

CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2024-2026



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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Bury Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024 - 2026.

'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

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.

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 be the best corporate parents we can be to all children and young people in our care.

When providing a service for our children and young people in care we should always challenge ourselves by asking, 'would this be good enough for my child?'

It is our responsibility to make sure that children and young people for whom we are responsible feel safe and secure, have stability in their lives, and that they are supported to achieve their full potential and fulfil their ambitions and aspirations.

Our strategy demonstrates our Partnership's commitment to ensuring that the life chances of every child and young person in our care are improved in-line with their peers. This requires us all to be strong advocates to ensure their needs are met in the best way possible, and to prioritise access to our resources.

Our commitment to supporting our children in care is set out within our 'Promise' which details our commitment to children and young people in our care along with and with our Care Leavers 'promise' setting out our commitment to ongoing support.

We are accountable for the delivery of our plan to:

- Children in our Care Council (children looked after)
- Bury Corporate Parenting Board
- Bury Scrutiny Board

Whilst set out as a three year strategy, delivery will be supported through a series of live action plans that are driven within specific priority theme groups led by partners/officers and supported by elected member champions.

The strategic priorities in our 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:

1. Supporting engagement and achievement in education, training, and employment.
2. Ensuring that our children in care and care leavers have stable and secure homes and sufficient support.
3. Listening and responding to the voice of our children, young people, and care leavers.
4. Ensuring that our children, young people, and care leavers are healthy and are supported in the physical and emotional wellbeing.
5. Developing a Highly Effective Care Leavers Partnership.

2. Achieving the ambition

We will achieve our ambitions through:

- Strong leadership and robust performance management.
- Maintaining the engagement and involvement of children, young people and care leavers in developing and implementing our strategy.
- Inclusive and effective partnership working across Bury Council with support from identified elected members.

3. Our promise to children and young people in care

We promise:

- We will tell you why you are in care and help you to understand these reasons, we will keep explaining this as you grow.
- We will keep you safe both physically and emotionally.
- We help you to access all the money you are eligible to receive so that you have the same financial opportunities as children and young people not in care.
- We will listen to your wishes and feelings and respond to what you have said with a full and reasonable explanation.
- We will make decisions together with you and not simply decide things for you without discussion.
- We will be honest with you about what is possible. We will not commit to promises that we cannot keep.
- We will strive to provide you with as many opportunities as possible to help to give you the best possible chances in your future career and in fulfilling your aspirations.
- If it's suitable and safe, we will support you to return to your birth family. If this is not possible, we will explain the reasons why. We will continue to offer you support after you have moved back to birth family.
- Where possible and appropriate, we will always endeavour to place you with your siblings. If this is not possible, we will explain the reasons why not.
- We will ensure that you have a safe place to live with people who care about you for as long as you need it.
- We will ensure that the foster carers, key workers and professionals where you live are well supported and well trained to ensure they are able to support you and help you access all possible experiences and opportunities available.
- We will make sure you have access to good quality accommodation when you leave care that we would be happy to live in ourselves.
- We will give you access to an advocate who can support you to have your voice heard.

- If you want to we will ensure you are able to have as much contact with your family and friends as is possible and will continue to negotiate with you about this.
- We will support you in your education for as long as you want to continue learning. We will ensure that your teachers are aware of how they can help you and ensure they empathise with your situation and act as your advocates in your learning.
- We will challenge what we believe to be unfair exclusions and where we believe your teachers are not supporting you well enough or setting appropriate targets needed to help you achieve your full potential.
- We will seek to provide opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships as well as jobs and training, using our influence and resources as a major employer in the Borough including giving you access to high quality careers advice and guidance.
- We will support you to pursue your passions and take part in hobbies and clubs outside of school wherever possible.
- We will make you aware of your rights as Children and Young People in Care.
- We will support you with any health concerns.
- We will ensure that all members of Bury Council understand their responsibility to care about you, understand your needs and empower you as we would our own children. We will report this to you via the Corporate Parenting Board, Newsletters, CiCC and Care Leavers Forum.
- We recognise that changes in your social worker is disruptive. We will therefore strive keep changes in Social Worker to a minimum. When changes are necessary, we will do our best to ensure your old social worker introduces you to your new social worker.
- We will involve young people in your situation in the training of staff who support you so that they understand your point of view.
- We will protect your privacy and only share information that is necessary and will always speak with you about what we are sharing and why.

In delivering our strategy we will ensure that the local authority and all our partners have regards when exercising their functions:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people.
- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.
- To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.
- For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Corporate Parenting Oversight

Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of local authorities towards children and young people in care.

Corporate Parenting emphasises the collective responsibility of the local authority and its partners to achieve 'good parenting' for all children in care.

Corporate Parenting is not the sole responsibility of the children's social work services. It is the responsibility of the whole council, including councillors, our health service, and other partners.

'Good parenting' includes ensuring the child / young person's health, wellbeing, and safety as well as things like succeeding in school or other hobbies and interests based on their individual abilities and aspirations.

All Elected Members automatically hold Corporate Parenting Responsibilities. There are many different ways in which Elected Members can promote their Corporate Parenting responsibilities. A summary of elected Members' Corporate Parenting responsibilities can be found towards the end of this strategy document.

Governance Arrangements

The Corporate Parenting Board provides a leadership role by championing the specific needs of children and young people who are, or have been, looked after by the local authority. It does this through working with all elected members, officers within the Council, with colleagues from partner agencies and with children and young people. This is done by overseeing the work undertaken in specific services to ensure a corporate approach is being taken from a range of Council departments and agencies and ensure that the services support children that are or have been looked after to have the full benefit of the widest possible resources to support successful outcomes.

Democratic Involvement and Accountability

The Corporate Parenting Board is able to refer matters for, and provide information to, the Children's Services Scrutiny Board. Minutes of the board will be available to the Bury Children's Safeguarding Partnership for review and action where needed.

4. Strategic Priority 1

Looking after learning: supporting engagement and achievement in education, training, and employment.

Vision

Parents want their children to have the best start in life and to reach their full potential. Bury is an ambitious Local Authority for all its children and young people and, like any good parent, has especially high aspirations for the children in our care.

Our vision is to ensure that all aspects of learning, from early childhood development to preparation for adulthood and independence, are a top priority for all those involved in the lives of our children and young people. We want to ensure they can learn and develop, attend, and engage, attain and achieve at every stage of their learning journey from their earliest years to school, to further and higher education and go on to benefit from the excellent opportunities for work experience, training, apprenticeships and employment in a borough with a strong economy that's also vibrant, compassionate and caring.

As leaders responsible for ensuring that the local authority discharges its duty to promote the educational achievement of their looked-after children, the Chief Executive of the Council, the Lead Member for Children and Families and the Director of Children's Services will ensure that top priority is given to creating a culture of high educational aspirations for looked-after children and care leavers across the council and its partners.

What is the Challenge?

Although the landscape for care-experienced young people is challenging at both a local and national level, there is much to celebrate for Bury's young people. Our 16 and 17 year olds consistently sustain rates of Education, Employment and Training at over 85%, which is above national average, and our Progress 8 outcomes for GCSE are consistently in line with or better than national for children in care.

We work creatively and innovatively to support our young people, including bespoke transition support at Year 6 and Year 11, extensive use of Pupil Premium to fund tuition and mentoring and our "Aim Higher" programme which includes our pledge that all our

young people who wish to experience university before the age of 18 will be supported to visit. We work closely with our schools to develop trauma-informed practice and have a rich, comprehensive training offer.

As for many local authorities, there remain some areas where we have not realised the outcomes we aspire to and the work of the corporate parenting board seeks to address these areas as we strive to be the best LA we can be for this most important group of children and young people.

Key challenges are:

- Rates of persistent absence for the cohort
- School stability and in-year school moves
- Our outcomes at Key Stage Two are not in line with national for CLA
- Children with identified SEND do least well
- The link between well-being and learning: there is a strong correlation to poor outcomes for young people who have an elevated score in their strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ – a scaling tool to measure young people's well-being) and those have not had a SDQ questionnaire completed
- Supporting positive, planned transitions in both care and education as they are so intrinsically linked
- Ensuring the voice of young people is clear and evident in personal education plans so they experience a sense of agency and investment in their learning journey
- Young people transitioning to care leaver status, adulthood and independence with secure EET outcomes and pathways post-18 that reflect their potential

What will we do?

All aspects of the statutory duty to promote the education of looked after children and care leavers will align to three priority corporate parenting principles: to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for children and young people; for children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

All aspects of this work start with, and depend on, the knowledge and skills of the workforce in bringing our corporate parenting duties to life through practice. In addition, having a high quality and effective personal education plan (PEP) is the vehicle through which we deliver improved outcomes.

- Deliver a targeted training and CPD across all corporate parenting roles including members of the board, social care child protection and looked after teams, IROs, residential teams, care leaver services and personal advisers, foster carers and supervising social workers, kinship care and SGO teams, designated teachers and school governors and report to the board on the themes/content and the coverage and uptake.
- Continue to focus on the theme of 'transition': starting school in Reception, moving to high school, moving into post-16, leaving statutory engagement in education, training and employment, leaving care, changing care placements and changing schools, leaving a secure children's home, returning to live with family etc.
- Build capacity and skills across schools and services by investing in intensive training and development in practice and provision around the impact of relational loss, trauma and attachment so that children's social, emotional and mental health needs can be identified and understood in the context of their care and education so that this is not a barrier to their attainment and progress.
- Develop a shared/multi-agency process for quality assuring PEPs, commensurate with an overview of the child's provision, where children have other significant vulnerabilities e.g., those at risk of criminal exploitation, those who are the highest attainers and at risk of not achieving their potential, those who have score highly on their SDQ or don't have an SDQ etc.
- Ensure that quality PEPs reflect the early identification of SEND and evidence the graduated approach, securing effective and inclusive practice in schools and settings.

- Ensure that SDQs and other measures of well-being inform quality PEPs to address the social, emotional and mental health needs of our young people.
- Ensure that quality PEPs reflect and celebrate the achievements of our young people and show how they are enjoying learning and having fun.
- Ensure that young people's voice is a quality measure in PEP completion.
- Strengthen the quality and visibility of careers education, information and guidance in PEPs at every age and stage.
- Harness the breadth of potential opportunities that could be offered by the Council in supporting work experience and employment for looked after children and care leavers.

What success will look like?

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure
The Virtual School priority development plan and annual report	Existence of action plan
Children will be making at least if not better than expected progress across the range of statutory measures	EYFS, KS2 and KS4 outcomes and measures of in-year progress
Children Looked After will be attending and engaging in education, training, and employment from 3 - 18	% CLA persistently absent % CLA with at least one Suspension % CLA and Care Leavers NEET in years 12 and 13 % CLA and Care Leavers participating in work experience
All CLA will have access to a full-time school offer	No. of children on part time timetable No. children awaiting a school place
All CLA on school roll within 20 days of a placement move that has been identified as being best placed to meet their needs	No. of children not on a school roll No. children in school/setting not appropriate to their needs
CLA will attend schools that are Good or Outstanding or where not the case the school has been identified as being best placed to meet their needs	% children attending good or outstanding schools

<p>All children in care have a high-quality personal education plan and pathway plan that sets out how they will be supported to achieve their potential at every age and stage</p>	<p>% children aged 3-18 who have a PEP</p> <p>% of children who have a PEP completed within 20 working days of placement</p> <p>% children who have a quality pathway plan that reflects their goals and ambitions</p>
<p>CLA and CL will be supported to access higher education opportunities</p> <p>Bury will increase the number of care experienced students accessing higher education</p>	<p>No. of Care Leavers accessing graduate and post graduate courses from 18-25</p>
<p>Children in care and care leavers will have their SEMH needs understood and addressed in their PEPs</p>	<p>% Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires completed</p> <p>% PEPs with Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires scores included</p>

Key Partners for this strategic priority are:

- Virtual School
- Schools
- SEND team
- Social work: Safeguarding and CASS teams
- Fostering, Kinship and Special Guardianship Order (SGO) Services
- Residential Services
- Care Leavers Service
- Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service

5. Strategic Priority 2

Ensuring that our children in care and care leavers have stable homes and secure support.

Vision

Bury children will be supported to live within families. When they require local authority care, we will provide a range of fostering placements to meet children's needs and, where necessary have access to residential care placements suitable to meet the needs of children.

Bury children will be cared for whenever possible within Bury ensuring that they can remain close to friends and family, attend the same school and minimising the need for external placements.

Changes in placements will be planned with children and will take place in a predictable and measured way.

What is the challenge?

The demands on Local Authorities in respect of ensuring that they have sufficient placements to meet the needs of our children is increasing with a national rise in the numbers of children in care. This places demands on placement sufficiency both within and outside of the Council. Placements for older children and children with complex behaviour are especially hard to find.

Leaving care provision needs to be more varied to meet the needs to all young people leaving care. Inappropriate housing situations can affect every aspect of a young person's life in an adverse way.

What more can we do/what will we do:

- Ensure that we consider sufficiency annually and build this into our commissioning and foster care recruitment activity.
- Where we have known pressures – develop a business case for the evolution of new provision.
- Audit the circumstances of children who have experienced an unplanned placement end and ensure disruption meetings happen in a timely way.
- Develop definition of fragile placements and a process to respond. Develop a specific placement support offer (people, programmes, approach) and deploy to fragile placements.
- Continue to work with other Greater Manchester Local Authorities to increase capacity across the region in fostering and residential care.
- Expand the range of housing options available to young people leaving care.

What success will look like?

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure
We will respond effectively to placements at risk of breakdown	Clear definition of fragile placements Reduction in short notice placement moves. Reduction in children with more than one placement Clear offer of support to fragile placements
Children will be able to 'stay put' or 'stay close' to their placement on becoming a care leaver	% of young people staying put % young people staying close
Increase the number of Local Authority foster carers	Enquiry to assessment to approval and overall numbers of foster carers
The Quality of care provided by our foster carers will equip our children to reach their full potential	No. of foster carers accessing training and able to manage more complex placements.

Key Partners for this strategic priority are:

- Health Services
- Children's Commissioning Service
- Health Commissioning Service
- Children looked after social work teams.
- Foster Carers and Fostering Service
- Bury Housing
- Independent Placement Providers
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority

6. Strategic Priority 3

Listening and responding to the voice of our children, young people, and care leavers.

Vision

Children, young people, and care leavers are supported to express their views, wishes and feelings and that their views, wishes and feelings are taken into account when decisions are made that affect their lives. We will work in partnership with children, young people, and care leavers to ensure they have a voice and influence over the design, delivery and review of the services that are provided to them.

What is the challenge?

- To support staff to improve their skills and confidence in finding ways to help children, young people and care leavers express their views, wishes and feelings, and have an influence in decisions which affect their lives.
- To develop a range of approaches that enable children, young people, and care leavers to work in partnership with senior leaders and services to influence priorities, policy and practice.

What we will do:

Through this priority we will ensure we continue to provide advice, guidance and training for social care staff and further develop a youth voice model that enables children, young people and care leavers to share their ideas, issues and experiences with decision makers and evidence how their views have influenced service improvement. Our approach will include:

- Work in partnership with managers and staff on voice and influence projects and provide advice and guidance to social care staff and external partners to enable the voice and influence of children, young people and care leavers to influence service improvement.
- Deliver Voice of the Child briefings for social care students and staff.
- Facilitate ongoing 'Where's the Ketchup' Training which will be delivered by care experienced young people for elected members, corporate parenting board, social care staff and foster carers.
- Support young people in care and care leavers to deliver training for foster carers as part of the skills for foster programme.
- Train and support youth representatives to be members of the Corporate Parenting Board and to Chair the meeting.
- Regular meetings between the Council's Lead of Corporate Parenting and the Children in Care and Care leavers Council to ensure that the voice of young people influences all service developments that affect them.
- Supporting care experienced young people to participate in the recruitment and selection of senior social care staff and the commissioning panels of social care services.
- Produce six monthly voice of the child in social care voice and influence reports which highlight key issues raised by young people and care leavers and demonstrate good practice from across the service. The reports will be shared with the corporate parenting board and include updates on promise issues raised and complaints made by children, young people and care leavers.

What success will look like?

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure
<p>Staff feel confident in supporting children, young people, and care leavers to express their views, wishes and feelings and are aware of what qualities and behaviours young people feel make a good social worker.</p>	<p>% of staff who feedback that they feel more confident in supporting CYP and care leavers to express their views wishes and feelings. (evaluation completed at end of training by participants)</p>
<p>Children, young people and care leavers thoughts, wishes and feelings are central to their plans developed by services</p>	<p>% children and young people's plans that evidence that the child has been meaningfully involved in their development and review (IRO data collected quarterly)</p>
<p>Priorities raised by young people and care leavers are included within corporate parenting operational group lead plans and leads work in partnership with Children in Care Council and Care Leavers to improve services</p>	<p>Examples of how corporate parenting operational group leads are listening to the views and priorities of CYP and working in partnership with the Have a Voice Council and Care Leavers Council are evidenced in the six monthly voice and influence reports and from updates presented at Corporate Parenting Board by lead staff at themed meetings.</p>

Key Partners for this strategic priority are:

- Children in Care Council
- Care Leavers Voice and Influence
- Bury Childrens Rights
- IRO Service
- Care Leavers Service
- Looked After Childrens Teams
- Virtual School

7. Strategic Priority 4

Ensuring that our children, young people and care leavers are healthy and are supported in their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Vision

In Bury, we want our children to be happy and healthy both physically and emotionally, and to be safe and protected from harm and exploitation. We want them to be supported to become successful independent adults who can thrive, manage their own health needs, seek support when needed and be able to achieve their potential in life.

Areas of focus?

Children who enter care, or are care experienced, often encounter physical and emotional health difficulties due to their early life experiences. This, alongside, where they live (type of housing), access to services and how they are treated – especially in the early part of their life, can amplify the risks of health inequalities. Children and young people who are care experienced are more likely to develop problems with their mental health and suffer health inequalities if they have faced one or more of the following, with risk increasing as more are experienced: the child young person is in the care system or care experienced; they are new to the country and asylum seekers; they have experienced trauma; they are excluded from school; they have special education needs; they live in poverty; or they have experienced the youth justice system.

The effect of poor physical and mental health and health inequalities impacts throughout people's lives and is strongly linked to their ability to achieve and attain within education, their employment opportunities, and their overall quality of life.

What our children say:

In Bury, many of our children feel that they know how to keep themselves healthy and who can help them with their physical health needs, but that they want more support with their mental health needs.

They also tell us they are concerned with waiting times for therapy or emotional health support and that they want to feel listened to during appointments and not have to repeat their stories to multiple professionals.

They also want professionals who work with them, to have a better understanding of trauma.

Our Care Leavers tell us they want accessible information to support them in accessing services as adults and better access to dental services.

How we will achieve this and measure our success:

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure
<p>All children in care will receive timely Initial and Review health assessments to ensure their health needs are appropriately identified and managed.</p> <p>Children and young people will have access to Dental Care</p>	<p>Consent to be provided by the appropriate social worker to the health team within 5 working days of child/young person coming into care to enable initial health assessment to be completed within 20 working days. Health assessment timeliness will then be monitored monthly via the Health Team Performance Report.</p> <p>All children in care will receive the appropriate immunisations.</p> <p>All children in care will have access to a dentist via the dental access scheme.</p>
<p>The health needs of our Children in Care and Care Leavers cohort will be better understood.</p> <p>We advocate for improved access to health services, including dental and eye care, and mental health, that considers the lived experience of young people.</p>	<p>A health needs analysis for our Children in Care and Care Leavers will be completed in 2024 Q1 and the results will help shape the service offer as set out below.</p> <p>A Survey Monkey will be developed, and the responses will be reviewed to identify gaps in support currently provided. Padlets will be developed for these areas. This will be a continuous cycle of consultation and review.</p> <p>The Specialist Nurse for Looked after Children and Care Leavers will provide a monthly Care Leaver Drop in – with themed sessions as required.</p> <p>All Care Leavers will receive a Health Summary.</p> <p>Care leavers will be aware of the support offer from their leaving care team and feel confident to access it. Care leavers will feel confident in taking</p>

	<p>ownership of managing their health and wellbeing. Care leavers will know how to access healthcare and mental health support as and when they might need it.</p>
<p>For children and young people in care to be supported to have improving emotional and mental health and wellbeing. We want to be assured that the SDQ is informing care, education planning and support for our children and young people as per guidance.</p>	<p>All children in care will have access to timely intervention with CAMHS if/ when required.</p> <p>Children in care and the people who support them will have access to specialist mental health support teams.</p> <p>SDQs will be completed during review health assessments, as part of a full emotional health and well-being review.</p>
<p>We are committed to help young people, and their foster carers and PAs, understand mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Training, advice and guidance will be developed and offered to key teams, such as “My Stressed Out Brain” and Trauma and attachment training.</p>

8. Strategic Priority 5

Developing a Highly Effective Care Leavers Partnership.

Vision

The vision is to successfully support young people transitioning from care to independence. This involves providing high-quality care through collaboration with various partners. Corporate parenting responsibilities will be understood by all Bury Council partners, and the Care Leaver Offer will clearly outline the support and services entitled to care leavers.

What is the challenge?

- Emotional Health of Care leavers.
- Need to be ambitious for our children's future.
- Care leavers need to feel supported and that they can access support readily and easily.
- Children in care need to be allocated a PA from the age of 16 to help in managing their anxieties about the future.
- The range of suitable accommodation needs to be extended.

What we will do:

- Develop a comprehensive hub of services in partnership with various organizations to provide a "one-stop shop" for care leavers.
- Socialisation and Support: Ensure the hub offers socialization opportunities, support, information, advice, and guidance.
- Accommodation: Collaborate with Bury Housing and develop a guarantor scheme to provide suitable accommodation for young people.
- Accommodation Policy: Create a Care Leavers Accommodation policy in partnership with Bury Housing.
- Promote Staying Put: Encourage staying put arrangements for more young people in foster care who reach 18.

- **Engagement:** Increase participation and engagement with care leavers to strengthen partnerships.
- **Communication:** Enhance social media and website communication to align with care leavers’ preferences.
- **Education and Employment Support:** The Care Leavers EET workers will assist care leavers in accessing education, employment, and training, supporting their long-term engagement.

What success will look like?

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure
Care leavers are in touch and receiving services.	100% of care leavers in touch with their PA every 8 weeks
Care leavers are supported to develop meaningful plans to help them prepare for the future	100% care leavers with and up to date pathway plan
Care leavers understand their Pathway Plans and find them useful	Feedback from young people at leaving care review and through Interactive File Audits
Have somewhere safe to live after they leave care	100% Care leavers in suitable accommodation
Care leavers report they feel supported to achieve their personal goals	Pathway Plan reviews evidence good progress and pride at achieving personal goals

<p>Fewer children of Care Leavers have statutory social work involvement, fewer pre-birth assessments are undertaken.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liquid Logic reports to evidence a change in referral patterns for care leavers and their families. • Care Leavers Forum feedback experiences of positive support.
<p>More Care Leavers are engaged in education or employment opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liquid Logic reports evidence of increased EET • Pathway plans evidence progress and outcomes

Key Partners for this strategic priority are:

- Children in Care Council
- Care Leavers Forum
- Children looked after and social work teams
- Fostering Service
- Employment and Skills Service
- Public Health / Health services
- Housing
- Third sector partners
- Corporate Business Partners

9. Elected Members Corporate Parenting Responsibilities

All Elected Members automatically hold Corporate Parenting Responsibilities. There are many different ways in which Elected Members can promote their Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

Children's Social Work Services will support Elected Members in understanding their role as Corporate Parent through providing training sessions as a key part of the induction for all Councillors.

Effective Corporate Parents:

- Have a clear understanding and awareness of the issues for children looked after and care leavers in the authority area including those placed out of area.
- Are able to ask questions and constructively challenge outcomes for children looked after and care leavers.
- Have effective communication with children looked after and care leavers and their services.
- Ensure that children and young people have a say in how decisions are made about the services that affect them and that they are able to influence those decisions positively.
- Ensure that they are familiar with our 'Promise' and challenge whether the Council, as corporate parent, is keeping the promise.
- Ask how all elements of council business and change have an impact for children looked after.
- Make connections and links between council plans, strategies and decision-making impacting on children looked after and care leavers.
- Consistently ask in decision making and meetings impacting on children looked after 'Would this be good enough for my own child?'