

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL26 June 2019Report by Chief Social Work OfficerEAST RENFREWSHIRE'S CORPORATE PARENTING PLAN 2016-18
YEAR 2 PROGRESS REPORT**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This report presents East Renfrewshire's Corporate Parenting Plan Year 2 Progress Report for the period 2016-2018. Council is requested to consider the progress made by Corporate Parents as agreed in the original plan. The Year 2 Report has been considered and noted by the Integration Joint Board on 1 May 2019 and Education Committee on 9 May 2019,

RECOMMENDATION

2. Council is asked to:
- (a) Note and comment on the report, particularly focusing on the progress made in delivering improved outcomes for East Renfrewshire's looked after children, young people, and care leavers as well as the ongoing challenges; and
 - (b) Acknowledge the role locally of those public bodies which have a legal status as Corporate Parents – listed at appendix 4

BACKGROUND

3. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 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. Part 9 of the Act placed new corporate parenting duties on a wide range of publicly funded organisations.

4. In East Renfrewshire, Community Planning Partners are committed to improving opportunities for all children and young people however there is a long standing recognition that there is a special responsibility for those who are looked after and in our care. To this end the Community Planning Partnership and its members, East Renfrewshire Council, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, along with an extensive list of other local and national organisations, the new "**corporate parents**", have worked together over the last two years to deliver the Corporate Parenting Plan that was approved by Council in 2016.

5. As at 31 July 2018 110 children and young people in East Renfrewshire were looked after in a range of settings. This constitutes 0.5% of the total children's population of the area and is one of the smallest proportions in Scotland. 61 of the children are boys, 49 are girls, and 14% are under the age of 5 years (down from 24% in 2017). In the previous decade there had been a year on year increase in the number of children becoming looked after. However since the redesign of HSCP Children's Services and the introduction of the PACE programme the number of children subject to Compulsory Supervision Orders has begun to reduce as some have secured permanence through Permanence Orders, Adoption Orders, and Kinship Care Orders. As we move forward to meet our Aftercare and Continuing

Care statutory duties the expectation is that the population of care experienced young people aged 16-26 years will continue to increase. See appendix 1 for East Renfrewshire looked after children/young people figures.

6. In addition to the looked after population in East Renfrewshire, HSCP Children and Families Services are working with a significantly high proportion of families whose children are on the edges of the care system or have significant additional and complex needs. Intensive and targeted support is provided by these services to support 489 children and young people and this work takes place in partnership with other services including Education.

REPORT

7. The development of the East Renfrewshire Corporate Parenting Plan has been within the context of the aforementioned new legislation as well as the national *Getting it Right for Every Child* programme and the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators framework. The plan was also developed within the context of the Single Outcome Agreement at that time and in particular the outcomes related to children, young people, and families.

Evaluation Framework

8. After engagement throughout 2016 the following Corporate Parenting improvement themes were agreed along with a Corporate Parent Champion for each theme:

East Renfrewshire Corporate Parenting Plan – Themes and Champions	
Themes and Outcomes	Corporate Parent Champion
Permanency (Safe and Nurtured)	Kate Rocks
Raising attainment (Achieving)	Mhairi Shaw
Rights and Participation (Respected and Included)	Caroline Innes
Health and wellbeing (Healthy and Active)	Julie Murray Anthony McReavy
Stable and secure home environment (Safe and Nurtured)	Andy Cahill
Training and Work (Achieving and Responsible)	Andy Cahill

9. The plan has been evaluated in accordance with the performance of each theme and this is presented in the performance report. Performance has been further evaluated through periodic audit activity which has involved sampling approximately a fifth of children's multi agency plans, again in accordance with the six themes.

Performance Overall

Key improvements

10. Permanence
 - 100% of children and young people looked after away from home, who have been in care for a minimum of 6 months, have been reviewed and a permanency decision has been made (target 100%).
 - 1.2% of children looked after away from home have experienced three or more placement moves (target 11%). In order to be ambitious for children we intend to use a one placement move measure as we go forward.

11. Raising Attainment
 - There has been a significant increase in performance of looked after children in baseline assessments in Numeracy and Literacy and with regard to development milestones, albeit this is for a small group of children and therefore figures are subject to year on year fluctuation. Looked after children in Primary 1 achieved an average score of 51% in Numeracy and 49% in Literacy in 2018, compared to 32% and 44% respectively in 2017. 75% of looked after children in the same cohort achieved their development milestones, compared to 33% in 2017
 - There were four exclusions of looked after pupils during 2017-18, the same number as in 2016-17. The authority achieved its 3-year average target (2014-16) of 58 incidents per 1000 looked after pupils, with a rate of 23 incidents per 1000 pupils. It is currently on track to achieve the 3-year average target (2017-19) of 45 incidents per 1000 pupils with a value of 35.4 incidents per 1000 looked after pupils after two years.

12. Health and Wellbeing
 - All looked after children and young people, and now their parents / carers have membership of the EEI scheme which ERCL Trust operate. There are plans to begin evaluating usage of the scheme to ensure barriers to access are addressed. One barrier we are aware of is the reluctance of many young people to use facilities unless a friend can accompany them. A "buddy scheme" solution has been devised.
 - ERCL Trust attended and contributed to 20 Child's Plan Meetings by September 2018 (target 15). As we go forward to strengthen working relationships and communication we would expect this to increase and also to be able to measure outcomes in this respect instead of outputs.

13. Rights and Participation
 - 45% of looked after children and young people have participated regularly in Champions Board activity (35% in 2016-17; Scottish average 10%).
 - Educational Psychology Service and HSCP have jointly delivered two multi-agency professional learning sessions on Corporate Parenting responsibilities. Participants reported a greater understanding of their responsibilities.
 - In 2017/18 25 looked after children and young people accessed advocacy support from Who Cares Scotland (figure for 2016/17 was 10)

14. Stable and Secure Home Environment
- 94% of children and young people report through their Viewpoint surveys they feel safe at home and in their community (target 90% 2017/18).
 - No care leavers have presented as intentionally homeless in 2017/18 (target 0%). Figure for previous year 2016/17 was 2. Protocols have been revised and a wider range of options for care leavers has been made available.
15. Training and Work
- Family Firm Programme has supported 70 young people between 2017-2018 with a range of work-related activities and interventions. Four care experienced young people have taken up traineeships created and resourced by the Environment Department (original target was 2)
 - The SDS post school service *Next Steps* is well embedded across East Renfrewshire. Targeted support is provided to care experienced young people by Job Coaches to support their post school transitions.

Areas of Challenge

16. Health and Wellbeing
- In 2017-18 31% of looked after children had their health assessment within 4 weeks of becoming looked after (target 100%). Figure was higher for Health Visiting assessments at 73% for children looked after at home 0-5 years. Overall the target for all looked after children, was met within 6 weeks. However as new Specialist Children's Health pathway has been agreed and has been operating since autumn 2018, the target is now being fully met. A subsequent agreement has been reached to provide outreach clinics in Barrhead and Eastwood HCC.
17. Raising Attainment
- 89.6% attendance rates in school session 2016-17 for Looked After pupils (Primary & Secondary), was a slight decrease from 90.6% in 2015-16). Child multi agency plans are not always recording attendance rates or creating attendance targets. Data for 2017-18 will be available in March 2019.
18. Rights and Participation
- 4 looked after children and young people gained 8 achievement awards with support of Young Persons Services in 2017-18. This figure is considerably lower than the previous year 2016-17 where 14 young people gained 34 awards. Further agreement has been reached with Depute Chief Executive to strengthen partnership working with a view to improving looked after young people's access to wider achievement awards and the support they require to participate.
 - A survey of the families who receive the Imagination Library programme (Dollywood) indicated that children looked after at home or in kinship care aged 0-5 did not have a library card nor did they attend Bookbug/Rising Stars programmes etc that take place in local libraries. A small working group has been convened to improve take up and attendance.
 - There had been an increase in completion of Viewpoint Health and Wellbeing surveys from 35% to 42% (target 50%) in 2017. However latterly in 2018 Viewpoint survey take up among younger children has reduced significantly.
19. Training and Work
- The school leaver destination data for academic year 2016/7 shows that 4 out of 8 looked after young people had a negative destination in comparison to 11 out of 15 for the previous year 2016/17. Follow up of care leavers not in a positive destination is required to engage them in activity. SDS, Family Firm Coordinator, and Activity Agreement Coordinator to take forward.

Performance Reporting and Benchmarking

20. As the population of looked after children and young people can vary between 110 – 130 per year, reporting on performance with relatively small figures presents a challenge specifically as the age span i.e. 0-26 years, contains a number of smaller and discrete sub populations. Indeed a number of the agreed measures within the Corporate Parenting Plan relate to specific sub populations only e.g. 0-2 year olds, or 16-21 year olds, and where this is the case caution is required when drawing conclusions as data sets are small and sensitive to minor changes and adjustments. With this understanding it was agreed that analysis of performance data would be supplemented by periodic audit of children's plans.

21. There are no agreed indicators for Corporate Parenting benchmarking purposes. However work is ongoing at the National Local Government Benchmarking Group in relation to agreeing a suite of children's outcomes indicators, a number of which could be adopted for this purpose.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

22. The multi-agency Corporate Parenting Group has supported the delivery of the East Renfrewshire Corporate Parenting Plan 2016-18 and recently undertook an exercise to evaluate progress with implementation, and also begin to consider future priorities. All Corporate Parents are represented on the group including FE sector and national Corporate Parents. Two young people from the Champions Board were members of the group until recently but the relationship between the group and the Champions Board is strong and feedback from young people is regarded as crucial to evaluating impact. A fuller description of Champions Board activity and the newly developing Mini Champs is available at appendix 2.

23. Feedback from children and young people is very important to delivering effective corporate parenting. Only by listening to what children are telling us about our services and their life experiences can we really make the improvements needed to get it right for them and with them. Appendix 3 is just a sample of feedback a range of services have received from looked after children and young people.

24. A key contributor to the successful implementation of the plan in Year 2 has been the strong partnership working arrangements that currently exist between all of the Corporate Parents – please see list at appendix 4. A good example of this is the collaborative working that takes place between HSCP Children and Families, Skills Development Scotland, and Environment Department/Family Firm. This model of partnership working is rooted in the Girfec principles of the "*child at the centre*" and "*children get the help they need when they need it*".

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

Finance

25. None

Risk

26. None

Policy

27. None

Staffing

28. None

Legal

29. None

Infrastructure

30. None

Equalities

31. None

Directions

32. None

CONCLUSIONS

33. Public bodies have duties as a consequence of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 in relation to publishing a Corporate Parenting Plan. The Corporate Parenting Family in East Renfrewshire approved their plan in December 2016 and have worked together, and in partnership with children, families and carers to deliver the agreed priorities and improved outcomes as highlighted within the plan. As the current plan draws to a close East Renfrewshire's Corporate Parents in partnership with children, will develop a new plan for the coming year that will support the improvement programme we have set for ourselves.

RECOMMENDATIONS

34. Council is asked to:

- (a) Note and comment on the report, particularly focusing on the progress made in delivering improved outcomes for East Renfrewshire's looked after children, young people, and care leavers as well as the ongoing challenges; and
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REPORT AUTHORS AND PERSON TO CONTACT

Arlene Cassidy, Children's Services Planning Manager
Arlene.cassidy@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
0141 451 0755

Belinda McEwan, HSCP Children and Families Senior Manager (chair Corporate Parenting Group)
Belinda.McEwan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

David Gordon, Education QIO (vice chair Corporate Parenting Group)
David.Gordon2@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

16 May 2019

Chief Social Work Officer: Kate Rocks

BACKGROUND PAPERS/SOURCES

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

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

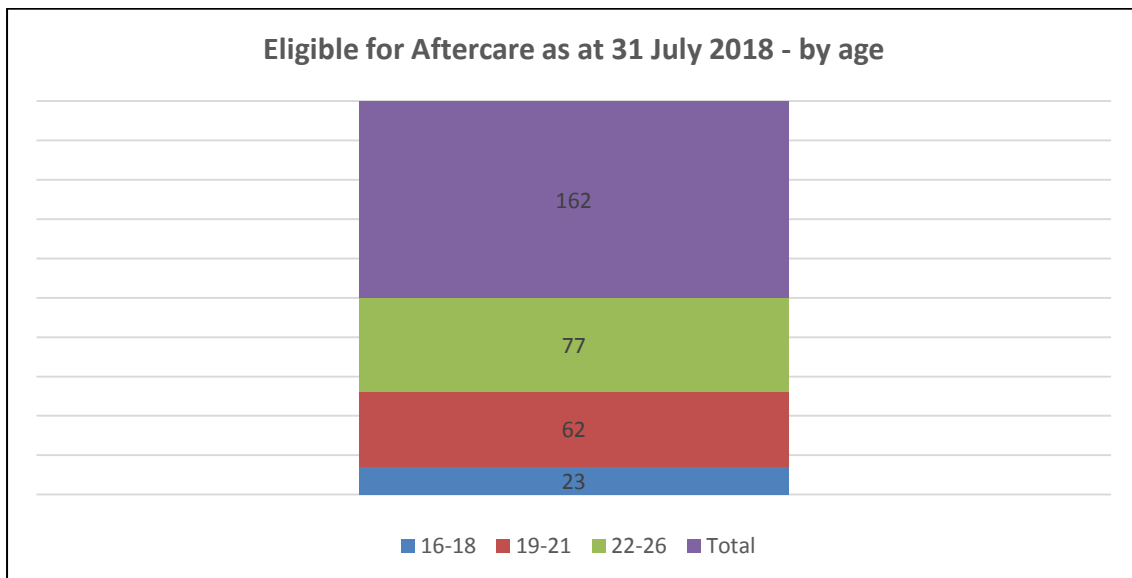
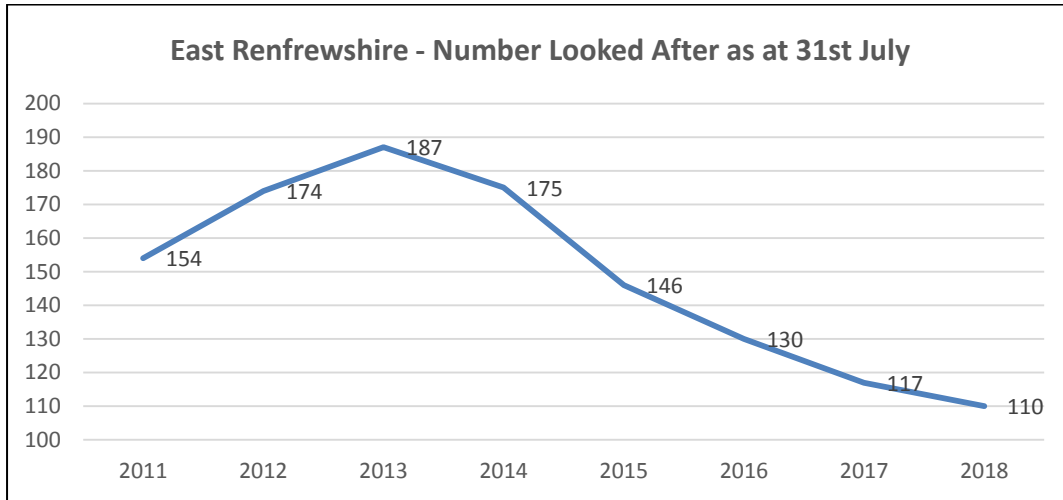
Statutory Guidance on Part 9: Corporate Parenting

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

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Appendix 1

East Renfrewshire Looked After Children Data



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Appendix 2

East Renfrewshire's Champions Board

East Renfrewshire's first Champions Board was launched in June 2016 at a *Keep Calm and Be a Corporate Parent* event where a Care Leavers Covenant was signed. Funded by *Life Changes Trust*, membership of the board is drawn from care experienced young people and senior officers within the local authority, the HSCP and the wider corporate parenting family.

The Board played a key role in ensuring our Corporate Parenting Plan was delivered, by challenging corporate parents to meet their commitments and working together to influence policy and practice. They were supported by *Who Cares? Scotland* in doing this.

Through the Champions Board, there has been regular discussion about what makes the biggest difference for care experienced young people. They want earlier support to prepare for the post school world of training, education and work, and they need to live in a safe and secure home environment free from the financial barriers that state benefits can bring. During their regular meetings, the Board have specifically looked at how support can be improved around mental health and housing. Board members have attended a *Life Changes Trust* Champions board residential in Perth and an outward bound residential in Arrochar where these themes were further explored.

Amongst other highlights, the Champions worked, with funding from Cashback for Creativity, to create a short film called *Under the Bridge* during the summer of 2018. The film was premiered at Eastwood Theatre and went on to be submitted for an award at the Scottish Youth Film Festival.

Following the successful implementation of the Champions Board, a Mini Champs group was also set up for care experienced 8 to 12 years olds. The group focussed on developing three key aspects: participation, inclusion and voice. They have taken part in a series of group and community activities, having fun and gaining a better understanding of their care identity.

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Appendix 3

Messages from East Renfrewshire's Looked After Children and Young People

"School is like a good place, it would be good to have more time with teachers"

"Sometimes we don't have PE kit or our homework done' It's not because we don't want to'

'Sometimes we just need your advice, like a real person, not as a teacher or a social worker'

"I wish that someone had noticed my struggles earlier in primary school, before it got out of hand"

"I think people just need more training, nobody really knows what it's like to grow up in care"

"Sometimes we don't want a social worker, it's easier to talk to a teacher or youth worker"

"Stop using jargon, everyone just speak to us in simple language'

'Police should understand what it's like for us. We aren't all bad'

'It's good to have a variety of different professionals to work with, a group of workers meaning more support to understand your circumstances'

"Family Firm helped me to think things through in terms of what I want to do in the future"

"We have relationships with the staff in HSCP YISS and they support us. It feels like being part of a family. I can tell them anything and I know they'll be there for me".

"There was absolutely nothing I needed to worry or stress about whilst doing my work experience - everything was taken care of just had to get up and go and do the work that was asked of me, can't fault or change anything"

"The YISS team is flexible and willing to work out of office hours and do anything for young people that would not be seen as normal and they are very approachable in every way. They are constantly involved with young people in making decisions, not just individual decisions but decisions involving outings, events even things involving the service."

"Family Firm has helped me develop skills and confidence that I never thought I would have"

"From this work placement, I have learnt how to work in a Communications/Marketing environment and work as part of a team and I would recommend this experience to another young person as it was a great opportunity. Since completing my placement, I have started a full-time Digital Marketing position in the third sector"

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Appendix 4

East Renfrewshire's
Corporate Parenting Family

East Renfrewshire Council
Education Services
Environment Department

- Economic Development
- Housing Services

Corporate and Community Services

- Young Persons Services

East Renfrewshire HSCP
Children and Families Services
Specialist Children's Services

NHSGGC

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust

Skills Development Scotland

Who Cares Scotland

SCRA/Children's Reporter

Children's Hearing Scotland

University of the West of Scotland

West College Scotland

Champions Board and Mini Champs – looked after children, care experienced young people

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