



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Cambridgeshire Children, Families and Adults Services

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-2018

Children, Young People and Executive's Version

Developed by Young Members of the Voices Matter
(Children in care Council) Panel



'As corporate parents we will ensure you feel safe, supported and cared for. We will respect and listen to you and involve you wherever possible. This is our pledge and our promise to you'

The Pledge

Please feel free to contact us via voicesmattercicc@gmail.com

Who is a Corporate Parent?

Everyone who works with Looked After young people and care leavers have the responsibility of a corporate parent. This can be a social worker, councillor and other professionals who work in health, housing and education.

Some of these professionals meet on a regular basis to discuss the important issues involving LAC young people and what work and support is needed to help young people succeed in lives. This is called a [Corporate Parenting Board](#) meeting and young people from the Voices Matter panel also attend to represent other looked after young people.

The Council has a [Pledge](#) for looked after children and young people which was developed by young people themselves with different professionals, senior managers and councillors. The pledge is a commitment to young people by the council so they know what help and support is available and what their rights and entitlements are.

In regards to corporate parenting, the Council pledge is:

‘As corporate parents we will ensure you feel safe, supported and cared for. We will respect and listen to you and involve you wherever possible. This is our pledge and our promise to you’

Corporate Parent Strategy

We have a Corporate Parenting Strategy to help support children who come into care as the majority of Looked After Children need extra support in their lives because they've experienced a lot of disruption and hurt. Their experiences may make it harder for them to do as well as they could for example in their school, health and in their relationships. The strategy looks at the areas that are needed to support the young people and over the next 3 years they will focus on 5 key areas. These are:

- Improve the life chances of looked after children, young people and care leavers by widening the ownership of responsibility for these children to all Councillors, Officers and partners
- Improve key performance indicators for looked after children and young people to meet national and local targets

OUTCOME AREAS

1. Looked After Children fulfil their educational potential	2. Care Leavers successfully gain employment	3. Looked After Children have good health and wellbeing	4. Looked After Children and care leavers are well equipped to be parents	5. Cambridgeshire Looked After Children and young people placed outside of the county are not disadvantaged
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How we will achieve the key areas in the strategy

Outcome 1: Looked After Children fulfil their educational potential

- Corporate Parents will support schools to ensure you have full-time education and make good progress in school.
- Provide good support during the year and at important times like exams to help you achieve your goals and aspirations. They will work with other partners to create opportunities such as apprenticeships and when you leave school, help and support you with your choices for higher education.

Outcome 2: Care leavers successfully gain employment

- Corporate Parents will support you when choosing a college that's right for you and with linking potential employers with schools and colleges to support you in progressing onto a job.
- We will ensure that your Personal Education Plan is completed and the information from this is included in your Pathways Plans to support your transition when you leave school.
- We will promote apprenticeships including opportunities within the Council and ensure that there are named Jobcentre Plus Advisers for care leavers if they need to claim benefits.
- Opportunities and support will also be provided for young people with disabilities for when they leave care.

Outcome 3: Looked After Children have good health and wellbeing

- Corporate Parents will make sure you know how your health is by having appointments and make sure things are on track. Help you to go to appointments and get the support and advice you need to maintain your good health and wellbeing.
- Make sure your carers can help you with being healthy.
- Help you to be part of decisions about your health.

Outcome 4: Looked After Children and care leavers are well equipped to be parents

- Corporate parents will work with young parents in care or who have left care to help them get the services and support they need to support them to be good parents.

Outcome 5: Cambridgeshire Looked After Children and young people placed outside the county are not disadvantaged

- Corporate parents will make sure your health, education and contact is given the same top priority as if you were living closer to home and to make sure that where you live is right for you.
- Ensure that you are involved in decisions about whether it's best for you to stay living out of County or return to Cambridgeshire.

How we will do this:

County Councillors

- They will be provided information about issues that effect young people in care. They will make sure that they talk to you and give you a say in how the council is run. They will help secure opportunities for looked after young people and care leavers with apprenticeships.
- They will champion the needs of looked after children and care leavers.

Council Officers and partner agencies

- To know about the Corporate Parenting Strategy and to think about how this affects all parts of their day-to-day work.
- To help develop Council services to make sure that the Corporate Parenting Strategy is being put into practice.
- Help you to gain work experience, apprenticeships and job opportunities.

Involve Looked After Children and care leavers

- This version of the Strategy has been put together to be more reader friendly so young people can understand the strategy.
- Corporate Parents have an ongoing commitment to seek your views in the following ways: LAC Reviews, Children in Care Council, Just Us, Advocacy Service, Pledge Training and in the day-to-day ways where you come into contact.

How the strategy will be used

- Through the '[The Corporate Parenting Board meeting](#)', the board members will monitor and discuss the issues in the strategy and ensure the work is being undertaken and checked.
- There will also be '[Implementation groups](#)' where each of the 5 five outcome areas (in the blue table above) will have an action plan. Each group will have a lead officer who will report the progress on the action plans and making sure the work being undertaken is working and successful and meeting the targets. This will then be shared and discussed at the Corporate Parenting Board, 4 times a year.

Children in Care council (CICC) – Voices Matter

The Voices Matter representatives will meet regularly with key professionals to look at the work being undertaken in the areas identified in this strategy and in partnership with the Voices Matter Action plan. They will also randomly check with young people to gain their views and feelings about some of the services they receive.

Voices Matter vision statement;

- *“Our aim is to use our experiences of being in care to improve the services for other looked after children and young people.*
- *We will listen to the views and feelings of other looked after children and young people to ensure their voices are heard.*
- *We are determined and committed to improving services that children and young receive to ensure they achieve their full potential*
- *As a Voices Matter panel we will work towards achieving the best possible standards for every child and young person looked after by Cambridgeshire.*