

Children and Young People

Corporate Parenting Conference 30th November 2010



Corporate Parenting

Everyone's Responsibility!

Wolverhampton
City Council





“As the Corporate Parent of children in care we have a special responsibility for their well being. Like any good parent, it should put it’s own children first. That means being a powerful advocate for them to receive the best of everything and helping them to make a success of their lives.”

(DCSF)

Looked after Children



- Looked After = Care Order or Accommodated
- Approx 61,000 LAC nationally.
- Children become looked after for a wide range of reasons.
- The disparity between the outcomes for Looked after Children and their peers remains unacceptably wide.

So what's Corporate Parenting?



- The term Corporate Parenting was first introduced in 1998.
- Care Matters-Time for Change 2007 clarified LA's & partner agencies' Corporate Parenting responsibility.
- Children and Young People Act 2008
- “For children who are looked after, your council has a legal and moral duty to try to provide the kind of loyal support that any good parent would give to their children. You should do your utmost to make sure that children in care get a good start in life” (Dobson 1998)

Some examples of what Corporate Parenting could look like in practice.



- Procurement build into all contracts that any companies working for WCC or Partners will offer work experience to Looked after Children or prioritise Care Leavers in apprenticeship roles
- Colleges offer specific mentoring programmes for LAC and Careleavers.
- Housing establish a designated link in housing for fostering services.
- Planning consider Corporate Parenting responsibilities when a new children's home is being proposed.
- ICT Services offer ICT support sessions to Looked after Children and their carers.

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Why is effective Corporate Parenting important?



- Firstly and most importantly improved outcomes for ‘your’ children.
- Better value for money.
- Better performance ratings.

The role of our partners



- Whilst primary responsibility sits with the Council it is vital that we recognise the importance of our Partners in the statutory, private and third sector.
- Wolverhampton City Council alone can not meet the needs of Looked after Children and Care Leavers and needs to work effectively with our Partners to demonstrate our Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
- The current draft strategy is a Wolverhampton City Council document, however it is hoped that it will be adopted by our Partners and the resultant action plan is held across all the sectors.

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Corporate Parenting Strategic Priorities



“Have service's understand us better.”

A Corporate Strategic Commitment

- **South Gloucester Council** have adopted a policy which support the needs of employees who become approved as foster carers for the council, through the extension of paid and unpaid carers leave.
- **Westminster** negotiated with council departments to provide work placements for young people in the same way as relatives may give children opportunities within the ‘family firm’. A number of the placements have led to young people being offered apprenticeships or permanent employment. This was adopted by many Partners of the authority.

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Corporate Parenting Strategic Priorities



“Focus on the positive things we do”

Ensure the Positive Active Participation and Involvement of all Looked after Children

- **Lambeth Council** have developed a website with looked after children and young people which enables the council to communicate effectively with all their LAC and care leavers and also consult with them. www.get2know.org.uk
- **Telford & Wrekin Council** ensure that all Elected Members and officers undertake Total Respect training to enable them to have a clear understanding of what care is like for young people.

Corporate Parenting Strategic Priorities



“Help us to make achievements”

“Help us to spend time with children who aren’t in care”

- **Improved access to universal services for all Looked after Children and care-leavers**

• **The London borough of Sutton** provide free leisure passes to all their looked after children and their foster carers.

• **Telford & Wrekin Council** have established a system for each Looked after Child to be issued with their own library card when coming into care, this card can then move with the child through their placements. Events were also held to encourage engagement for foster carers and LAC.

Corporate Parenting Strategic Priorities



“Keep siblings together & give us more contact with siblings.”

“Let us make choices about school.”

“Give us more information and support about sexual health.”

- **Improve outcomes for Looked after Children in Health, Education, Placements and Transitions**
- **Sefton Council** have developed a personal health record, known as the ‘Health Fax’, a record of health and also contains health promotion information and could be used as a diary.
- The evaluation of Quality Protects programme, Year 4, found that where councillors were active as Corporate Parents, there was progress on school absences and exclusions as well as improvements in joint working between education and social services.

Corporate Parenting Strategic Priorities



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- **Improve outcomes for Looked after Children in Health, Education, Placements and Transitions**
- **Portsmouth** has opened two new children’s homes for children with challenging behaviour which had an integrated professional family placement scheme and two satellite projects for individual young people with exceptionally challenging behaviour
- **South Gloucestershire**, who held the Beacon Status for Corporate Parenting, ensures that maximum points are awarded to care leavers who become a priority status to be housed when leaving our care.

Aim of today



- That delegates will have a clearer understanding of what Corporate Parenting is, how it relates to their role and how they can demonstrate their Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
- That delegates will have the opportunity to comment on the draft Corporate Parenting strategy.
 - That delegates will consider the Corporate Parenting strategic priorities and begin to develop actions that will feed into the comprehensive action plan.

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Any Questions?

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“My Story” Film

The LAC participation team worked with a group of young people to create a film about their experience of being looked after.

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Tea & Coffee



- Please consider Priorities One and Two.
- **A Corporate Strategic Commitment**
- **Ensure the Positive Active Participation and Involvement of all Looked after Children**
- Think about how your service areas/organisations can meet these priorities.
- Develop actions as a group using the action plans in your pack.

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Lunch!

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The LAC 607

Young people in care share their views.



- Please consider Priority Three.
- Improved access to universal services
- Think about how your service areas/organisations can meet these priorities.
- Develop actions as a group using the action plans in your pack.

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Tea & Coffee

Workshop Three



- Please consider Priority Four.
- Improve outcomes for Looked after Children in Health, Education, Placements and Transitions
- Think about how your service areas/organisations can meet these priorities.
- Develop actions as a group using the action plans in your pack.

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How can we share the message?



Using the post it notes on your table please
give us three ways we can communicate
the Corporate Parenting agenda
to your colleagues.

It would be useful if you could put your name
and or service area/organisation.

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Closing Remarks and Finish