

East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

Children and Young Peoples' Service Plan 2017-20

Action Plan – Corporate Parenting



1. Introduction

We aim to ensure that children, young people and their families get the help they need, when they need it. Our vision is to ensure that children and young people, including those in early years and their carers, are supported to be active, healthy and to reach their potential at all life stages.

East Ayrshire embraces the Scottish Government's definition of Corporate Parenting as "an organisation's performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted".

When a child or young person becomes looked after, the responsibility for their parenting becomes the duty of everyone working for the Council and partners agencies, and not just those working directly within Children's Services. Corporate parents will want the same outcomes for their looked after children as any parent would want for their own children.

The specific intention of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan is to widen the ownership of responsibility of looked after children to key partners within the statutory and voluntary sections by identifying actions and training that will ensure that corporate parenting responsibilities of all organisations are enshrined in the workplace.

This Corporate Parenting Action Plan is produced as a contribution to the Children and Young Peoples' Service Plan 2017-20. The Corporate Parenting Action Plan contributes to the 'stretch aims' of the Plan and to delivering the vision and strategic objectives of the Community Plan 2015-30.

Throughout this document the term **looked after children** refers to all children, young people and care leavers, regardless of their placement type.

2. Local Context

There has been a consistent approach to corporate parenting planning in East Ayrshire since 2008, through strategies and action plans, developed with the engagement and active participation of children, young people and care leavers.

Most recently, our ambitious Corporate Parenting Strategy 2012/15, which included a Care Leaver's Strategy and sat within the framework of the East Ayrshire Children & Young People Service Plan 2012/15, had a total of 42 specific actions, including 14 multi-agency Corporate Parenting actions and 28 combined multi-agency Care Leaver actions. By December 2015, all actions had been achieved or had progressed significantly.

Partners have streamlined arrangements with the Corporate Parenting Action Plan Group having a single Action Plan, focused on key themes. The new Action Plan is set within the context of current national policy, as laid out in the Scottish Government's 2015 Strategy "Getting It Right for Looked After Children & Young People – Early Engagement, Early Permanence and Improving the Quality of Care". This work is reported to the East Ayrshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership .

There is a well-established Corporate Parenting Group comprising of elected members, care



experienced young people, council officers and third sector representatives. The Group has been meeting since December 2009 and is now chaired by the Depute Provost (Children's Champion). The Group has oversight of the Council's lead role in implementing our corporate parenting plans and hears directly from care experienced young people through the Connecting to Change group about matters which concern them or about new corporate parenting developments and initiatives.

The most recent national data for 2016 show that, with 463 looked after children and young people, East Ayrshire has a higher number of children looked after per head of population than Scotland as a whole. Over the long-term the number of children looked after has reduced and the difference between the local and national rates has reduced. In 2017 there were 384 looked after children in East Ayrshire.

Our balance of care for looked after children is positive with around 92 per cent supported at home or in community settings rather than residential while nationally the figure is 90 per cent. The number of internal foster carers has increased in recent years from 45 to 61. The use of secure accommodation is low with no obvious trend over the last three years. There has been an increase in the number of care leavers staying in touch with services rising from 157 to 186 in the three year to 2016/17.

Our aspiration in terms of educational attainment and positive destinations is to ensure that there is no discernible difference between outcomes for our looked after children and their peers. Raising Educational Attainment and preparing young people for the world of work is a key priority.

School exclusions for looked after children and young people compare well with comparator partnerships but the level of exclusion is significantly above the level for all pupils and partners recognise the need for continued effort to improve this.

Similarly, while school attendance rates are similar to the national level, these remain below that of peers especially for children and young people looked after at home.

The Community Planning Partnership is committed to continuing to improve positive and sustained destinations for care experienced children and young people.

This Action Plan recognises the need to continuously improve and to work to ensure that our children and young people have the necessary life chances and skills to move into adulthood and the world of work, with a particular focus on supporting children and young people who are looked after and looked after and accommodated.



3. Policy and Practice

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 established a framework of duties and responsibilities for relevant public bodies requiring them to be systematic and proactive in their efforts to meet the needs of looked after children and care leavers.

Part 9 (Section 58) sets out the responsibilities of corporate parents towards children and young people. These responsibilities are legal duties which every corporate parent must fulfil. The six duties are:

- Being alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers;
- Assessing the needs of those children and young people for services and support they provide;
- Promoting the interests of looked after children and young people;
- Seeking to provide looked after children and care leavers with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing;
- Taking action to help looked after children and care leavers with access opportunities to improve wellbeing and make use of services, and access the support, which they provide;
- Taking any other action to improve the way in which it exercises the Corporate Parenting functions.

4. Community Plan Contribution

The Community Plan 2015-30 is the sovereign plan for all partners in East Ayrshire. The vision of the Community Plan is that: “East Ayrshire is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people’s needs.”

This Corporate Parenting Action Plan contributes to the strategic Delivery Plan themes of the Community Plan in relation to the following areas:

- Economy and Skills - embedding ambition, aspiration and entrepreneurship in our culture.
- Safer Communities - improving community safety in neighbourhoods and homes, and protecting and supporting our most vulnerable individuals and families.
- Wellbeing - ensuring that children and young people, including those in early years and their carers, are supported to be active, healthy and to reach their potential at all life stages.

The Action Plan contributes directly to the delivery of the stretch aims of the Children and Young Peoples’ Service Plan 2017-20.



5. Action Plan Outcomes

Outcome	Intermediate outcomes
<p>All looked After children and young people should have the extra support they need to get the most out of their education and achieve their full potential.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced exclusions; • Improved attendance; • Improved time keeping; • Improved attainment; • Improved school leaver destinations; • Child's Plan, with SMART targets, reviewed every 6 months; • Educational establishments adopting and implementing nurture principles; • Looked after 2 year olds access their entitlement to 600 hours of early learning and childcare; • Reduction in the number of placement moves; and • Foster carers are trained in nurture principles and TCI.
<p>All Looked after children and young people should enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Assessments are completed within 4 weeks; • Under 5's within the permanency process have their voice/opinion recognised; • All looked after children have completed a Wellbeing Web (or similar model); and • All eligible looked after young people are registered to vote.



6. Indicators and Activities

Indicator	Target
Reduce exclusions of Looked After children (per 1,000 pupils) (Baseline = 194)	158
Improved attendance and time keeping for Looked After Children	95%
By 2020, we will endeavour to achieve all educational stretch aim targets set at local level for our looked after children. (as set out in Appendix 1 and reported within the Educational Services Service Improvement Plan).	
Percentage of LAC children's plan reviewed every 6 months by their Team Around the Child	100%
Percentage of newly qualified teachers (NQTs) in East Ayrshire taking part in a learning and development session focused on the needs of LAC within the induction programme	100%
Percentage of educational establishments with key staff trained in nurture principles	100%
Percentage of looked after 2 year olds entitled to 600 hours of early learning with a wellbeing assessment	90%
Percentage of LAC and LAAC will have a child's plan with SMART targets and an identified educational outcome	100%
Percentage of looked after and accommodated children with three or fewer placement moves (Baseline = 83%)	90%
Percentage of appropriate staff trained in EA-SNAP	100%
Percentage of East Ayrshire foster carers with access to training and development in nurture principles (Baseline = 56.7%)	100%
Percentage of primary foster carers who care for children over 7 years trained in TCI	100%
Average age of a looked after young person leaving care (16 years plus)	18 years
Percentage of LAC school notifications occurring within 48 hours	100%
Percentage of health and mental health assessments initiated within 4 weeks of notification for Looked after Children.	100%
Percentage of looked after children with an active Ayrshare folder	100%
Percentage of eligible looked after young people who are registered to vote	95%



We will:

- Improve educational attainment and achievement for care experienced children and young people;
- Continue to improve attendance and time keeping for care experienced children and young people;
- Continue to support alternative curriculum activities through community awards programmes for looked after children and young people;
- Continue to improve volunteering and work experience opportunities for care experienced young people;
- Continue effective implementation of nurture principles in practice through training and coaching across educational establishments, and with foster carers, children's house carers and the Corporate Parenting Team;
- Secure positive destinations on leaving school for care experienced children and young people;
- Provide Guaranteed Interviews for Modern Apprenticeships where entry criteria met;
- Develop the Family Firm approach in the Community Planning Partnership;
- Continue to support young people to maintain community contacts through engagement in physical activity;
- Ensure each Children's House has a Health Improving Care Establishments (HICE) champion;
- Complete an initial comprehensive health assessment (including mental health) for each looked after child and that these are embedded in the Child's Plan;
- Provide ready and responsive access to a GP, dentist, LAC nurse, mental, and sexual health services as required;
- Provide regular continual one to one reviews of health assessed needs and ensure information recorded in plans is up to date;
- Ensure future health needs are recorded on the relevant plan and relevant interventions to address these needs are undertaken;
- Establish a new process for named person in education to notify Health of school age Looked after Children; and
- Improve communication to named person for pre 5 Looked after Children.

7. Performance Reporting and Review

The Corporate Parenting Action Plan will be evaluated regularly through the Corporate Parenting Group with progress reporting to the Children and Young Peoples' Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). Formal annual reporting and review will be through the CYPSP as part of the monitoring arrangements for the Children and Young Peoples' Service Plan 2017-20. Reporting will align with the requirements of the Community Plan and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).



EDUCATIONAL STRETCH AIM TARGETS SET AT LOCAL LEVEL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

<p>By 2020, at least 85% of Looked After P1, P4 and P7 children (combined) will be achieving the CfE Level relevant to their stage in Literacy, measured by Looked After Status.</p> <p>Baseline Looked After at home: 22.2% Looked After away from home: 53.9% Previously Looked After: 41.9% Not Looked After: 70.9%</p>	The right of the child to education	Positive Destinations	Achieving	LO2 – 2.1: Ensure residents in East Ayrshire, particularly our young people, have the relevant skills and qualifications and positive attitude needed for the world of work.
<p>By 2020, at least 85% of Looked After P1, P4 and P7 children (combined) achieving the CfE Level relevant to their stage in Numeracy, measured by Looked After Status.</p> <p>Baseline Looked After at home: 16.7% Looked After away from home: 45.2% Previously Looked After: 36.5% Not Looked After: 68.5%</p>	The right of the child to education	Positive Destinations	Achieving	LO2 – 2.1: Ensure residents in East Ayrshire, particularly our young people, have the relevant skills and qualifications and positive attitude needed for the world of work.
<p>By 2020, at least 85% of Looked After S3 children will be achieving CfE 3rd Level or better in Literacy, measured by Looked After Status.</p> <p>Baseline Looked After at home: 26.7% Looked After away from home: 23.1% Previously Looked After: 24.6% Not Looked After: 77.6%</p>	The right of the child to education	Positive Destinations	Achieving	LO2 – 2.1: Ensure residents in East Ayrshire, particularly our young people, have the relevant skills and qualifications and positive attitude needed for the world of work.



<p>By 2020, at least 85% of Looked After S3 children achieving CfE 3rd Level or better in Numeracy, measured by Looked After Status.</p> <p>Baseline Looked After at home: 80.0% Looked After away from home: 53.8% Previously Looked After: 56.5% Not Looked After: 88.2%</p>	The right of the child to education	Positive Destinations	Achieving	LO2 – 2.1: Ensure residents in East Ayrshire, particularly our young people, have the relevant skills and qualifications and positive attitude needed for the world of work.
<p>By 2020, at least 85% of Looked After school leavers will achieve 1 or more qualification at SCQF Level 5 or better, measured by Looked After Status.</p> <p>Baseline Looked After at home: 13.3% Looked After away from home: 57.9% Not Looked After / Status Unknown: 85.9%</p>	The right of the child to education	Positive Destinations	Achieving	LO2 – 2.1: Ensure residents in East Ayrshire, particularly our young people, have the relevant skills and qualifications and positive attitude needed for the world of work.
<p>By 2020, at least 85% of Looked After school leavers will achieve 1 or more qualification at SCQF Level 6 or better, measured by Looked After Status.</p> <p>Baseline Looked After at home: 0.0% Looked After away from home: 21.1% Not Looked After / Status Unknown: 61.8%</p>	The right of the child to education	Positive Destinations	Achieving	LO2 – 2.1: Ensure residents in East Ayrshire, particularly our young people, have the relevant skills and qualifications and positive attitude needed for the world of work.
<p>By 2020, at least 95% of Looked After school leavers will go on to a positive participative destination, measured by Looked After Status.</p> <p>Baseline Looked After at home: 40.0% Looked After away from home: 79.0% All Looked After Leavers: 61.8% All Leavers: 91.8%</p>	The right of the child to education	Positive Destinations	Achieving	LO2 – 2.1: Ensure residents in East Ayrshire, particularly our young people, have the relevant skills and qualifications and positive attitude needed for the world of work.

