

10 things you should know about Corporate Parenting



1

When a child or young person comes into the care of the local authority, or is under 25 and was looked-after by the authority for at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday, the authority becomes their **corporate parent**.

2

The concept of corporate parenting is explained in the DfE's statutory guidance for local authorities – [*Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers*](#).


3

Our strong **ethos** of corporate parenting means that our vision and responsibility towards the children we look after and our care leavers is a priority for everyone.
Corporate parents are there to ask the critical question:
would this be good enough for my child?

4

There are **7 corporate parenting principles** applying to looked after children and care leavers:

1. To act in their best interests, and promote their physical and mental health and well-being
2. To encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings
3. To take into account their views, wishes and feelings
4. To help them gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes for them
6. For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
7. To prepare them for adulthood and independent living

5	It is not one person who is the corporate parent but the whole of the local authority, which also identifies relevant partners who have a collective responsibility for looked after children and care leavers in a corporate parenting role.
6	Agencies identified by local authorities as relevant partners have a duty to co-operate to be good corporate parents. Relevant partners include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years settings, schools, further and higher education, employers • Health services, including CYPS • Housing service • The Immigration Service • The police and criminal justice agencies
7	The statutory guidance identifies 14 different types of service where corporate parenting principles should be applied. One of those services is education. Schools and education settings are relevant partners of the local authority and must act as a corporate parent by having the same aspirations for the child as a good parent would and help them to achieve the best outcomes they can.
8	In Northumberland the framework to fulfil our duties as good corporate parents comprises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A corporate parenting strategy and action plan • A Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Advisory Group • A multi-agency looked after partnership, MALAP • A Virtual School • A children in care council, Voices Making Choices • Our Promise to looked after children • A Care Leavers' Covenant
9	The current corporate parenting priorities for Northumberland are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sufficiency and commissioning of placements 2. Planning for permanence 3. Development and timely provision of services 4. Strengthen the function of the SCPAG 5. Further improve services to care leavers 6. Further improve the effectiveness and impact of the Virtual School 7. Ensure the voice and views of looked after children and care leavers is evident and influential in service and strategy development and individual case planning
10	<u>Our Promise</u> to our looked after children is how we act on what our children tell us to improve our services for them.
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