

Update on Council Motion: Ensure all Council employees understand their role in supporting Corporate Parenting initiatives such understanding to be included in annual staff appraisals.

The council is proud to showcase the steps we have put in place promoting and supporting the role as a corporate parent. Ensuring how all employees have an understanding in how they can have a positive contribution to the lives of children and young people.

Mandatory training through e-learning

This year we have developed a new Corporate Parenting e-learning module, working with the Head of Service CASS and Leaving Care, to provide staff with basic information. This is now mandatory for all new and existing staff to complete from the 8th November 2023. All mandatory training is discussed within the employee review process and documented with their line manager.

Staff will have two months to complete the e-learning module from November, before reminders are sent directly to them. We are also working with frontline managers to provide other materials to support compliance including paper forms and exploring staff sessions where needed.

Monthly reporting will be shared to SLG to review and communicate back to their teams on compliance.

Communication and engagement

In July 2023, we delivered a dedicated Masterclass on Corporate Parenting from the Head of Service CASS and Leaving Care and Children's Rights Team Manager to our Senior Management Forum (SMF). This group is made up of the top 100 managers across Bury Council and Bury NHS GM.

This was also followed up by a dedicated staff briefing available to all staff, (Approx. 250 in attendance online) to promote and create awareness of the role of Corporate parenting.

Corporate Parenting Champions

We have also held a Corporate parenting champion/mentoring role drop in sessions at the New Kershaw Centre in July this year.

The event was open to public and staff and covered:

- Presentation and informal information about Corporate parenting Champion/mentoring role
- Care experienced Young Person delivered session—What it means to be a looked after child!
- Presentation and informal information about Corporate parenting Champion/mentoring role

The purpose of the Champion Role is to enhance the offer to children in care and care leavers and to ensure we are continually adding to the range and quality of experiences, opportunities and raising aspirations of our children.

The Corporate Parenting Board and Executive leads have embraced the concept of corporate champions in terms of championing to ensure that the needs and experiences of Children and young people in care and care leavers.

The Champions programme is wider than the Board to ensure that our children are considered across the council in every department and across teams rather than just in children's services

Corporate Parenting Champions will:

- help to raise awareness and promote the role of corporate parenting within their team/department/partners with the aim of improving opportunities and support for children and young people in care and care leavers from Bury.

- ensure that children and young people in care/care leavers are at the forefront of council/partners opportunities. Champions will promote the benefits of supporting children in care/care leavers through initiatives such as work experience, activities, volunteering, being a spokesperson etc.
- promote services/initiatives that would benefit children in care/care leavers such as fostering, Childrens rights volunteers, clubs and groups.
- Provide Informal support and a point of contact for any young person in care/care leaver working or undertaking work experience at the Council
- ensure the themes of and messages relayed from the Corporate Parenting Board are reflective of what the children and young people in care/care leavers are saying
- Be a point of contact for employees within the council. Offering support and signposting to other employees wishing to get involved. Sharing information about initiatives that could benefit children and young people in care/care leavers
- Contribute to the corporate parenting newsletters as appropriate
- help support and promote the corporate parenting communications such as the Corporate Parenting Awareness Week and get involved with awareness raising events