

2023 - 2026

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Corporate Parenting is all about asking—
"would this be good enough for my child?"

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it
takes a diverse network of Corporate Parents
to support the Care Experienced community.

WhoCares?Scotland

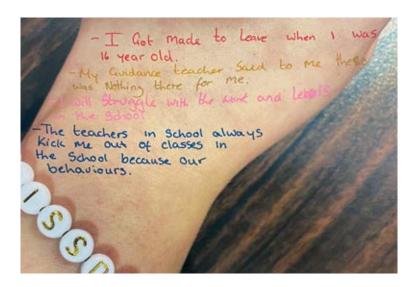
## Introduction

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 outlines the duties and responsibilities of corporate parents.

Further informed by The Promise, Getting It Right For Every Child and the UNCRC, this plan will support corporate parents in Midlothian to fulfil these duties.

We will offer the best care possible to our children and young people

"Many different things can be a trigger, our corporate parents need to understand that" Midlothian young person



### **OUR VISION**



## **Care and Nurture**

- We always strive to keep families living together where it is safe to do so.
- Where possible, we keep siblings together. If this is not possible, we ensure family time happens as often as possible.
- We will ensure that children and young people remain connected to those that matter most to them.
- If children and young people cannot live with their families we identify a safe and nurturing permanent placement as soon as possible.
- We are committed to embedding trauma-informed practice.

# **Equity and Respect**

- We uphold children and young people's rights and ensure they know their rights and how to exercise them.
- We celebrate the achievements of our children and young people.

# **Health and Wellbeing**

- We support our children and young people's physical health and mental wellbeing.
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## **Inclusion and Collaboration**

- We work together to provide increased opportunities for our children and young people.
- We hear and champion children and young people's views, supporting them to be involved in decision making.
- We continue to promote participation and collaboration with care experienced young people in the design of services

### **OUR APPROACH**

By coming together with an agreed strategy, we can support each other to exercise our corporate parenting duties.

Building on the work already taking place across Midlothian, we will continue to see real change in action whilst learning and growing together.

We are bringing young people's views and voices to life by including them in critical decisions.

We are committed to keeping The Promise and will continue to strive to get it right for every child and young person in Midlothian.







## **OUR ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **Leisure Cards**



Sport and Leisure Services offer leisure cards to care experienced young people and their carers. This supports their physical and mental health and wellbeing whilst building connections within their local community



### **Midlothian House Project**

The project is now on to its 3rd cohort and is currently supporting 28 young people with the transition to independent living. The project will support a further ten young people on an annual basis.



### **Children's Hearing Centre**

We have worked alongside Scottish Children's Reporters Administration to create a welcoming space.



## **Family Group Decision Making**

Using the FGDM model to support families take ownership and contribute to decision making whilst exploring options in a safe and supportive space



# **Midlothian Family Wellbeing Service**

The service responds flexibly to families in need of support.



#### **Trauma Informed Practice**

We have embedded the principles of trauma informed practice, safety, choice, collaboration, trust and empowerment.

# **OUR ACTION PLAN**

ACTIONS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	EVIDENCE	LEAD	FURTHER INFO.
Voice				
Looked after children and care experienced young people are listened to and meaningfully involved in decision-making.	Facilitation of a range of groups/forums & events for Looked after/Care experienced young people to participate in and discuss/define issues relevant to them.	Views of young people evident in decision making	Corporate parents Participation Coordinator	
Accessible information about resources available for care experienced children and young people	Development of Digital Corporate Parent and Care Experienced Communications Strategy	<ul> <li>Information is easily accessible on Midlothian council website.</li> <li>Use of social media.</li> </ul>	Communications Team Participation Coordinator	
We will meet the needs of looked after children and ensure that their rights are respected in line with UNCRC.	Ensure the rights of care experienced young people are fully reflected in the Midlothian Children's Rights Strategy.	Evidence to be gathered as the strategy is developed.	Corporate parents	
Provision of safe space for children and young people to share their views and build connections.	Utilisation of One Youth Space	Number of groups taking place	Participation Coordinator	
Whole Family Support				
Looked after and care experienced children and young people will be supported to remain in Midlothian, with a sense of belonging within their community, continuing to enjoy nurturing and enduring relationships with those that are important to them	Collaboration with stakeholders to develop creative solutions to sustain children and young people in Midlothian.	<ul> <li>Reduction in children accommodated outside Midlothian</li> <li>Use of Lifelong Links</li> <li>Use of Family Group Decision Making</li> </ul>	All corporate parents	
Where possible children and young people to continue to be supported to remain with kinship carers if they are unable to remain at home.	Provision of robust support to kinship carers	Increased kinship placements identified and sustained.	Children's Services	
Care				
Looked after and care experienced children and young people will experience planned, consistent and nurturing care which reflects their individual needs, wishes and aspirations.	Trauma informed practice will continue to be embedded in all areas of practice.	• Feedback from young people	All corporate parents Trauma lead	
To provide an increased sense of safety and responsibility for care experienced young people within their community by improving their relationships with Police Scotland and Fire Scotland.	Development of links with Champs and other care experienced young people	No. of relationship building events 3 per year	Jim Robertson  Claudio Ferreira  Participation Coordinator	

# OUR ACTION PLAN (continued...)

ACTIONS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	EVIDENCE	LEAD	FURTHER INFO.			
A Good Childhood							
Every child that is LAC/CEYP will have access to support that ensures their educational and wellbeing needs are fully met.	Analysis of data to highlight and target specific areas of need within education for looked after and care experienced young people.	Care experienced young people are supported to achieve their full potential as evidenced by data on attainment and positive destinations.	Michelle Strong Kirsty Quinn Anna Walton Heather Fleming				
Support for looked after/care experienced young people to engage in leisure activities within their communities.	Active Schools to provide protected places within their school activities. Target event run by Active Schools to support looked after/care experienced young people to try new sports.	Wider representation of care experienced young people within leisure opportunities.	Alan Blair Kate Murray Danny Simpson				
Building Capacity							
Corporate parents work constructively together to improve outcomes for looked after children and care experienced young people	the role criteria.  Support with interviews to be explored.  Supported Modern Apprenticeships and	Number of looked after and care experienced young people interviewed and recruited.	Heads of Service				
	Placements to be explored.						