

Corporate Parenting Action Plan

Education, Children and Families Committee

8 March 2012

1 Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the action plan developed to improve outcomes of looked after children which the Council has responsibility for as a Corporate Parent.

2 Main report

- 2.1 Corporate Parenting refers to "...the formal and local partnerships needed between all local authority departments and services, and associated agencies, who are responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children and young people" as defined in the document *Looked After Children & Young People: We Can And Must Do Better (Scottish Executive), 2007*.
- 2.2 The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 gives statutory responsibility for Looked After Children to the whole local authority. Section 17 sets out the statutory duties of local authorities to:
- (a) safeguard and promote their welfare;
 - (b) make services available.
- 2.3 The formal definition of a Looked After Child is a child who is:
- Subject to a supervision order under Section 70 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 ;
 - Subject to a Permanence Order under Part 2 of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007;
 - Accommodated by the local authority under Section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.
- 2.4 In March 2011, a presentation to the Corporate Management Team by the Director of Children and Families highlighted the Council's corporate parenting responsibility towards looked after children. In addition to the presentation, the Directors and senior officers in attendance were asked to identify actions that their service could implement to contribute to Council's responsibility as an effective corporate parent.
- 2.5 Since March work has progressed positively and the actions identified through the exercise have continued to be developed and now form the contents of a

Corporate Parenting Action Plan. The action plan is founded on significant engagement with children and young people, in particular the Young People in Care Council, and relevant services. The action plan is set out in Appendix 1 under the following six key themes.

- Leadership
- Health and Wellbeing
- Education
- Employment and Training
- Support and Protection
- Accommodation

2.6 Implementation of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan is being led and monitored by a Head's of Service level Corporate Parenting Leadership Group. The membership of this group is set out in appendix 2. Progress and outcomes will be reported on a regular basis to the Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Group, the Children's Partnership, Corporate Management Team and the Child Protection Improvement Board.

2.7 The Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Group (appendix 3) has played a key role in the development of the action plan and will continue to have the primary scrutiny role as the plan is delivered. Heads of Service on the Leadership Group will also represent their Service at the Member/Officer Group. The Young People in Care Council will also have a scrutiny role.

3 Financial Implications

It is anticipated that financial implications will be met within existing budgets or will be subject to a further report to Committee.

4 Equalities Impact

An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed. The implementation of the action plan will continue to advance equality of opportunity for looked after children.

5 Environmental Impact

There are no adverse environmental impacts arising from this report.

6 Recommendations

The Education, Children and Families Committee are asked to welcome and endorse the Corporate Parenting Action Plan detailed in appendix 1.

Gillian Tee
Director of Children and Families

Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2 Corporate Parenting Leadership Group 3 Governance Structure
Contact/tel/Email	Alistair Gaw, Head of Support to Children and Young People, 0131 469 3388, alistair.gaw@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>National Outcome 3 - We are better educated, more skilled, more successful, renowned for our research and innovation</p> <p>National Outcome 4 - Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens</p> <p>National Outcome 5 - Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed</p> <p>National Outcome 6 - We live longer, healthier lives</p> <p>National Outcome 8 - We have improved life chances for children, young people and families at risk</p> <p>National Outcome 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger</p> <p>National Outcome 11 - We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others</p>
Background Papers	<p>Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better - Scottish Executive (2007)</p> <p>These Are Our Bairns: a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent - Scottish Government (2008)</p>

No	Action	Resource Implication	Projected Outcome	Suggested Lead Service
1. LEADERSHIP – Outcome: Edinburgh has clear leadership and governance arrangements in place				
1.1	Establish at heads of service level Corporate Parenting Leadership Group to lead and monitor the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan. (See appendix 2)	Head of Service time	A Council wide delivery of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan reporting to Children’s Partnership, Member/Officer scrutiny group and CMT and .Chief Executive’s Performance Improvement Board	Head of Support to Children and Young People
1.2	A dedicated officer is identified to support and coordinate the work of the Corporate Parenting Leadership Group.	Officer time	Corporate Parenting Group has sufficient business support to deliver outcomes	Director of Children and Families
1.3	Raise awareness of corporate parenting responsibilities for all Council staff and partner agency through training and communication activity.	Corporate Communications/Leadership & Development resources	All Council staff have an awareness of Council’s Corporate Parenting responsibility and how their own role contributes to this	Chief Executive
1.4	Raise public awareness of the Council’s corporate parenting role and celebrate the success of looked after children’s achievements in Edinburgh	Corporate Communications resources	Public have a greater understanding of the circumstances of LAC	Director of Corporate Governance
1.5	Each Service incorporates corporate parenting objectives and performance in their service plan.	Policy officer time	Monitoring and achievement of objectives/ profile of Corporate Parenting is raised	Chief Executive
1.6	Incorporate corporate parenting objectives in Director level PRDs.		Visible demonstration of Corporate Parenting agenda	Chief Executive
1.7	Council resources maximise opportunities to promote corporate parenting e.g. appropriate CEC vehicles display advertisements for foster carer recruitment campaigns.	To be costed. Corporate Communications resources	Increased awareness of campaigns that support LAC and reduction in external advertising costs	Director of Corporate Governance
2. HEALTH AND WELLBEING – Outcome: Looked after children will benefit from access to a range of services designed to meet their emotional, mental and physical health needs				

2.1	Mental Health worker to be located within Throughcare and Aftercare team.	Additional or amended post	Mental Health needs of care leavers are supported	Head of Support to Children and Young People Associate Director/Child Health Commissioner
2.2	Looked after children and young adults involved in TCAC are provided with no cost/low cost access to Council supported leisure facilities.	To be costed	Looked after children and carers are able to access Council supported leisure facilities at no cost	Head of Culture and Sport
2.3.	A proportion of tickets for Council organised events are ring fenced for looked after children.	Amendment to contracts/liase with promoters and prioritisation around own promotions	Looked after children gain entry to a wider range of activities	Head of Culture and Sport
2.4	Expand health promoting units programme.	Officer time	All residential units operate a consistent health improvement and participation programme	Head of Support to Children and Young People
2.5	Develop Edinburgh Connect consultation opportunities for Family Based Care.	To be costed	Increase opportunities for mental health consultation and support for children in foster/adoptive placements	Head of Support to Children and Young People Associate Director /Child Health Commissioner
2.6	In partnership with NHS Lothian ensure the health assessment requirements in relation to CEL16 are achieved.	To be costed	Health assessments for Children looked after at home and away from home are in place.	Associate Director /Child Health Commissioner
2.7	Provide Hepatitis B Vaccination to foster carers and residential staff.	To be costed and policy development	Carers and residential staff are vaccinated against Hepatitis B	Associate Director /Child Health Commissioner
2.8	Ensure young people have access to smoking cessation treatments.	Awareness raising activity	Raised awareness and more young people ceasing to smoke.	Associate Director /Child Health Commissioner
2.9	All children registered for permanence are subject to a medical prior to registration	Community Paediatrician capacity	Children to be placed with foster carers, adoption and kinship carers have a full medical before permanence registration decision is taken	Associate Director /Child Health Commissioner

3. EDUCATION – Outcome: Looked after children will be supported to become confident individuals and successful learners				
3.1	Case management arrangements for supporting looked after children not attending formal education to return with minimum delay is fully implemented.	Officer time	Robust plan is in place to make sure every looked after child receives full time education	Head of Schools and Community Services
3.2	Strengthen support to maintain Looked After Children at school.	Policy implementation and service development	All Looked After Children have access to a full time education placement.	Head of Schools and Community Services
3.3	Promote understanding of looked after children for all school staff through mandatory training.	C&F Workforce Learning and Development	All school staff have a common understanding of their responsibility for looked after children	Head of Schools and Community Services
3.4.	Integrate school (SEEMIS) and social work (SWIFT) client record systems to allow greater sharing of information about individual looked after children.	To be costed	An efficient system for monitoring educational achievements and attainment for looked after children	Head of Support to Children and Young People Head of Schools and Community Services
3.5	Ensure the views of parents and carers of looked after children are included in educational planning.	Officer time	Views of parents of looked after children are used to influence planning	Head of Support to Children and Young People Head of Schools and Community Services
3.6	Increase the number of Looked After Children leaving school going on to a positive destination.		Looked After Children go on to a positive destination.	Head of Schools and Community Services
3.7	Increase attainment of Looked After Children measured by average tariff score.		Attainment of Looked After Children is raised.	Head of Schools and Community Services
4. EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING – Outcome: Looked after children will be supported through the transition into a positive destination				
4.1.	A dynamic “Family Firm” policy is implemented which ring fences a range of Council training opportunities and apprenticeships commensurate to the projected number of care leavers.	Revised policy Officer time	Each looked after children achieves a positive destination	Head of Economic Development
4.2	The “Family Firm” model is expanded to include Health and private sector employers.	Officer time	Each looked after children achieves a positive destination	Head of Economic Development

5. SUPPORT AND PROTECTION – Outcome: Looked after children are supported to develop into successful and responsible adults				
5.1.	Extend Through Care/After care support to 21st birthday.	To be costed	All care leavers have access to TCAC support until they are 21	Head of Support to Children and Young People
5.2	Develop a protocol to allow children in foster placements to seamlessly transfer to adult supported placements.	Policy officer time	Children in foster care transfer to adult supported placements	Head of Older People and Disability Services Head of Support to Children and Young People
5.3	A comprehensive database of services is available to care leavers.	To be costed and Officer time	Database is available to care leavers covering all relevant services	Head of Support to Children and Young People
5.4	Capacity should be increased to ensure all looked after children have an allocated TCAC worker in advance their care leaving date.	To be costed (staffing)	CEC meets its statutory obligation to support all children previously Looked After	Head of Support to Children and Young People
6. ACCOMMODATION – Outcome: Good quality accommodation is provided for all looked after children. Care leavers have access to safe affordable housing				
6.1	The physical environments in Young People'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. To be included in the Capital Asset Plan.	To be costed	Young people live in a comfortable and safe home environment	Alistair Gaw/Cathy King
6.2	Procurement and property services to adjust approach to consider Units as a home rather than an institution.	Adjustment to procurement policy	Young people's centre's are furnished as a home environment	Alistair Gaw/Cathy King
6.3	Repairs to residential units to be prioritised by property services	Reprioritisation of service	Repairs are completely timeously	Cathy King
6.4	Budget is identified to specifically fund suitable accommodation provision for young care leavers who fall within the national definition of "vulnerable, chaotic and multi-issued".	To be costed	Service to meet the need of vulnerable care leavers is in place	Monica Boyle/Alistair Gaw

6.5	Budget and capacity is created for the Edinburgh Families Project to access a two bedroom flat to deal with crisis and emergency situations to mitigate emergency admissions into residential units.	To be costed	Young people are accommodated in a Young People's Unit on a planned not crisis basis	Alistair Gaw/Cathy King
6.6	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	Budget implications to be detailed. Revised policy and systems	Care leavers have access to suitable housing.	Cathy King
6.7	Foster carers and Kinship are supported to move to suitable Council accommodation to provide more placements.	To be costed and revised policy	Additional placements are available within the city allowing siblings to be placed together and reduction in cost to external agencies	Cathy King

Corporate Parenting Leadership Group

Remit:

The Corporate Parenting Leadership Group will be responsible for the monitoring and implementation of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan. The members will represent their Service at the Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Group.

Proposed membership:

Alistair Gaw (Chair)	Head of Support to Children & Young People	Children and Families
Cathy King	Head of Housing & Regeneration	Services for Communities
Greg Ward	Head of Economic Development	City Development
Mike Rosendale	Head of Schools and Community Services	Children and Families
Lynne Halfpenny	Head of Culture & Sport	Corporate Governance
Monica Boyle	Head of Older People & Disability Services	Health and Social Care
Philip Barr	Head of Human Resources	Corporate Governance
Sally Egan	Associate Director/ Child Health Commissioner	NHS Lothian

