

Corporate Parenting

Neighbourhood Forum Presentation



What does 'Corporate Parenting' mean

When a child comes into care, the council becomes their Corporate Parent.

Put simply, the term 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of the whole council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children in care and care leavers.

A child in the care of the council looks to the council to be the best parent it can be. Every member and employee of the council has the statutory responsibility to act for that child in the same way that a good parent would act for their own child.

Every good parent wants the best for their child, to see their child flourish with good health, to be safe and happy, to do well at school and enjoy good relationships with their peers. To make the most of leisure opportunities, hobbies and interests, and to grow towards adulthood fully equipped to lead independent lives and make their way as adults with opportunities in education, employment and training, achieve a sense of belonging to their community and to be financially secure.



Information/Data

- As Corporate Parents we need to understand our information and data relating to children and young people and provide challenge in those areas where we need to achieve better outcomes
 - There are a total of 656 Children in Care to Tameside (53% male and 46% female)
 - Foster Care is the largest placement resource for our children in care (63%). We work continuously to recruit and retain Tameside Foster Carers to keep young people linked to their community.
- 68 children are placed in residential children's homes, this number has reduced as we work to ensure that children have the right to family life



Information/Data continued

- 90% of children have been subject to a review health assessment, we work with health partners to ensure the health needs of children and young peoples are responded to.
 - 60% of children in care have had a dental check
 - There are 517 Care Leavers
- Positively we remain in touch with 97% of our 19 – 21 year olds, relationships are key in ensuring young people feel supported and know who to go to when they need extra support too.
 - 95% of our Care Leavers are deemed to be in suitable accommodation
- Education, Employment and Training rates are an area of concern with 51% for 19-21 year olds and 50% 17-18 year olds, we will work to develop a clear EET strategy across the council to increase access to work placements and apprenticeships.



Corporate Parenting Principles

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 set out seven corporate parenting principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to Cared for Children and Care Leavers, as follows:

- 1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being of children and young people.**
- 2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.**
- 3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.**



4. 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.

5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.

6. For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.

7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.



Corporate Parenting Governance – Meeting Our Responsibilities

The Corporate Parenting Board has responsibility to ensure that the Council fulfils its Corporate Parenting duties in partnership with other statutory and partner agencies. The Board ensures that the strategic Corporate Parenting objectives are delivered and that the Pledges and the Care Leaver Local Offer is adhered to.

The Corporate Parenting Board is chaired by the Lead Member for Children’s Services with elected members also on the board, supported by the Director Children’s Social Care, senior officers from the Council and partners. We expect all corporate parents to have the knowledge and understanding of the diverse needs of our children in care and care leavers.



TAMESIDE CORPORATE PARENTS BELIEVE:

- Children and young people in our care are entitled to the same care, support, stability, health and education as our own children.
- We need to ensure that services are flexible enough to support children and young people in our care to have high quality lives and have a happy childhoods and adolescence.
- In developing new practices and initiatives the Council considers the needs of children and young people in our care and care leavers.
- Children in our care are actively encouraged to participate in decisions made about their lives, so that their experiences influence policy and practice.
- Access for children in our care to universal services is actively promoted, encouraging young people's sense of community and belonging.
- Service provision, communication and policies meet the needs of children with additional needs, disabilities and children from a range of cultural and religious backgrounds.
- Transition to adult services should be timely and well planned with services working together.
- In challenging negative perceptions and stereotypes of children in our care and raise awareness at all levels across the council.
- Corporate parenting is about commitment and teamwork to bring about positive change.



ROLE OF CORPORATE PARENTS

- Corporate parenting is a whole council and partner endeavour and not the sole responsibility of Children's Social Care. It requires services across the whole council; health, schools and partner agencies to achieve the best outcomes for our Cared for Children and Care Leavers.
- The role of Corporate Parent is not a passive one
- Tameside's Corporate Parents work closely with their partners to ensure that the needs of our children are clearly identified and met at every level. This should encompass the strategic planning, commissioning and integrated delivery of services.





We seek young peoples views and participation, via the Children in Care Council and at the Care Leaver's forum. These groups are represented at the Corporate Parenting Board.



Our Vision, Pledge and Priorities to children and young people

- Prioritise your health and wellbeing
- Listen to what you say and take your views seriously
- Help you understand your journey and what is happening in your life
- Provide a place for you to live that makes you feel safe
- Make a plan with you that will explain how we will look after you
- Ask you what you think you need
- Act on what you have told us and get back to you quickly
- Help you participate in having your voice heard and in doing so help us make our services better for you
- Provide opportunities to meet other young people
- Recruit permanent staff with you so that we are choosing the best workforce for our young people
- Expect all professionals who work with you such as Social Workers, Support Workers and Independent Reviewing Officers to give you the time you need to build relationships with them





Poem from a Cared for Child

I Wish I was a Wizard

I wish I was a wizard, with my magic wand. I will change my whole life around. And I'll start with...
Covid will be over, I'll even have a friend called Homer, I'll be back home with my mum and dad, I won't be stressing or even going mad.
Cause that's not how I'll be.
I'll be a brand new me.
Being posh and living in a new country.
I'll be making things appear,
I'll never want to disappear.
Like I do now.
My mum and dad will be together,
And we'll all live happily ever after forever.
If only I'm a wizard, if only things will come true, I'll finally have a crowd around me and none of them will be saying boo!
I'll achieve my goals and I'll have a proper role, in life.
I will have a role and a purpose.
I won't be shy again.
I'll step out of the dark.
I'll finally have that long- lasting spark.
If only I'm a wizard, if only things will come true,
If only I could make my life not like a garbage shoot.
I'm a nobody at the minute.
And I'll always be.
Being a care kid is not that easy.
My life is like a rollercoaster.
When nobody has witnessed the things that I have seen.
I'll always be a 12 -year old having a bad life.
That's why I want to be a wizard with a purpose and a role in life.

