

East Renfrewshire Council

Wednesday 14 December 2016

Report by Julie Murray, Chief Officer

EAST RENFREWSHIRE'S CORPORATE PARENTING PLAN 2016-18

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report presents East Renfrewshire's first Corporate Parenting Plan covering the period 2016-18. Council is requested to approve the content of the plan. The plan has also been considered by Education Committee on 17 November 2016 and the Integration Joint Board on 23 November 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Council are asked to acknowledge the new responsibilities of Corporate Parents and also approve East Renfrewshire's first Corporate Parenting Plan for 2016-18.

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 places new corporate parenting duties on a wide range of publicly funded organisations.

4. In East Renfrewshire, local partners have worked in a collaborative way over many 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 Community Planning Partnerships 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.

CONTEXT

5. 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. This population will continue to grow as will those 16 years and over.

REPORT

6. East Renfrewshire's Corporate Parenting Plan has been shaped by the aforementioned new legislation and the national *Getting it right for every child* programme. In particular the SHANARRI outcomes approach to planning for children and young people.

7. During the plan development we worked within the framework of our local Single Outcome Agreement and in particular the outcomes related to children, young people, and families:

- SOA1 All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure start to their lives and are supported to succeed.
- SOA2 East Renfrewshire residents are fit and active and have the skills for learning, life and work

8. After extensive engagement throughout 2016 the following improvement themes have been agreed along with the Corporate Parent Champion who will support delivery in this area:

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

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

9. An award of £244,900 to cover a three year period has been successfully secured from the Life Changes Trust. This funding will support the development of the Champions Board and children and young people's participation generally This will be augmented by annual monitoring and evaluation information, including breakdown of expenditure and progress to achieve a range of positive outcomes for children and young people.

CONSULTATION

10. A wide range of engagement activity has taken place throughout 2016 with children, young people, and their carers. There have been three formal young people led events including the successful Keep Calm and Be a Corporate Parent conference in June 2016. This work has culminated in the creation of the East Renfrewshire Champions Board.

11. A workshop for foster cares took place in August 2016 and we have received feedback from children through the online tool Viewpoint and an audit of children's plans. The evaluation of a parenting programme for parents at risk of their children being received into care has been considered, and the views of parents captured in their children's plans, have also been analysed.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

12. Corporate parenting requires strong partnership working among the key Community Planning Partners i.e. the corporate parents, in order to be achievable. The Corporate Parenting Planning Group is multi agency and has worked together over several months to develop this new plan. The Improving Outcomes Children and Young People's Partnership will oversee the delivery of the new plan and will report direct to Education Committee, the Integration Joint Board, and Council on progress with implementation.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

Policy

13. The Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 confers clear, statutory duties upon a range of corporate parents. These duties are reflected in the East Renfrewshire Corporate Parenting Plan.

Staffing

14. Champions Board funding has enabled the creation of a part-time Co-ordinator's post within the HSCP Youth Intensive Support Service, alongside two part-time Influencing Change Worker posts, where recruitment will be ring-fenced to care experienced young people.

Property

15. None.

Equalities

16. This first ever local Corporate Parenting Plan will promote engagement and participation by care experienced young people within the newly developed Champions Board and therefore reflects our commitment to inclusion, equalities and access to services. It also ensures the voices of all of these vulnerable children and young people are heard and reflected in planning and service delivery.

IT

17. None.

CONCLUSIONS

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

19. Council is asked to do the following:

- a) Acknowledge their new statutory duties as Corporate Parents
- b) Approve East Renfrewshire's first Corporate Parenting Plan 2016-2018.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

Chief Officer, HSCP: Julie Murray

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

24 November 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

Draft

**East Renfrewshire's
Corporate Parenting Plan
2016 - 2018**

Contents	Page
Welcome	2
Why are we publishing this plan?	3
Who are the new Corporate Parents?	3
What are our Corporate Parenting duties?	4
What does Corporate Parenting mean?	5
What difference will we make?	6
Corporate Parenting Outcomes Framework	7 - 13
Our Looked After Children and Young People's Population	14
What Children and Young People have told us	14
Listening to families and carers	16
Unaccompanied asylum seeking children	16
How we will deliver our promises	17
Conclusion	17
Appendices	
1. SCOTLAND'S CORPORATE PARENTS	
2. LEGAL DEFINITION OF "LOOKED AFTER" CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND CARE LEAVERS	
3. East Renfrewshire Integrated Children and Young People's Structure	
4. Corporate Parenting Group Membership	

Welcome to East Renfrewshire's first Corporate Parenting Plan!

In East Renfrewshire we are very committed to improving opportunities for all children and young people however we recognise that we have 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 been working together to agree on how to improve the help and support we provide. Importantly, children and young people have been working with us to help us understand what they need to see improved, as have those who care for them.

As **East Renfrewshire's Corporate Parenting Family** we recognise that it is our job to ensure that we are creating as many opportunities for looked after children to succeed as is possible. Like any good parent we want our looked after children to enjoy school and do well there, we want them to be healthy and happy, secure and confident. We want them to go to college or university, to find good jobs, to have loving relationships and happy lives. In addition we want them to be included and effective members of our communities and in the fullness of time possibly be good parents themselves.

With this, our first Corporate Parenting Plan, we are building on the positive work that has already been undertaken in East Renfrewshire over a number of years. However we understand we now have a corporate duty to go further still by setting more ambitious goals that will deliver improved outcomes for the children and young people that we care for.

To make this new responsibility a reality we have underpinned this plan with a pledge to East Renfrewshire's care experienced children and young people that **"we - their Corporate Parents - will work together to prioritise and address their needs and we will have high expectations of ourselves to deliver the improvements needed, to make the difference for them"**.

Finally we hope you will agree that this plan marks an important shift in how we take forward our new corporate parenting responsibilities and we invite you to work with us to support our goal of promoting opportunities and enhancing life chances for the children and young people in our care.

Lorraine McMillan
Chief Executive Officer
East Renfrewshire Council

WHY ARE WE PUBLISHING THIS NEW PLAN?

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 was passed by the Scottish Parliament in February 2014. This new law is a key part of the Scottish Government's intention to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up. 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.

Firstly the Act reinforces our vision for all of our children and young people in East Renfrewshire that they should be - *safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible, and included*. Part 9 of the Act however is very important in that it places new corporate parenting duties on a wide range of publicly funded agencies (see appendix 1 for list of corporate parents), increasing the breadth and the depth of support available to looked after children and young people, and those leaving care. The Scottish Government made the decision to create new law in this area because there was a commonly held view throughout Scotland that not enough was being achieved by government policy alone.

The duties introduced by Part 9 of the Act create new incentives for organisations to work individually as well as together to deliver better outcomes for care experienced children and young people. In East Renfrewshire, partners within the community planning partnership have worked together over many years to plan and deliver services for looked after children predominantly through the integrated children's services plan that is published every 3 years. The new Act and the statutory guidance that accompanies it now recommends that local authorities and their partners 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.

WHO ARE THE NEW CORPORATE PARENTS?

As a result of the new Act there are now 24 organisations in Scotland who have "corporate parent" status. The list is set out in appendix 1. Many of these organisations have indirect experience of working with children who are care experienced but in response to their new legal responsibilities they are actively considering how they can contribute to making a difference.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE'S COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

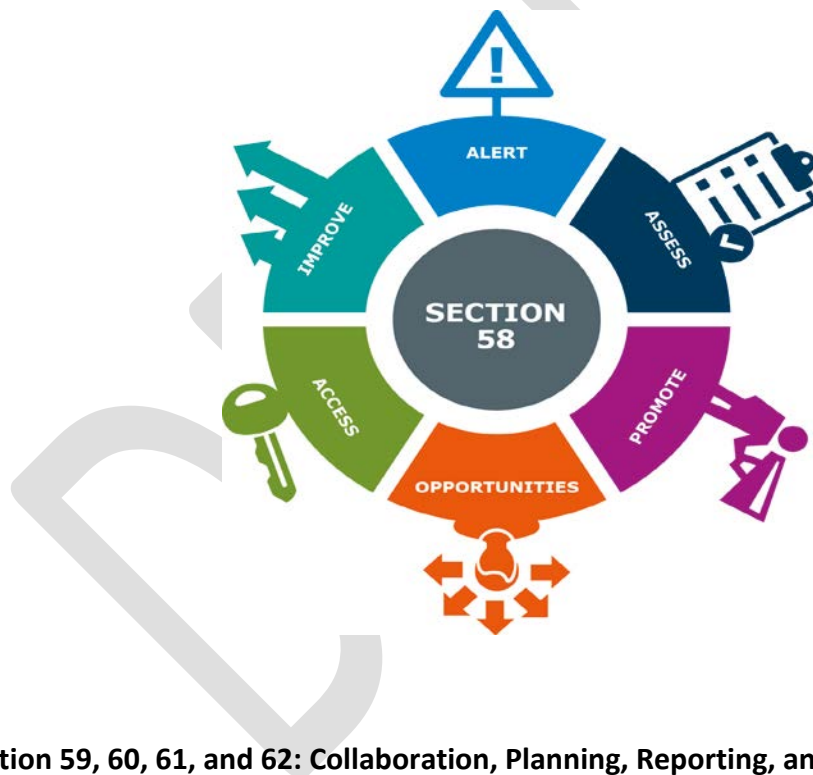
In the local context most of the members of East Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership are now Corporate Parents and as such all have contributed directly towards this plan. These include East Renfrewshire Council, many services within the Council, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, Skills Development Scotland, in addition to the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration, Children's Hearings Scotland. Other partners include East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust, Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire, and Who Cares Scotland.

WHAT ARE OUR NEW CORPORATE PARENTING DUTIES?

Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out the duties that all new corporate parents need to comply with. For the purposes of this new plan Section 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62 are most important duties in respect of how we in East Renfrewshire all work in partnership with our children, their parents and their carers, to improve their outcomes. As such it is crucial that the new corporate parents understand these duties and what is expected of them as a consequence. These are briefly explained below and as can be seen they are inter related and dependent upon each other.

Section 58: Corporate Parenting Responsibilities

All of the new corporate parents must be **alert** to the wellbeing of looked after children, **assess** their need for their services, **promote** their interests, provide **opportunities** and enable **access**, and **improve** where there are gaps. This duty is best illustrated by the picture below.



Section 59, 60, 61, and 62: Collaboration, Planning, Reporting, and Providing Information to Scottish Ministers

Corporate parents are required to collaborate with each other in order to prepare and publish their corporate parenting plans and keep these plans under review. They must periodically report on progress with achievement of their plans and provide the Scottish Government with a full progress report on how they have exercised their Part 9 duties in relation to the looked after children and young people population they serve. The Scottish Government in turn will report to the Scottish Parliament on the overall impact of this activity throughout Scotland.

WHAT DOES CORPORATE PARENTING MEAN?

To help all corporate parents understand their new role a helpful definition of what it means to be a corporate parent has been provided by the Scottish Government in the Corporate Parenting Statutory Guidance published in August 2015:

“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.”

Of course being a good corporate parent is more than fulfilling statutory duties. Children in our care and young people who are receiving a continuing care or after-care service have the right to expect that we will provide them with everything a good parent would provide in order to ensure they reach their full potential.

To support us do this we will:

- Know the children and young people in our care, their needs and aspirations and promote their interests
- Have high expectations for their future
- Take an interest in their progress and celebrate their successes
- Listen to their views and ensure they influence policy, services, and practice
- Ensure they are consulted about their own lives and plans
- Recognise, support and respect their religious and/or cultural identity
- Ensure they live in a safe and stable home environment where they can develop positive and caring relationships with trusted adults, family and friends
- Provide educational experiences of the highest standards
- Promote their physical and mental health and emotional resilience
- Support transition to adulthood and promote their economic prospects

To achieve this we need to:

- Ensure assessment, planning and decision-making meets the highest standards and is in the child's best interests
- Develop and deliver integrated services centred on improving each child's outcomes
- Strive for stability in placements
- Make timeous decisions about permanent destinations
- Strengthen the professional team around the child and young person
- Work together to improve educational experiences and outcomes
- Ensure access to healthcare, assessment, treatment and support
- Involve children and young people in the design of services
- Engage the new corporate parents to enable them to identify the role that they can play

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL WE MAKE

During the plan development we worked within the framework of our local Single Outcome Agreement and in particular the outcomes related to children, young people, and families:

- SOA1 All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure start to their lives and are supported to succeed.
- SOA2 East Renfrewshire residents are fit and active and have the skills for learning, life and work

The agreed shanarri themes and champions are set out in the table below and the detail of how we will deliver improvements for children are outlined in the Corporate Parenting Framework. From the wide range of engagement activity we have undertaken with children, young people, carers and staff, we have agreed the following themes as the basis to improve outcomes for children and young people in our care in East Renfrewshire. In addition we have appointed “Champions” from our senior management team to oversee delivery of the activity and ensure outcomes are being achieved.

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

CORPORATE PARENTING OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Permanency	
<p>All of our looked after children, young people, and care leavers will be provided with a settled, secure and permanent place to live, with positive nurturing relationships within a family setting. This should take place quickly and with minimum disruption to their young lives.</p>	
Activity	Responsible Corporate Parent
<p>The PACE Programme will be fully implemented by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering better quality outcome focused Girfec assessments and plans • Setting quicker timescales for decision making • Improving staffs knowledge and skills in childcare law, practice and research through training and skills labs 	<p>ERHSCP</p> <p>Legal Services</p>
<p>Deliver a high profile foster carer recruitment campaign to increase number of local authority carers for the following groups of children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sibling groups • Young people aged 12 years plus • Care leavers aged over 16 years of age 	<p>ERHSCP</p>
<p>Implement the new Kinship Care duties from Children and Young People Act 2014 and the Kinship Care Assistance Order 2016.</p>	<p>ERHSCP</p>
<p>Provide parents with high quality intensive parenting support to help them care for their child(ren) and stop further episodes of compulsory supervision being required</p>	<p>ERHSCP</p>
<p>HSCP will work with the Children's Hearing Panel Liaison Group and SCRA to ensure Girfec Child's Plan Reports are of a high standard to assist Panels with their decision making role</p>	<p>Scottish Children's Reporters Administration</p> <p>Children's Hearing System</p>

<p>Meet the duties from the Adoption and Children Act 2007 and the Children and Young People Act 2014 as they relate to adoption of children. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver competency based assessments of prospective adopters in line with rest of Scotland • Support the decision making role of the Fostering and Adoption Panel • Use national Adoption Register to match children and prospective families • Review our post adoption support programme and work jointly with neighbouring local authorities to benefit from economies of scale • Ensure we meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the diversity of adopters and children. 	<p>ERHSCP</p>
<p>How do we measure success</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By April 2017, all looked after children (at home or away from home) will have 6 monthly child’s plan reviews which also considers where they will live permanently. • By April 2018 75% of children within kinship care remain in their community • By April 2018 increase number of foster carers to 11 • By June 2017 80% of approved adopters will indicate satisfaction with assessment/post adoption support 	

Raising Attainment	
All of our children, young people, and care leavers will be provided with the help they need to enjoy their nursery experience, and do well in primary and high school, whether they are educated within East Renfrewshire or outwith the area.	
Activity	Responsible Corporate Parent
Develop an educational profile to be collaboratively completed as part of each Looked After Pupils Child's Plan(GIRFEC), thus identifying educational needs, strengths and possible strategies to improve outcomes.	ERC Education
Monitor attendance in nursery, primary and high school to ensure early intervention and removal of potential barriers.	ERC Education
Devise and implement a mechanism to capture pupil voice in relation to wellbeing and needs (SHANARRI).	ERC Education
The current Education Policy will be revised to reflect new Corporate Parenting duties.	ERC Education
Support foster and kinship carers in East Renfrewshire to assist them with nurturing children's learning, attainment and emotional wellbeing (Psychological Services).	Psychological Services ERHSCP
Assess and plan for looked after children in relation to learning and attainment, including those who are in out of area school placements, thus ensuring each child's educational needs are addressed at the earliest stage.	Psychological Services ERHSCP
Deliver extended transition programmes to ensure seamless progression and support for Looked After Pupils as they move to the next stage of their education.	ERC Education Services ERC Young Person's Services
Promote, publicise opportunities and support Looked After Pupils to participate in and gain a recognised wider achievement award	ERC Education Services ERC Young Person's Services
How do we measure success	
90% of children and young people achieve their CfE and National attainment target . 91% (3 year target 2015-17) attendance rate for Looked After Pupils (Primary & Secondary). Reduce number of Looked After Pupils being excluded from school. 100% of Looked After Pupils responding they feel safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included in school	

Rights and Participation	
Our communities and services will be welcoming, inclusive and supportive of our looked after children, young people, and care leavers, and all corporate parents will provide opportunities for them to express their views.	
Activity	Responsible Corporate Parent
The Champions Board – young people and senior officers - will work from a coproduction approach to shape and directly influence policy and practice. Who Cares Scotland and Young Person’s Services will support this work too.	Who Cares Scotland ERC Young Person’s Services ERHSCP
ERC Young Person’s Services will work with looked after young people to ensure they can access their programmes and activities, and benefit from the opportunities these bring.	ERC Young Person’s Services
Who Cares Scotland will develop an annual activity report for East Renfrewshire that highlights the issues that young people have raised with them over the period, any trends, and how these have been addressed	Who Cares Scotland
Social workers will use the new Viewpoint Wellbeing Web surveys to enable children and young people to participate in the review of their Girfec assessment and plan.	ERHSCP
Unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people will be provided with a multiagency support package to enable them to safely integrate into our local communities, and also have links to those ethnic or faith communities they may identify with.	ERC Environment ERHSCP
Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire will work with Family Firm and Champions Board to support young people’s participation in volunteering activity such as Saltire Awards and identify potential joint initiatives to support community inclusion	VAER
How we measure success	
By April 2017 50% of children/young people will have completed their Viewpoint surveys (baseline 35%) By 2018/19 50% of looked after 13 and 14 year olds use universal young people’s services By June 2017 there will be an increase in the number of young people who take up Who Cares Scotland advocacy service (baseline to be established)	

Health and Wellbeing	
<p>All of our looked after children, young people and care leavers will be provided with accessible, timeous, and effective health interventions whether they reside in East Renfrewshire or outwith the area.</p> <p>All of our looked after children, young people, and care leavers, will be given opportunities to pursue their sports, arts, and leisure interests, and the support needed to access these.</p>	
Activity	Responsible Corporate Parent
ER HSCP and ER Culture and Leisure Trust managers will regularly liaise via a surgery to identify and resource children and young people's sports, cultural, and leisure interests in a bespoke way.	ER Culture and Leisure Trust ERHSCP
ER Culture and Leisure Trust will work with local Sports Hubs and Sports Clubs/Associations to identify mentors/volunteers to support children and young people's access and participation	ER Culture and Leisure Trust
The use of the EEI Card Scheme will be monitored to ensure children and young people's take up is maximised and gaps in use can be addressed.	ER Culture and Leisure Trust ERHSCP
Each looked after child will be included in the Levelling the Playing Field Programme to ensure access to extended enrichment activities.	ER Culture and Leisure Trust ERC Education Services
Looked After Children's Health Assessments will take place within CEL 16 timescales	NHSGGC
Tier 2 mental health services will be developed to support early help to children and young people experiencing moderate mental health difficulties and/or those requiring recovery from trauma	ERHSCP
Health Improvement staff will provide advice/support to HSCP Children and Families Teams including those who support foster and kinship carers.	ERHSCP
How we measure success	
<p>By April 2017 100% of our looked after children will have their health assessment completed within 4 weeks of becoming looked after.</p> <p>By summer 2017 100% of looked after children/young people will have an individual Levelling the Playing Field action plan completed</p> <p>By June 2017 5 children/young people will have their activities resourced and access supported</p>	

Stable and secure home environment	
<p>All of our looked after young people and care leavers will be encouraged and enabled to remain in a positive care placement until they are ready to move on. Where this is not possible we will develop a range of good quality accommodation and support options which meet their needs.</p>	
Activity	Responsible Corporate Parent
Design and deliver a range of accommodation options with support packages for young care leavers aged 16 years and over.	ERC Environment
<p>Housing and HSCP YISS will work in partnership to prevent homelessness among care experienced young people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the current use of the Housing and HSCP Protocol • Co-locating a Housing Officer within HSCP to focus specifically on prevention 	<p>ERC Environment</p> <p>ERHSCP</p>
How we measure success	
<p>By April 2018 0% of looked after young people and care leavers will take homelessness route to access accommodation</p> <p>By April 2017 90% of children/young people will respond positively to the Viewpoint question "Do you feel safe at home?"</p>	

Training and Work	
All of our looked after young people and care leavers transition, from school into further or higher education, training, or work, is a positive and sustained one.	
Activity	Responsible Corporate Parent
The Family Firm programme will work in partnership with all Council Departments and external employers to design and deliver quality paid traineeships and work placements for looked after young people	ERC Environment
Skills Development Scotland and ERHSCP will agree a partnership arrangement that assists young people directly access a Job Coach and Careers Advisor.	SDS
We will enter into formal discussions with the FE and HE Sector in the West of Scotland to establish improved routes into their establishments and sustainability for our looked after young people (and accommodation where needed)	ERC Education ERHSCP SDS
Skills Development Scotland will extend their post school offer to unemployed care leavers aged 20-25	SDS
How we measure success	
By April 2017 2 traineeships will be created in Environment Department By April 2017 10 work placement opportunities will be created within Council Departments and external employers	

IMPROVING HOW OUR ORGANISATIONS' RESPOND – SYSTEMS & LEARNING

In order to make this plan successful we need to improve our ability to appropriately and proportionately share information between corporate parents. This will ensure that corporate parents respond and children and young people get the help they need.

In addition we need to ensure that staff across the new Corporate Parenting Family, and elected members too, understand what corporate parenting means, what the issues are for children and young people, and how they and their agency can make a difference. To this end we will deliver a learning and development programme pitched appropriately and utilising a range of different methods. Care experienced young people will support us with this work.

OUR POPULATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

On 31 July 2015 the profile of East Renfrewshire's looked after children and young people's population was as follows:

Children looked after on 31 July 2015	Children looked after on 31 July 2015 as a percentage of the 0-17 population	Starting to be looked after during 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015	Ceasing to be looked after during 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015
146	0.7	42	55

Gender			Children under 5		Children aged 16 or over	
Male	Female	% Male	Number	%	Number	%
83	63	57	32	22	22	15

At home with parents	With friends/relatives	LA foster carers	Purchased foster carers	In other community	In LA home	In other residential	Total number looked after
73	36	27	0	*	*	6	146

Source: Children's Social Work Statistics in Scotland 2014-15 (Scottish Government)

Over the last two years we have doubled our in-house foster care 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 where the greatest growth has taken place over the last two years, with the number of looked after children increasing by 100%.

The use of external care placements purchased from the independent sector has significantly 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 a very small number of young people who have very significant complex needs, and there were no young people in secure over the period 2014 and 2016.

WHAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TOLD US

Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on public bodies to report on the steps they have taken to better secure, or give further effect to the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Article 12 of the UNCRC specifically states that children and young people have the "right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them" in accordance with their age and maturity.

In East Renfrewshire in recent times we have strengthened our approach to participation and engagement with the children and young people in our care. Based on the SHANARRI Wellbeing Indicators Viewpoint has been our key tool for gathering information to support the development of the child/young person’s plan. It also provides us with a wealth of information about children’s experiences of our services and how well we are doing to support them.

We recently began to use the new Viewpoint SHANARRI Wellbeing Web version and this is more than ever before, helping us to capture the main areas that need to be improved.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE VIEWPOINT REPORT 2010 - 2016

Performance Indicator (scores between 0 and 100)	Average Score(s)					
	01/09/2010 - 31/08/2011	01/09/2011 - 31/08/2012	01/09/2012 - 31/08/2013	01/09/2013 - 31/08/2014	01/09/2014 - 31/08/2015	01/09/2015 - 31/08/2016
Safe	80	90	86	85	100	90
Healthy	88	85	85	86	49	83
achieving	81	89	84	87	90	95
Nurtured	79	85	90	90	91	93
Active	69	80	85	80	72	100
Respect and Responsible	78	80	89	82	69	100

This report indicates that children feel safer, are generally achieving more, and are much more active. However we can also see that they are telling us that “healthy” is an area that needs to be addressed and in response we are exploring further what these issues are.

THE CHAMPIONS BOARD

East Renfrewshire’s first Champions Board was launched on 13 June 2016 at our “Keep Calm and Be a Corporate Parent” event. Funded from Life Changes Trust the membership of the board is drawn from looked after young people and care leavers, but importantly membership includes senior officers within the local authority, health and care partnership, and the wider corporate parenting family.

Using a co-production approach the Board will play a key role in ensuring the East Renfrewshire Corporate Parenting Plan is delivered and challenge corporate parents to meet commitments. Our Care Leavers Covenant was signed at the event too and the signatories are listed at appendix 4.

Although at its early stages of development young people through the mechanism of the Champions Board are already communicating with us what will help make the biggest difference for them. In particular young people have told us that they want earlier support to prepare for the post school world of training, education and work but they are also telling us that to succeed in this young adult world they need to live in a safe and secure home environment free from the financial barriers that state benefits can bring.

LISTENING TO FAMILIES AND CARERS

Those who care for our looked after children and young people, have also helped us to develop this first ever Corporate Parenting Plan for East Renfrewshire. We conducted a workshop for our local authority carers that focused on their roles as well as the needs of the children. Carers told us that their interactions with nurseries and schools outwith East Renfrewshire can be difficult and they asked for more support from the team around the child to help them with this. They also reported that children's access to or use of specialist health services can be inconsistent due to health board boundaries. Carers also identified their own areas for learning and their support staff will address this.

Parents of children in our care can access targeted parenting programmes to assist them make changes that can address their own difficulties and improve their ability to care and support their child either at home or away from home. Feedback from Mellow Parenting in particular is very positive with outcomes indicating that parents feel less isolated, more confident in parenting, and have improved trust in staff and services.

UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied children reaching the UK and claiming asylum. When young unaccompanied asylum seekers present to our services under the age of 18, they require to be treated with the same status as young people looked after by the local authority and our responses currently require to be compliant with the Children (Scotland) Act, 1995, the Children and Young People Act (2014) and associated legislation.

This includes requirements to ensure any placements and services are regulated and inspected by the Care Inspectorate and that crucially we now also require to provide support until the age of 26, or until a decision is taken regarding their immigration status.

As East Renfrewshire is expected to agree to support a number of unaccompanied children to reside in our area our Corporate Parenting Family will recognise our responsibilities to them and respond to ensure they are included within our community, and enabled to access opportunities that will be made available to them.

HOW WE WILL DELIVER OUR PROMISES

Our collaborative working arrangements take place within the context of East Renfrewshire's integrated children's services plan structure – see Appendix 3. Our Corporate Parenting Planning Group is charged with progressing the plan and will compile quarterly update reports for the Corporate Parenting Champions to consider. This will allow barriers to implementation to be identified quickly and remedies agreed.

The Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership will oversee the delivery of the new plan within the wider context of integrated children's services and will approve all progress reports for Committees. To ensure that the plan is having an impact we intend to conduct audits of children and young people's plans. This will allow us to determine individual children's progress across the full range of outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Our care experienced children and young people are all unique. Each and every one of them has differing backgrounds and experiences, strengths and needs. Our aim in East Renfrewshire is to respond to them as individuals and ensure that everything we do is contributing towards their journey in life being stable, secure, happy, safe, and rewarding. We regard this first Corporate Parenting Plan as an excellent opportunity to make this difference and we the corporate parents will work hard to achieve our promises and keep to our pledge.

Appendix 1

SCOTLAND'S CORPORATE PARENTS

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

Appendix 2

LEGAL DEFINITION OF “LOOKED AFTER” CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND CARE LEAVERS

The term “looked after” legally means that a child or young person falls into one of the following categories:

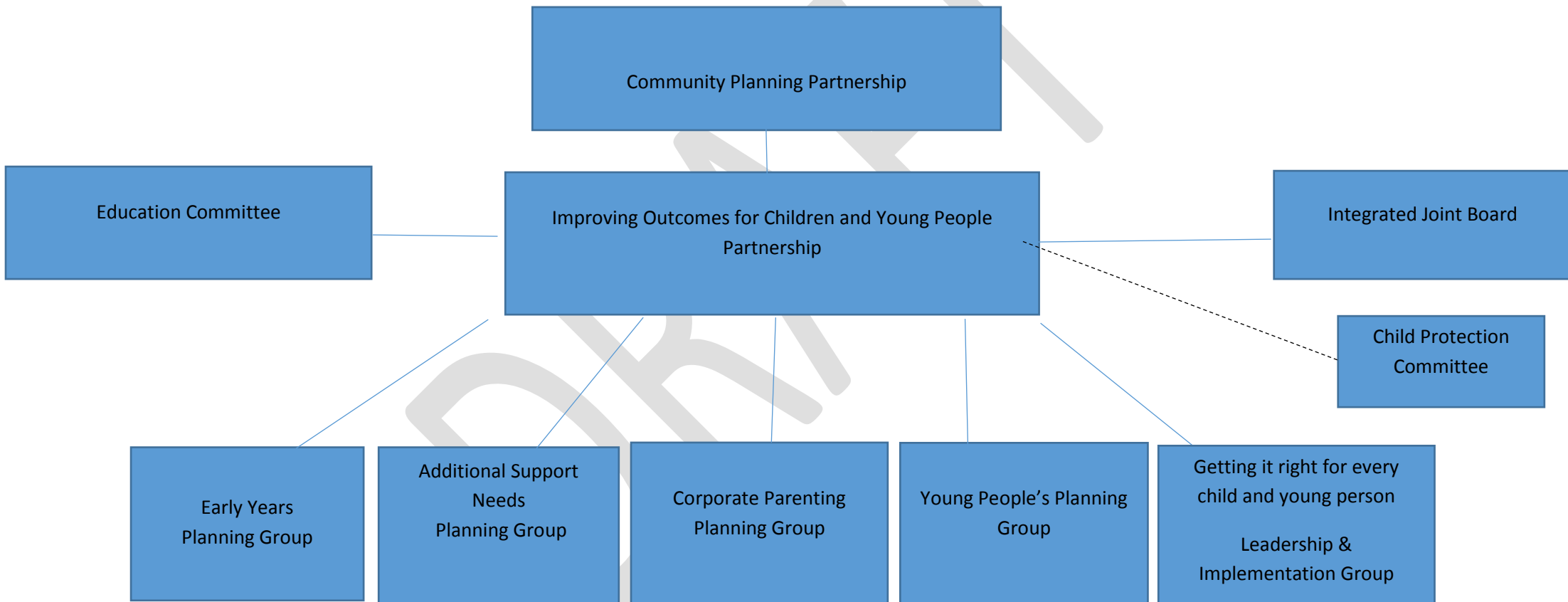
- Subject to a compulsory supervision order under Section 70 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995;
- Subject to a Permanence Order under Section 80 of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007;
- Accommodated by the local authority under Section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

Corporate Parenting duties include all of the care leavers within the following categories:

- In receipt of an Aftercare Service under Section 66 of the Children and Young People’s (Scotland) Act 2014
- In receipt of a Continuing Care Service under Section 67 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Appendix 3

East Renfrewshire Integrated Children and Young People's
Strategic Planning Structure



Appendix 4

East Renfrewshire's Multi Agency

Corporate Parenting Group

Membership

Lisa McKenzie	Children & Families ER HSCP (chair)
Gerard McLaughlin	Education Services ER HSCP (vice chair)
Jonathan Stone	Learning and Development ER HSCP
Julie Paterson	Children's Reporter
Colette Ferns	Fostering and Adoption Service ER HSCP
Yvonne Coyle	ERC Education Psychological Services
Val Tierney	Children and Families ER HSCP
Suzann Conlin	ERC Housing Services
Charity Telfer	Who Cares Scotland
Craig McCreadie	Who Cares Scotland
Heather Layton	ERC Youth Services
Ruth Nairn	Children and Families ER HSCP
Jodi Dean	Health Improvement Team ER HSCP
Jennifer McKean	Children and Families ER HSCP
Clodagh Murdoch	Children and Families ER HSCP
Judith Kavanagh	Skills Development Scotland
Aileen Wilson	Skills Development Scotland
Emma Aepli	ERC Economic Development
Debbie Lucas	Children and Families ER HSCP
Gayle Smart	Commissioning ER HSCP
2 Young People	Champions Board
Arlene Nunnery	Children and Families ER HSCP

Final Outcome

Intermediate Outcome

Our Contribution

Critical Activities

Permanency
 All of our looked after children, young people, and care leavers will be provided with a settled, secure and permanent place to live, with positive nurturing relationships within a family setting. This should take place quickly and with minimum disruption to their young lives

More looked after children, young people and care leavers live in safe, stable and loving homes

- Critical Indicators**
- A. 6 monthly child’s plan reviews to include permanency discussion
 - B. Children within kinship care remain within their community
 - C. Increase number of foster carers to 11
 - D. Approved adopters satisfaction levels

Improve quality of Girfec assessment and plans

Increase the range of permanent destinations options

The PACE Programme will be fully implemented

HSCP will work with the Children’s Hearing Panel Liaison Group and SCRA to ensure Girfec Child’s Plan Reports are of a high standard to assist Panels with their decision making role.

Deliver a high profile foster carer recruitment campaign to increase number of local authority carers

Implement the new Kinship Care duties from Children and Young People Act 2014 and the Kinship Care Assistance Order 2016.

Provide parents with high quality intensive parenting support to help them care for their child(ren) and stop further episodes of compulsory supervision being required

Meet the duties from the Adoption and Children Act 2007 and the Children and Young People Act 2014 as they relate to adoption of children.

Final Outcome

Intermediate Outcome

196 Our Contribution

Critical Activities

Raising Attainment

All of our children, young people, and care leavers will be provided with the help they need to enjoy their nursery experience, and do well in primary and high school, whether they are educated within East Renfrewshire or outwith the area.

Children and young people are engaged, included and achieving their full potential.

Critical Indicators

- A. 90% of children and young people will achieve their CfE and National attainment target .
- B. 91% (3 year target 2015-2017) attendance rate for Looked After Pupils (Primary and Secondary).
- C. Reduce the number of Looked After Pupils being excluded from school.
- D. 100% of Looked After Pupils responding they feel safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included in school.

Review policy, procedures and systems for planning and monitoring looked after children's educational experiences

Ensure looked after children and young people receive high quality learning and teaching and have the support they need to access opportunities and achieve.

Develop an educational profile to be collaboratively completed as part of each Looked After Pupils Child's Plan(GIRFEC), thus identifying educational needs, strengths and possible strategies to improve outcomes.

Monitor attendance in nursery, primary and high school to ensure early intervention and removal of potential barriers.

Devise and implement a mechanism to capture pupil voice in relation to wellbeing and needs (SHANARRI).

Revise the Education Department's Looked After Children's Policy to reflect new Corporate Parenting duties.

Support foster and kinship carers in East Renfrewshire to assist them with nurturing children's learning , attainment and emotional wellbeing (Psychological Services).

Assess and plan for looked after children in relation to learning and attainment, including those who are in out of area school placements, thus ensuring each child's educational needs are addressed at the earliest stage. (Psychological Services and HSCP Children and Families Teams).

Deliver extended transition programmes to ensure seamless progression and support for Looked After Pupils as they move to the next stage of their education.

Promote, publicise opportunities and support Looked After Pupils to participate in and gain a recognised wider achievement award.

Final Outcome

Intermediate Outcome

Our Contribution

Critical Activities

Health and Wellbeing

All of our looked after children, young people and care leavers will be provided with accessible, timely, and effective health interventions whether they reside in East Renfrewshire or outwith the area.
 All of our looked after children, young people, and care leavers, will be given opportunities to pursue their sports, arts, and leisure interests, and the support needed to access these

Looked after children's access to health assessments and reviews, will take place within set timescales. Opportunities to participate in play, recreation and sports activities will be evidenced in child's plans

- Critical Indicators**
- A. % of our looked after children will have their health assessment completed within 4 weeks of becoming looked after.
 - B. % of looked after children/young people will have an individual Levelling the Playing Field action plan completed
 - C. No. of children/young people will have their activities resourced and access supported
 - D. % of looked after 13 and 14 year olds use universal young people's services

Ensure children and young people have the highest standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare and support in learning to make healthy, safe choices

Support children and young people to access opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation, leisure and sport.

- Looked After Children's Health Assessments will take place within CEL 16 timescales
- Tier 2 mental health services will be developed to support early help to children and young people experiencing moderate mental health difficulties and/or those requiring recovery from trauma
- Health Improvement staff will provide advice/support to HSCP Children and Families Teams including those who support foster and kinship carers.
- ER HSCP and ER Culture and Leisure Trust managers will regularly liaise via a surgery to identify and resource children and young people's sports, cultural, and leisure interests in a bespoke way.
- ER Culture and Leisure Trust will work with local Sports Hubs and Sports Clubs/Associations to identify mentors/volunteers to support children and young people's access and participation
- The use of the EEI Card Scheme will be monitored to ensure children/young people's take up is maximised and gaps in use can be addressed
- Each looked after child will be included in the Levelling the Playing Field Programme to ensure access to extended enrichment activities.

Final Outcome

Rights and Participation

Our communities and services will be welcoming, inclusive and supportive of our looked after children, young people, and care leavers, and all corporate parents will provide opportunities for them to express their views.

Intermediate Outcome

There will be an increase in the uptake of looked after children and young people participating and exercising their rights

Critical Indicators

- A. % of children/young people completing their Viewpoint surveys
- B. Young people participating in Young Person's Services activities
- C. Number of young people supported by Who Cares Scotland to participate in their Girfec assessment and plan

198

Our Contribution

Children and young people have the right to be heard and for their views to be considered during assessment, planning and reviews

Children and young people will have opportunities to participate in their communities

Critical Activities

The Champions Board – young people and senior officers - will work from a coproduction approach to shape and directly influence policy and practice. Who Cares Scotland and Young Person's Services will support this work too.

Social workers will use the new Viewpoint Wellbeing Web surveys to enable children and young people to participate in the review of their Girfec assessment and plan.

Who Cares Scotland will develop an annual activity report for East Renfrewshire that highlights the issues that young people have raised with them over the period, any trends, and how these have been addressed

ERC Young Person's Services will work with looked after young people to ensure they can access their programmes and activities, and benefit from the opportunities these bring.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people will be provided with a multiagency support package to enable them to safely integrate into our local communities, and also have links to those ethnic or faith communities they may identify with.

Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire will work with Family Firm and Champions Board to support young people's participation in volunteering activity such as Saltire Awards and identify potential joint initiatives to support community inclusion

Final Outcome

Intermediate Outcome

Our Contribution

Critical Activities

Stable and secure home environment

All of our looked after young people and care leavers will be encouraged and enabled to remain in a positive care placement until they are ready to move on. Where this is not possible we will develop a range of good quality accommodation and support options which meet their needs.

More supported housing and accommodation options where looked after young people feel safe, secure, and responsible

Critical Indicators

- A. % of looked after young people and care leavers who take homelessness route to access accommodation
- B. % of children/young people who respond positively to the Viewpoint question "Do you feel safe at home?"

Sustainable housing and accommodation options

Design and deliver a range of accommodation options with support packages for young care leavers aged 16 years and over.

Preventing homelessness among care leavers

Housing and HSCP YISS will work in partnership to prevent homelessness among care experienced young people by:

- Reviewing the current use of the Housing and HSCP Protocol
- Co-locating a Housing Officer within HSCP to focus specifically on prevention

