



<b>Meeting of East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership</b>	Integration Joint Board
<b>Held on</b>	1 June 2016
<b>Agenda Item</b>	9
<b>Title</b>	Corporate Parenting Activity in East Renfrewshire
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>This report summarises the development of a Corporate Parenting Plan for East Renfrewshire and provides information on local activity to engage corporate parents and care experienced children and young people.</p>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Kate Rocks, Head of Children's Services & Criminal Justice (Chief Social Work Officer)
<p><b>Action Required</b></p> <p>The Integration Joint Board is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the approach in developing East Renfrewshire's first Corporate Parenting Plan 2016-2018.</li> <li>Promote attendance and participation at the Engagement Event on 13 June 2016.</li> <li>Acknowledge the achievement of young people to establish the Champions Board and support its work and activity.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Implications checklist – check box if applicable and include detail in report</b></p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equalities  <input type="checkbox"/> Efficient Government      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staffing      <input type="checkbox"/> Property      <input type="checkbox"/> IT </p>	

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**EAST RENFREWSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP**

**INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD**

**1 June 2016**

**Report by Julie Murray, Chief Officer**

**CORPORATE PARENTING ACTIVITY IN EAST RENFREWSHIRE**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This report summarises the development of the first East Renfrewshire Corporate Parenting Plan and provides information on local activity to engage corporate parents and care experienced young people.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. The Integration Joint Board is asked to:
  - a) Approve the approach in developing East Renfrewshire's first Corporate Parenting Plan 2016-2018.
  - b) Promote attendance and participation at the Engagement Event on 13 June 2016.
  - c) Acknowledge the achievement of young people to establish the Champions Board and support its work and activity.

**BACKGROUND**

3. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 19 February 2014 and received Royal Assent on 27 March 2014. The legislation is a key part of the Scottish Government's strategy for making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up. Composed of 18 distinct Parts the Act makes important changes to a wide range of areas that impact on the lives of children and young people, and those of their families and carers. The Act is by far the most significant piece of legislation in relation to children and young people, in a generation.
4. In particular Part 9 of the Act places new corporate parenting duties on a wide range of publicly funded organisations, increasing the breadth and depth of support available to looked after children and young people, and those leaving care. Specifically the duties introduced by Part 9 of the Act create new drivers to support organisations to work individually as well as together to deliver better outcomes for looked after children and young people.
5. The Scottish Government made the decision to legislate in this area because there was widespread belief that not enough was being achieved by policy alone and in this respect the implementation of Part 9 should be seen in the context of previous policy documents "*We Can and Must Do Better*" (2007) and "*These Are Our Bairns – A Guide for Community Planning Partnerships*" (2008).
6. In East Renfrewshire, local partners have worked in a collaborative way over the last 6 years to plan and deliver for looked after children predominantly through the integrated children's services plan approach. The new Act and the statutory guidance that accompanies it recommends that local authorities develop and publish their new integrated children's services plans and new corporate parent plans separately but within the wider context of joint children's planning.

## DEFINITIONS

7. Corporate Parents: The 24 organisations who are now corporate parents are listed in Schedule 4 of the Act – see Appendix 1.
8. What is Corporate Parenting?: *“An organisation’s performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted.”* Definition from Statutory Guidance on Corporate Parenting (August 2015).
9. Legal definition of looked after child or young person is one who is:
  - Subject to a compulsory supervision order under Section 70 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995;
  - Subject to a Permanence Order under Section 80 of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007;
  - Accommodated by the local authority under Section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.
10. Part 9 New Duties: Please refer to Appendix 2. For the purposes of this report Section 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62 are most significant in terms of local planning arrangements in East Renfrewshire.

## REPORT

11. On 31 July 2015 146 children and young people in East Renfrewshire were looked after in a range of settings. 83 of the children were boys and 63 were girls. This constitutes 0.7% of the total children’s population of the area and is one of the smallest proportions in Scotland. Over the last decade we have experienced an increase in this trend especially of children under 5 years of age. We also know that the needs of certain groups of looked after children, are becoming more complex particularly among those 0-5 years of age and the young people post 16 years.
12. Approximately half of the children (73) are looked after at home but often for extended periods of time, whilst 27 are accommodated with our own local authority foster carers. Over the last two years this has doubled for our inhouse resources. Kinship and close family support is utilised when it is assessed as safe to do so and in the child’s best interests and this is an area that the greatest growth has happened over the last two years, with the number of looked after children in kinship care increasing by 100%. The use of external care placements purchased from the independent sector has reduced by 35% between 2014 and 2016, as costs were exceptionally high and outcomes for children unclear. The use of residential school accommodation is now minimal except for those young people who have additional support needs and there were no young people in secure placements over the period 2014 and 2016.

### **‘Keep Calm and be a Corporate Parent’ – Monday 13 June 2016**

13. An event for corporate parents will be held at the Carmichael Hall, Giffnock, on Monday 13 June 2016 for over 200 people, targeted at elected members, Directors and senior managers from the Council, HSCP, Culture & Leisure Trust and partner organisations, reflecting the statutory duties upon corporate parents. Senior representatives from a range of other organisations include housing providers, Further/Higher Education, Care Inspectorate, Fire Scotland, Police Scotland, Job Centres, Health, Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland and third sector partners.

14. The event will be led by young people to explore what it means to be care experienced in East Renfrewshire, what local needs young people have identified and how, as corporate parents, attendees can start to consider how they can contribute to better outcomes for care experienced young people as well as contributing to East Renfrewshire's Corporate Parenting Plan.
15. This event will also formally launch the East Renfrewshire Champions Board, following a successful bid for almost £225,000 over three years from the Life Changes Trust.

### **East Renfrewshire Champions Board**

16. The overall aim of East Renfrewshire Champions Board is to improve the life chances of care experienced young people within the wider community. This will demystify and challenge misconceptions about care experienced children and young people and strengthen awareness of the barriers that they face whilst offering opportunities to change practice and policy in a co-produced way with their corporate parents.
17. A part-time co-ordinator has been appointed from within the HSCP's Youth Intensive Support Service, whilst two care experienced young people will be recruited on a part-time basis as Influencing Change Workers to engage with all care experienced young people in East Renfrewshire and encourage their participation in the Champions Board, as well as liaising with corporate parents to progress the work of the Board.
18. A part-time Young People's Worker will also be recruited from Who Cares? Scotland will also offer independent support and facilitation to care experienced young people engaged with the participation group and Champions Board, Influencing Change Workers and an Education Mentor.
19. A range of supporting strategies will be developed including small grants awards for care experienced children and young people (match-funded by HSCP Children's Services), use of social media to engage young people, identifying voluntary and award schemes for young people and working with Education and Housing colleagues to secure positive destinations and improve accommodation options in a creative way to meet their aspirations.
20. The expected outcomes for the Champions Board are that:
  - care experienced young people have a meaningful voice to develop positive relationships and become active citizens, whilst feeling able to shape and influence policy/practice relating to their lives.
  - service providers and corporate parents develop improved understanding of corporate parenting within organisations and implement agreed improvements in policy and practice.
  - service design, commissioning and funding decisions better meet the needs of care experienced young people.
  - the work of the Champions Board informs and inspires others in their interaction with care experienced young people.

### **FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY**

21. The award of Champions Board funding over three years has been subject to Due Diligence reporting to the Life Changes Trust. This will be augmented by annual monitoring and evaluation information, including breakdown of expenditure and progress to achieve a range of positive outcomes for young people.

## CONSULTATION

22. Two engagement events with young people have taken place in February and May 2016, with further events planned. The corporate parenting event in June 2016 will ensure broad consultation with a number of children, young people, services and organisations. In addition engagement activity is scheduled to take place with staff from all partner agencies and carers.

## PARTNERSHIP WORKING

23. Over a number of years local partners have worked closely to improve outcomes for our looked after children's population in East Renfrewshire. Most of this collaborative working has taken place within the context of the integrated children's services planning arrangements in East Renfrewshire. This approach has worked well and will continue but will be strengthened as new partners i.e. the new corporate parents, such as further and higher education establishments, come to work with us locally within our newly developed Corporate Parenting Strategic Planning Group.
24. The integrated children's services core group will oversee the delivery of the new plan and will report direct to the Cabinet and the Integrated Joint Board. Most of our planning work has taken place within the Getting it right for every child framework of the SHANARRI Wellbeing Indicators – *Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible, Included*. We intend to continue to use this approach in developing and implementing our first Corporate Parenting Plan for East Renfrewshire.

### Corporate Parenting Plan Timetable - May to September 2016

25. It is proposed that the following timetable be implemented to take forward the statutory duties and the requirement placed on all corporate parents for the plan to be developed.

Desktop scoping exercise	May
Young People's Engagement Event	June
Corporate Parenting Strategy Planning Group Workshop	June
Carers Engagement	August
First Draft Plan out of consultation	End of August
Final Plan Agreed by Partners	September
New Corporate Parent Plan 2016-18 published	October

26. The statutory duties upon corporate parents, their organisations and the range of professional services to support children and young people reflect the importance of partnership working. The forthcoming Corporate Parenting event, development and membership of the Champions Board and corporate parenting plan will demonstrate partnership working and co-production to ensure that the voices and views of children and young people are heard and they are supported to influence change across organisations.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

### Policy

27. The Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 confers clear, statutory duties upon a range of corporate parents. These duties will be reflected in a distinct corporate parenting plan which will complement the wider Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-20.

Staffing

28. Champions Board funding has enabled the creation of a part-time Co-ordinator's post within the Youth Intensive Support Service, alongside two part-time Influencing Change Worker posts, where recruitment will be ring-fenced to care experienced young people.
29. The requirements of the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 extend beyond statutory corporate parenting responsibilities. Significant developments around Named Person Services are being progressed by the HSCP and Education. The wider redesign of HSCP Children's Services seeks to ensure support, joint working and effective assessments for targeted interventions to support this statutory requirement.

Property

30. None.

Equalities

31. The local Corporate Parenting Plan and supporting activity to support engagement and participation by care experienced young people will reflect a commitment to inclusion, equalities and access to services, ensuring the voices of all young people are heard and reflected in planning and service delivery.

IT

32. None.

**CONCLUSIONS**

33. Public bodies have new duties as a consequence of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 in relation to corporate parenting and now require to outline in a plan how they will meet their new duties.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

34. The Integration Joint Board is asked to:
- a) Approve the approach in developing East Renfrewshire's first Corporate Parenting Plan 2016-2018.
  - b) Promote attendance and participation at the Engagement Event on 13 June 2016.
  - c) Acknowledge the achievement of young people to establish the Champions Board and support its work and activity.

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5 May 2016

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/contents/enacted>

Statutory Guidance on Part 9: Corporate Parenting

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/08/5260/downloads#res483676>

**KEY WORDS**

Corporate Parenting; Children and Young People; Duties; Legislation; Champions Board; Planning



List of Corporate Parents

At the date of the commencement (1 April 2015) the persons and organisations listed in schedule 4 are:

The Scottish Ministers	A local authority	A health board
Children's Hearings Scotland	The Principal Reporter The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration	A "post-16 education body" for the purposes of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005
A board constituted under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978	Skills Development Scotland Co. Ltd	The National Convener of Children's Hearings Scotland
Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland	The Scottish Sports Council	The chief constable of the Police Service of Scotland
Healthcare Improvement Scotland	The Scottish Police Authority	The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
The Scottish Legal Aid Board	The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland	The Scottish Housing Regulator
Bòrd na Gàidhlig	Creative Scotland	The Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration	Scottish Social Services Council

**Part 9 Duties**

- 56. Schedule 4 (who is a Corporate Parent)
- 57. Application of Part 9 (who it applies to)
- 58. Corporate Parenting 'Responsibilities'
- 59. Planning requirements
- 60. Collaboration requirements
- 61. Reporting on fulfilment of duties
- 62. Providing information to Scottish Ministers
- 63. Having regard to guidance from Scottish Ministers
- 64. Complying with directions from Scottish Ministers
- 65. Reports by Scottish Ministers to Scottish Parliament