

Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board

Cabinet Member: Cllr Frances Nicholson - Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Chair of Corporate Parenting Board: Cllr Jill Shortland OBE

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1. Summary

- 1.1.** The role of the Somerset Corporate Parenting Board (SCPB), is to ensure that Somerset County Council (SCC), together with the five District Councils, fulfil their duties towards children looked after (CLA), corporately and in partnership with other statutory agencies, including the NHS and Police. The existing Corporate Parenting Strategy and Terms of Reference (TOR), including membership, of the Corporate Parenting Board were agreed by Council in May 2016.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-2019 and annual action plan, aligns with and actively promotes, the Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019, and the Sufficiency Statement 2016-2019.

The Corporate Parenting Board has met bi-monthly throughout the year, receiving regular updates from officers, partners and the Somerset In Care Council (SiCC) and Somerset Leaving Care Council (SLCC) who are a representative group of young people looked after or leaving care and are supported to meet by a Participation Worker (see Appendix A for their report) The voice of the child is a key aspect of the Strategy and the Board has continued to engage with young people, both through their representation on the Board, and through SiCC and SLCC which is well established and has an effective and regular link with the Board.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** The Corporate Parenting Board requests;
- That Council recommends Corporate Parenting Board training to be mandatory for all Councillors.
 - That Council recommends that signed up councillors who do not attend Corporate Parenting Board meetings for three consecutive months are reported to Group Leads.
 - That Council recommends Cabinet appoint District Councillor representation on the Corporate Parenting Board to provide support on housing and leisure issues.

3. Background

- 3.1.** The Council's corporate parenting arrangements were reviewed following the Ofsted Inspection in 2015 which identified that there was insufficient corporate parenting leadership across the partnership and that elected members did not fully understand their corporate parenting responsibilities.

Full Council in July 2016 confirmed the new arrangements as set out in the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016 – 2019 and an annual updated action plan.

The overall aim of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-2019 is to strengthen good practice through a whole council approach to corporate parenting and a strong and effective approach to partnership working, thus improving the achievement, life chances and opportunities for all children looked after and care leavers.

The progress and achievements against the annual action plan are reported through quarterly reporting.

This report provides an update of the function and impact of the board over the past 12 months. See Appendix B for the Corporate Parenting Board Action plan and Appendix C for the data dashboard.

4. 2016 – 2017 Achievements

- 4.1.** The format of board meetings is now well established with robust and concise reporting. Observers from area operational teams are welcomed and encouraged to participate in discussions.
- 4.2.** The focus of the Corporate Parenting Board is on the delivery of the five priorities listed in strategy and the actual plan. The task and finish groups covering education, health, voice of the child and leaving care are well established with good cross agency working, led by a senior officer, and supported by a Councillor from the Board. Additionally, the key area of foster care development is led by the council's fostering service. Action owners on the groups take responsibility for issues to deliver solutions within deadlines. The outcomes of this work are reported quarterly through the Children & Young People's Plan 2016-2019 performance reporting arrangements, against the seven improvement programmes. Reports are complemented by detailed data and performance measures provided to the Board to support them in their role in leading and challenging service delivery. This collected information has been refined over the year and its value and usefulness has emerged through the depth of discussion and follow up from officers requested by the Board.
- 4.3.** The Board maintains an updated Action Log to hold task owners to account; the log uses a RAG rated method which, when commenced, had many actions categorised as red, being at the start of the new financial year; however, at end of year reporting most had converted to amber or green with clear actions for achievement against them.
- 4.4.** Through the year the board has tested various meeting formats around meeting times and location in order to support accessibility for both the young people of

the Somerset In Care and Leaving Care councils and members to attend. This has resulted in a decision to hold the majority of meetings at County Hall at 4.30 in the afternoon.

- 4.5. It has given the board great pleasure to observe the growing confidence of the young people who attend and their ability to present, challenge and debate.
- 4.6. The chair especially wishes to highlight the many positive outcomes from the work of the Somerset In Care council and the Somerset Leaving Care Council especially:
 - the implementation of Mind of My Own (MoMo) app,
 - launching the new SICC and SLCC website,
 - working with health colleagues making peer support films,
 - taking part in Getting To Know you days,
 - organising an exceptional Annual Achievement Awards ceremony where over 300 young people attended and
 - presenting at the Designated Teachers conference.

Unsurprisingly SICC and SLCC collectively won the Council's Chairman's Award for Service to the Community 2016.

5. Areas for Development

- 5.1. Although Corporate Parent training was scheduled for three occasions, only one date was sufficiently attended to actually run and only seven councillors attended. As this event requires significant planning with six different presenters, as well as the promotion of the event this take-up has proved disappointing. The feedback from the seven attendees was that quality of training and the materials was of a high standard. Therefore it is not our intention to change the format but to promote the importance of and the benefits gained from this training. One training event for 2017 / 18 has already been cancelled due to lack of interest. A training event has been organised for newly elected members by corporate governance and two further proposed events are scheduled for autumn 2017.
- 5.2. Local District Council roadshows that promote the roles and responsibility of the corporate parent have not visited every district yet, with only two districts accepting the invitation. This may be because of the lack of awareness of the role in District Councils and could be better supported if District Councillors were to sit on the Corporate Parenting Board. Districts have a big part to play in supporting care leavers into independence through suitable accommodation, access to local employment and positive leisure activities.
- 5.3. In order to address some of these issues the chair has developed a role description and profile to support group leaders and corporate governance selection of newly appointed members to the board following the May 2017 elections (see Appendix D).

6. How did we meet our 2016 – 2017 priorities?

6.1.

PRIORITIES	CPB PROGRESS	SLCC – SiCC PROGRESS	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL	RECOMMENDATIONS TO NEW BOARD
<p>Every councillor and officer of the council fully understands their corporate parenting responsibilities</p>	<p>This priority was partially met through various communications, training or local roadshows for local staff and councillors; therefore more opportunities to be promoted in 2017/18 and re-emphasis of responsibilities to Somerset County Council (SCC) staff</p>	<p>The presence of more young people at meetings has led to greater understanding of their needs</p>	<p>That council recommends Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) training to be mandatory</p> <p>That council recommends cabinet appoint District Councillor representation on the Corporate Parenting Board for housing and leisure</p>	<p>2017/18 Action plan includes improved promotion of training opportunities and regular invitations to districts. Better use of newsletters and other regular communication to be used to promote to staff and partners.</p>
<p>Understanding the individual nature of our CLA in order to provide appropriately for them</p>	<p>This priority has much improved through more effective work by the four subgroups and more robust reporting</p>	<p>The new SLCC/SiCC website has given a better means of individual communication from site users. The implementation of Mind of My Own (MoMo) will encourage the child's voice in decision making in their future</p>		<p>The new board continue to receive regular updates on the new website usage and the progress of MoMo implementation</p>

<p>The provision of sufficient safe, stable placements with carers best able to meet their needs</p>	<p>The new Sufficiency Strategy and its action plan addresses the issues in Somerset. The board also receive regular updates on quality and location of placements</p>	<p>SLCC/SiCC are promoting Your Journey' Living Away From Home booklet on their website which outlines placement expectations</p>	<p>The new board continue to receive regular updates on the progress of the Sufficiency Statement. The 2017/18 action plan includes placement audits</p>
<p>That CLA are involved in decisions about their lives and the services provided for them</p>	<p>Please see SLCC/SiCC achievements as reported to the CPB</p>	<p>SLCC/SiCC will continue to meet monthly and have devised 2017/18 priorities</p>	<p>That council accept recommendation from young people that they receive effective feedback for the work that they undertake</p>
<p>Where necessary CLA have full access to additional services to improve life chances and successful transitions to adulthood</p>	<p>The CPB has received regular reporting on the success of the P2i implementation</p>	<p>SLCC/SiCC members attended the choices for Life careers event in March 2017</p>	<p>That the new board investigates more employment opportunities for care leavers from the Hinkley Point development</p>
<p>Improvement in education and health outcomes</p>	<p>The virtual school is reporting better Personal Education Plan (PEP) process and better use of Pupil Premium. The health subgroup is reporting a greater uptake of health assessments</p>	<p>SLCC/SiCC have been instrumental in education and health changes for CLA including support for CV writing on the curriculum and posting films and information on the website</p>	<p>That the new board supports the Virtual school to access funding for more post 16 educational opportunities</p>

following a hiatus
through vacancies in
key NHS posts



Who Are We?

- 50 members aged between 10 –22
- Meeting monthly to work on issues from our Annual Priorities plan
- Sundays from 11 – 4 at The Roller-coaster in Bridgwater
- Supported by our Participation Worker and volunteers
- Lunch and refreshments provided
- Supporting events and activities in between

2016 – 2017 What worked well?

- Grown to 50+ members
- Our new website - our voice, more inclusive, more representation
- Annual Achievements Ceremony 2016 – 300 + young people, “we organise it, we run it”
- “The AA makes us feel special”
- More than 7 films made for induction and training in Somerset
- Joining in with more groups
- MoMo Implementation – part of the team

2016 – 2017 What worked well?



2016 – 2017 What could be improved?

- More promotional material – clothing, pens etc.
- More promotion of our website
- More feedback – “we’re doing the work but we don’t know if they like it or are putting it into practice”
- We miss our Residentials and Away days
- Manage our budget





2017 – 2018 What are our Priorities?

- Feedback
- Contact – sibling/whole family
- Positive activities
- Virtual School for 16+
- Transport
- Support up to 25
- Independence/life skills
- Confidence building
- Support to build better relationships
- Health



Working on the Corporate Parenting Board

- Less jargon that we don't understand
- Make it Young Person friendly
- Better venues for young people
- Hold up a card if you want to speak
- Spread young people around the room to make us feel more involved
- Don't fall asleep!!!!



Don't forget.....

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Appendix B - Task groups work plans

Appendix B (i)

Health Task Group - Task groups work plans

1. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life						
Objective	Actions	Outcome	Lead Officers/Council Members	Date	Progress	RAG
Improve the quality of the health offer for children young people and care leavers, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children	Strengthen the timeliness and quality of health assessments for children, young people and care leavers	Assessments of children and young people placed out of county are completed.	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding/CLA Specialist Nurse for CLA	April 2017	Children placed out of county may be disadvantaged due to authorities prioritising their own children in care. Outstanding health assessments are being reviewed to identify those children who are out of county. This allows us to identify which neighbouring boroughs have the highest rates of overdue health assessments for Somerset children and young people.	Amber
	Strengthen the voice of children and young people within their health assessment	The service specification for the integrated model of care is informed by the voice of young people	Specialist Nurse children looked after	Apr-17	Specialist Nurse for children looked after has applied to meet with SICC / SLCC but further information has been requested by them, before she can attend.	Amber

		Young people's refusal rate for health assessments is reduced	Head of Children Looked After Service (Sompar) / All members of the Health Group	Apr-17	Health Assessment refusal flowchart has been developed and amended following feedback from corporate parenting board. Wide distribution of this flowchart is to be planned across partner agencies once finalised.	Amber
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2. Improving emotional health and well being

Objective	Actions	Outcome	Lead Officers/Council Members	Date	Progress	RAG
Ensure when young people come into care there is timely access to CAMHS, and/or emotional support as appropriate	Through the implementation of the CAMHS transformation programme, ensure there is timely access to emotional health support	To provide advice and interventions to children and young people with mild to moderate degree of difficulties	Joint Commissioning Manager for Mental Health Somerset CCG/ CAMHS CLA post holders once in post	May 17	As new service embeds the CPB will receive regular updates regarding interventions and outcomes. Awaiting update from CCG at May CPB.	Amber

	<p>Improve compliance and completion of SDQs by social workers and foster carers to identify concerns to put in place timely early intervention or referral to CAMHS, where appropriate</p>	<p>CLA receive early intervention from local services or CAMHS CLA workers</p>	<p>Operational manager- Leaving Care / Operational Manager- Children Looked After / Strategic Manager Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services</p>	<p>Nov-16</p>	<p>SDQ update to social workers provided by CSC manager. CLA provider team met with IRO team and discussed SDQ's. SDQ's are routinely requested by social worker from carer/ placement at point of entry into care. SDQ score (if available) is issued when request is sent to health visitors and school nurses. Appendix 3 (Guidance on data collection on the emotional health of looked after children) of the 2013 DfE guidance Children looked after by local authorities in England is used by CSC to improve compliancy and completion of SDQ's by social workers. Manager of emotional health and wellbeing team is in post.</p>	<p>Green</p>
		<p>CLA receive early intervention from local services or CAMHS CLA workers</p>	<p>Divisional Director CAMHS / Service Manager CAMHS</p>	<p>May-17</p>	<p>Awaiting update from Divisional Director CAMHS / Service Manager CAMHS to confirm early intervention offer from CAMHS at May CPB</p>	<p>Amber</p>

		Increase in percentage of SDQs to be returned	Operational manager- Leaving Care / Operational Manager- Children Looked After / Strategic Manager Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services / Specialist Nurse CLA	Apr-17	CLA provider team met with IRO team and discussed SDQ's. SDQ's are routinely requested by social worker from carer/ placement at point of entry into care. SDQ score (if available) is issued when request is sent to health visitors and school nurses.	Green
		In depth analysis of SDQ's completed and process to follow if child / young person assessed as normal / borderline / requiring intervention	All members of Health Group	Jul-17	A small working group is to be set up to look at SDQ's, clarifying how they are used to inform that meet the emotional needs of children looked after	Amber
			Representatives from SCC / Health (CAMHS and CLA service) / Virtual school	Aug-17	Develop an SDQ flow chart to support existing SDQ guidance, but with specific focus on how the SDQ score can affect which service the child / young person is then referred to	Amber

3. Providing help early and effectively

Objective	Actions	Outcome	Lead Officers/Council Members	Date	Progress	RAG
<p>Enabling children and young people in care to become more emotionally resilient, through provision of the appropriate level of advice, guidance and support that they individually require and make a positive transition into adult life</p>	<p>Ensure that individual health practitioners are supported in their skills and competencies to deliver effective and coordinated care for each young person</p>	<p>Health plans are quality assured and demonstrate SMART outcomes to enable young people's transition to adulthood</p>	<p>Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and CLA / Head of CLA service / Specialist nurse CLA</p>	<p>Feb-17</p>	<p>An audit of health assessments undertaken as part of Sompar Public Health contract found that only 20% of health assessments made an assessment of emotional health - this is linked to historical lack of availability of SDQ scores to those nurses undertaking health reviews and this has been addressed. Quality assurance of HA's undertaken by CLA team / Health Visitors / School nurses is undertaken by Specialist Nurse CLA.</p>	<p>On track for completion</p>

4. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people

Objective	Actions	Outcome	Lead Officers/Council Members	Date	Progress	RAG
Consider how to provide a health advisory service for care leavers in partnership with other agencies	Provide a single point of contact for care leavers 18-25 for health advice	Effective systems and processes actively track and target care leavers' needs	Designated Nurse safeguarding and CLA / Specialist Nurse CLA Operational manager- Leaving Care / Operational Manager- Children Looked After / Strategic Manager Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services	Dec-16	Single point of contact for care leaver's general health has been identified as their General Practitioner (GP).	Green
		Effective systems and processes actively track and target care leavers' needs	Operational manager- Leaving Care / Operational Manager- Children Looked After / Strategic Manager Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services	Jun-17	Leaving Care Staff and Managers to ensure that care leavers are registered with a GP and know how to access them in hours and out of hours.	Amber

		Effective systems and processes actively track and target care leavers' needs	Designated Nurse safeguarding and CLA / Specialist Nurse CLA Operational manager- Leaving Care / Operational Manager- Children Looked After / Strategic Manager Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services	Jun-17	Support required for the Leaving Care Staff and Managers in identifying where to sign post young people to, utilising existing resources currently in place in relation to sexual health services, emergency contraception, dental health services and urgent care.	Amber
	Consider how the unique health and wellbeing needs of the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are met	Use of existing systems and processes in place to actively track and target UASC's needs	All members of Health group	Sep-17	CSC has disseminated a briefing on common health issues that unaccompanied asylum seeking children can suffer from. Health briefing in relation to UASC to be a standing agenda item for the Health task and finish group.	Amber

Appendix B (ii)

Leaving Care - Task groups work plans

Action	Owner	Timescales	Progress Update / Plans	RAG
1 Improve the Education, Training and Employment outcomes for Care Leavers				
Develop ETE opportunities for Care Leavers	Vikki Hearn	March 2018	A Pathways to Employment Group has been established and met for the first time 22/3/17. Chaired by Vikki Hearn Service Manager Commissioning Development, it aims to ensure that the considerable amount of work underway to improve opportunities and outcomes for all vulnerable groups, including care leavers, is coordinated and is complementary.	Amber
	Claire Merchant Jones		A 14-25 Strategic Board is being set up that will report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The 14 to 25 Strategy for Employment and Skills is being put forward to the Senior Management Group shortly. It is designed to support a shift in the education system in Somerset including the promotion of a more comprehensive vocational and technical offer for young people aged 14 to 24. Its focus is on support for vulnerable adults, including care leavers as well as meeting the skills needs of the local economy. The strategy aims to ensure there is a co-ordinated approach to enable young people and adults to understand and access employment or higher levels of learning opportunities	
	Julie Young/Claire Merchant Jones		A successful 'Choices for Life' workshop was held in Yeovil on 24/3/17 for young people who need support in to education and employment.	
	Julie Young		Bids submitted for funding to create a 'one stop shop' to facilitate matching young people with potential employers for work experience opportunities , traineeships and apprenticeships have been unsuccessful so far but will be resubmitted.	
			Transition Panels are held termly for all Year 11 young people who are at high risk of not progressing into Post 16 ETE. These include schools, colleges and support agencies. Progress Panels and brokering of support	

Action	Owner	Timescales	Progress Update / Plans	RAG
	<p>Julie Young</p> <p>Clive Mallon</p> <p>Emma Good</p> <p>Trish Lyons</p> <p>Trish Lyons</p>		<p>for all Year 12 and 13 Early Leavers are developing</p> <p>Pathways to Employment, an internal Human Resources/ Organisational Development run initiative, historically focussed on apprenticeships, has extended to include traineeships and is now keen to expand further to utilise funds available more widely to include those not yet apprenticeship ready, which includes the majority of care leavers who are NEET. Links are established with training providers and the work entails developing a matrix of opportunities and matching them with young people.</p> <p>The subgroup is intending to advocate for the ETE needs of care leavers to be part of County Council Procurement policy. Development of opportunities for care leavers could be considered as part of added value in evaluating all contracts.</p> <p>Similarly for the impact on CLA and care leavers to be part of all Equality Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Within the Leaving Care Service, work is underway with a range of large and small employers to develop opportunities for care leavers. With larger employers such as Skanska and Viridor, the aim is to establish Access to Employment Programmes from taster days through work experience to traineeships, apprenticeships and / or employment. 8 care leavers engaged in an Introduction Day with Tesco 25/4/17 about opportunities within the company and the expectations they have as employers. The next step is for them all to have a mock interview for a job of their choosing and for them to receive feedback about their performance prior to making a real application in the near future.</p>	
<p>Matching individual care leavers to ETE opportunities available</p>	<p>Trish Lyons/Claire Winter</p>	<p>Monthly to March 2018</p>	<p>The Education, Training and Employment (ETE) Board continues to track NEET care leavers and coordinate and target activity. End of year 2016/17 figures that will be provided for the Government returns indicate an improvement for 17-21 year olds from 45% to 54% in ETE. However currently there are 43% of 18-20 year olds who are NEET.</p>	<p>Amber</p>

Action	Owner	Timescales	Progress Update / Plans	RAG
	<p>Trish Lyons/Gary Roper</p> <p>Zoe Heywood</p>		<p>The Leaving Care Employability Worker reports to the Board and is working to coordinate efforts, ensuring that Leaving Care workers detailed knowledge of care leavers' interests, qualifications, skills, abilities and issues is married with a knowledge of opportunities available.</p> <p>Links with Leaving Care workers is being co-ordinated with the 6 Positive People Change Coaches who will deliver intensive work to young people who need motivation and / or improved life and social skills to be ready for the workplace. 25 care leavers have been identified as requiring this sort of intervention.</p> <p>Virtual School capacity for 16 -21 year old care leavers remains low. The role of the part time college link is being reviewed and requests have been made for funding for additional staffing to address the need.</p>	

2 Support the development and maintenance of a range of accommodation options for care leavers which meet their individual needs.				
<p>Councillors to visit care leavers' accommodation and feedback their views to officers</p>	<p>Trish Lyons/ Emma Good / P2i Board</p>	<p>May 2017</p>	<p>There are a number of different types of care and accommodation available to care leavers which are accessed following a detailed assessment of their needs and wishes.</p> <p>The March Corporate Parenting Board discussed inspection visits by County and District Councillors to accommodation available for care leavers.</p> <p>The Task group is requesting further discussion and clarification about what Councillors would like to know, how they might best be supported to obtain the information and how this might fit with current Quality Assurance measures</p> <p>To facilitate further discussion the subgroup thought it would be helpful for the Board to be provided with a breakdown of the types of accommodation young people are living in.</p>	<p>Amber</p>

Care leavers are encouraged to remain in a care placement until they are ready to live more independently and if they are in foster care to remain until 21 if appropriate – ‘Staying Put’. Also, when leaving a care placement, they are encouraged to live in supported accommodation prior to living independently. Some care leavers also return home when it is assessed as safe and appropriate for them to do so. Currently 76% of 16 & 17 year old care leavers live in care placements and a further 11% live at home.

The range of supported accommodation options commissioned by the Pathway to Independence (P2i) continues to grow and there are new and more robust monitoring and inspection arrangements in place for this type of accommodation. There are also family based supported accommodation arrangements available which have their own monitoring and Quality Assurance frameworks.

As part of the Pathway to Independence framework the County Council owns 3 small houses catering for up to 14 care leavers which are maintained and overseen by Leaving Care staff. They are also subject to County Council Buildings Health and Safety, Fire etc. scrutiny arrangements.

As of 10/4/17 the breakdown of accommodation type for all care leavers open to the Leaving Care service, aged 16 -21 years is;

- 27% Fostering, Staying Put, Stepping Stones or Shared Lives family based arrangements
- 27% Independent Living
- 16% Parents, family or friends
- 11% Pathway to Independence (P2i) YMCA commissioned supported accommodation
- 8% Residential provision
- 6% Other including residential colleges, secure accommodation, university halls
- 3% SCC / Leaving Care Houses
- 2% Other third sector supported accommodation

	Trish Lyons/Claire merchant Jones Trish Lyons / Fiona Phur		<p>In terms of location;</p> <p>82% In Somerset 9% Neighbouring Authorities 8% Elsewhere in Britain 1% Other Countries</p> <p>The subgroup discussed the developing Adult Social Care Community Connect model and the benefits of care leavers being linked to Community Agents, Somerset Community Foundation, mentors and advocates. Claire has offered to work with leaving care staff to develop this approach via training and link them with relevant bodies</p> <p>It will be important for any future assessment of the suitability of accommodation and accommodation support to include information about care leavers lived experience, views and suggestions. The replacement Participation worker in the Leaving Care Service is taking up post on 2/5/17 and this is part of his remit.</p>	
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3 Support the specific and individual needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) who are care leavers.				
Identify the specific needs of UASCs who are Care Leavers	Julie Skorupka / Rachel Austin	May 2017	<p>1 member of the USC team will be a Leaving Care Personal Advisor who will link closely with the leaving care service to ensure that the needs of UASCs as care leavers are addressed.</p> <p>The Task Group confirmed that the specific and individual needs of UASC care leavers will be taken into account in accordance with Statutory Regulation and Guidance and additional support arranged as is required.</p>	Amber

Appendix B (iii)

Voice Of the Child (VOC) - Task groups work plans

Theme	Action	Lead Person	Progress	Date to be completed	RAG Rating	Outcomes
Develop Participation Strategy	Agree SCC wide strategy for children's participation as umbrella strategy to this framework	Fiona Phur	Strategy agreed by Trust Executive The practitioner group in January highlighted some problems with using the strategy – these are being addressed with an overarching statement being produced which supports service based action plans. This work will take longer and the completion date has been extended.	June 2017	Amber	Duplication is reduced and children's views influence planning, commissioning and delivery across children's services.
Increase the participation of children looked after and care leavers	Develop action plan for participation Strategy	Fiona Phur	Ensure engagement of Children Looked After and Care Leavers with the board is in line with participation standards and develop supporting action plan	23 March 2017	Amber	CLA/CL engagement meets Participation Strategy standards
	Review Living Away from Home Pack	Julie Skorupka	Living Away from Home has now been agreed and is being circulated widely.	Completed	Green	Children who become looked after are informed about their rights and hear directly about the experience of their peers.
	Increase opportunities for children looked after to participate	Karen Kral / Julie Skorupka	Purchase of MOMO app agreed in principle – implementation plan in place – go live date planned for 8 th May 2017	May 2017	Amber	All children looked after are aware of the different ways to express their views and the opportunities to meet up with other children.
		Lesley Corrin / Fiona Phur	The website is now launched. Now being promoted by SiCC and SLCC, at CLA 'Getting to Know You' days throughout the year to foster carers, practitioners children looked after and care leavers. All in receipt of Who Cares also notified.	Completed	Green	Feedback is received from a wide range of children looked after which influences service

Theme	Action	Lead Person	Progress	Date to be completed	RAG Rating	Outcomes
Increase participation of children looked after and care leavers	SICC and SLCC to decide how they would like to engage with the CPB in future	Karen Kral	Agreement at meeting with DCS and Deputy DCS on 14 th December 2016 for a display of work to be set up in separate room to the CPB meeting and for SICCC/SLCC to explain the display material to members of CPB as the second part of a meeting	May 2017.	Amber	planning and delivery. All children looked after are aware of the different ways to express their views and the opportunities to meet up with other children.
Increase participation of children looked after and care leavers	Consider how to ensure the voice of UASC is captured	Rachel Austin Sharon Campbell Julie Skorupka	More details to be included at next meeting – UASC Team Manager invited to join MOMO implementation steering group	May 2017	Amber	Feedback is received from a wide range of children looked after which influences service planning and delivery.
Pledge and charter compliance	Questionnaire to seek feedback from Children Looked After and Care Leavers	Jason Pincott / Julie Skorupka	Film being shown at CLA team meetings.	March 2017	Amber	The Corporate Parent Board has an accurate evidence base to challenge or celebrate practice.
	Review wording of The Pledge to ensure that all statements are measurable.	Lesley Corrin	Work on rewording of the Pledge has not progressed and will form part of next year's action plan.	To be part of the 2017/18 action plan	Amber	
Understanding of the Corporate Parent role	Roll out getting to know you events across all areas	Jason Pincott / Julie Skorupka	Further 'Getting to Know You' area sessions to be set up in Taunton, Bridgwater and Yeovil	Spring 2017	Amber	

Theme	Action	Lead Person	Progress	Date to be completed	RAG Rating	Outcomes
SICC/SLCC Priorities	Priority Action Plan topics agreed for 2016	Lesley Corrin	<p>SICC and SLCC have reviewed progress on their previous priorities all of these have been addressed to some extent and where they want to do more work they have transferred to the new action plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education/job skills • Support for 18 plus • Sibling contact. • Young person friendly information. • Placement moves • involvement in decision making 	May 2017	Green	Children Looked After and Care Leavers are assured that the issues important to them are given serious consideration and acted upon.
	Review progress on actions and agree additional/ amended priorities for 2017/18	Lesley Corrin	<p>At the January meeting the young people voted on their priorities, these have been agreed and work is now taking place. Next year the themes are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback • Contact – sibling/whole family • Positive activities • Virtual School for 16+ • Transport • Support up to 25 • Independence/life skills • Confidence building • Support to build better relationships • Health 	May 2017	Green	

Appendix B (iv)

Education - Task groups work plans

Activity	Owner	Timescales	Progress update – March 2017	RAG
Identify all CLA within the Virtual School and their current year groups and SEN status. Record all attainment of CLA which can be accessed easily.	Zoe Heywood	July 2016	A virtual school dashboard has been created, using data from LCS and Capita. This has enabled the Virtual School to identify easily and accurately all children we should be working with and key pieces of information regarding those children and their education.	BAU – to be removed for Year 2
	Tony Johnson Alice Rees (core data team)	May 2017	Meeting with Capita input for Virtual School records all info; all children now loaded and waiting for training to be delivered – this to roll into year 2 action plan	Amber
Raise the profile of the Virtual School so that better understanding and communications between schools, CSC and carers is established to ensure joined up approach to CLA and education	Zoe Heywood	Training for all CSC staff- end of August 2016 Designated teacher Network meeting – end of July 2016	VSH attended Primary Heads forum in June 2016 and gave key messages. Designated Teacher (DT) Network meeting took place 14th July – attended by 112 teachers. Education Roadshows put on 16,17,18 August 2016 for all CSC staff working with Children Looked After (CLA).	BAU – rolling programme for Year 2
	Jo Manning Jason Pincott/Julie Skorupka	Foster Carer training – completed Ongoing until embedded into practice	5 dates for training in Nov/Dec for all foster carers VS staff to sit with CLA staff on a regular basis to answer queries/questions and provide advice. 61 foster carers and 48 other Children's Social Care (CSC) professionals attended. Monthly meetings now being held with Ops Manager to discuss and escalate concerns. Taking place and being logged. CLA Ops and Strategic Manager to keep Virtual School Head (VSH) profile high within CLA and re-iterate importance of joint working. Termly DT network meetings- have taken place summer term and autumn term – (112 and 67 teachers and governors have attended)	Green –rolling programme into Year 2
VS involvement in decision making process around placements and	Zoe Heywood	September 2016	VSH sits on edge of care, permanence, complex case panels to ensure involvement and input around placement/provision decision making.	BAU – to be removed from AP for Year 2

Activity	Owner	Timescales	Progress update – March 2017	RAG
school moves (Maintaining stability of home and school placements)	Jason Pincott / Julie Skorupka		School admissions highlighting in year applications for CLA to the VSH.	
	Becky Hopkins	September 2016	School moves are discussed and escalated with CLA Ops/Strategic Manager on a monthly basis, situation improving still some issues with this.	Amber - roll into Year 2
New PEP to be devised, on the back of feedback ensuring that progress is specifically measured and that appropriate SMART targets are set for all CLA to enable them to achieve their full potential	Zoe Heywood	September 2016	New Personal Education Plan (PEP) is now being used	B to be removed from AP in Year 2
		Termly until August 2017	New PEP now being used, evaluation to be undertaken and QA to happen on a termly basis. 98% of CLA had a PEP in the Autumn term 2016/2017	Amber
Management oversight and monitoring of those CLA on reduced timetables, those excluded from school, those with poor attendance and those placed in schools not good/outstanding	Zoe Heywood Jane Seaman	January 2017	Children Missing in education panel chaired monthly Welfare Call in place and working effectively so all attendance and exclusions are being monitored Proforma in place for SW and Independent Reporting Officer (IRO) to complete for children in schools Requires Improvement (RI) or Inadequate (I) – further development in Year 2	Green – roll over to Year 2
Investigate how to raise aspirations of CLA	Zoe Heywood Julie Young	Ongoing – July 2017	Programme of activities in place including ice skating in December 16, Easter 17 farm visit , yoga and relaxation for Yr 11. 10 YP in school and 10 CL to visit Microsoft HQ in May 17 Further work with universities to roll out in year 2. Your Future Post 16 options booklet now given out to all Yr 11 CLA. Choices for Life careers fair promoted to CLA and CL – 24.3.17 in Yeovil. Talent academy programmes being rolled out across Somerset Sept 2017 targeting vulnerable groups.	Amber
Completion of PEPs to a	Zoe Heywood	August 2017	August 2016 – 90% of CLA have a current PEP.	Amber

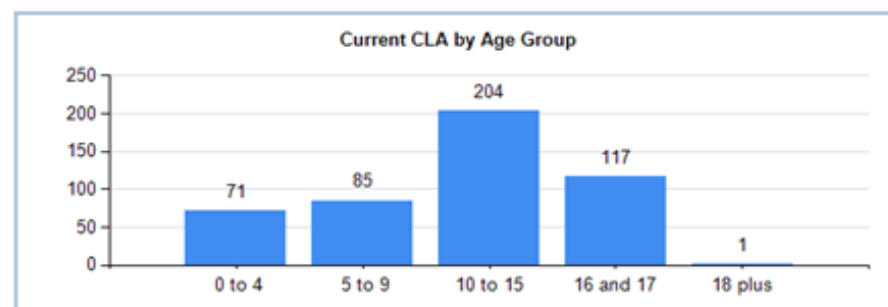
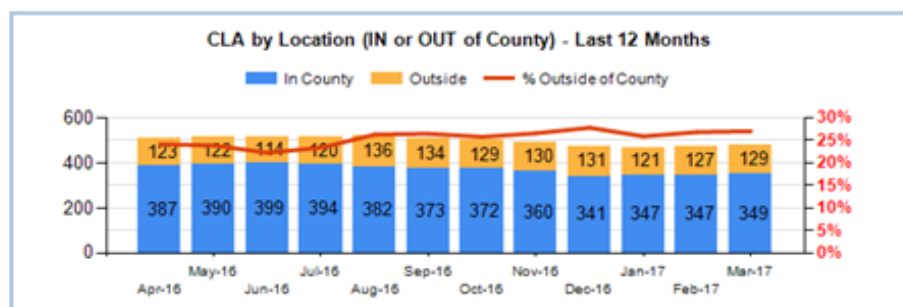
Activity	Owner	Timescales	Progress update – March 2017	RAG
high standard and on time. 100% of CLA to have a current PEP	Jason Pincott		Target is 100% by August 2017, PEP's to be more closely monitored by VS. 331 PEPs took/taking place autumn term (98.5%). VS attended over 170 sept – nov VS presence at PEP meetings to increase to ensure high quality PEP's are being held,	
Develop a better understanding of educational issues affecting CLA with S/W, schools, governors and Foster Carers	Zoe Heywood Jo Manning Dee Henderson Ann Adams Jason Pincott	Ongoing - July 2017	Training to be delivered to schools (including governors), SW's and foster carers at different forums and different times throughout the year with the support of the EP service and any relevant outside agencies in regards to understanding the issues affecting education for our CLA, including specifically Attachment and trauma awareness. Update – 5 full day sessions for Foster Carer's took place Nov/Dec attended by 61 Foster Carer's. this training is now mandatory. Designated Teachers (DT) network meeting in December 2016 attended by 67 DT's and Governors. Educational Psychologist delivered training on Sensory processing and attachment. Present to CLA and LC Service Day in Autumn 17 and invite both DT's and SW's. Training plan for Year 2 is being developed.	Green –with elements rolling into Year 2
Pupil Premium to be used effectively to ensure better educational outcomes for CLA	Zoe Heywood	Ongoing – Sept 2017	Closer scrutiny of PP impact within the PEP in order to identify 'what works' and to target those children with the highest level of need in order to improve educational outcomes and attainment now being reviewed from Autumn term – impact result in September 17	Green – roll into Year 2
Working with Schools and Governing Bodies in Somerset to recognise Corporate responsibilities and are ambitious for our CLA	Ann Adams Neal Chislett	July 2017	Virtual School (VS) articles are now published in the 'network' magazine for all governors around roles and responsibilities each term. Yr 2 – rolling programme of training for governors.	Green – roll into Year 2
Ensure educational needs of CLA are taken into account when policy planning for education	Julia Ridge	Discussed monthly at SLT	Profile of VS now well embedded into SLT and senior leaders; ongoing promotion of VS within other functions.	BAU – remove from AP in Year 2

Activity	Owner	Timescales	Progress update – March 2017	RAG
Monitor and celebrate educational attainment and vocational training	Zoe Heywood Lesley Corrin Tony Johnson	August 2017	VS to be part of nomination process for Annual Achievement Awards ceremony July 2017. Regular recognition awards will commence start of Summer term. Welfare Call now established for tracking termly achievements.	Amber
Address issues around transition and preparation for employment, ensuring appropriate choices at post 16	Julie Young Trish Lyons Zoe Heywood	May 2017	Year 11 panel now taking place and attended by VS link worker Post 16 College Link worker now within the VS to ensure all CLA are identified within college and clear communication takes place with CSC and schools. Year 2 plans to incorporate Post 16.	Amber
Ensure good communication links are in place between services including CLA, SEND, EPS, Fostering, Early years, Post 16	Julia Ridge Jason Pincott Jo Manning Julie Young Zoe Heywood	December 2016	Links to be made with all relevant services in individual areas by the Virtual School (VS). This to be encouraged and supported by senior managers.	Green – to be further developed in Year 2
		March 2017	VS now features in Communic8 and Fostering and governors newsletter Funding bid in place to raise awareness and show case best practice	Green – to be rolled into Year 2
Consider for and provide for the education needs for all UASC s including post 16	Rachel Austin/ Zoe Heywood	September 2017	Identify specific educational needs Refresh existing Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) education protocol Request education budget for post 16 learners, not eligible for Pupil Premium	Amber
Consider the needs of and develop advice and guidance service for educational support of adopted and SGO children, in line with emerging White paper due imminently	Zoe Heywood Becky Hopkins	July 2017	Meeting held in advance of proposed changes	Amber

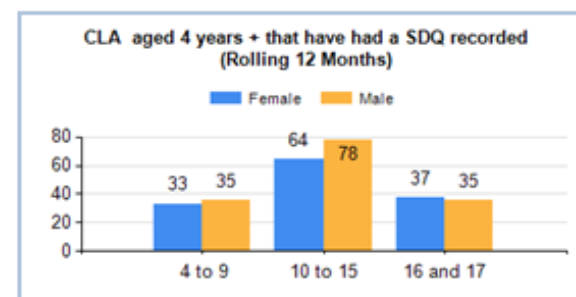
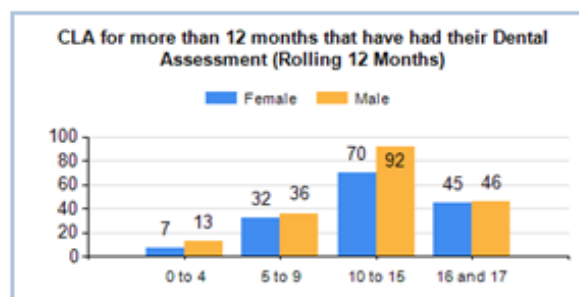
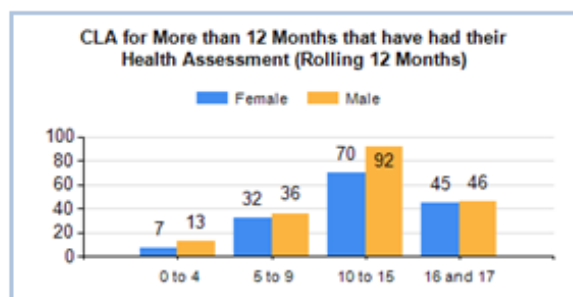
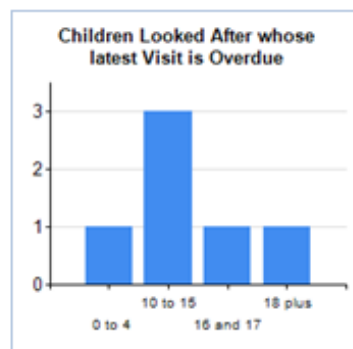
Appendix C – Corporate Parenting Data Dashboards

Corporate Parenting

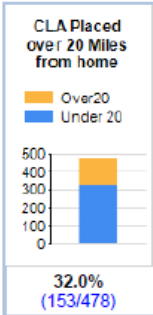
At the last corporate parenting board, it was agreed that performance data would be provided as a standing item with additional data submitted dependant on the agenda. The standing data is detailed below along with the information provided on the Children Looked After Service Dashboard (attached).



Age Group	CLA Visits Undertaken in the past month where Child was Seen	CLA Visits Undertaken in the past month where Child was Seen Alone	% of Visits Undertaken on Time
0 to 4	98.3% (113/115)	34.8% (40/115)	97.4% (112/115)
5 to 9	100.0% (79/79)	87.3% (69/79)	100.0% (79/79)
10 to 15	99.5% (205/206)	88.8% (183/206)	96.6% (199/206)
16 and 17	98.4% (120/122)	77.0% (94/122)	96.7% (118/122)
18 plus	100.0% (1/1)	100.0% (1/1)	0.0% (0/1)



CLA Dashboard – March 2017



Somerset Children Looked After
478

Somerset CLA Rate per 10 000
43.8

SN CLA Rate per 10 000
53.0

England CLA Rate per 10 000
60.3

South East Rate/10 000 Q1 2016/17
51.9

LA's Rated 'Good' CLA Rate/10 000 Average
55.1

Care Proceedings Open for < 26 Weeks
57.6% (53/92)

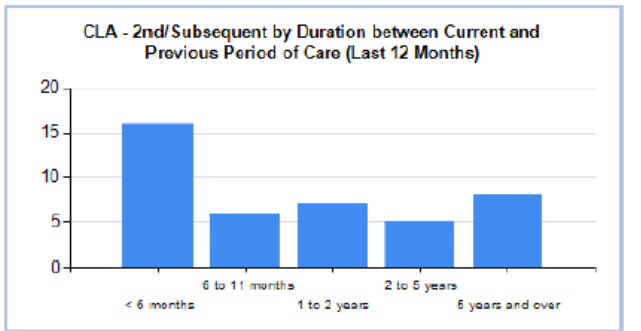
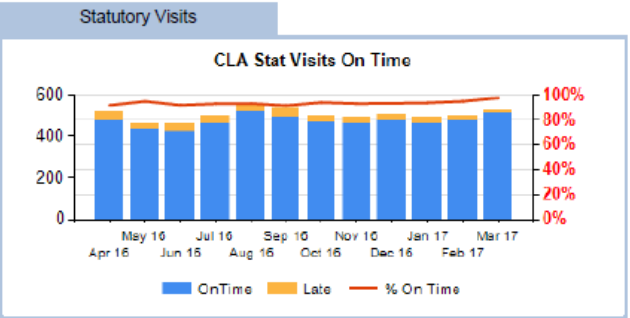
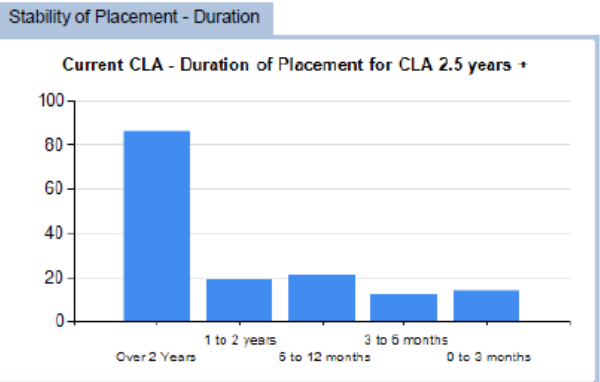
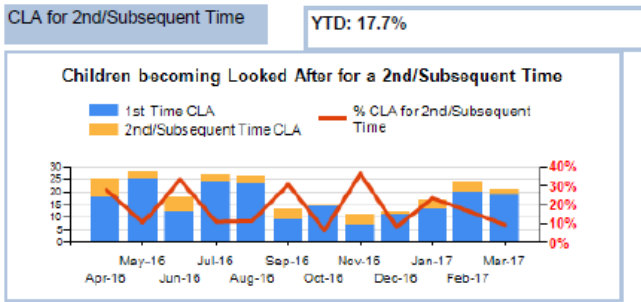
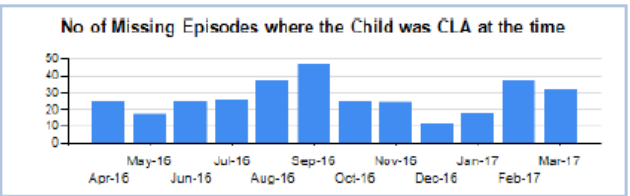
% of Children placed for Adoption within 12 months of decision
80.6% (25/31)
National Ave 2013/14: 72%

CLA who are UASC
2.7% (13/478)

Net changes in No of Children Looked After with breakdown of Starting & Ending Care

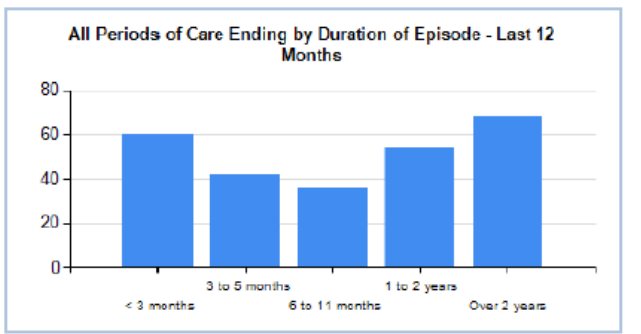
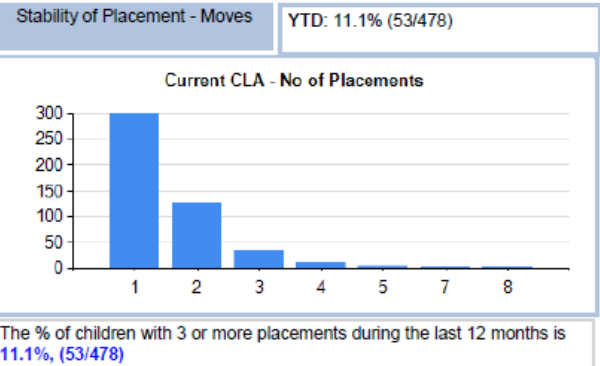
YTD -23 (237:260)

Last 12 Months -23 (237:260)



% Of CLA Seen during the Last 28 days
76.4% (365/478)

% Of CLA Seen Alone during the Last 28 Days
62.6% (299/478)



Initial Health Assessments YTD: 82.3% (153/186)

CLA that became looked after for more than 28 days during the month that have had an IHA



The percentage of children looked after for more than 28 days that have had their Initial Health Assessments during the last 12 months is **82.3%** (153/186)

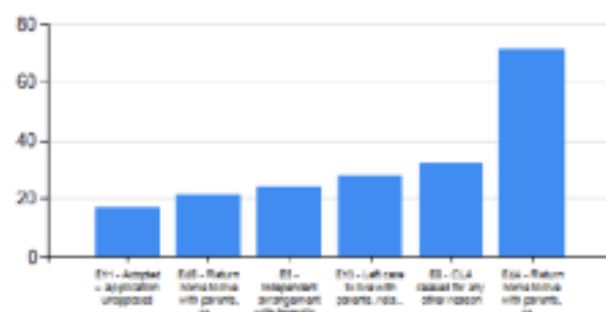
Children Ceasing to be CLA - Adopted YTD: 12.3%

Children Ceasing to be Looked After who were Adopted



The percentage of children ceasing to be looked after that were adopted in the last 12 months is **12.3%** (32/260)
SE Benchmarking Q1 2016/17: 13%

All Periods of Care Ending by Reason - Last 12 Months (Top 6)



% of Children Looked After for More than 1 year or since 1st April for YTD that have had their Health Assessments

YTD	86.5% (295/341)
Last 12 months	86.5% (295/341)

% of Children Looked After for more than 1 year or since 1st April for YTD that have had their Dental Checks

YTD	71.6% (244/341)
Last 12 months	71.6% (244/341)

% of Children Aged 4 plus that have been Looked After for more than 1 year or since 1st April for YTD that have had a SDQ recorded

YTD	86.0% (282/328)
Last 12 months	86.0% (282/328)

Care Leavers

Care Leavers in touch (All Ages)	Care Leavers NEET (All Ages)	Care Leavers Suitably Accommodated (All Ages)
Current: 97.9% (281/287)	Current: 42.5% (122/287)	Current: 94.4% (271/287)

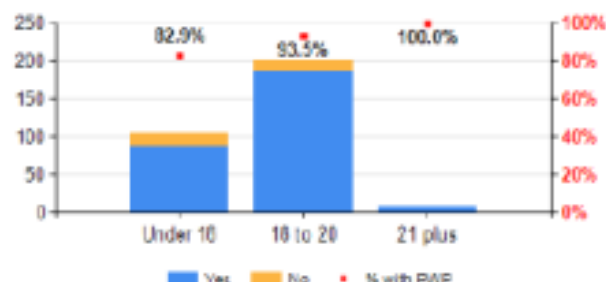
Care Leavers NEET



Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation



Care Leavers with Pathway Plan



The overall % of Care Leavers with current Pathway Plans currently stands at **90.1%** (282/313)

Appendix D - Profile of a Corporate Parent



“Would this be good enough for my own child?”

The role of a Somerset Corporate Parent

All councillors have a duty as a corporate parent for children looked after and need to have an awareness of the corporate parenting role and their shared responsibility for ensuring needs of children are met .

We are seeking elected members to sit on the Corporate Parenting Board from May 2017.

This briefing explains the role and function in more detail.

As corporate parent for children looked after, the council has a duty to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of appropriate, high quality places for all children in care to live. In practical terms this means that all elected members should ensure that Somerset County Council (SCC) is recruiting sufficient foster carers, providing appropriate foster care placements as well as high quality residential care homes, and that there are efficient plans for adoption, adopter recruitment, or special guardianship where appropriate.

Elected members who sit on the Corporate Parenting Board will be supported to understand arrangements to support young people leaving care, including housing, progression to further or higher education, training or employment and ensure that officers have the necessary resources to put appropriate measures in place to meet SCC’s statutory obligations.

Councillors understand their responsibilities through Corporate Parenting training , interaction with children and young people who are members of the Somerset In Care Council and Somerset Leaving Care Council and guidance from officers.

These responsibilities include:

- Having a clear understanding and awareness of the issues for children looked after and care leavers in the authority area and those placed out of area
- Championing the interests of children looked after and care leavers by ensuring those who are responsible for their welfare and education are held to account through regular meetings.
- Asking questions and constructively challenge outcomes for children looked after and care leavers
- Communicating with children looked after and care leavers through appropriate channels so they have a say in how decisions are made about the services that affect them.
- Leading on securing work based training opportunities, including apprenticeships for care leavers within the Council and its partners and contractors

- Children that come into care, but who may be placed outside of Somerset County must not be forgotten.
- Questioning and challenging whether the Council, as corporate parent, is keeping the promise it has made in the Corporate Parenting Pledge, and the Care Leavers' Charter
- Demanding evidence of positive outcomes for Somerset children looked after, especially those in your division.
- Asking how all elements of council business have an impact for children looked after
- Making connections and links between council plans, strategies and decision-making for children looked after
- Consistently asking "Would this be good enough for my own child?"

The Corporate Parenting Board meets 6 times a year; mainly in County Hall but occasionally in the districts. Board meetings usually commence at 4.30 for 2 hours, to allow the young people from the In Care Councils to get to the meeting after school or college.

DOES THIS ROLE INTEREST YOU – WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Please find more information on our Somerset County Council webpage.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further, please contact Fiona Phur, Partnership Business Manager Tel: 01823 355 259/ Mobile 07919 540179 / email FZPhur@somerset.gov.uk.

Glossary of Terms

BBO	Building Better Opportunities
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CIN	Children in Need
CL	Care leavers
CLA	Children Looked After
CSC	Children's Social Care
CV	Curriculum Vitae
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
DCS	Director of Children Services
DfE	Department for Education
DT	Designated Teachers
IRO	Independent Reporting officer
MoMo	Mind of My Own
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NHS	National Health Service
P2i	Pathway to Independence
PEP	Personal Education Plan
RAG rated	Red, Amber, Green, Blue (Business As Usual - BAU) rated
SCC	Somerset County Council
SCPB / CPB	Somerset Corporate Parenting Board
SCT	Somerset Children's Trust
SDQs	Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire
SEND	Special Educational Needs /Disability
SiCC	Somerset in Care Council
SLCC	Somerset Leaving Care Council
Sompar	Somerset Partnership
SW	Social Worker
TOR	Terms of Reference
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
VS	Virtual School
VSH	Virtual School Head