

10am, 28 June 2018

## Corporate Parenting Plan

Item number	8.12
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

### Executive Summary

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The Children and Young People (Scotland) act 2014 confers duties upon the local authority and other corporate parents to publish a corporate parenting plan, setting out our vision for Looked After children and young people, the outcomes we are trying to achieve, the actions needed to do this and the governance arrangements for monitoring progress.

The council has had such a plan in place since 2012 and now needs to publish this updated version.

The plan has been co-produced with partners and reflects consultation to date with children and young people.

The council is asked to approve the plan and to note the steps in place to increase the engagement and participation of young people in the co-production of future plans.

## Corporate Parenting Plan

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that council approves the 2017-20 corporate parenting plan.
- 1.2 It is recommended that council notes the arrangements in place to increase the engagement and participation of looked after children and young people in the co-production of future plans.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 Background in relation to Looked After children and young people, the legislative context of corporate parenting and Edinburgh's approach to date are set out in pages 2-5 of the plan, attached.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 The council has had a corporate parenting plan in place since 2012.
- 3.2 The current draft plan is attached (Appendix 1) and describes the actions in place in relation to leadership, health and wellbeing, education, employment and training, support and protection and accommodation.
- 3.3 The plan has been co-produced with partners and reflects the views expressed in consultation to date with children and young people.
- 3.4 The ways in which we implement ongoing actions will be informed by engagement with children and young people.
- 3.5 For this purpose, we have formed a Champions Board of Looked After children and young people who meet on a monthly basis with the vice convenor of the Education, Children and Families Committee and with senior officers of the council and partner agencies.
- 3.6 The Council is asked to endorse the plan for referral to the Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group and full Council in June.

### 4. Measures of success

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- 4.1 There are a number of measures of success set out in the plan.

## **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The plan will be implemented within current council budget.

## **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 The council must publish the plan in order to comply with its duty under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

## **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 The plan is designed to promote the interests of Looked After Children, to respect their rights and to encourage their full participation in the development of our corporate parenting approach via the Champions Board.

## **8. Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 There no impact on sustainability arising from the plan.

## **9. Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 The plan reflects consultation since 2012 with children and young people via our Young People in Care Council and, more recently, the Looked After Children Champions Board.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 N/A

### **Alistair Gaw**

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## **11. Appendices**

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Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Plan

**Edinburgh's  
Corporate Parenting Plan  
2018 to 2020**

## Foreword

Looked after children and young people and care leavers are some of the most vulnerable in our society. They have become looked after for a range of reasons and may have experienced abuse, neglect and trauma before becoming looked after.

The local authority has a duty to make an individual plan to meet the needs of each Looked After Child. In doing so they have a duty to give due consideration to the wishes and feelings of the child/young person and their religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background in line with Getting It Right for Every Child.

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership is committed to improving outcomes for Edinburgh's children and young people, their families and communities. We want outcomes for Looked After Children to be as good as they are for other children in the City of Edinburgh. We recognise that services must work closely and effectively together with each other, and with children, young people and their families to achieve this.

In line with the core principles contained within the Children's Services Plan, the Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group and Leadership Group are committed to ensuring that we place children and young people at the centre of practice; listen to and respond to children and young people, focus on strengths and building resilience; prioritise prevention and improve fairness.

## Purpose of this plan

The purpose of this Corporate Parenting Plan is to:

- Set out our vision and direction.
- Describe the outcomes we aim to achieve together in fulfilling our corporate parenting responsibilities.
- Describe the actions required to do this over the next three years.
- Describe the governance and arrangements for monitoring progress on the outcomes.

## Introduction to corporate parenting

The purpose of Part 9 (Corporate Parenting) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act, 2014 is to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers. Within this, Corporate Parenting is defined as: "the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers".

### Responsibilities

Under section 58 of the Act, which sets out corporate parenting responsibilities, a corporate parent (or group of corporate parents if a joint plan) will:

- Be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom corporate parenting applies.

- Assess the needs of those children and young people for the services and support they provide.
- Promote the interests of those children and young people.
- Provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing.
- Take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people to (i) access the opportunities it provides, and (ii) make use of services, and access support, which it provides.
- Take such action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to the children and young people to whom corporate parenting applies.

Corporate parents have a responsibility to uphold the rights and secure the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers. The responsibilities set out here apply to every child who is looked after, regardless of their age, gender, location or placement type, and apply equally to all care leavers, up to their 26th birthday.

Corporate parents must consult with other corporate parents to prepare and publish a plan on how they propose exercising their responsibilities and must keep this plan under review.

### Looked After Children in Edinburgh

Children can become Looked After either through a legal order issued by a Children's Hearing or court, or because their parent has not been able to safely look after them and either cannot be found or has provided consent.

Children can be either Looked After at home or Looked After and Accommodated. "Looked After at home" means that the child is subject to a supervision requirement made by a Children's Hearing. This means that they will have a social worker who works with the child and their family to make a plan to meet the child's needs and keep them safe. "Looked After and Accommodated" means that the child is either in family based care or residential care. Family based care can be a kinship carer (someone already known to the child who is a member of their own family network and is assessed as able to meet their needs) or a foster carer.

Edinburgh has over 1,300 Looked After Children with around 900 care leavers supported by our Throughcare and Aftercare Service.

	Age	0-4	5-10	11-15	16+	Total
<b>Looked After Children as at 31 March 2018</b>		254	406	481	193	1334
<b>Number of Looked After Children at home</b>		72	121	126	19	338
<b>Number of Looked After Children away from home</b>		182	285	355	174	996
<b>of which Foster Care</b>		107	167	216	91	581
<b>Residential</b>		2	3	53	43	101
<b>With Kinship Carers, Friends/Relatives</b>		53	109	82	27	271
<b>With Prospective Adopters</b>		20	6	0	0	26
<b>Secure</b>		0	0	4	3	7
<b>Other</b>		0	0	0	10	10

## Edinburgh's corporate parenting approach

Edinburgh has had a Corporate Parenting Action Plan in place since 2012 developed in consultation with Looked After Young People, Care Leavers, Council staff and partner agencies with actions being delivered on six key themes – Leadership; Health and Wellbeing; Education; Employment and Training; Support and Protection; and Accommodation.

The plan is monitored and reviewed by a Member/Officer Group and the Leadership Group. It was updated in 2014 and 2017 and will be incorporated into the Corporate Parenting report submitted to the Scottish Government in 2018 outlining progress.

A Looked After Children Transformation programme was put in place by the Council 2012-17. The programme aimed to reduce the need for children to be looked after and to achieve a shift in the balance of care. In summary, we aspired to meet children's needs through less intrusive or expensive forms of care by maximising support to families.

Edinburgh is aspiring to be a Child Friendly City in which our Looked After Children deserve to achieve best outcomes possible for them. Our aspirations for them should be the same as for our own children as we are their corporate parents.

## Strategic planning framework and governance

This plan is aligned to the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Children's Services Plan 2017 to 2020.

In line with the Children's Services Plan, the following five strategic outcomes sit at the heart of our corporate parenting plan:

- Every child will have the best start in life.
- Children and young people's attendance, engagement and achievement will be improved and the poverty related attainment gap will be reduced.
- Every child and young person will have good wellbeing and achieve the best possible health.
- Equity among children and young people and their families will be advanced.
- Children and young people, their families and their communities will be empowered to improve their wellbeing.

The Partnership comprises representatives from City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), the voluntary sector, NHS Lothian, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), Police Scotland and Edinburgh College.

The plan has been put in place by the Corporate Parenting Leadership Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council, and the Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group which consists of elected members and senior officers from all the agencies named above.

The Member Officer Group plays a key role in the scrutiny of the plan.

The Leadership Group leads on the development, implementation and monitoring of the action plan.

Four sub-groups have been created to take forward the work across the themes and these will report progress on an ongoing basis to the Leadership Group.

Each sub-group will put in place a plan which sets out the outcomes to which we aspire, the actions we will put in place to achieve them and timescales for implementation. The outcomes of the activities of each sub-group will be reported to the Leadership Group and the Member/Officer Group on a biannual basis and will inform the content of the Annual Corporate Parenting Report.

The governance structure is shown in the diagram below.



Background papers/further information

[Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014 – Education, Children and Families Committee 6 October 2015](#)

[Looked After Children Transformation Programme Progress Report – Education, Children and Families Committee 13 December 2016](#)

[The Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)

## The Action Plan

The plan is structured around the six themes and associated commitments.

**1. Leadership**

Edinburgh will have clear leadership and governance in place for corporate parenting.

**2. Health and Wellbeing**

Looked After Children will benefit from access to a range of services designed to meet their emotional, mental and physical needs.

**3. Education**

Looked After Children will be supported to become confident individuals and successful learners.

**4. Employment and Training**

Looked After Children will be supported through the transition from care into a positive destination.

**5. Support and Protection**

Looked After Children will be supported to develop into successful and responsible adults.

**6. Accommodation**

Looked After Children and care leavers will have access to safe affordable housing.

<b>Theme</b>				
<b>1. Leadership - We will ensure that Edinburgh has clear leadership and governance in place.</b>				
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Outcome Measure(s)</b>
	CLT to discuss how each service incorporates corporate parenting objectives and performance in their service plan	Andrew Kerr	June 2018	
	Establish a post for care experienced Participation Officer	Scott Dunbar	May 2018	
	Establish a Champions Board	Andy Jeffries	Completed	
All partners are aware of corporate parenting and the achievements of LAC	Develop and deliver a communications plan that raises awareness of corporate parenting	Simon Higgins	December 2018	Communications to raise awareness.
	Annual event to highlight the achievements of LAC and care leavers Communication programme around 2018 the year of the young person	Scott Dunbar/ Linda Lees	December 2018	Group established to coordinate events for the year of the young person. Edinburgh YP's conference to take place in September/October 2018.
	Develop a mentor service in consultation with Young People or Peer Support	Scott Dunbar	December 2018 December 2018	Champions Board and Participation Officer to implement a mentoring service.

## Theme

**2. Health and Wellbeing** - *We will ensure that Looked After Children benefit from access to a range of services designed to meet their emotional, mental and physical needs.*

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure(s)
LAC and carers access the health services they need	To undertake a review of our delivery model of CEL 16 health assessment delivery and LAC healthcare service to explore if redesign is required to increase reach and to ensure ongoing support for health needs is effective in improving outcomes.	Linda Irvine	June 2018	<p>Increase aim to increase uptake to 100% of LAC population by 2020.</p> <p>Qualitative feedback from Champions Board that assessment is supportive of health needs.</p> <p>Referral to CAHS will be assessed in a timely and responsive manner. Referral and treatment times for LAC / LAAC will be reported and reviewed.</p>
	To reduce waiting time for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and ensure capacity exists within CAMHS and adult mental health services to meet the mental health needs of LAC / LAAC children and young people.	Linda Irvine	Sept 2018	
	To increase the capacity of the Throughcare and Aftercare team to support and provide interventions to meet identified mental needs of young people engaging with them. The Team will be enhanced with the employment of an occupational therapist and clinical psychologist.	Linda Irvine Steve Harte	July 2018	
	All children registered for permanence are subject to a medical prior to registration	Scott Dunbar	Complete	
	Provide Hepatitis B Vaccination to foster carers and residential staff	Scott Dunbar	Complete	
LAC have opportunities	Encourage a range of Edinburgh venues/clubs to ring fence tickets for looked after children including football, rugby, concerts	Russell Sutherland	On going	

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure(s)
to participate in activities of their choice	Culture services work directly and in partnership with third party organisations to assist access for looked after children to cultural opportunities	Lynne Halfpenny	In place	Increased interventions delivered with TC and AF.
	Looked after children and young adults involved in TcAc are provided with no cost/low cost access to Council supported leisure facilities	Tommy George	Completed	Capacity building of current staff.  A full evaluation will be conducted which will focus on "distance travelled" for young people participating in the programme.
Parents are well supported to meet the needs of their children	Enable young people entitled to a school bus pass to receive a full bus pass to encourage extra curriculum activities	Scott Dunbar	December 2018	Numbers of young people receiving full bus pass.
	To introduce an innovative programme of personal development designed for and aimed at young people deemed at risk and already engaged by the Youth Justice System with the Through Care After Care Services as part of the GameChanger Public Social Partnership.	Linda Irvine Steve Harte	October 2018	Numbers of young people taking up personal development programme.
Improve resilience and emotional wellbeing	Expand Family Group Decision to offer care leavers the opportunity to re-establish contact with their families.	Gillian Christian	Done and ongoing	
	'More Good Days' SDS initiative is available to all young people in residential care.	Jude Currie	Done and ongoing	

## Theme

### 3. Education - We will ensure that Looked After Children are supported to become confident individuals and successful learners.

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure(s)
Looked After Children have good attendance and fulfil their attainment potential	In-school arrangements for child planning, tracking and monitoring of LAC attendance, attainment and positive destinations are in place. 1. Flow chart for process 2. QIO to adapt supported self-evaluation process 3. Adapt professional learning partnerships	Lorna Sweeney	August 2018	LAC Overall attendance in positive destinations. Number/% with low attendance.
	LAC data from each school is shared with the local Children's Practice Team Manager.	Andy Jeffries	August 2018	Exclusion rates. Reported attainment:
	The Children's Practice Team Managers distribute LAC data to individual social workers and team leaders responsible for children, asking that the praise success, reward outstanding success and take action to engage and adjust child plans where concerns are evident.	Sean Bell	August 2018	SCQF awards; Average tariff score Staying on rate.
	Local relationships are in place between schools and social work via a Children's Practice Team Leader linked to every cluster. Regular conversations take place about the progress of Looked After Children in the cluster and actions are taken if plans are not progressing well.	Sean Bell	August 2018	
	Local relationships are in place between Educational Psychologists, Additional Support for Learning service leaders, schools and practice teams. Named individuals contribute to the process above	Martin Vallely	August 2018	

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure(s)
	These relationships contribute to child planning processes and promote a Self-Directed Support approach to planning for Looked After Children at home. This results in more specific and solution focussed child's plans in which we ask families what it would take to bring about improvements and take appropriate action to achieve them.	Sean Bell	August 2018	Quality of child's plans from case audit.
	Clear procedures in relation to exclusion and part-time timetables are implemented by all schools with support from partners. There is a shared understanding (across schools and their partners) of pathways to support looked after children to progress and achieve their potential in education. A clear approach to monitoring and tracking exclusion. and part-time timetables are implemented by all schools and this is used systematically to support effective child planning and self-evaluation	Gillian Barclay	June 2018	Exclusion data.
	Learning is supported within care placements including appropriate access to IT – residential/fostering.	Scott Dunbar	Completed	Attendance affective.
Looked After school leavers achieve positive destinations	Develop the Hub for SUCCESS (Support for University and College for Care Experienced in South East Scotland) in order to contribute to an increase in progression to higher education for Looked After young people. Manager will be in place and service will become operational in August 2018.	Peter Tormey from Napier University	August 2018	Work experience numbers. Positive destinations.

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure(s)
	Develop a model for supporting Looked After Children through a senior phase hub and digital learning project	Anna Gray	Senior Phase Hubs scoped and planned by December 2018 and the Digital Learning Project should be widely accessible from September.	Positive destinations.

### Theme

**4. Employment and Training** - *We will ensure that Looked After Children are supported through the transition from care into a positive destination.*

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure
LAC have access to employment, training and	Commit to an 'Edinburgh Family Firm' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with each directorate to develop supportive work experience and MA opportunities for care experienced young people</li> <li>Encourage employers who engage through Edinburgh Guarantee to offer priority application and interviews</li> </ul>	Susanne Donkin	March 2019	5% of CEC Modern Apprenticeships filled from LAC community

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure
FE opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a wish list of community benefit asks for future procurement opportunities.</li> </ul>			<p>10% of Edinburgh Guarantee commit to Family Firm approach</p> <p>Increased provision of work placements and other opportunities</p>
	<p>Improve the coordination of journeys towards sustainable employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly job club established in TCAC, recently expanded to include YPS&amp;TCAC client group</li> <li>Encourage better links with ESS and YPCs to ensure all those who have disengaged from or about to leave school have a clear plan</li> </ul>	Susanne Donkin	Completed and ongoing	<p>Increase in number of YP accessing the job club.</p> <p>Decrease in LAC NEET.</p>
	Develop the Hub for SUCCESS (Support for University and College for Care Experienced in South East Scotland) to contribute to an increase in progression to higher education for care experienced young people	Peter Tormey		Number of YP accessing SAAS funding and completing courses.
	<p>Build Capacity of Employability Providers Around Care Experienced Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further develop the Care Experienced Employability Providers (CEEP) Forum – currently meets bi-monthly.</li> <li>Staff training and shadowing opportunities shared across the network.</li> </ul>	Susanne Donkin	Ongoing	<p>Smoother transitions for young people.</p> <p>Increase in sustained outcomes.</p>

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and promote accessible online directory of employability support for use by residential staff and other training providers.</li> </ul>			
We are able to identify and monitor LAC progress	<p>Establish More Effective Performance Management Arrangements focussed on improving outcomes for LAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better information about LAC outcomes and progress to enable earlier intervention when positive destination not sustained – Strategy and Insight, Skills Development Scotland etc</li> <li>More business mentors offering ongoing support to LAC young people to help sustain destinations.</li> </ul>	Susanne Donkin	Mar 2019	More positive destinations and sustained outcomes.

## Theme

**5. Support and Protection** - *We will ensure that Looked After Children are supported to develop into successful and responsible adults.*

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure(s)
LAC access the services they require	Extend Throughcare/Aftercare drop in services to weekend and out of hours	Steve Harte	July 2018	A Customer Service Excellence process will provide an evaluation of the current service and inform future work style options.
	A comprehensive list of services is available to care leavers	Steve Harte	December 2018	
	Strengthen relationship with Children's Services and Adult Services to support young people in transition	Steve Harte	December 2018	

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure(s)
	Expand the range of foster care options within CEC resources	Neil Bruce	Completed	Project assigned to a student researcher
	Increase the capacity of the two current MST teams	Pei-I-Yang	Completed	
LAC are safe	Reduce absconding – Police Liaison Group/information sharing	Frank Phelan	On going	Progress has been achieved and a 35% reduction was achieved in 2017. In 2018 there is a further 11% reduction. The Vulnerable Children's Group is meeting weekly to review young people with concerning absconding.
	Put in place measures to consult with young people on their safety and to take actions to improve safety where required.	Scott Dunbar	Completed and on going	Champions Board.

## Theme

**6. Accommodation** - We will ensure that good quality accommodation is provided for all Looked After Children and care leavers have access to safe affordable housing.

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure(s)
LAC live in high quality residential settings	The physical environments in YP's Centres, Close Support Units and Secure Services are upgraded to the Care Inspectorate standard of Very Good through a rolling programme of planned rebuilding and refurbishment	Scott Dunbar	On going	£120k has been spent on the physical environment at YPCs. Oxgangs replacement will be operational in March 2019.
	Repairs to residential units to be prioritised by property services	Susan Brown	On going	
	The range of safe and suitable accommodation for care leavers is expanded and protected, accompanied by simple to use access systems and detailed information about the tenancy and locality	Steve Harte	Completed and on going	Accredited life skills course <i>Moving Out or Moving In</i> commissioned from Dean and Cauvin Trust.
	Develop additional, flexible training and support for young people moving into independent living	Frank Phelan	Completed	
	Housing support officer in residential service to support young people transition	Steve Harte	Done	
	Council Tax exemption for care leavers	Brian Murphy	To be confirmed	
	Foster carers and Kinship are supported to move to suitable Council accommodation to provide more placements	Karen Allan	On going	

Outcome	Action	Lead	Timescale	Outcome Measure(s)
Carers are supported and children are in the right kind of placement	Setting up home grant is available to all carers leavers	Scott Dunbar	Completed	5 host families are currently recruited with further recruitment campaigns to follow through 2018.
	Recruit community carers for UASC	Russell Sutherland	Completed	
	Increase capacity of Heathervale to deal with crisis and emergency situations to mitigate emergency admissions into residential units	Scott Dunbar	The Residential Review is due to report in December 2018	
	Sign posting for young people to resources is provided by the Young Peoples Hub, designed as a single point of contact.	Complete		