



# Welcome to Slough Children First



A hands-on approach to help children in Slough be  
..... Safe, Secure and Successful



# What is Corporate Parenting?

Purpose, membership & frequency of meetings

**Kay Jones, Sufficiency and Permanency Lead**



# Presentation Aims

- Who do we parent?
- Child Looked After in Slough
- Care Experienced Young People in Slough
- Corporate Parenting – the legal context (1) & (2)
- Our Responsibilities!
- What is a Corporate Parenting Panel?
- What should a Corporate Parenting Panel know?
- Our Pledge & Our Promises
- Role of Councillors- 'If this were my child'
- Questions to ask yourself
- Panel Membership & frequency of meetings



## Who do we parent?

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 says that when a child or young person comes into the care of the local authority, they become their corporate parent. This relates to:

- **Children Looked After (CLA** - sometimes referred to as, Children in Care)
  - 0-18 years; this also includes our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children (UASC)
  - Whether this be an emergency, temporary or long-term arrangement
- **Care Experienced Young People (CEYP** - formally known as Care Leaver's)
  - CLA aged 18 – 25y and those looked after for at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday.
  - This also includes our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking young adults
- **CLA and CEYP are looked after within a legal framework.** The two main routes are:
  - Voluntarily Accommodation (Section 20, CA 1989); with parents' agreement
  - Care Order (Section 31, CA 1989); where the LA share parental responsibility with parents'



# Children Looked After in Slough (as of April 23)

## Number of Children Looked After – 255

- Rate per 10'000 – 58.4 - rising from 53 the previous year. (2022 SN – 59, SE – 56, Eng – 70)
- 45 children looked after who are unaccompanied and fleeing their home country.
- 31.2% live more than 20 miles away from their home.

**291 young people are entitled to a leaving care offer of support**



# Care Experienced Young People in Slough (as of April 23)

- **Number of Care Experienced Young People (eligible, relevant, former relevant – 16+) – 259**
- % CEYP in suitable accommodation (16+) – 76.4%
- % CEYP in education, employment and training (EET) aged: 17-18y – 60%
- % CEYP in education, employment and training (EET) aged 19-21y – 53% (2022 - SN – 56%, SE – 57%, Eng - 55%)

Challenges for care experienced young people

Accommodation – availability locally and settling in

Emotional wellbeing

Shared space – current office is unwelcoming.



# Corporate Parenting – the legal context (1)

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 defined for the first time in law what corporate parents should be looking at to ensure, as far as possible, secure, nurturing and positive experiences for looked after children and young people, and care leavers.

These are Corporate Parenting Principles:

- Act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people;
- Encourages them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account, while promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for them;
- Make sure they have access to services;
- Make sure that they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- Prepare them for adulthood and independent living.



## Corporate Parenting – the legal context (2)

The Children Act 2004 placed a duty on LA's to promote co-operation with 'relevant partners'

- Relevant Partners, include the police, the NHS and education providers, who have a duty to cooperate.
- LA's must consider how their partners, including the community and voluntary sector, can help them to deliver their corporate parenting role, especially in relation to the provision of services.
- For example, the NHS can help to make sure looked after children receive the mental health support that they need;
- While close working between schools and the Virtual School Head will help to improve outcomes for children and young people in care.





## Our Responsibilities!

When a child goes into care, the tasks of their parents become the responsibility of **everyone at the Council (all departments), including officers, members and school staff, and our partner organisations**. Effectively, we become corporate parents for the children and care experienced young people we look after.

This means that we have a **legal and moral responsibility to improve the lives of all of those we look after and who leave our care**. Just as we would with our own children, we must prioritise their needs and create the right conditions for them to thrive and have happy and fulfilling lives.

This is a **priority across the Council** and not just for those working in Children's Services.



## Our Pledge and Our Promises

Be Healthy

Be Ambitious

Be Safe

Be  
Independent

Be Resilient &  
feel listened  
to

Be Happy



## Role of Councillors- ‘If this were my child’

Every councillor and officer within a council has a responsibility to act for those children and young people as a parent would for their own child.

- Lead members, those on Corporate Parenting Panels and Overview and Scrutiny Committees will have particular responsibilities, but;
- For all councillors, this is where your role as the eyes and ears of the community is vitally important.
- For both officers and councillors, being a corporate parent means that when any service is being looked at that could impact upon children looked after and CEYP;
- Or when you’re hearing feedback from or reports about children in your care, consider the question:

**“What if this were my child?”**



# What is Corporate Parenting Panel

As corporate parents, **all councillors and panel members** should seek to stay informed about children and CEYP in the council's care, and care leavers. However, a Corporate Parenting Panel provides robust assurance of the whole corporate parenting system, in Slough.

A Corporate Parenting Panel is:

- Created with the purpose of promoting the best outcomes for Slough children looked after and CEYP; and Enables detailed Member led engagement with all relevant agencies in order to achieve this.
- A useful forum for regular, detailed discussion of issues
- A positive link with children looked after forums; to actively listen to and respond to children's lived experiences and shape services accordingly, in partnership with young people.
- Enables members and partners to use their position to raise awareness of the role amongst colleagues, and provide support to the lead member for children's services
- The Panel may also provide advice to the Lead Member for Children's Services on the key area of corporate parenting.
- The panel monitors the services we and our partners deliver to the children we look after and our care leavers, with the aim of continually improving outcomes.



## What should the Corporate Parenting Panel consider?

1. What is our cohort of children looked after and care experienced young people?
2. Do all our councillors and officers know about their corporate parenting responsibilities?
3. How are we giving children and young people the chance to express their views, wishes and feelings? How do we know those are being acted on?
4. How do we show children in our care that we have high aspirations for them?
5. What are we doing to look after the health and wellbeing of children in our care?
6. Are we providing stable environments for children in our care?
7. What are outcomes like for our care leavers?
8. How many children are we placing in out of area placements?
9. How are we planning for the future/commissioning services?
10. How do we deliver against the Corporate Parenting Principles and keep our Pledge and Promises to our children and CEYP?

**Can we evidence that we have high ambition and aspirations for our children and young people,  
“as if this were my child?”**



# Panel membership & frequency of meetings?

**Lead member and Councillors**

- Lead member for Education & Children's Services
- Councillor representation; Corporate Parenting portfolio holders:
- Education
- Health & Wellbeing
- Housing
- Fostering
- Leisure

**Chief Executive/Director of Childrens Services**

- Director of Operations
- Associate Director; Education
- SCF Strategic Officers: e.g. VSH, Fostering, CLA and CEYP, Sufficiency etc)
- Corporate Strategic Officers: e.g. Housing, Leisure Services, Education, SEND,

**Relevant Partners:**

- Police
- Health
- Education (Headteachers rep.)
- CCG / ICB
- CAMHs
- Voluntary Sector
- Community Sector
- Faith Groups

**Important People**

- Children Looked After
- Care Experienced Young People
- Foster carer

**Membership – key strategic partners!**

**Voice of CLA & CEYP!**

## How often should we meet?

Needs to meet more often to have impact!

Items presented should have a clear purpose with an outcome identified and followed



**Thank you for listening**