

Corporate Parenting Strategy for Moray 2017 – 2020



Moray Community Planning Partnership
Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2020
Annual Report March 2018

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1. Introduction

Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2020 Annual Report

Partners have worked hard, both individually and collectively, to progress actions that are instrumental in promoting positive outcomes for Care Experienced Children and Young People (CECYP). A number of multi-agency themed groups, based around the “asks” of CECYP, were established to help us collectively make progress and achieve a number of those “asks”. The Corporate Parenting Strategy for Moray 2017-2020 was launched in October 2017 and has approval from the Chief Officers Group and the Community Planning Partnership. The strategy marries together the “asks” of the CECYP; the columns within the Care Leavers Covenant; the Wellbeing indicators and the duties required of us as corporate parents specified in part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, presented as 10 Guarantees. A number of the thematic groups have CECYP as members. Good progress has been made in this first year and this report provides an update to capture the activity from April 2017 – March 2018.

The Corporate Parenting Strategic Group is one of the four strategic groups within the Moray Governance Structure and its remit is: -

- To lead the implementation of Moray’s Corporate Parenting Strategy;
- To ensure Moray is fully undertaking its duties with regards to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 with regards to those in care and care leavers;
- To provide support and guidance as required to all corporate parents;
- To engage fully with CECYP in Moray to ensure we are continuously seeking to improve our approaches to corporate parenting;
- To oversee arrangements for transitions to life beyond care for young people including ensuring future housing, employment and educational needs are fully supported as well as their health and wellbeing needs;
- To ensure a strong relationship with the Moray Champions Board.

The Corporate Parenting Strategic Group meets not less than every 6 weeks and reports regularly to the Executive Leadership Group. Membership has been revised as follows: -

- Corporate Parenting and Commissioning Manager, Moray Council – Chair
- Housing Services Manager, Moray Council, or representative
- Service Manager - Children and Young People, NHS Grampian
- Chief Nurse, Children's Services NHS Grampian
- Health promotions, NHS Grampian
- Partnership Inspector, Police Scotland
- Continuing Support East Team Manager, Moray Council
- Adult Services Manager, Moray Council
- Quality Improvement Officer or Education Support Officer, Skills, Moray Council
- Skills Development Scotland
- UHI Moray College
- tsiMORAY
- Who Cares? Scotland
- Opportunities for All Officer, Moray Council
- Locality Wellbeing Officer, Moray Council
- Quality Assurance, Performance and Planning Team

2. Guarantee Updates

Guarantee 1 - We guarantee to do our best to involve you in decisions that affect you and to listen to your views, should you wish to express them, by taking account of your age and maturity and ensuring you have a range of opportunities to express your views.

Guarantee 2 - We guarantee to do our utmost to find you the most appropriate placement for you to live in as a looked after child, as a young person in continuing care or if you are in after care and have an assessment of your needs.

Wellbeing indicator - Safe

We will do our best to keep you safe, protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home, school and in the community, making sure you have somewhere safe to live and someone to look after you. We will also make sure you have someone who will listen to what you say and take into account your view.

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant

Housing and Accommodation / Youth and Criminal Justice

What we said we would do	What we have done
<p>Seek the views of CECYP about how best to secure their expression of their views and responding accordingly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have continued to develop the Champions Board and have had two further residential breaks with CECYP to hear more about their “asks” and what would make a positive difference. We have continued to ensure advocacy is offered so that CECYP are supported to express their views. Children and young people’s views are recorded within the Child’s Plan, and presented to Looked After Children (LAC) Reviews and Children’s Hearings. We are engaged in the developing Rights and Participation Strategy Group.
<p>Young people will be asked if they feel safe where they live via core group meetings, Looked After Children (LAC) Reviews or Pathways Reviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through advocacy CECYP have been able to say how they feel about where they live. Rates of CECYP accessing advocacy have been increasing.
<p>Increase the overall number of foster placements through the recruitment of new foster carers through rigorous assessment, training and support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have continued to have an active recruitment strategy for foster carers. Our CECYP expressed interest in approval of foster carers and as a step towards that, CECYP will attend the “Skills to Foster” course to explore with prospective carers

	<p>their experiences of being cared for.</p>
<p>Increase the number of family based placements by assessing in appropriate timescales kinship carers and ensuring support for kinship care placements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have continued to respond to need for assessment of kinship carers. • To support the timescales for assessment within Placement Services we have restructured our staffing resource to ensure that an increasing number of social workers are able to undertake adult carer assessments.
<p>Engage with the Permanence And Care Excellence (PACE) Programme to prevent drift and delay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a little delay in PACE coming to Moray. The initial plan was for the data and improvement themes to be identified in February. Given issues concerned with data sharing those initial days are planned for April.
<p>Reducing the number of placement moves by assessing when residential placements are a positive choice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Additional Resource Allocation Group (ARAG) has revised processes and the Residential Improvement meetings have agreed new processes for considering need and concluding matching processes in order to reduce the number of moves for Young People.
<p>Develop a range of accommodation and support options to support young people to move into independence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had an increase in Supported Lodging provision/ providers, and some Young People choosing to move to “continuing care”. • The scatter flat initiative was approved at Committee in December and the offer is for 2 scatter flats on short assured tenancies. With support the CECYP will make progress and assuming positive engagement, the tenancy will become theirs following due process. Two meetings have been held to detail the processes required for referral/ decision making/ monitoring/ review. It is anticipated that the first offer will be made by May.

Guarantee 3 - We guarantee to ensure you are able and supported, if you need support, to access all necessary services when needed to respond to your health needs appropriately and encourage you to be healthy to achieve the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to healthcare and support in learning to make healthy safe choices.

Wellbeing indicator – Healthy

We will make sure you are looked after in a way which responds to your health needs early and in a way that helps you to stay healthy making sure you are registered with a GP and a dentist and any other health services you may need. We will make sure you get the support you need to use these services if you want and need them.

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant

Health and Wellbeing

What we said we would do	What we have done
Health assessments are always carried out at the point of accommodation or being made subject of home based supervision order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHSG measure at 4 weeks; 5-6 weeks; 7-8 weeks
Mental health screening rolled out within health assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Looked After Children (LAC) at admission are offered mental health assessment.
LAC status is flagged for all NHS referrals and is clear in electronic patient records to ensure enhanced follow up and monitoring of health outcomes of this vulnerable group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flagging in place for all new LAC on TRAKCARE NHS acute system. Next steps are to consider how to gain consent from LAC who are already in system. A new GP lead has been identified to support set up in primary care VISION and EMIS systems.

Guarantee 4 - We guarantee to support and guide you in learning and to help you develop your skills, confidence and self-esteem to ensure you have every opportunity possible to achieve in education and further education, training or work.

Wellbeing indicator – Achieving

We will help you to achieve success during your time in education, support you to maximise your skills, knowledge and talents, and open pathways that will help you to both achieve and sustain a positive post school destination.

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant

Education and Training / Employment

What we said we would do	What we have done
Every school will have a designated lead for care experienced children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a LAC teacher in place who is charting and tracking all designated leads.
The designated lead will provide advice and guidance to the named person/ staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together with the Education Support Officer (Skills), the LAC teacher is auditing how competent each designated lead feels to offer advice, guidance and training.
Schools actively record planning for care experienced young people to determine whether a Co-ordinated Support Plan is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Looked After Children (LAC) teacher has confirmed the LAC population across Moray, and those placed out of Moray and is assessing curriculum with needs.

Guarantee 5 - We guarantee we will help you stay in touch with your family, friends and other people who are important to you, as long as you wish to do so, it is safe to do so, it is consistent with your care plan and between us we have relevant address and contact details.

Wellbeing indicator - Nurtured

We will do our best to make sure your home is as settled and happy as it can be and that you are able to stay in the same place, for as long as you need to. When the time comes for you to move, we will give you as much support as you need and want. We will provide a loving and nurturing environment in which to grow and flourish.

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant

Housing and Accommodation / Education and Training

What we said we would do	What we have done
Monitoring of views from LAC Reviews.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an audit undertaken every two months of lead professional files. • At the last file reading 25% of the files audited were concerned with LAC to consider a number of issues, including the monitoring of views. • That % of file reading will now be part of that process for audit.
Care leavers will have access to After Care support up until 26 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All care leavers are advised at the point at which they decide to no longer access the service of their right to assessment up to the age of 26 years.
T/C A/C team will make contact via letter/ text messages or other appropriate means 6 monthly to disengaged care leavers reminding them of the service available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The practicalities of this frequency of contact are being considered. However young people are being sent text messages and WC?S have created a closed face book page to support contact for advice and guidance.
Determine whether the Interim Vulnerable Persons Data base can be updated to be able to identify care leavers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the themed groups is that of youth and criminal justice. This group is working through processes to achieve accurate data and how to share information. • There are a number of actions contained in the soon to be published Police Scotland Corporate Parenting Plan which refer to the identification of CECYP who come into contact with Police Scotland and how we improve the service we are able to provide to them.

Guarantee 6 - We guarantee to encourage and support you to take part in activities by supporting action to make transport more affordable, to ensure that your talents, hobbies and interests have support to develop and you have opportunities to do the things you enjoy.

Wellbeing indicator – Active

We will make sure you are looked after in a way which helps you to have opportunities to take part in activities at home, school and in community, activities such as play, recreation and sport which contribute to healthy growth and development.

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant

Health and Wellbeing and Education and Training

What we said we would do	What we have done
Promote and support access to generic leisure activities, explore options for free access to leisure facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The themed working group that has been working on this is near to agreeing the zoning and reduced fares for use of Stagecoach travel and Moray Council travel in Moray. • CECYP aged over 16 years will be eligible for reduced cost of travel within Moray.
Looked After Reviews monitor involvement in activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked After Children (LAC) reviews do this as part of the process of LAC review. • The strategic group will consider how best to track and audit this.
Create a working group to create checklists to support planning for effective transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LAC teacher and the Education Support Officer (ESO) are working together to consider what is required for an effective transition.
Improve Attendance and reduce Exclusion rates for Looked After Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance rates and exclusion rates have improved. • Next steps are concerned with auditing what factors have made this positive difference.
All schools to report on attendance / exclusion rates of care experienced young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care experienced attendance and exclusion rates are part of the suite of national Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) indicators, published annually. • Within Moray reports on care experienced attendance and exclusion rates for each pupil are prepared every term and reported to the LAC teacher and the Corporate Parenting Strategic group.

Care experienced young people will make a successful transition into post school life.

- Initial Destination Statistics (School Leavers Sept 2016 - Sept 2017) 25 CECYP identified as leavers: 5 not participating: 20 participating
- Follow up statistics (February 2018) of the 25; 9 not participating: 16 participating
- The destinations of these CECYP have been fluid over the last 6 months. Improved partnership working between Moray College UHI, Skill Development Scotland (SDS) and Moray Council has resulted in 3 young people leaving College, but engaging with an Activity Agreement at the point of leaving. This transition support has prevented young people from disengaging from all services and becoming unemployed.

Develop opportunities through the Family Firm.

- The Family Firm approach has been integrated into the Activity Agreements Learning Programme.
- One of the key priorities has been ensuring corporate parents are signed up as "Champions": the Family Firm commitment from the corporate parenting partners has led to SDS and Moray Council working closer with Moray College to put in preventative measures and ensure after care support is in place for those young people leaving College.
- Discussions with Moray College are taking place to further support this by including the SDS post school team leader and Opportunities for all Officer (Moray Council) with existing progression board meetings across different departments.
- 5 wellbeing champions (volunteers) identified via the Wellbeing Hub to be involved in a pilot project. The volunteers will be trained as life coaches to deliver additional support for those identified via the Family Firm approach / offer.

FE/HE to support care students to advise whether they are care experienced young people

- Moray College UHI has actively promoted CECYP to advise them of any support needs they may have, and will continue to do so.

Guarantee 7 - We guarantee to provide you with a good and clear assessment of your needs, an up to date care plan that will address your wellbeing needs by reference to the wellbeing indicators – SHANARRI.

Guarantee 8 - We guarantee that you will be given the information that means you will be clear about: -

Who your named person, or equivalent, if applicable is;

Who your lead professional is;

Who your social worker is and who to contact when your social worker is not available;

The reasons for change in any of these.

Wellbeing indicator – Respected

We will involve you in decisions that are made about you and you will be kept up to date about anything to do with you. We will help other people to learn and understand what it means to be Care Experienced and we will give you the chance to tell people how it feels to be Care Experienced.

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant

Rights and Participation

What we said we would do	What we have done
All Childs plans and young people’s plans will use the language of the wellbeing indicators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Getting It Right for Every Child strategic chair has a short life working group working on processes and paperwork, to ensure consistency in approach and language – keeping the child at the centre.
All care experienced young people will have their views, thoughts, wishes reflected in their plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget for advocacy is currently being scrutinised, to consider options for increasing this, to better meet demand.
The child’s plan and essential core record will have all details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An audit to confirm this is happening is required.
Details will be refreshed at every change in staff members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An audit to confirm this is happening is required.
Changes will be recorded and copies given to the child and his/ her parents/ carers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An audit to confirm this is happening is required.

Guarantee 9 - We guarantee to ensure you have opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles at home, school and in community and where necessary have appropriate guidance and supervision to be involved in decisions that affect you: we will listen to what you have to say and to ensure you have access to an advocate should you want to have that support.

Wellbeing indicator – Responsible

We will support you to make decisions about your life that will help you develop and grow as well as you can.

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant
Rights and Participation

What we said we would do	What we have done
All looked after children will receive information about advocacy and rights from Who Cares? Scotland (WC?S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current numbers of looked after children and young people who access advocacy are at 21% of the total population of Moray’s LAC.• Care leavers also access this contract. Only few care leavers make use of this service.

Guarantee 10 - We guarantee to work with you and give you help to overcome social, educational physical and economic inequalities to support you being accepted as part of the community you live and learn in.

Wellbeing indicator – Included

We will make sure you get the chance to take part in activities in the community that help you get on in life, increasing opportunities and helping you to get involved in hobbies and leisure activities

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant

Rights and Participation/ Education and Training / Employment

What we said we would do	What we have done
Develop the Champions Board to promote children and young people being involved in service design and delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Champions Board is now embedded in Moray. It meets every fourth month: the last Monday in the month. There is a consistent number of Care Experienced Young People who attend and plans are in place in terms of “succession planning”.
Develop the Family Firm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Guarantee 6 for update.
Track offending rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The youth justice group has been meeting to consider how best to make progress with this within the context of support.
Extend the remit of the practitioner support group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The practitioner support group members will support needs that present after hours. Developments made with the housing section will add to that support, when planning indicates this will be beneficial.
Develop the Moray group for younger children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With support and funding from Findhorn Bay Arts a young person’s group of 4 Young People started for specific sessions from September last year. A second block of sessions has started and a 5th Young Person has joined the group. These young people may be our next tranche of Champions.

3. Next Steps

This year has seen considerable drive and energy across all agencies pulling, and pooling, together resources and we are now beginning to achieve a number of the asks of the young people, asks which should thereafter evidence positive difference to the lives and experiences of our Care Experienced Young People. Three main achievements were: -

- The launch of the Champions Board;
- The launch of the Corporate Parenting Strategy for Moray Community Planning Partnership;
- Moray signing up to the Care Leavers Covenant.

With clear vision and leadership the focus areas for Corporate Parenting in Moray for the next year will be:-

- Continue to work in partnership to deliver on our 10 Guarantees - which is consistent with leading and implementing Moray's Corporate Parenting Strategy;
- Focus on staff training so that all Corporate Parents feel competent and confident – this is consistent with ensuring Moray is fully undertaking its duties with regards the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and providing support and guidance to all corporate parents;
- Continue to have Champions Board meetings every 4 months – which will reflect our active engagement with our CECYP, by hearing and acting on their views which should continue to support us to improve our approaches to corporate parenting;
- Embed the PACE improvement methodology;
- Be SMARTER with our measurements – we will revisit and refresh those listed in the Strategy.

JENNIFER GORDON
MARCH 2018

You can access a copy of the Moray Community Planning Partnership's Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan at:

<http://www.yourmoray.org.uk/downloads/file116360.pdf>

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