

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 04 September 2024
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-2026	
Report of	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to note the Corporate Parenting Strategy that has been approved by the Corporate Parenting Board and sets out how the local authority and partners will fulfil their corporate parenting duties.

Recommendation(s)

2. Cabinet to approve the Bury Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-2026.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

3. Approval of this Strategy will ensure that the Council has a current strategy in place to influence partnership working and support improved outcomes for our children and young people.

Alternative options considered and rejected

4. No alternatives have been considered. The strategy has been developed in collaboration with young people and partner agencies.

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Background

- 5.1 'Corporate Parenting is the term used to refer to the responsibility of the council, to provide the best possible care and protection for children and young people who are 'looked after'. At the core of this responsibility is the moral duty to provide the kind of support that any good parents would provide their own children. This includes enhancing the quality of life of looked after children as well as simply keeping them safe.' - House of Commons Children, Schools and Family Committee March 2009

- 5.2 In February 2018 The Department for Education published Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities for applying Corporate Parenting Principles for children in their care and care leavers. As corporate parents, elected members and council officers have a statutory responsibility for the wellbeing of children in care. Elected members play a large part in holding officers and partners to account as well as being proactive in the corporate parenting role themselves.
- 5.3 This Corporate Parenting strategy describes how the local authority and its partners, such as housing, health services, Police and schools, act as 'responsible parents' to children and young people living within their care. Effective corporate parenting requires everyone involved including elected members, officers, teachers, GP's etc. to recognise their role as corporate parents and understand what they can contribute to enable us to be the best corporate parents we can be to all children and young people in our care.
- 5.4 The strategic priorities in the strategy have been determined by both local and national priorities for children in care and care leavers and through consultation with Bury children and young people. They are:
- i. Strategic Priority One: Supporting engagement and achievement in education, training, and employment.
 - ii. Strategic Priority Two: Ensuring that our children in care and care leavers have stable and secure homes and sufficient support.
 - iii. Strategic Priority Three: Listening and responding to the voice of our children, young people, and care leavers.
 - iv. Strategic Priority Four: Ensuring that our children, young people, and care leavers are healthy and are supported in the physical and emotional wellbeing.
 - v. Strategic Priority Five: Developing a Highly Effective Care Leavers Partnership.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

The proposal will support key ambitions of the Let's do it strategy:

- A better future for the children of the borough
- A better quality of life
- Building a fairer society that leaves no-one behind

Equality Impact and Considerations:

*Please provide an explanation of the outcome(s) of an initial or full EIA and make **specific reference regarding the protected characteristic of Looked After Children**. Intranet link to EIA documents is [here](#).*

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

Please provide an explanation of the Environmental impact of this decision. Please include the impact on both **Carbon emissions** (contact climate@bury.gov.uk for advice) and **Biodiversity** (contact c.m.wilkinson@bury.gov.uk for advice)

5.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation

Legal Implications:

6. The report complies with 2018 Statutory Guidance and Children Act 1989 obligations issued regarding our corporate parenting obligations.

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

7. There are no additional financial implications arising directly from this report not already reflected in the council's budget and medium-term financial plan.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-2026.

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
Corporate Parenting	The term used to refer to the responsibility of the council, to provide the best possible care and protection for children and young people who are 'looked after'.