developed?

The Corporate Parenting Plan has been informed by the East Lothian Champions Board. The Champions Board identified seven priorities for Change. These priorities for change are informed by the Champions own personal experience of the care system, evidence through Viewpoint as well as local and national research findings and statistics. The Corporate Parenting Planning and Delivery 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 Planning and Delivery Group was presented with the Champions Board priorities for change and worked together with the Champions to create an improvement plan that would address these priorities . The plan also includes improvement actions relating to the participation of care experienced children and young people in all areas of their life.

How we will we know that things are improving?

The Corporate Parenting Plan makes promises and commitments to all care experienced children and young people. The Corporate Parenting Planning and Delivery Group meets every two months. This group is responsible for making sure the plan is put into action. The group will also use self evaluation as a way of finding out what further improvements need to be included in the plan. The group will also report on progress in making improvements once a year to the East Lothian Children's Strategic Partnership. A report on progress will also be submitted to the Scottish Government.

Links to other plans and documents that are relevant:

- http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/12177/childrens_services_plan_2017-2020
- <https://www.cypcs.org.uk/education/golden-rules>
- <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/08/5260>

Looking forward—our Plan

Theme	Action	Who	When	Measure
Health and wellbeing	Undertake a mapping exercise of all therapeutic mental health resources available to care experienced young people in East Lothian.	Linda Irvine (Health)	July 2017	Report on the existing services and gaps to the Corporate Parenting Planning Group and agree on the next steps.
Health and wellbeing	Ensure the health of children and young people who are LAC is monitored by the LAC nurse. Any worries about health identified through Viewpoint or through conversations with others should be discussed at the young person's planning meeting (with the young person's consent).	Fiona Stenhouse (Health) Carol Lesenger (Children's Services)	December 2018	Numbers of care experienced children and young people with an up to date health assessment and number of young people that report more positively about their health via Viewpoint survey.

Theme	Action	Who	When	Measure
Health and wellbeing	Create a list of mental health resources and services that are available to care experienced young people? Signpost care experienced young people and professionals to these.	Linda Irvine (Health)	December 2017	Numbers of young people that take up of the wide range of mental health supports not just CAMH's service.
Health and wellbeing	Pilot a personal budget approach to support care leavers with their mental health and wellbeing.	Lisa Shine (Children's Services) Linda Irvine (Health)	September 2018	Share this information with Health and Children Services and agree on next steps e.g. if it needs reviewed.
Health and Wellbeing	Ensure every care experienced young person who is pregnant and expecting their first baby is offered information about the Family Nurse Partnership Programme.	Family Nurse Partnership	December 2018	The number of care experienced young people enrolled with FNP. The number who have had a healthy outcome of their pregnancy (baby born at term with a healthy birth weight).
Health and Wellbeing	Increase the number of care experienced children and young people participating in sport & physical activity programmes across East Lothian.	Ed Hendrikson (Sports Development)	September 2018	Numbers of care experienced children and young people accessing active school and sports development programmes.

Theme	Action	Who	When	Measure
Health and wellbeing	Increase the number of care experienced children and young people that have and use an Access to Leisure Card.	Celia Borland (Children's Services)	Sept 2018	Numbers of care experienced children and young people with a valid access to leisure card.
Keeping Loved Ones Together	Ensure the subject of 'contact with friends and families' gets discussed at all young people's LAC Review Meetings and agreed actions are reflected in the young person's plan.	Carole Lesenger (Children's Services)	June 2017	Number of young people that report positively about contact with friends and family via the Viewpoint survey.

Theme	Action	Who	When	Measure
Keeping loved Ones Together	Include information about contact with friends and family in the pack that young people get when moving into care.	Laura Graham (Who Cares? Scotland)	May 2017	Young people report they have clear information about contact.
Keeping Loved Ones Together	Implement the 'Next steps from the 'Doing Things Differently' pilot.	Lisa Shine (Children's Services)	April 2018	Evidence of personal budgets being used to support young people at risk of moving into care or to support young people to return home from care.
Keeping loved Ones Together	Recruitment of more foster carers able to look after groups of brothers and sisters.	Norma Godek (Children's Services)	April 2018	Numbers of foster carers approved to care for sibling groups and older young people.
Housing and accommodation	Create a short film about care leavers' experience of housing and homelessness.	East Lothian Champions Board	November 2017	Young people reporting that they have better relationships with housing staff.

Theme	Action	Who	When	Measure
Housing and accommodation	Invest multi-agency resources to create more specialist housing provision and emergency housing provision for care leavers.	Tom Shearer (Ambassador for Champion's Board housing priority) Sharon Saunders (Head of Children's Services)	September 2017	Reduction in the numbers of young people using emergency B&B and hotel accommodation.
Housing and accommodation	Produce a user friendly information pack for care experienced young people about their housing options and how to manage their tenancy.	Ian Patterson (Housing)	March 2018	Young people reporting via the Champions Board that they are finding this information helpful (via focus group).
Housing and accommodation	Provide care leavers with a range of learning opportunities to develop the practical skills they need to live independently.	Ian Patterson (Housing) Celia Borland (Children's Services)	April 2018	Numbers of care leavers managing their tenancy.
Youth and Criminal Justice	Allocate a Police Officer as a link person to care experienced young people.	Alun Williams (Police Scotland)	April 2018	Young people reporting that they have more positive relationships with police (via focus group).

Theme	Action	Who	When	Measure
Youth and Criminal Justice	Equip police officers with an understanding of corporate parenting through briefings and learning opportunities.	Alun Williams (Police Scotland)	May 2017	Young people reporting that they have more positive relationships with police.
Youth and Criminal Justice	Ensure Police Scotland Corporate Parenting Plan is aligned to the East Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan and is informed by the views of care experienced young people.	Alun Williams (Police Scotland)	December 2017	Annual reports on progress.

Theme	Action	Who	When	Measure
Rights and participation	Set up a Viewpoint user group made up of children and young people that are currently care experienced, care leavers and social workers.	Lisa Shine (Children's Services)	January 2018	Numbers of Viewpoint surveys completed.
Rights and participation	Promote activities including youth groups and Champions Board for care experienced young people on the 'Get Connected' web page.	Lauren Ritchie (Get Connected graduate intern)	November 2017	Numbers of young people joining the Champions Board.
Rights and participation	Promote the 'Get Connected' Webpage to all corporate parents including foster carers, social workers, colleagues at East Lothian Works, Community Learning and Development etc.	Ed Hendrikson (Sports Development)	December 2017	Numbers of young people joining the Champions Board.

Theme	Action	Who	When	Measure
Rights and participation	Include information about the rights and responsibilities of care experienced young people in the 'Moving into Care' packs.	Champions Board	June 2017	Young people reporting via Viewpoint that they have a 'Moving into Care' pack.
Rights and participation	Establish a programme of ongoing networking and engagement opportunities with Elected Members and community planning partners.	Champions Board	April 2018	Numbers of elected members that engage with the Champions Board.
Finance	Set up a working group that will look at all the allowances that care experienced young people should get.	Celia Borland (Children Services) Jim Lamond (Finance Department)	December 2017	Young people reporting they are have clear understanding of the allowances they receive.

Theme	Action	Who	When	Measure
Finance	Ensure care experienced young people get an opportunity to have conversations with their social worker and foster carer about pocket money and allowances and raise any matters at their review meeting if they wish to.	Sean Rafferty/Celia Borland (Children Services)	June 2017	Young people reporting they are have clear understanding of the allowances they receive.
Education and training	Deliver a training programme for teachers and staff in all East Lothian schools about how best to support care experienced young people and the importance of relationship based practice.	East Lothian Champions Board)	April 2018	Care experienced young people reporting that they have a more positive experience of education (Viewpoint).
Education and training	Develop and deliver awareness raising sessions for pupils in East Lothian about care.	East Lothian Champions Board)	April 2018	Incidents of bullying recorded by care experienced young people.

Theme	Action	Who	When	Measure
Education and training	Promote the achievement of a positive destination for all looked after children and young people on leaving school.	Lynne Binnie (Education)	Ongoing	Numbers of care experienced young people in a positive destination on leaving school.
Education and training	Continue to work with our further and higher education partners to ensure that the specific needs of our looked after young people are identified and supported.	Dee Bird (Edinburgh University) Callum McGuire (Queen Margaret University)	April 2018	Numbers of care experienced young people that access and sustain places at further and higher education.
Training and employment	Care Experienced young people remain a priority for receiving services from East Lothian Works, whilst at school and after leaving school.	Alison Hood (East Lothian Works)	Ongoing	Numbers of Care Experienced young people receiving a service from East Lothian Works.
Systems and Data	Implement a multi agency programme of self evaluation using the Care Inspectorate Performance Framework.	Lisa Shine (Children Services)	April 2018	Improvement actions identified through self evaluation are included within the Corporate Parenting Plan.



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