

Fife Council's Corporate Parenting Plan 2024 – 2027



The Promise

Contents

What is a Corporate Parent?.....	3
Corporate Parenting Duties.....	4
Our Corporate Parenting Plan.....	6

What is a Corporate Parent?

A corporate parent is the name given to an organisation or person who has special responsibilities to support, nurture and advocate for children and youngpeople with care experience:

- those in residential care, including residential schools or secure care,
- those in foster care,
- those in kinship care, who live with a family member other than a parent,
- those who are looked after at home.

Who are Corporate Parents?

There are lots of organisations who are named as a Corporate Parent, with everyone in these organisations being responsible and accountable, not just those who work directly with children and young people.

*This category includes Accountant in Bankruptcy; Disclosure Scotland; Education Scotland; The Scottish Prison Service; The Scottish Public Pensions Agency; Student Awards Agency for Scotland; And Transport Scotland



Corporate Parenting Duties

Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 puts the concept of corporate parenting into Scots law. It makes it so:

- there are certain things corporate parents have to do by law for the children and young people they're responsible for,
- corporate parents have to report to Scottish Ministers on how they're carrying out their responsibilities through preparing and following a corporate parenting plan



Who are the Corporate Parenting Group?



Fife's Corporate Parenting Group is made up of people from organisations and services that support children and families across Fife. Members of the group include people from Education, Social Work, CLD, Housing, NHS Fife, Fife Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland, Third Sector and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration.

The Group reports to Chief Officers Public Safety (COPS)

The Group holds the responsibility to:



Develop and put into action the Corporate Parenting Plan and make sure it works with other local plans for improvement whilst making sure Corporate Parents work together for the benefit of children and young people with care experience.

Our Corporate Parenting Plan

The plan says that Corporate Parents in Fife want to do 7 things:



1. Provide safe, secure, stable and nurturing homes for care experienced and looked after children.



2. Enable all care experienced and looked after children to develop and maintain positive relationships with their family – especially brothers and sisters, friends, professionals and other trusted adults.



3. Uphold and promote children's rights with a particular focus on participation



4. Secure positive educational outcomes for care experienced and looked after children.



5. Improve the physical and/or mental health of care experienced and looked after children.



6. Increase the number of care leavers in higher education, training, apprenticeships and employment.



7. Reduce the number of care experienced and looked after children who enter the justice system.

Read on for more information about how we plan to make these things happen.

1. We will provide safe, secure, stable and nurturing homes for care experienced and looked after children by:

- Listening and learning from the feedback of children and young people with care experience
- Ensure all corporate parents offer early and effective intervention to support families to stay together
- Support young parents with care experience to prepare for parenthood proportionately and with
- compassion
- Make sure that every child or young person leaving care is offered an assessment of their health needs
- Make sure we know who our children and young people with care experience are and what they need

2. Enable all care experienced and looked after children to develop and maintain positive relationships with their family – especially brothers and sisters, friends, professionals and other trusted adults by:

- Keeping more children and young people in Fife and using external carers as little as we can.
- Making sure children and young people's voices are heard in decision-making meetings that affect them.
- Keeping brothers and sisters together where it is safe to do so
- If brothers and sisters are separated, make sure that they are supported to keep in touch with one another.
- Ensuring every young person leaving care has a pathway plan which meets their individual needs.
- Support all of our carers through training and supervision to understand the importance of relationships.

3. We will uphold and promote children's rights with a particular focus on participation by:

- Making sure unaccompanied children and young people have access to legal advice and representation.
- Making sure children and young people involved in the Children's Hearing system have access to advocacy.
- Supporting children and young people to understand their rights and access support whilst they are in care and after care.
- Aim to develop better systems for co-producing plans for service delivery with children and young people.
- Reduce and monitor our use of restrictive practices across children's services
- Ensure our participation workers effectively support children and young people with care experience to have opportunities to participate and have their voices heard about what matters to them.
- Develop improved participation approaches across all services whilst ensuring voice is truly heard and responded to.

4. Secure positive educational outcomes for care experienced and looked after children by:

- Ensuring all children with care experience have been considered for a Coordinated Support Plan which identifies their needs and how these will be met
- Ensuring corporate parents demand that we are ambitious for all children with care experience to learn and be the best they can be
- Preparing our children and young people for life afterschool and supporting them to access work, apprenticeships or higher education opportunities
- Stopping the exclusion of looked after children
- Support care experienced pupils to build connections within schools and communities to build Social Capital.

5. Improve the physical and/or mental health of care experienced and looked after children by:

- Supporting more children and young people to have their health needs assessed when they first come into care.
- Reducing the waiting time for support from mental health services.
- Reducing the number of moves of placements a child or young person has.
- Offering health assessments for care leavers.
- Improving the coordination between services which support the mental wellbeing of children at all stages and particularly transitions.

6. Increase the number of care leavers in higher education, training, apprenticeships and employment by:

- Supporting young people with care experience to access and succeed in college/university Develop a prioritised care experienced apprenticeship scheme across the council and partners
- Upskilling staff to be able to better support job seeking and employability

7. Reduce the number of care experienced and looked after children who enter the justice system by:

- Offering intensive support to young people (up to 21 years) with care experience through diversion activity
- Ensuring all our staff have an understanding of the impact of trauma on behaviour
- Ensuring we are effectively intervening with diversion activities at the earliest opportunity.