



South Lanarkshire  
**Partnership**  
 Stronger together

**Safe Healthy Achieving Nurtured Active**

**Respected Responsible Included**



getting  
**it right**  
*for every child*  
 in South Lanarkshire

South Lanarkshire **Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan** 2016 – 2018

**Annual Report July 2017**

# Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Core Commitment Updates**
  - Core Commitment 1
  - Core Commitment 2
  - Core Commitment 3
  - Core Commitment 4
  - Core Commitment 5
  - Core Commitment 6
- 3. Next Steps**





# 1. Introduction

## Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2016 – 2018 Annual Report

Partners have worked hard, both individually and collectively, to bring about positive change for care experienced children and young people. A number of multi-disciplinary Task and Finish Groups have been established to help us achieve the high aspirations detailed within the six Core Commitments highlighted in the Strategy and Action Plan. Good progress has been made in this first year and this report provides an update to capture the activity from April 2016 - June 2017.

The Corporate Parenting Sub Group is one of the key sub groups within the Children's Service Planning Structure and its remit was established within the groups Terms of Reference to:

- Produce and launch a Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan
- Oversee the implementation and regular review of the Action Plan
- Monitor and report on progress against the action plan to relevant bodies/groups as required
- Highlight any good practice/business/obstacles to implementation either in single agencies or across agency boundaries
- Ensure the views of service users and other stakeholders are included in planning
- Link with other relevant activities and processes across Children's Services as relevant and required
- Ensure required reports on Corporate Parenting are provided to the Scottish Government accurately and timeously
- Contribute to workforce development and awareness raising in relation to Corporate Parenting duties and responsibilities

The Corporate Parenting Group includes partners from Social Work, Education, Housing (SLC), Health, NHS Lanarkshire, Further Education, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and Who Cares? Scotland. The group meets five times a year and reports regularly to the Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Strategy Group and Community Planning Partnership Board.

## 2. Core Commitment Updates

### Core Commitment 1

Corporate Parents will fulfill their responsibilities, listen and respond to the voices of children and families/carers:

What we said we would do	What we have done
<p><b>Champion the Corporate Parenting Strategy through the Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have provided regular reports and updates to the Board to keep the needs of care experienced children and young people at the forefront of our governance structures</li> <li>• Scoping work has been taking place to consider establishing a South Lanarkshire Champions Board</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enhance structures and systems to gather, record and report on views of all looked after children</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people's views are recorded within the Child's Plan, LAC Reviews, Additional Support Plans and Children's Hearing reports</li> <li>• There has been a 61% increase in looked after children and young people's usage of Viewpoint from 43 in 2015 to 71 in 2016, with six monthly briefings in place to maintain progress</li> <li>• Children in foster care are now being asked to provide feedback for carers' review meetings using newly developed format</li> <li>• We have established a Participation and Involvement Strategy Task and Finish Group chaired by Who Cares? Scotland to enable children and young people to create and produce a child friendly strategy which includes a range of ways for their voices to be heard</li> <li>• NHS have developed a system My Health My Views to capture children's views within the Health Needs Assessment, 74% of whom said that they felt listened to and that their opinions informed their HNA</li> <li>• Young people have been involved in creating an information website for all care experienced children and young people</li> </ul>
<p><b>Provide meaningful and regular engagement with parents, foster and kinship carers using existing forums or, where necessary developing new ones</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinship Support Group meets monthly supporting 8-12 members per month</li> <li>• Foster carers have been involved in a review of the Carers Support Group and their views have shaped the development of a more inclusive forum to increase membership and engagement</li> <li>• A comprehensive programme of foster carer training is in place, including training identified by carers. 43 multi-disciplinary training and networking events were held in 2016, providing 1060 places for carers, enhancing knowledge and skills.</li> <li>• Two specific multi-agency briefings to examine the findings of the Fatal Accident Inquiry into the death of a foster carer and to update the action plan</li> </ul>



<b>Deliver a rolling programme of training and communication activity to raise awareness of corporate parenting responsibilities for all partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core brief developed for partners with multi-agency staff taking responsibility to deliver at strategic and operational levels from Chief Executive level to front line practitioners</li> <li>National Event at Hamilton Accies jointly hosted with South Lanarkshire and Who Cares? Scotland on 19 May 2016</li> <li>Corporate Parenting Conference held on 6 December 2016 – What More Can We Do? Video footage was made available online as an additional training and communication resource</li> <li>Presentations to Heads of Service, GIRFSLC Partnership Board and Children's Services Strategy Group, and Health and Social Care Partnership Board</li> <li>Individual briefings for specific resources and teams using the core training and awareness raising materials</li> </ul>
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## Core Commitment 2

Every child will have a Child's Plan which will be regularly reviewed within agreed timescales

What we said we would do	What we have done
<b>Streamline existing LAC and Education review processes into a single system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2015 595 (297 children) LAAC Reviews were completed, rising to 638 (307 children) in 2016</li> <li>A working group was established to develop a single system for both social work and education reviews which reduces the number of meetings and time for children and young people to be away from their routine. This was piloted within Hamilton and guidance is being drafted for an authority wide roll out.</li> </ul>
<b>All children looked after at home and within kinship care will have an active Child's Plan (C60) which is regularly reviewed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every child looked after at home and in formal kinship care has an active Child's Plan</li> <li>The Performance and Continuous Improvement Group has undertaken audits from October 2016 – June 2017 which has focused on planning and review activity as follows:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 2016 – C61(review paperwork) audit of 40 cases</li> <li>June 2017 – C60 (child's plan) audit of 61 cases</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The findings of the above have identified improvement actions for next year</p>

## Core Commitment 3

Clear pathways and support will be provided at all key transition stages

What we said we would do	What we have done
<p>Map the key transition stages from birth to young adulthood, identifying areas for improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three multi-agency workshops were held between June and August 2016 to map the transition stages within fostering, residential child care and intensive family support services. Analysis of the data evidenced areas of good practice and a number of areas for development. 12 Good Practice Guidance Notes were sent out to all front line staff between January and March 2017.</li> <li>• 30 multi-agency staff attended a mapping event in December 2016 focusing on 16+ transitions and work is progressing in this area</li> </ul>
<p>Reduce the number of placement moves within foster and residential care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2015 – 2016 figures show a reduction of 6% in children experiencing up to three placement moves throughout their care journey than in the previous year</li> <li>• The 2015 – 2016 figures also show a reduction of 6% in children experiencing more than three placement moves throughout their care journey than in the previous year</li> <li>• A working group has been established to reduce the number of disruptions within foster care</li> </ul>
<p>Improve timescales for securing permanence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2015 – 21 children were registered for permanence, and 21 were placed with their adoptive family or permanent foster family</li> <li>• In 2016 – 51 children were registered for permanence and 36 were placed with their adoptive or permanent foster family</li> </ul>





## Core Commitment 4

Children and young people will be supported to improve their physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing

What we said we would do	What we have done
<p>All looked after children will be offered a comprehensive Health Needs Assessment (HNA) of their physical, developmental, emotional and mental health needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initial focus was to establish a robust process to ensure that NHSL were receiving regular notification of all new looked after children. This has been achieved. The data reflects a sustained increase in notifications to NHSL. The baseline figure of notifications at April 2016 was 50%, rising to 64% by the end of December 2016. In the first three months of 2017 the average has risen to 91%.</li> <li>• Data also shows the majority of notifications to NHSL were within four weeks of the child becoming looked after. This also reflects sustained improvement</li> <li>• The data highlights sustained improvements from April 2016 – March 2017 of CEL16 Health Needs Assessments requests having a Child’s Plan attached (65% overall)</li> <li>• For under 5’s the average four week compliance for completion of CEL 16 HNA from April 2016 – March 2017 is 65%</li> <li>• For school aged children compliance is lower with an average completion of 39%</li> <li>• Capacity issues are being addressed through the School Nurse Review being undertaken by NHSL</li> </ul>
<p>Establish database to support monitoring and reporting requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHSL has established a comprehensive database to gather and analyse information relating to the completion of the CEL 16 Health Needs Assessment. It provides details of the number, age and locality of all looked after children. Information can also be extracted on time delay to notification to NHSL team and time delay in completion of the HNA.</li> <li>• Regular reports are submitted to the Corporate Parenting Sub Group</li> </ul>
<p>Increase partnership working to remove barriers and promote and sustain access to sport, leisure and cultural activities for all children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Task and Finish Group has been established chaired by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Ltd</li> <li>• An action plan has been developed which is taking forward priorities, including a bid to secure external funding to employ a Family Wellbeing Officer to work closely with looked after children and their families</li> <li>• A range of communication models are in place to promote the Arts, Culture and Exercise (ACE) programme to all looked after children, with a summer trial programme currently in place</li> <li>• COVEY Befriending Service is now offering a new service – Intandem – which exclusively supports children looked after at home to participate in leisure activity</li> </ul>

## Core Commitment 5

All children will be treated fairly, have equality of opportunity and have a sense of belonging in their learning environment

What we said we would do	What we have done
<p>Education establishments continue to improve attendance and reduce exclusions for looked after pupils in order to increase levels of participation</p>	<p>Attainment and attendance data is regularly reviewed by Quality Improvement Officers and examples of good practice are highlighted within conferences and events. Improvement data shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Attendance - Looked After at Home – School Population in brackets</b></p> <p>In 2014 – 2015 figure was at 83.5% (93.9%) and in 2015 – 2016 this increased to 84.3% (93.7%). Whilst there has been some improvement, attendance of children looked after at home is 9.4% lower than the school population</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Attendance - Looked After Away from Home</b></p> <p>In 2014 – 2015 figure was at 94.1% (93.9%) and in 2015 – 2016 this increased to 94.5% (93.7%). Children looked after away from home attendance is 0.8% higher than the school population</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Exclusion - Looked After at Home</b></p> <p>In 2014 – 2015 figure was at 0.54% (0.04%) and in 2015 – 2016 this decreased to 0.47% (0.05%). This shows a reduction of 0.07% and is 0.42% higher than the school population</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Exclusion - Looked After Away from Home</b></p> <p>In 2014 – 2015 figure was at 0.46% (0.04) and in 2015 – 2016 this decreased to 0.32% (0.05%). This shows a reduction of 0.14% and is 0.27% higher than the school population</p> </li> </ul>
<p>Provide further guidance to every school's Designated Manager in line with legislation to ensure the needs of looked after pupils are identified and supported in order to improve achievement and attainment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education held an Inclusion Conference in October 2016 and provided further guidance to every Designation Senior Manager (DSM) in line with new legislation to ensure the needs of looked after pupils are identified and supported to achieve and attain</li> <li>The Designated Senior Managers are encouraged to use data from the recently updated SEEMiS database</li> </ul>
<p>Provide learning opportunities to enhance skills, confidence and wider achievement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 young people have accessed a range of opportunities such as Duke of Edinburgh Awards/Links-2-Life/H2O+/ASDAN PSD/Grass Routes. Outcomes achieved include training as youth workers, volunteering in communities and sustained participation in centre based activities.</li> <li>47 different accredited and non-accredited awards have been accessed through Youth Learning Services</li> </ul>





## Core Commitment 6

Young people moving into adulthood will be supported to achieve their full potential in life

What we said we would do	What we have done
<p>Increase access to dedicated support pre and post school transition in relation to education, employment and training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every young person at risk of not achieving a positive destination is routinely assessed, supported and tracked, both pre and post-school transition. For care experienced young people there is a second layer of scrutiny via a multi-agency tracking meetings and bespoke supports enabled for any young person who is at risk of, or in a negative destination.</li> <li>• 6% of currently accommodated young people and 34% of winter leavers 2016 and summer 2017 who are looked after at home are receiving support from the Aspire programme</li> <li>• Statistical returns are collated in February and September of each year and will be reported upon when available</li> <li>• Data of those looked after at home is now collated and will be reported on when available</li> </ul>
<p>All corporate parents will provide work experience, apprenticeships and employment opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout 2015/16 the transfer of key youth employability projects commenced and a central point of contact was created to identify, track and support young people who were at risk of not achieving a positive destination</li> <li>• Positive action was taken to review the existing identification, tracking and support process in place for young people looked after away from home. As a result a more robust 16+ LAAC tracking process is now in place supported by a group of managers across agencies. In 2017, the remit of the group was extended to include young people looked after at home who require support to achieve and sustain a positive destination.</li> <li>• This work is delivering outcomes in terms of % increase in positive school leaver destinations for all school leavers, as well as increased access to and coordination of support/resources to those most at risk</li> <li>• Partners are in the process of identifying potential work experience/ apprenticeships/employment opportunities which will be matched to individual need/aspiration as part of the above process</li> <li>• Of the 6 young people currently accommodated, 2 are undertaking Modern Apprenticeships and 4 are in full time employment. From the 2016 cohort of Care leavers, 1 young person is in employment with 2 undertaking Modern Apprenticeships.</li> </ul>
<p>Analyse impact of Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 in terms of new service demands for Continuing Care and Aftercare.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A multi-disciplinary workshop event was held in October 2016 from which a Task and Finish Group was established to take forward and analyse the data. The group produced a comprehensive report providing an up to date position in terms of readiness to fulfill statutory duties and making recommendations for future action.</li> <li>• A second Task and Finish Group was established to complete an options appraisal considering Planning and Support and Accommodation and Support options in order to meet new service demands for Continuing Care and Aftercare</li> <li>• This report was presented to the Head of Children and Justice Services and is in the final stages of completion</li> </ul>

# 3. Next Steps

The passion, commitment and partnership working across all agencies and resources will continue with clear leadership, challenge and support from the Corporate Parenting Sub Group.

**Focus areas for the next year:**

- Continue to work in partnership to deliver on our six core commitments
- Continue to support the Realigning Children's Service Programme to support closing the gaps in service and meet the needs of children and families living in our communities.
- Sign up to the Covenant for Care Leavers and align with current core commitments
- Host a further Corporate Parenting Conference





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