



SOMERSET CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 2019





ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Corporate Parenting Board continues to function effectively with reports from officers and partners showing clear progress against the 7 Principles of Corporate Parenting and our Ofsted Improvement programme. This report highlights the high quality of delivery that our front-line staff undertake on a daily basis and the Board's ability to influence this delivery through its direct contact with operational leads in its subgroups. Nevertheless, in our evaluation of this year's achievements, we have identified further areas of development that are ambitious for the overall outcomes for the 800 children and young people in our care.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Corporate Parenting Board requests;
- That Council recommends that Councillors appointed to the Corporate Parenting Board who do not attend Board meetings for three consecutive meetings are reported to Group Leads
 - That Council invites District Councillor representation on the Corporate Parenting Board to provide support on housing and leisure issues
 - That Council extend their thanks to the In Care Councils young people for all the hard work that they undertake.

3. Background

- 3.1. The role of the Somerset Corporate Parenting Board (CPB), 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 2017.

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.

The Council's corporate parenting arrangements, reviewed in 2015, were further reviewed following May 2017 Local Elections to ensure Somerset continues to provide a robust Corporate Parenting approach.

Full council in June 2017 approved the new elected members, and the updated annual action plan, and the arrangements set out in the corporate parenting strategy 2016-19.

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.

3.2. Promotion of the 7 Principles of Corporate Parenting:

In order to thrive, children and young people have certain key needs that good parents generally meet. The corporate parenting principles set out 7 Principles (identified in section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017) that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people as follows:

1. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those 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; and
7. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

These principles form the structure of our actions and guide the decisions and challenges we make as a board.

- ### 3.3.
- The focus of the Corporate Parenting Board is on the delivery of five priorities covering placement sufficiency and stability, education, health, voice of the child and leaving care through well-established sub-groups 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.

- ### 3.4.
- This report provides an update of the function and impact of the Board over the past 12 months. See **Appendix C** for the 2018 – 2019 Corporate Parenting Board Action plans and **Appendix D** for the March 2019 data dashboard.


4. 2018 – 2019 Achievements

- ### 4.1.
- Achievements 2018 - 2019 (see **Appendix A**) this information evaluates the progress against the annual priorities set for 2018/19.

- ### 4.2.
- The format/governance of the Corporate Parenting Board:
The Board has approved a move to quarterly meetings and reporting commencing 2019. This brings the Corporate Parenting reports in line with The Somerset Plan for Children, Young People & Families 2019 - 2022 reporting and gives a greater awareness to the Somerset Children's Trust.

The chair also recommended to the Group leaders to review the regular attendance of their members on the Board.

Three key staff changes have led to the Head of Service - Children Looked After and Care Leavers, Jayne Shelbourn-Barrow; Interim Head of Virtual School, Emily Walters;



and Designated Nurse Children Looked After, Sarah Ashe being welcomed to the Board.

4.3. The chair especially wishes to highlight the many positive outcomes from the work of the Board and sub-groups especially:

- No Somerset child is placed in an inadequate residential provision and no Somerset residential provision is judged as Inadequate
- For the fifth consecutive academic year no CLA has been permanently excluded
- An improved data monitoring set has been developed to include part time timetables, children missing education and persistent absenteeism
- The Virtual School has aligned to the SiCC and SLCC priorities on a longer-term project regarding the issues CLA face in school
- Local Offer for Care Leavers launched November 2018
- More information in place around reasons for lack of timely initial health assessments
- Refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy and The Pledge co-produced with SiCC and SLCC
- Better monitoring and interventions of care leavers who are not in education, employment and training (NEET)
- Project work to determine extent and risk of children from other local authorities placed in Somerset

4.4. SiCC & SLCC update: (see **Appendix B**)

The long-term absence of the Engagement & Participation Worker this year could have impacted upon the work of the In-Care Council's (SiCC & SLCC); however, this has been averted due to the excellent support from staff and volunteers and the young people themselves. Particular thanks should be noted to elected members who raised funds and donated gifts for the Summer Away Day and Christmas Party.

5. Areas for Development

5.1. Areas for Development (see **Appendix A**) this information evaluates the progress against the annual priorities set for 2018/19.

6. Appendices

- **Page 5: Appendix A** – Corporate Parenting Board Achievements and Areas for Development 2018 – 2020
- **Page 10: Appendix B** – SiCC and SLCC Annual Report 2018 - 2019
- **Page 17: Appendix C** – Corporate Parenting Board Action Plans 2018 - 2019
- **Page 37: Appendix D** – Corporate Parenting Board Data Dashboard – March 2019
- **Page 41: Appendix E** – Corporate Parenting Board Strategy 2019 - 2022
- **Page 69: Appendix F** – Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference 2019 - 2022



APPENDIX A - Corporate Parenting Board Achievements and Areas for Development 2018 - 2020

7 PRINCIPLES	ACHIEVEMENTS 2018-19	AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT 2019-20	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>1 - To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people</p>	<p>Discovered reasons for lack of timely Initial Health Assessments (IHA)</p> <p>Knowledge of why we have low rates of Children Looked After (CLA) who have annual dental checks with CCG dental assessment survey</p> <p>Local Offer for Care Leavers launched November 2018</p>	<p>SDQ's - triangulation of, and appropriate interventions</p> <p>Timeliness of Initial Health Assessment (IHA)</p> <p>Out of County Health Assessments</p> <p>Education, Health and Wellbeing Pathways</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing Sub-Group</p>
<p>2 - To encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings</p>	<p>Licence extended for Mind of My Own app from April 2019 to March 2020</p> <p>Promoting the use of Mind of My Own app via Route One Advocacy and the Fostering Team</p> <p>Mind of My Own film made by young people for staff training use</p> <p>Leaving Care service have trained a cohort of young people in interview skills</p> <p>SiCC / SLCC have been involved in 4 sets of interviews</p> <p>SiCC / SLCC refreshed The Pledge in 2018</p>	<p>Increase participation of Children Looked After to participate via use of Mind of My Own app</p> <p>Promote 'Top Tips to Include Young People Involved in Interviews' alongside refreshed Participation Strategy</p> <p>SiCC / SLCC to now have a regular agenda item at each CPB meeting</p> <p>Communicate the Pledge when refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy is launched</p> <p>Learning Care Apprentice now working closely with Participation Team and SiCC / SLCC</p>	<p>Voice of the Child Sub-Group</p>
<p>3 - To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people</p>	<p>Participation Strategy was refreshed in March 2019 in co-production with Participation Workers Network</p> <p>Mind of My Own awareness now included in Foster Carers training</p> <p>SiCC / SLCC and IRO's are working on</p>	<p>Participation Toolkit to be hosted on Professional Choices</p> <p>Mind of My Own workshop planned for May 2019</p> <p>Mind of My Own information for new Children's Social Care staff in welcome</p>	<p>Voice of the Child Sub-Group</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board – Partnership Team</p>



amendments to CLA documentation and processes

320 nominations for Annual Achievements Awards 2018: 200+ young people attended two ceremonies in July 2018

Priorities of SiCC / SLCC were met in 2018-19

The Corporate Parent Board has approved the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy and Pledge

Board members took part in Getting to Know You Days, Annual Achievements Awards and engagement events for the new children and young people's plan

pack

Develop capacity of Route One advocacy to better support the voice of the child in child protection conferences

Limited budget secured for 2019 Awards; format to be decided

Development of a Corporate Parenting e-learning module on TLC for SCC staff; could be adapted for use in Districts

Priorities for 2019-20 have been set

4 - To help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners

The Corporate Parenting Strategy has been refreshed for 2019-22, and the Terms of Reference have been reviewed and approved

SiCC / SLCC members took part in the planning and co-production of the new multi-agency plan Our Plan – The Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2019-2022

The Board approved future quarterly reporting in the QPRM style (Quality and Performance Reporting Management)

Adult's Services, Children's Services, Waste Partnership, Transport and Highways have all made a commitment to support CLA and care leavers through traineeships and work experience placements

Representation of key stakeholders on the Board has been reviewed and the Chair has identified and approached potential new stakeholders

Communicate the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy and terms of reference

Launch and communication of Our Plan – The Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2019-2022 in April 2019

QPRM reporting to commence April 2019

Information on children from other Local Authorities placed in Somerset to be aligned to adult social care scoping exercise and taken to the Joint Strategic Protocol Board

Corporate Parenting Board – Partnership Team
Voice of the Child Sub-Group



Scoping exercise to determine the extent and risk of children from other Local Authorities placed in Somerset completed

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

Improved communication with EP and SEN managers

Creation of a Virtual School register

Priority list for CLA place in RI/I schools, missing education, exclusions or persistent absenteeism

Better transition arrangements on PEPs for Yr6 and Yr11

Improved data monitoring set developed to include p/t timetables, missing, persistent absenteeism, RI/I provision

No CLA have been permanently excluded in academic year 18/19

Higher percentage of Yr12 destinations confirmed

Higher quality of EYS (96.8%)

Inclusion audit launched across all Somerset schools which includes CLA

Launched Designated Teachers Network

New Head of Service for CLA and CL has worked with VS to align CSC and VS more closely

'Working with the Traumatized Child' training offer rolled out to schools, social care and

Exclusions and attendance remain the more significant concerns and priority within the education group and the Virtual School

Refresh PEP documentation

Focus on improving attainment and diminishing the difference

Changes and increases in stat requirements from 'The designated teacher for looked after and previously looked-after children - Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities' February Sept 2018 has increased pressure on the VS team

Only 3 of 38 students (8%) at KS4 achieved a standard pass at English and Maths but this was an increase (up from 6%)

51 CYP (16.7%) have had persistence absence (below 90%) – 51 are placed out of county (41%) and 75 have SEND

Sickness in team

VS Head resignations and subsequent interim with other responsibilities

Appropriate educational provision 10% of CLA (43) in RI/I school

33 CYP have had fixed term exclusions this academic year – 15 of them more than

Education Sub-Group – Virtual School



parents/carers	once
Education roadshow held for CSC staff for better understanding of CLA education	10 CYP not currently on a school roll
End of year celebration held at the beginning of summer holidays	
PEP training for EYS Sencos	
July 2018 trip to Bath Spa University for 8 CLA in year 10/11 to give them insight into the opportunities and experience available	
Virtual School Head attended SiCC / SLCC to discuss how we can raise awareness of the issues facing CLA and how we can best communicate this to schools and a wider audience.	

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

Information packs for children and young people becoming CLA have been reviewed

All District Councils have approved Tax Exemption for working care leavers

Adoption Service Annual Report was presented to the Board in March 2019

Fostering Service Annual Report was presented to the Board in March 2019

Sufficiency Statement and Action Plan now as fixed agenda item

Somerset has seen an improvement in placement availability. No provision in Somerset is inadequate, and no Somerset child is in an inadequate placement

Safeguarding of other Local Authorities CLA placed into Somerset

Re-design of Living Away From Home information packs

Further work required on care leavers Tax Exemption to ensure consistency and equality of offer

QPRM style reporting will collect Fostering and Adoption reporting moving forward

Refresh of Sufficiency Statement and Action Plan

Corporate Parenting Board – Partnership Team

Sufficiency Report

Fostering and Adoption



7 - To prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living

Leaving Care worker seconded to HR to work on Pathways 2 Employment providing information to Leaving Care Service and tracking NEET's

Review of Skanska and Viridor offer to care leavers

All CLA's have access to the Talent Academy programme

Supported Traineeship programme piloted with Hinkley Point

Yr12 and Yr13 Transition Panels now embedded

Better monitoring of care leavers who are NEET

UASC's now integrated into CLA and CL teams

New Local Offer for care leavers launched in November 2018

Development of new intake onto Skanska, Viridor and NHS for care leavers

More focus on CLA and CL who are able and available for, but not engaged in, education, training or employment (ETE)

Better links for NEET's with Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team

Work on combatting loneliness in our P2i development

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) accommodation and support needs to be considered as part of a single 16+ panel

Care leavers survey to evidence 'Care Leavers Know How to Access the Offer'

Care Leavers Sub-Group



Somerset in Care Council & Somerset Leaving Care Council

www.somersetincarecouncils.org.uk

Who Are We?

- 27 members aged between 11 –20 attended meetings in 2018/19
- We welcomed 8 new members
- And said goodbye to 6 members
- There are 5 members of supporting staff
- And 6 volunteers
- We also had 9 visitors come along to meetings



Monthly Meetings

- To work on issues from our Annual Priorities plan
- Sundays from 11 – 4 at The Roller-coaster in Bridgwater
- Lunch and refreshments provided
- Supporting events and activities in between
- 9 meetings were held (1 snowed off)
- Along with 1 Christmas Party and a Summer Away Day



Activities

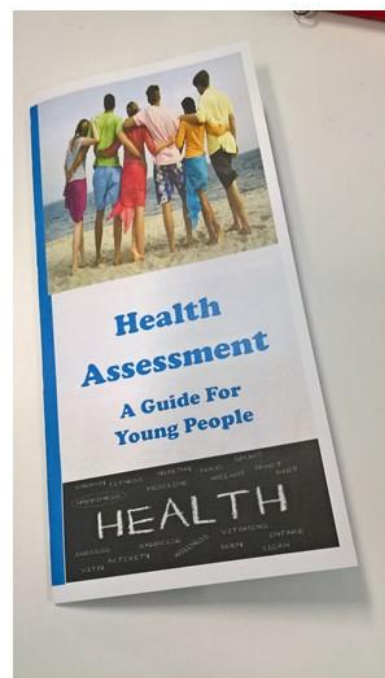
- July - Annual Achievement Awards 2018 - 320 nominations, and 200 attendees
- May - Mind Of My Own Conference - Ryan won 'Young Mind Of My Own Champion', 2 radio shows and a newspaper interview.
- April – August – 4 Getting To Know You days
- August - Away Day in the woods (and in the lake!)
- May – October - Engaged in 4 planning days and 2 consultations for the new Children and Young People's Plan
- December - Christmas Party

How did we meet our 2018/19 priorities – Voice Of the Child

- Redesigned the Family Group Conferencing evaluation form
- Redesigned 'Having Your Say' form
- Interview training and supported 4 interview panels
- Planned Mind Of My Own conference presentation
- Refreshed and redesigned The Pledge
- Mind Of My Own now on SCC complaints page
- Animation film for new social workers on Feedback
- Improve CLA reviews

How did we meet our 2018/19 priorities – Health and Education

- Designed new health assessment leaflet
- Attended 'Health of CLA conference' in February
- 'What schools need to know' – long term project for Virtual School

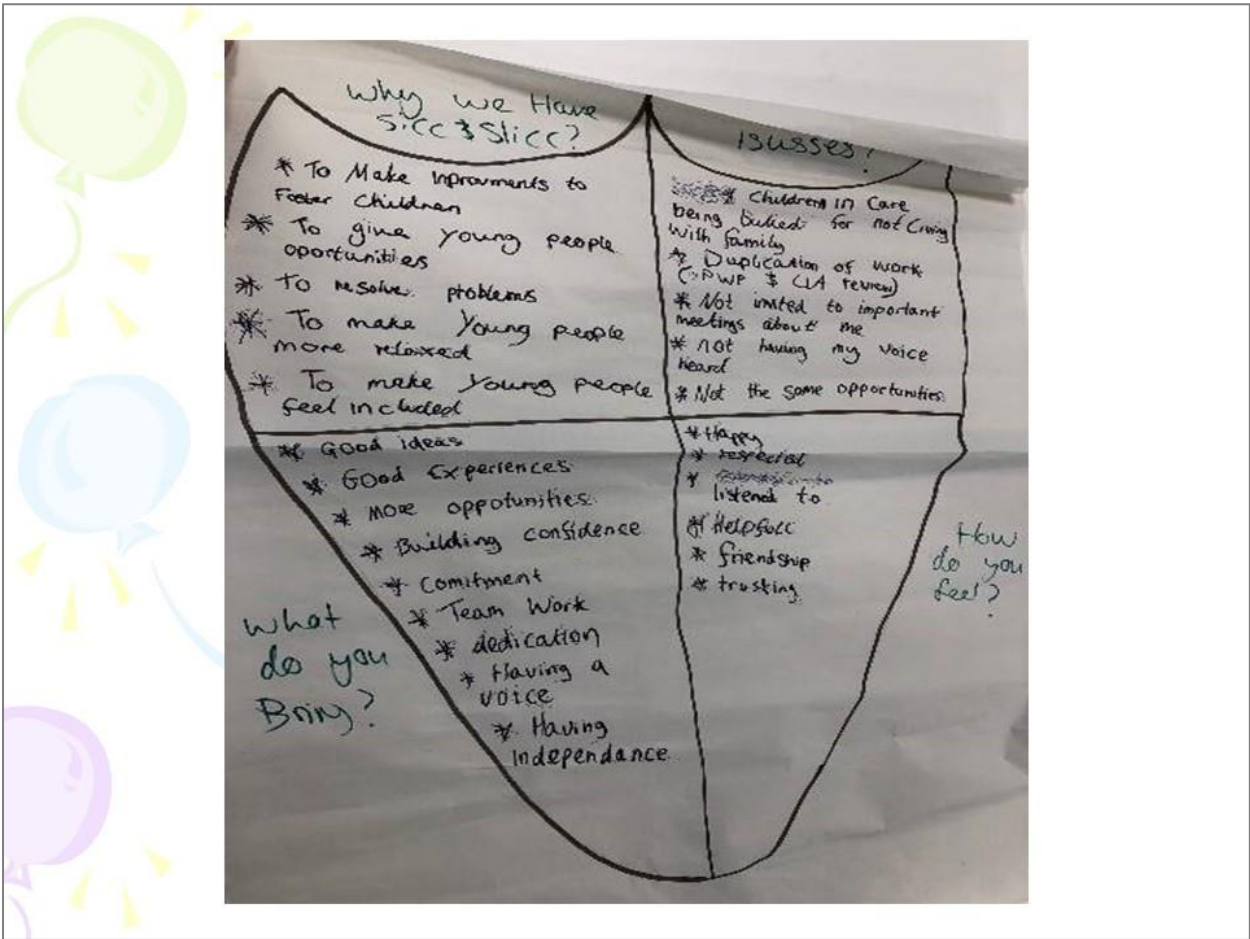
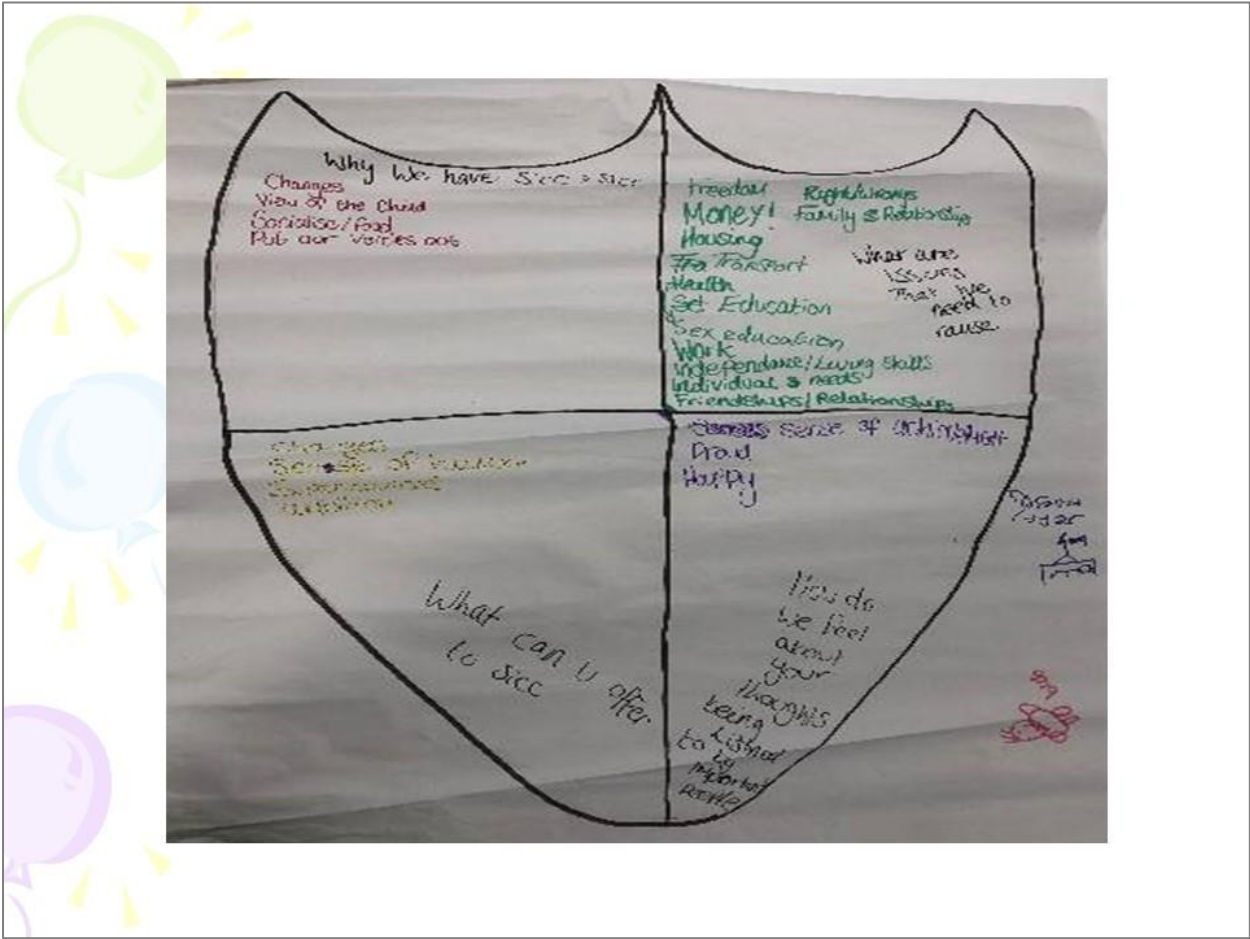


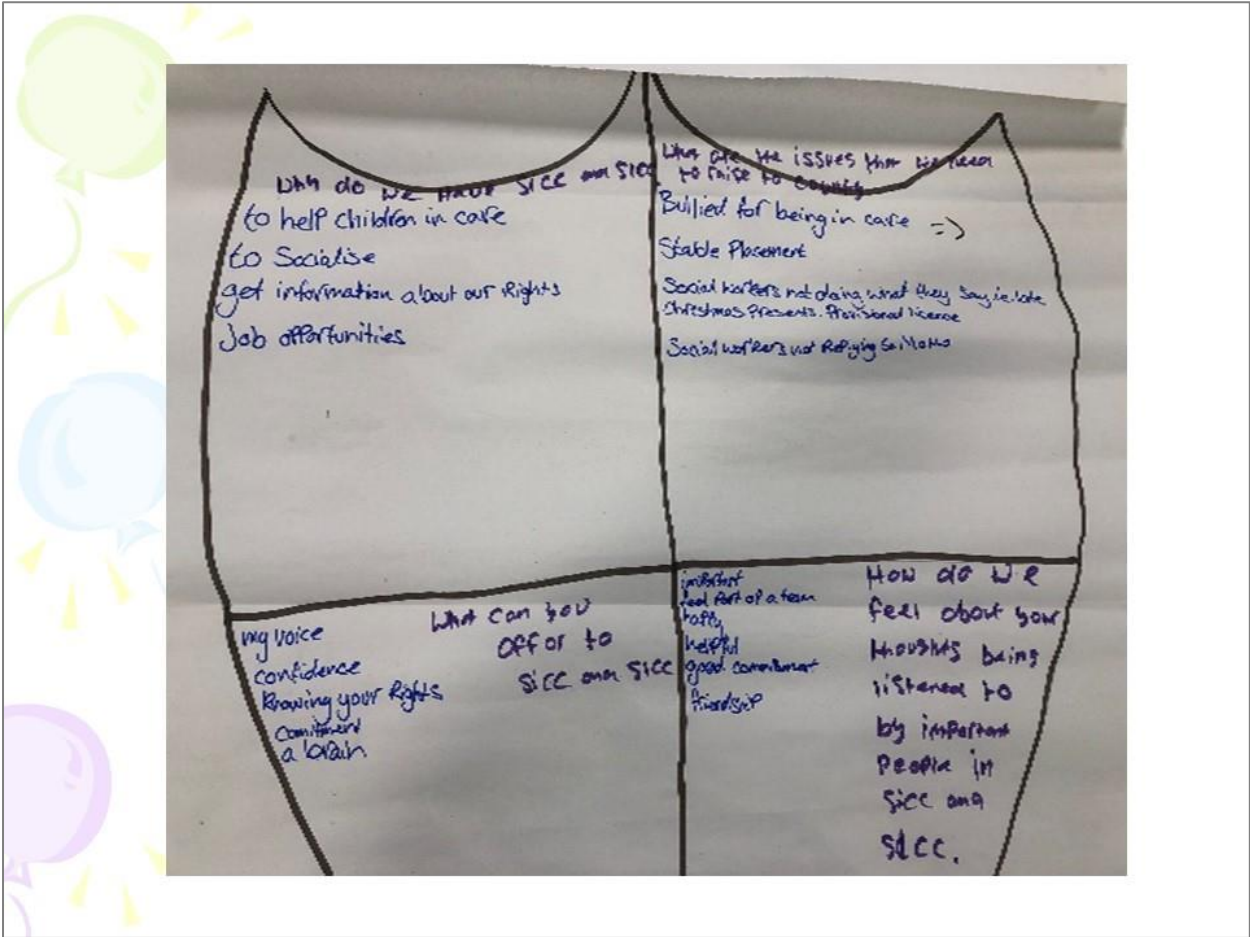
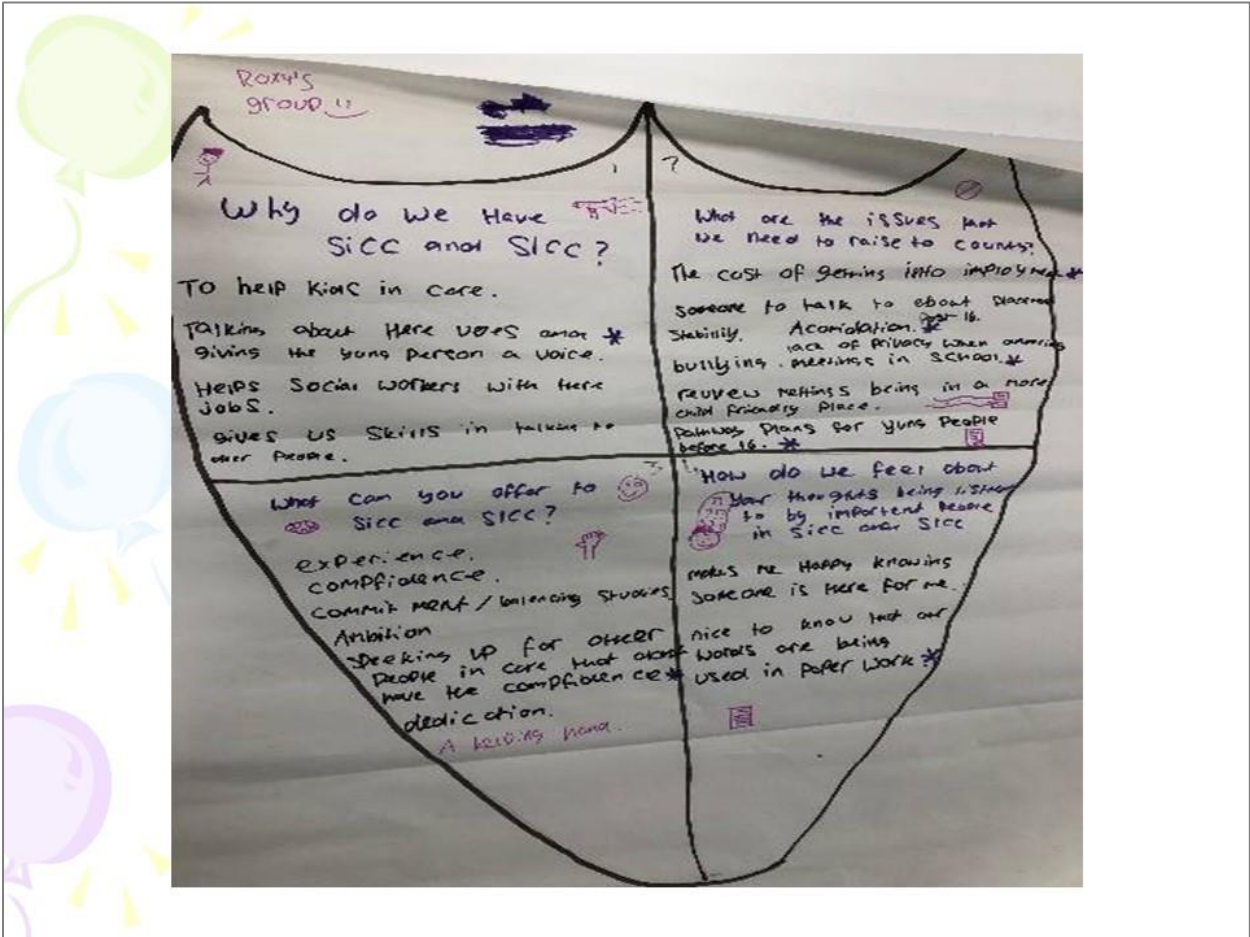
How did we meet our 2018/19 priorities – Leaving Care

- Supported the work towards the Local Offer for Care Leavers
- Worked on the 'Preparing for Adulthood' booklet
- Consultation on the new Children and Young People's Plan 'Preparing for Adulthood'

How did we meet our 2018/19 priorities – Accommodation

- Consultation on Premature Placement Endings process and questionnaire
- Devised the 'Accommodation' game
- Working on improving placement stability with Children's Commissioning Team







Priorities for 2019/20

- Money:
 - **Help with independence and budgeting**
- Independence and Living skills:
 - **ASDAN**
 - **tenants certificate**
- Freedom:
 - **Being able to go out with friends**
- Housing:
 - **Help with semi independent and independent living**
- How to keep good family relationships



Don't forget.....

www.somersetincarecouncils.org.uk



Young people in Somerset asked for Mind Of My Own - So now lets use it!

mindofmyown.org.uk

Appendix C - Corporate Parenting Board Action Plans 2018 - 2019

Appendix C (i) Health and Wellbeing – Sub-Group Action Plans

Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating	Progress update
ACTION 1: Ensure that children have a robust initial health assessment that is completed in a timely way through the following:						
<p>P1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people.</p> <p>P4 To help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners</p> <p>P7. To prepare children and young people</p>	March 2019	a. Prompt notification by local authorities when a child has become looked after.	Children looked after will have had a robust initial health assessment within the statutory 28 days	Jayne Shelbourn-Barrow- Head of Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services	Amber	Update 23.10.18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JSB to look into the in and out of county processes regarding addresses and consent and verify if it's due to poor practice or instability of the workforce.
		b. Prompt confirmation of a child's demographics when a child becomes CLA and when placement changes.	Children looked after will have had a robust Review Health Assessments within the required 6 months (if under 5 years of age) or 12 months (if over 5 years of age)	Jayne Shelbourn-Barrow- Head of Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services	Amber	Update 23.10.18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JSB leading a CLA and CL Service Development Day on 6.11.18 and will take this and other issues discussed today, as a Key Message for the teams. Update 31.12.18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JSB confirmed that this was raised as planned at the CLA and CL service development day.
		c. Provision of evidence of consent for health assessment when no formal order is in place.		Jayne Shelbourn-Barrow- Head of Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services	Amber	Update 23.10.18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD to meet with paediatricians undertaking CLA HA's at YDH and TST regarding availability of appointments and issue of consent. Update 09.01.2019: <p>Meeting scheduled for 04.02.2019.</p> Update 20.2.19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DN for CLA met with CLA team and Paediatrician undertaking IHAs. YDH now have monthly IHA clinics set up.
		d. Robust reporting of reasons for		Sarah Ashe – Designated Nurse Children	Blue	Update 23.10.18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD to meet with CLA nursing team 24.10.18 to identify



Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating	Progress update
for adulthood and independent living		lack of timely health assessments.		Looked After		<p>possible template for reporting into HWB sub group.</p> <p>Update 24.10.18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity of CLA team admin currently under review by manager of admin within SCC. CLA nurse specialist providing monthly report via email on numbers of outstanding health assessments and known reasons for them being outstanding. This will be routinely shared with the CPB HWB sub group at the next scheduled meeting. <p>Update 20.2.19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA has developed monthly performance tool to understand rationale for every late IHA and RHA.
		e. Review of process in place for completion of out of county health assessments in counties bordering Somerset is undertaken.		Sarah Ashe – Designated Nurse Children Looked After	Amber	<p>Update 23.10.18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JSB to look into the in and out of county processes regarding addresses and consent and verify if it's due to poor practice or instability of the workforce. MD to formalise NHSE escalation process with CLA team-delayed due to ongoing capacity issues. <p>Update 09.01.2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalisation of NHSE escalation process to be developed by new Des Nurse CLA (coming into post 01.02.2019) supported by additional admin post (interview date of 16.01.2019). <p>Update 20.2.19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated CLA admin for SA starting 6.3.19. Priority will be to formalise existing escalation process.
		f. Identification of rationale behind low rates of children looked after that have	Children looked after will have had an annual dental check	Sarah Ashe – Designated Nurse Children Looked After Jayne	Blue	<p>Update 23.10.18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report provided by LA shows age range of those children without completed dental check. CLA admin receive dental check data through HA documentation - will now load data in correct section of LCS. JSB to look into reasons behind inaccuracy of data on LCS



Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating	Progress update
		<p>been taken for their dental checks</p>		<p>Shelbourn-Barrow- Head of Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services</p>		<p>Update 09.01.2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft survey monkey for foster carers of children without a dental check recorded has been developed. • Awaiting up to date list from SCC before sending survey out via email; outcome will be greater understanding of reason behind lack of dental checks. <p>Update 20.2.19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCG led dental assessment survey underway. • Agreement from business support unit in relation to adding child's dental check to Health section of LCS.
		<p>g. Children will have a dental check undertaken within 12 months of coming into care.</p>		<p>Sarah Ashe – Designated Nurse Children Looked After</p> <p>Jayne Shelbourn-Barrow- Head of Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services</p>	<p>Blue</p>	<p>Update 23.10.18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work needed with LA business unit to verify percentage of CLA without dental checks against peer group / general population. • CLA nurse specialist and public health dental lead to work together on promoting dental health with CLA and care leavers. • At next HWB group each agency to agree how we can further promote the importance of dental checks. <p>Update 14.12.2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLA nurse specialist and PH dental lead met as planned- will include dental information in CLA pack once it's reviewed, will also be considering how to provide all CLA and CL with advice and support in relation to dental health. • BAAF form C amended by CLA nurse specialists to include health information pertinent to specific child following HA. • Dental health was a topic that was requested to be added to the Local Offer website. <p>Update 20.2.19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCG led dental assessment survey underway.



Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating	Progress update
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement from business support unit in relation to adding child's dental check to Health section of LCS.
ACTION 2: Ensure that the emotional and mental health needs of care leavers and children looked after are recognised and addressed through the following:						
<p>P1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people.</p> <p>P4 To help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners</p> <p>P7. To prepare children and young people for adulthood</p>	March 2019	<p>a. Prompt response to a child's emotional needs when they first become looked after; through use of the Parent and Carer Toolkit, the Mental Health Toolkit, Kooth, the SHARE project, the emotional health and wellbeing team, CAMHS and other resource's appropriate to their needs.</p> <p>b. Children Looked After have access to the emotional health and wellbeing team</p>	<p>Children looked after and care leavers will have their emotional needs assessed when they first become looked after.</p> <p>Children Looked After will have timely access to appropriate resources to meet their emotional needs</p> <p>A pathway for the EHWB team and Tier 1 to 3</p>	<p>Sarah Ashe – Designated Nurse Children Looked After</p> <p>Jayne Shelbourn-Barrow- Head of Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services</p> <p>Andrew Keefe – Head of Joint Commissioning Mental Health & Learning Disabilities, Somerset CCG</p>	Amber	<p>Update 23.10.18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JM overseeing development of overall pathway. JSB to follow up progress with JM as no update available. AR and HW have provided a draft Initial emotional health screening tool to be used by services working with children and young people when they become looked after, which the group agreed to critique and provide comments on. <p>Update 20.2.19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft EHWB team and CAMHS working protocol is in place, along with Emotion Health Screening flowchart. EHWB team psychologist and Specialist Nurse CLA meet on a quarterly basis review all CLA whose SDQ score is over 15. Aim is to gather assurance that appropriate services have been offered.



Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating	Progress update
and independent living		c. A pathway between the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team to Tier 1 to 3 emotional and mental health resources for Children and young people will be finalised	emotional and mental health resources for children and young people will be in place.			
	March 2019	d. Use of SDQ's to inform the health assessment and CLA review process.	SDQ's will be used to inform the health assessment and CLA review process.	<p>Sarah Ashe – Designated Nurse Children Looked After</p> <p>Jayne Shelbourn-Barrow- Head of Children Looked After and Leaving Care Services</p> <p>Dee Henderson Senior Specialist Educational Psychologist / Virtual School</p>	Amber	<p>Update 23.10.18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group discussed the current use of SDQs within Somerset. The procedure is that education, residential or foster carers should undertake the SDQ but this isn't happening. DH to find put more information about automated SDQ system and costings ready for next HWB sub group. JSB agreed to promote the use of SDQs at the CLA and CL service development day, as a key means of assessing the emotional health and wellbeing of CLA <p>Update 09.01.2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DH to share additional information about automated SDQ system and costings with group via email. <p>Update 20.2.19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report provided by LA in relation to breakdown of SDQ score for CLA as of 18.2.19. Further work needed to analyse data. Working group planned to look at business case for additional SDQ resources in Somerset.



Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating	Progress update
				for CLA		
ACTION 3: Ensure compliance with new legislation regarding the publication of the Local Offer for care leavers						
<p>P1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people.</p> <p>P4 To help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners</p> <p>P7. To prepare children and young people for adulthood and</p>	March 2019	a. Working in partnership with the local authority to develop the local offer in relation to Health and wellbeing:	Children leaving care will be clear of the health component of the Local Offer, and know where to access services and information in relation to their health and wellbeing.	<p>Maria Davis – Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Children Looked After, Somerset CCG</p> <p>Helen MacDonald– Deputy Operational Manager for Leaving Care Services</p> <p>Michelle Hawkes - Public Health Specialist</p>	Green	Update 23.10.18: CCG representatives met with the leaving care team and have since provided website information on the local health offer
		b. The local offer will include services that teach about, support and enable good health and wellbeing.			Green	Update 23.10.18: The local offer soft launch is planned for 26.10.18. All agencies will be asked to review the website to identify any potential gaps and missing information. HM circulated the paper plan for the HWB group to review the health and wellbeing section of the Local Offer. Update 09.01.2019: All agencies reviewed the website as requested.
		c. The local offer should include links to, or information about, universal health services that might be particularly relevant to care leavers, as well as specific health and wellbeing services targeted at them.			Green	Update 23.10.18: All agencies agreed to review the local offer website once launched and provide feedback direct to HM. Update 09.01.2019: Feedback provided as requested.



Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating	Progress update
independent living						



Appendix C (ii) Leaving Care – Sub-Group Action Plans

Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating
P7. To prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living	Business as usual	Improve outcomes for care leavers in respect of Education, Training and Employment	Information about opportunities for vulnerable young people and care leavers to be maintained by OD & HR dedicated P2E worker Update 5.2.19 LCW seconded to HR/OD as P2E Officer is providing information to Leaving Care service and joining NEET tracking in teams to promote initiatives and opportunities. An evaluation report outlining issues, actions undertaken, opportunities now available and proposals for the future is almost complete and will be presented to the April Subgroup for the May Board	Clive Mallon - Service Manager, Organisational and Development and Human Resources (OD&HR)	Blue
	Business as usual	Continue to develop and embed Pathway to Employment (P2E) work to best meet the needs of vulnerable young people including care leavers.	Develop and maintain plans for Care Leaver Programmes in Skanska, Viridor and 1610 etc Update 5.2.19 Plans are underway for the second intake onto Skanska Programme to commence in April 2019. The meeting with Viridor re; lessons learned and make plans has been postponed from January to April 19. 1610 are yet to be re-engaged. A six-week work experience programme in the NHS became available in January and 5 CLs were put forward but for valid reasons it wasn't possible for any of them to attend on this occasion. The opportunity will be available throughout the year on a cyclical 6 weekly basis'	Vikki Hearn - Strategic Manager, Commissioning Development, Major Programmes Clive Mallon - Service Manager, Organisational and Development and Human Resources (OD&HR)	Blue
	Business as usual	Develop and monitor mechanisms for appropriate levels of support to improve take up and sustainability of opportunities in Transition.	Update 5.2.19 All 19+ students can access bespoke National Careers Service 1:1 careers support (along with free staff training in CEIAG). All CLA have priority access to the Talent Academy programme, via Virtual School post 16 link. Working with EDF/HPC to develop an Access Course and supported programme aimed at vulnerable young people (in addition to the Supported Traineeship programme now piloted and in place). Virtual School attend every transition panel (including new year	Julie Young - Education Outcomes, Children's Commissioning Claire Merchant Jones - Transitions, Health Interface Service	Blue



Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating																											
			<p>12/13 panels) to monitor all CLA and address any issues as they arise. All early leaver CLA student names and details are passed to the Virtual School on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Year 11/12/13 CLA can access the new NCOP workshops that are being delivered in NCOP target schools and colleges.</p>																													
	Business as usual	Monitor the number of children looked after and care leavers over statutory school leaving age, who are able and available for, but not engaged in, education training or employment (ETE)	<p>Update 5.2.19 A decrease in care leavers NEET for 'other' reasons was noted from December but an increase in those NEET due to disability / illness and parenting responsibility resulting in an overall increase of 2 to 80. An analysis of a cohort of CLs at end Dec. over 3 years 2016-18 indicates that indicating work needed re sustaining ETE;</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Situation</th> <th>No.</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Were in ETE all 3 years</td> <td>75</td> <td>37%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Were NEET all 3 years</td> <td>17</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Were in ETE in 2016 lost it and remain NEET</td> <td>57</td> <td>28%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Were NEET, gained ETE and sustained it 2017 & 18</td> <td>25</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Were in ETE in 2016, lost it, now in ETE</td> <td>17</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Were NEET, gained ETE, now NEET again</td> <td>8</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Were NEET 2016 & 17, gained ETE in 2018</td> <td>3</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>202</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Situation	No.	%	Were in ETE all 3 years	75	37%	Were NEET all 3 years	17	8%	Were in ETE in 2016 lost it and remain NEET	57	28%	Were NEET, gained ETE and sustained it 2017 & 18	25	12%	Were in ETE in 2016, lost it, now in ETE	17	8%	Were NEET, gained ETE, now NEET again	8	4%	Were NEET 2016 & 17, gained ETE in 2018	3	1%		202		<p>Tony Johnson - Service Manager – Business Intelligence,</p> <p>Trish Lyons - Operations Manager Leaving Care</p>	Blue
Situation	No.	%																														
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	31.3.19	Ensure that CLA and care leavers who are distanced from Education, Training or Employment due to their emotional and mental health needs are offered appropriate support	<p>Update 5.2.19 Discussions have been held with the Emotional Health and Wellbeing team manager, and a meeting arranged with their Psychologists, with a view to improving the support for CLs. A request has been made for the Designated Nurse for CLA within the CCG to join the LC subgroup in 2019/20 to provide a link with the Health & Wellbeing subgroup and ensure that adult CL needs are promoted via the development of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing/CAMHS Pathway.</p> <p>Information about Care Leavers distanced from ETE due to emotional and mental health problems has been shared with DWP and circulated to all sites who assure us that all support available is</p>	<p>Jayne Shelbourne - Barrow Head of Service, CLA and Care Leavers</p> <p>David Keogh Partnership Manager Partnership Manager for Somerset DWP</p> <p>Trish Lyons - Operations Manager Leaving Care</p>	Amber																											



Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating
			being offered.		
	31/3/19	As part of P2i development and Sufficiency Statement, and joint commissioning with Adult Social Care and Public Health, ensure that the range of accommodation available meets the needs of all 16/17-year-old Children Looked After (CLA), and Care Leavers	Update 12.2.19 Somerset has received funding as part of the government Rough Sleepers strategy and was visited by the Adviser from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in February. He was impressed with Somerset's accommodation and support Pathway in reducing homelessness so far and supports plans for exploring developments as part of the Adults Complex Lives new trauma informed model, and through the revised St Basils model, on which our Pathway is based. HE made suggestions about Peer support and trainer flats to help combat loneliness which the young people commented on.	Rowina Clift-Shanley -Strategic Commissioner, Children's Commissioning Jayne Shelbourne - Barrow Head of Service, CLA and Care Leavers	Amber
	31.3.19	Ensure that the specific needs of asylum seeking CLA and care leavers (UASCs) are considered in service delivery, and that barriers to accessing education, training, employment and appropriate placements / accommodation are eliminated or reduced	Update 5.2.19 A review of all UASC placements and plans has been undertaken and the work with UASCs is now integrated into the CLA and Leaving Care teams. From April future accommodation and support needs will be considered as part of the single panel bringing together all 16+ resource allocation.	Jayne Shelbourne - Barrow Head of Service, CLA and Care Leavers Trish Lyons - Operations Manager Leaving Care	Amber
	BAU	Ensure compliance with new statutory requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Department of Education (DfE) Guidance relating to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informing care leavers aged 21-24 of their entitlement to request Personal Adviser (PA) support Developing the Somerset Leaving Care Local Offer in conjunction with care leavers and partner agencies 	Update 5.2.19 Requests for Personal Adviser support have increased slightly with 45 being offered a service currently and a further 52 who have been in touch since April 2018. There has been more publicity about the Local Offer in Our Somerset https://oursomerset.wordpress.com/2019/02/08/new-local-offer-for-somerset-care-leavers/ The link has been sent to foster and residential carers and accommodation providers asking them to promote it with our CLs. The communications team have been asked to report on the number of people accessing the site by the end March and quarterly from then onwards. A survey of care leavers is to be carried at the end of March to	Trish Lyons - Operations Manager Leaving Care Helen MacDonald Deputy Operations Manager Leaving Care	Blue



Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating
			evidence that care leavers know how to access, and can understand the Offer. The proposal for strengthening the relationship between CLs and the CPB was presented to the subgroup meeting 5/2. The group requested the authors amend it and re-present in April subgroup.		

Appendix C (iii) Voice of the Child (VOC) – Sub-Group Action Plans

Action	Action Owner	Timescales	Progress Update / Plans	RAG
1) Develop Participation Strategy				
Refresh of Somerset Children’s Trust (SCT) Participation Strategy	Fiona Phur - Business Partnership Manager	July 2019	Participation Workers Network to refresh strategy Strategy to recognise merge of Somerset Safeguarding Children’s Board in to SCT Following closure of Youth Service’s Participation Toolkit to be hosted on Professional Choices	Amber
2) Increase participation of children looked after and care leavers				
Increase opportunities for Children Looked After to participate via use of the Mind Of My Own app	Fiona Phur - Business Partnership Manager Lesley Corrin - Participation Officer, Voice of the Child	December 2019	Film to be re- shot or amended following Mind of My Own rebrand Mind of My Own workshop booked for 28 participants in May 2019 License for Mind of My Own due to expire 31.3.20 – metrics need to show improved usage for evaluation and business case to be produced December 2019 Working more closely with Route One advocacy and Fostering team to increase app usage	Amber
	Paul Shallcross Strategic Manager – Partnerships, Audit and Quality	March 2019	CSC Induction process to be updated to include reference to MOMO – to be incorporated into a review of the CSC induction process which will be completed by April 2018 MOMO information for new workers will be included within the CSC welcome pack – this is currently under review and the inclusion of MOMO information will be dependent upon agreement to extend the contract	Amber



	<p>Paul Shallcross <i>Strategic Manager – Partnerships, Audit and Quality</i></p>	March 2018	<p>Discussions to take place to investigate the feasibility of integrating MOMO into Foster care training.</p> <p>Action complete – Helen Rolls (Staff Development Officer, Learning and Improvement) has agreed to pursue this and will liaise with the MOMO steering group to ensure she has the required information.</p>	Blue
Further develop the representation of the VOC in Child Protection Conferences	<p>Liz Pearson - <i>Service Manager ISRO, Safeguarding Care & QA</i></p> <p>Penny Quigley <i>Community member SSCB & Advocate</i></p> <p>Louise Wallace <i>Route One Advocacy</i></p>	January 2019	<p>The capacity issue in respect of availability of advocates at CPCs remains an issue. Any work in this area is on hold until future management arrangements within Route One Advocacy are agreed</p> <p>Jane Sprague – newly appointed SM for QA will be considering how we can use MOMO in CPCs in the interim.</p>	Amber
Increase the participation of young people in the recruitment of professional staff	<p>Jodie Shields - <i>Participation Officer, Leaving Care</i></p> <p>Fiona Phur - <i>Business Partnership Manager</i></p> <p>Lesley Corrin - <i>Participation Officer, Voice of the Child</i></p>	July 2019	<p>Following interview training in 2018 there is a small cohort of young people who are enthusiastic to sit on panels</p> <p>YP panel interviewed Front Door Operational Manager post in March 2019</p> <p>Refreshed Participation Strategy will include new Top Tips for Involving Young People in Interviews; to be circulated to staff by July 2019</p>	Amber
		Ongoing	<p>Young people have been asked to participate in the recruitment process for the new social work at Yeovil college ; awaiting college for dates of next round of interviews</p>	Amber



<p>Examine how we can improve individual participation i.e. reviews</p>	<p>Liz Pearson - <i>Service Manager ISRO, Safeguarding Care & QA</i></p> <p>Lesley Corrin - <i>Participation Officer, Voice of the Child</i></p>	<p>January 2019</p>	<p>Task & Finish group to be created to look at how young people participate in CLA reviews, to include Jason Pincott, Lesley Corrin, a CLA team manager, CLA social worker, IRO and VOC elected members (Jason Pincott to lead). Group to review existing processes and propose amendments</p> <p>January update:</p> <p>SiCC and SLCC have considered this issue at their November meeting and their views are being fed in to the Task and Finish group</p>	<p>Amber</p>
	<p>Lesley Corrin - <i>Participation Officer, Voice of the Child</i></p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>SiCC & SLCC representation at Corporate Parent Board meetings includes a regular agenda item at each meeting.</p>	<p>Blue</p>
<p>Ensure that funding is in place to enable Annual Achievement Awards to take place</p>	<p>Lesley Corrin - <i>Participation Officer, Voice of the Child</i></p> <p>Fiona Phur - <i>Business Partnership Manager</i></p>	<p>August 2019</p>	<p>Limited funding found for smaller event</p> <p>Consider including Social Worker of the Year award</p> <p>Decisions needed re: motivational speaker/activity</p> <p>Potential additional funding from Eagle House Trust</p> <p>Support from Leaving Care apprentice ½ day per week</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>3) Pledge and charter compliance</p>				
<p>Review The Pledge to ensure that it reflects the priorities of Children Looked After, Care Leavers and Corporate Parenting Board</p>	<p>Lesley Corrin - <i>Participation Officer, Voice of the Child</i></p> <p>Fiona Phur - <i>Business Partnership Manager</i></p>	<p>March 2020</p>	<p>Refreshed Pledge was approved in 2018</p> <p>Will be part of the communications around refreshed Corporate Parenting Board strategy</p> <p>Will form part of proposed CPB e-learning module</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>4) Understanding the corporate parenting role</p>				



Roll out Getting To Know You events across all areas	Jayne Shelbourn-Barrow – <i>Head of Service - Children Looked After & Leaving Care Services</i>	Aug 2019	Promote Getting To Know You sessions and other events 2019/2020 Jayne to find out dates and arrange promotion	Amber
Corporate Parenting Training	Fiona Phur - <i>Business Partnership Manager</i>	March 2020	CSC have requested an e-learning module on TLC for SCC staff Fiona meeting website colleagues in April 2019 to commence development Decision required about rolling out training /awareness to districts and partner agencies	Amber
5) Increase the influence of the in care and leaving care councils				
Ensure that the wishes and aspirations of children and young people are understood and implemented by CSC ('you said, we did')	Fiona Phur - <i>Business Partnership Manager</i> Lesley Corrin - <i>Participation Officer, Voice of the Child</i>	March 2020	Five priorities set for 2019/2020 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Money – help with Independence and Budgeting 2. Independence and Living Skills – help with ASDAN, Tenants Certificates etc 3. Freedom – being able to go out with friends and not reported as 'missing' 4. How to keep good family relationships 5. Housing – help with finding semi-independent and independent living. Priorities to be reviewed and monitored via the VOC sub group and the CPB. SiCC and SLCC briefings are becoming established and are facilitating better communication. However, feedback is not always focused on outcomes and impact	Amber



Better alignment of Leaving Care participation with In Care Councils Council (SiCC and SLCC)	Fiona Phur - <i>Business Partnership Manager</i> Lesley Corrin - <i>Participation Officer, Voice of the Child</i> Jodie Shields - <i>Participation Officer, Leaving Care</i>	August 2019	Support to monitoring and evaluating Local Offer for Care Leavers Support for Annual Achievement Awards Support for interview panels Support to other ad-hoc requests for young people's involvement	Amber
6) Review Living Away from Home Pack				
Review information packs for children and young people becoming CLA	Fiona Phur - <i>Business Partnership Manager</i> Lesley Corrin - <i>Participation Officer, Voice of the Child</i> Jayne Shelbourn – Barrow – <i>Head of Service, Children Looked After & Leaving Care Services</i>	July 2019	Review 'Living Away from Home' hosted on SiCC and SLCC website Jayne S-B to determine what is being distributed via social workers/business support Sarah Ashe, CLA nurse also reviewing information to improve health offer – discussing with SiCC and SLCC in May 2019	Amber



Appendix C (iv) Education – Sub-Group Action Plans

Principle	By Date	Actions for Corporate Parenting Board	Intended Outcome/Key Performance Measures	Lead Responsibility	BRAG Rating
<p>Priority 1 To ensure all Somerset CLA and PLAC are in appropriate educational provision and receiving their full education entitlement and able to achieve and make progress</p>		<p>a. Attendance -to promote and support the highest levels of attendance for all CLA -to reduce absence and specifically the number of CLA who are Persistently Absent (PA - under 90% attendance)</p> <p>b. Exclusions - to reduce the number of exclusions experienced by CLA</p> <p>c. Part-Time Timetables – to ensure any reduction in provision of education to CLA is appropriate, time limited, regularly reviewed, monitored and short term</p> <p>d. To secure appropriate school places for all Somerset CLA through effective partnership working</p> <p>e. To review the placement of any Somerset CLA in a school judged as Requiring Improvement or Inadequate by Ofsted</p> <p>f. To provide high quality training opportunities for schools, Children’s Social Care, Foster carers and other stakeholders in order to strengthen partnerships and build skills knowledge and understanding around promoting high quality education for CLA and PLAC</p> <p>g. To effectively monitor the progress of Somerset’s CLA and, where</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing numbers of CLA who are PA • Increased number of CLA with improved attendance • Reducing numbers of FTE and reduction in the duration of FTEs • Evidence of PTT being used effectively and have positive impact on outcomes • Increased number of Pupils making progress • Numbers attending VS provided training and support sessions • Effective use of PPG to maximise progress – case studies • Clear link to VS from LA data/school improvement agenda – joined up working • Attainment gap between CLA in Somerset and those in other authorities is narrowed. • End of Key stage data shows an improving trend year on year. 	<p>Emily Walters and VS Leadership Team</p> <p>Support through Education Safeguarding Team (new appointment pending)</p> <p>VS to lead, Strategic managers in CSC to promote attendance.</p> <p>Link to SEND team</p> <p>Phase Strategy groups to support</p>	



		<p>necessary intervene to boost rates of progress</p> <p>h. Additional interventions to be provided during the summer holidays to support pupils at risk of NEET or those at transition points</p> <p>i. Monitor progress data annually from statistical neighbours and national CLA.</p>			
<p>Priority 2 <i>To ensure a high quality Personal Education Plan (PEP) is in place for all Somerset CLA, scaffolding provision that meets needs and maximise the opportunities to make progress and achieve academically</i></p>		<p>a. To provide training opportunities, guidance and resources to facilitate partners in managing productive meetings with timely, detailed completion of effective plans</p> <p>b. To ensure the voice of the child is present and meaningful in the PEP</p> <p>c. To quality assure the plans that are submitted to identify and celebrate good practice and support and challenge where needed</p> <p>d. To track the PEP process efficiently so PEPs meet timescales, are returned to time and actioned promptly</p> <p>e. To monitor the use of Pupil Premium Grant funding to maximise impact, secure value for money and ensure accountability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in submission of high quality PEPs identified through QA process • Pupil Friendly PEP in place • Schools and other education providers are demonstrating the ability to target set effectively for progress and outcomes • A PEP in place for all CLA each term • Effective use of PPG to maximise progress – case studies • Escalation process agreed and in place for delayed submission of PEPs and poor quality PEPs • Simplified process developed for allocation of PEP funding to ensure schools are able to access appropriate funds in a timely way. 	<p>Emily Walters and VS Leadership team, with support through escalation to IROs, CSC strategic managers as needed.</p>	
<p>Priority 3 <i>To strengthen partnership working, positioning the work of Somerset Virtual</i></p>		<p>a. To offer valued information, advice and guidance that effectively supports the work of partners and impacts positively on education provision for Somerset’s CLA</p> <p>b. To provide high quality, relevant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All partners are aware of the structure and remit of the VS and able to access and refer to its policy and practice effectively • ‘Footfall’ and feedback shows the VS website is well used and an effective form of support • VS continues to be present on panels and at 	<p>Jane Shelbourne-Barrow Richard Pears Jo Manning Emily Walters</p>	

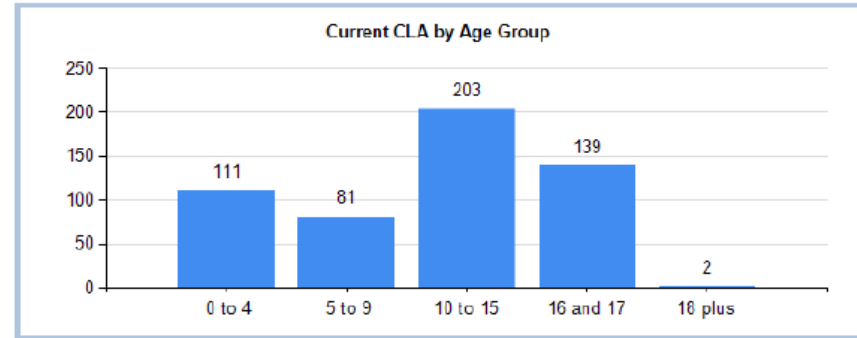
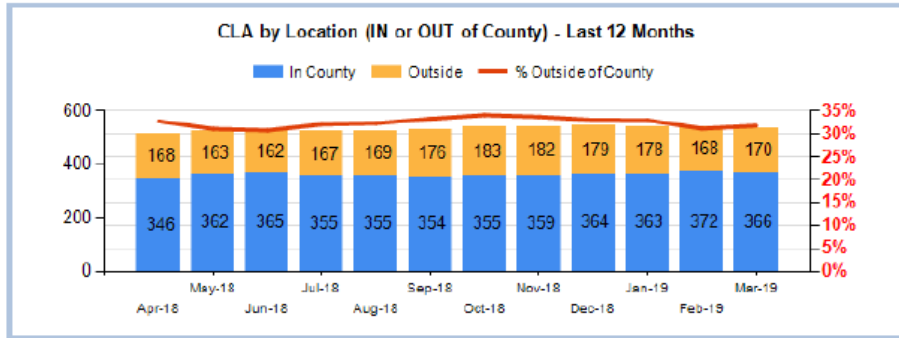


<p><i>School prominently on the agenda of all stakeholders</i></p>		<p>training for all stakeholders that shares the purpose and values of the Virtual School</p> <p>c. To maintain the physical and online presence of the Virtual School in the work of SEND, CSC and education partners</p> <p>d. To be part of LA decision making through inclusion in relevant education and CSC panels and groups</p>	<p>meetings as structures within education and CSC develop over the coming months</p>		
<p>Priority 4 <i>To celebrate achievement for our CLA and those who support their education</i></p>		<p>a. To identify meaningful ways of praising those CLA taking positive steps towards academic achievement</p> <p>b. To bring Somerset CLA together to share their academic successes and to encourage recognition and celebration of this aspect of their life</p> <p>c. To develop the Somerset Kite Mark for schools going the extra mile and demonstrating consistent good practice in relation to education for CLA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VS has linked with other LA area to provide a celebration event that includes a focus on academic effort and achievement • A pilot group of schools is working with a draft VS Kitemark to explore how this could be implemented more widely 	<p>Emily Walters</p>	
<p>Priority 5 <i>To support effective transitions for Somerset CLA across all phases to encourage aspiration and achievement</i></p>		<p>a. To support timely, effective transition planning for all learners moving to new education provision</p> <p>b. To ensure schools and other providers are mindful of and proactive in supporting the potential impact of transition on CLA</p> <p>c. To reduce the mobility of Somerset's CLA avoiding school moves wherever</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VS is made aware of and actively involved with CYP with planned transitions due to take place within the next six months – supported by new appointment in Placements team to facilitate links • CSC involved the VS in decision making where placement changes are unavoidable • VS training and networking meetings include focus on the successful management of transition for CLA and the implications of school moves 	<p>Jane Shelbourne-Barrow Richard Pears Jo Manning Emily Walters Mel Reynolds</p>	

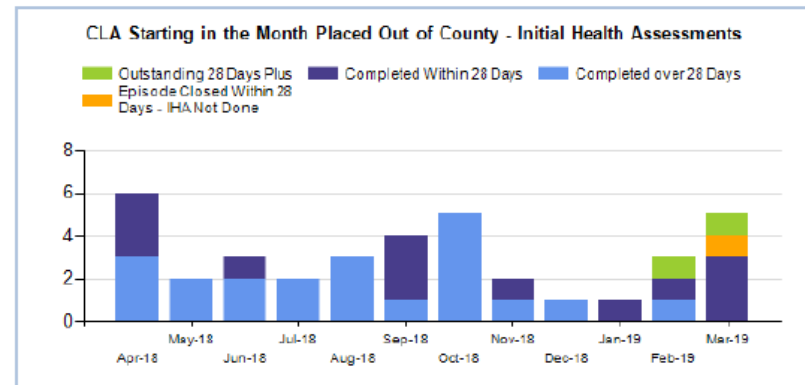
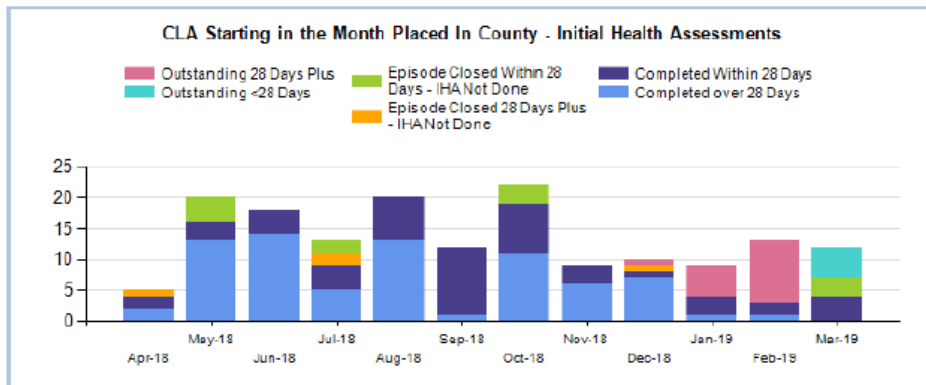
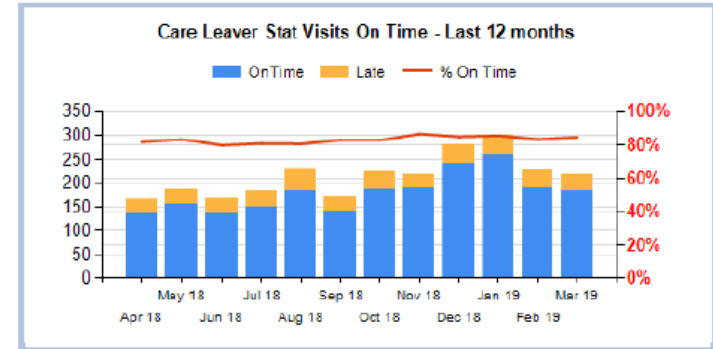
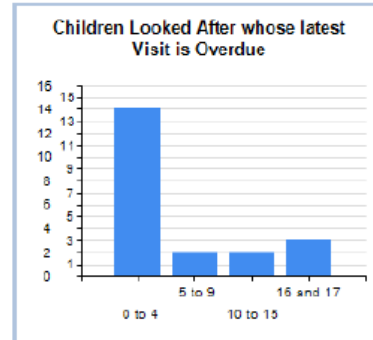


		<p>possible</p> <p>d. To build positive, well informed relationships with DSLs in Somerset's colleges and other post 16 provision, so that CLA are understood and appropriately monitored and supported</p> <p>e. To use the transition panels held termly to ensure CLA are highlighted for additional support to secure smooth entry to appropriate post 16 provision</p> <p>f. To provide additional support in year 11 and year 12 to reduce the likelihood of Somerset CLA becoming NEET</p> <p>g. To secure high quality careers information advice and guidance for Somerset CLA in KS4 to ensure post 16 choices are aspirational, relevant and well informed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More CLA are able to continue to make progress through transition as evidenced in PEPs• Fewer CLA become NEET post 16• Retention figures for post 16 CLA are improved		
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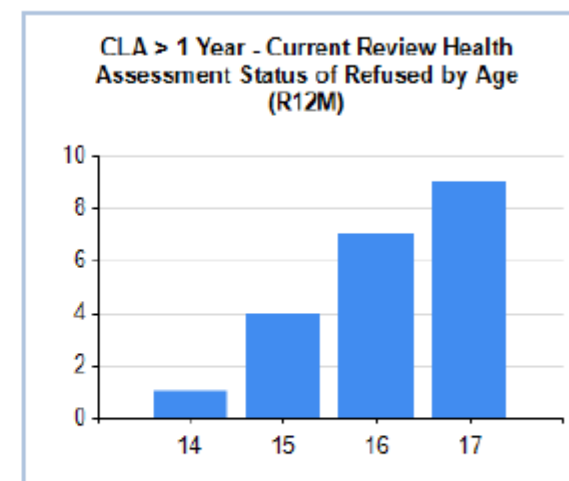
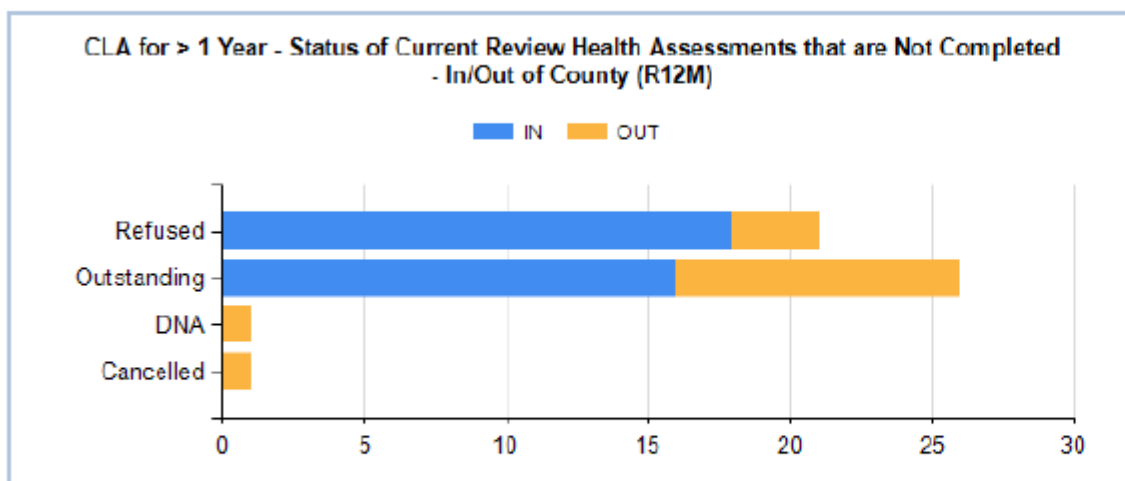
Appendix D – Corporate Parenting Board Data Dashboard – March 2019



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	100.0% (109/109)	40.4% (44/109)	78.9% (86/109)
5 to 9	100.0% (76/76)	65.8% (50/76)	92.1% (70/76)
10 to 15	100.0% (145/145)	77.2% (112/145)	87.6% (127/145)
16 and 17	99.1% (110/111)	82.0% (91/111)	86.5% (96/111)
18 plus	100.0% (7/7)	71.4% (5/7)	85.7% (6/7)



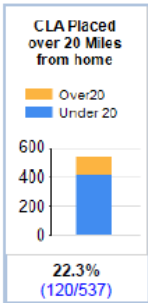
* The threshold of 28 days is relative to the period of care start date



* The chart above looks at the status of the most recent Review Health Assessment only - there may be a previous review health assessment against the child/young person that was completed within timescale.



CLA Dashboard – March 2019



Somerset Children Looked After
537

Somerset CLA Rate per 10 000	SN CLA Rate per 10 000	England CLA Rate per 10 000	South West Rate/10 000 Q3 2018-19	LA's Rated 'Good' CLA Rate/10 000 Average
48.8	57.0	63.6	52.2	55.1

Care Proceedings Open for < 26 Weeks
31.2% (24/77)

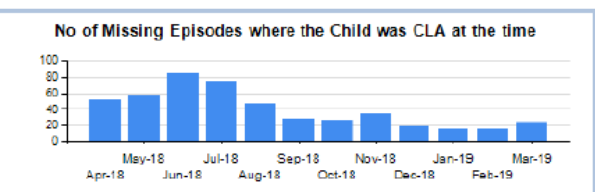
Average Duration of Care Proceedings (Weeks)
29
National Average 2016/17 (Weeks)
28

% of Children placed for Adoption within 12 months of decision
68.2% (15/22)
National Ave 2015: 71%

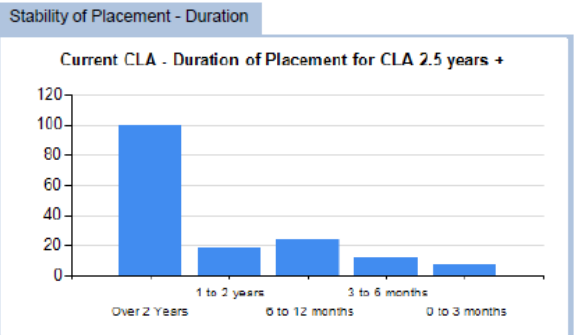
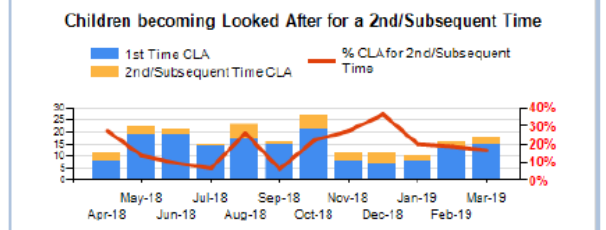
CLA who are UASC
1.1% (6/537)

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

YTD 20 (201:181)
Last 12 Months 20 (201:181)

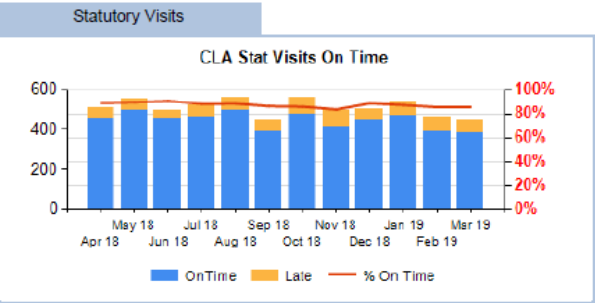


CLA for 2nd/Subsequent Time
YTD: 18.4%



The % of children living in the same placement for at least 2 years during the last 12 months is **62.5%**, (100/160) **2017/18 Target: 70%**

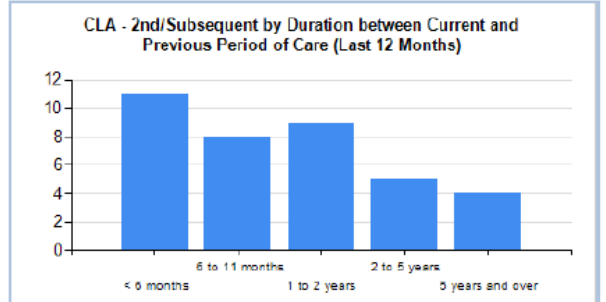
90 children placed for 2 years or more are with Foster Carers



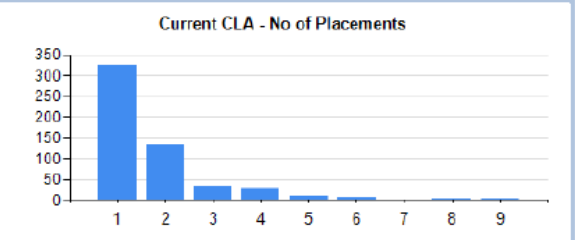
The percentage of CLA Stat Visits completed on time during the last 12 months is **87.6%** (5348/6108)

% Of CLA Seen during the Last 28 days	% Of CLA Seen Alone during the Last 28 Days
70.0% (376/537)	52.3% (281/537)

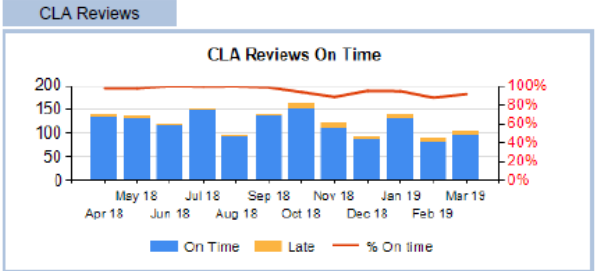
The percentage of children becoming CLA for a second/subsequent time in the last 12 months is **18.4%** (37/201)



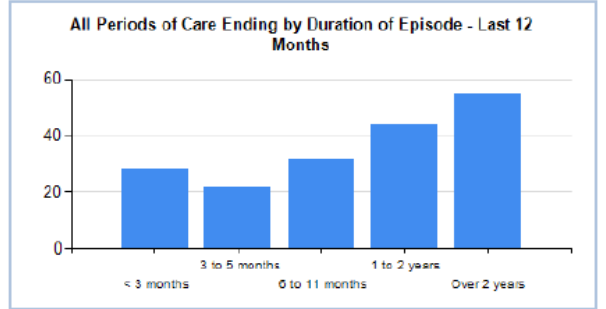
Stability of Placement - Moves
YTD: 14.3% (77/537)



The % of children with 3 or more placements during the last 12 months is **14.3%**, (77/537)

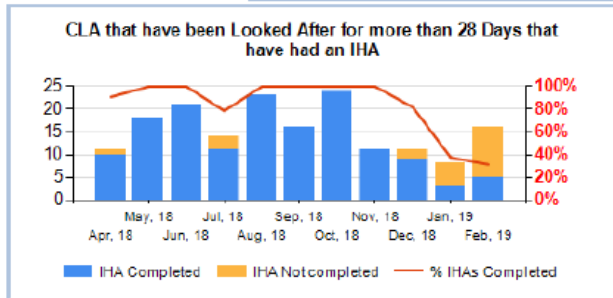


The percentage of CLA Reviews completed on time during the last 12 months is **95.1%** (1412/1485)



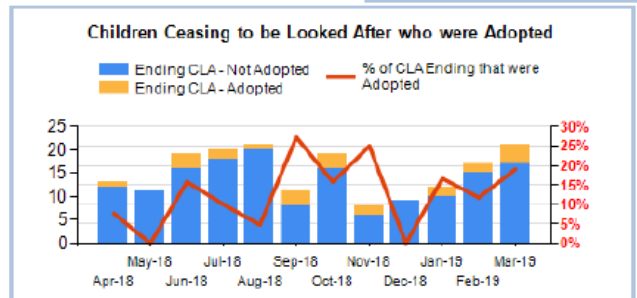


Initial Health Assessments YTD: 87.3% (151/173)

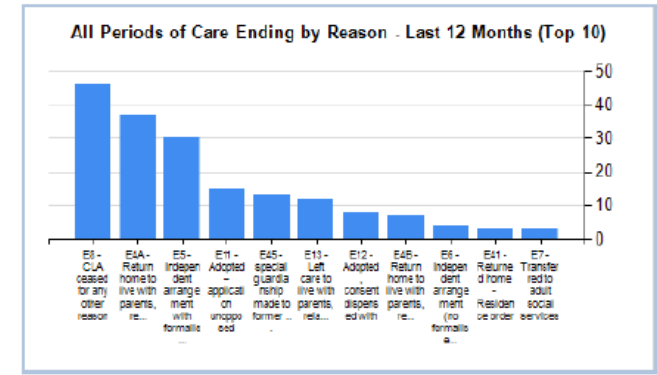


The percentage of children looked after for more than 28 days that have had their Initial Health Assessments during the last 12 months is **87.3% (151/173)**

Children Ceasing to be CLA - Adopted YTD: 12.7%



The percentage of children ceasing to be looked after that were adopted in the last 12 months is **12.7% (23/181)**



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

YTD	88.3% (333/377)
Last 12 months	88.3% (333/377)

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

YTD	68.7% (259/377)
Last 12 months	68.7% (259/377)

% 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	90.4% (311/344)
Last 12 months	90.4% (311/344)

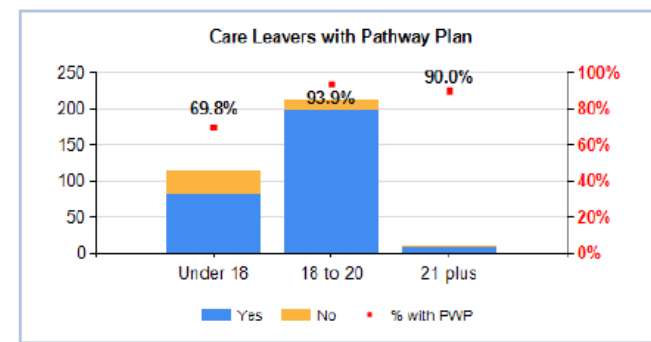
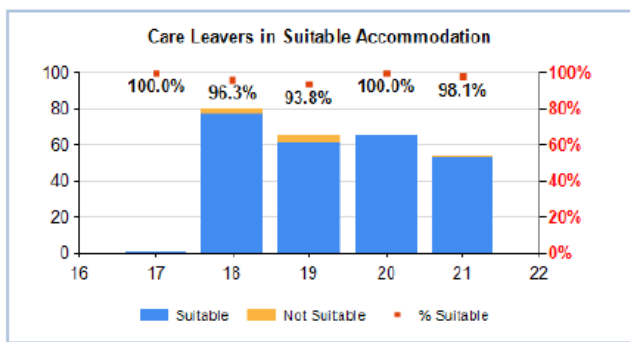
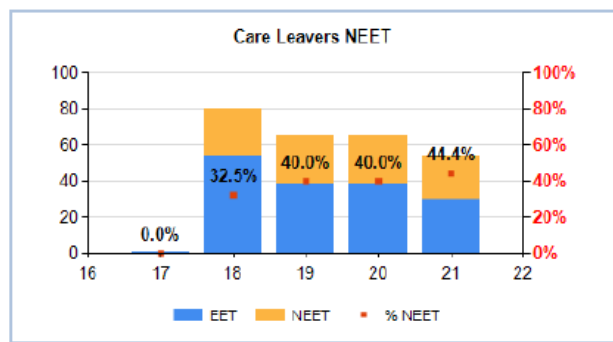
% of Children Aged 4 plus that have been Looked After for more than 1 year or since 1st April for YTD that have had a SDQ recorded with concern >=17

YTD	42.1% (131/311)
Last 12 months	42.1% (131/311)

Care Leavers

Care Leavers in touch (All Ages) Current: 98.5% (261/265)	Care Leavers NEET (All Ages) Current: 38.5% (102/265)	Care Leavers Suitably Accommodated (All Ages) Current: 97.0% (257/265)
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Care Leavers Under a 'Staying Put' Arrangement	38
Currently Staying Put	



The overall % of Care Leavers with current Pathway Plans currently stands at **85.5% (289/338)**



SOMERSET CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

April 2019 to March 2022



WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



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Foreword

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to have been asked to write the foreword to our new Corporate Parenting Strategy. This strategy takes account of what our children looked after, and our care leavers have been telling us about their experiences of being in our care, as well as linking with the key priorities of the Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2019 - 2022 and our Sufficiency Statement.

We have a strong and energetic child in care and care leavers council that works hard to tell us what needs to change and to offer ideas about how best to make the changes. This strategy sets out how we intend to move forward together, prioritising our ambition for all our children looked after and care leavers so that they are all supported to reach for their dreams and to achieve their individual potential.

Our common purpose is to involve children looked after and care leavers in all the decisions that affect their lives, by asking what they want and need, listening to what they tell us, and taking action. This is part of our pledge to all our children looked after and care leavers and forms the underlying principle of this strategy.

The strategy sets out how Somerset intends to fulfil its corporate parenting responsibilities in a way that puts children and young people at the centre of improvements in the planning, delivery and evaluation of our services. It forms the framework in which Somerset staff, elected members and relevant partners will work.

I look forward to supporting the independent chair of our Corporate Parenting Board in leading member support to the delivery of this strategy.

Frances Nicholson

Frances Nicholson
Lead Member for Children and Families



Cllr Frances Nicholson
Cabinet member, Children
and Families



Julian Wooster
Director of Children's
Services



Jill Johnson OBE
Chair of the Somerset
Corporate Parenting Board



Introduction

When a child comes into care, they become “looked after” and Somerset County Council (SCC) becomes their Corporate Parent. This means that everyone who works for SCC, in any capacity, its elected members and its partners have a special and important responsibility in fulfilling the corporate parent role, underpinned by The Seven Principles of Corporate Parenting.

A child or young person is looked after if they are subject to a Care Order or are being looked after under a voluntary agreement, subject to the Children Act 1989. The local authority has a statutory duty to those aged 0 to 18 years, and up to 25 years as care leavers.

Somerset County Council is committed to being an effective and trustworthy corporate parent for any child or young person who is in our care irrespective of their age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, faith or ability. The values underpinning this strategy are contained in Somerset County Council’s Corporate Parenting Pledge and in the Local Offer for Care Leavers’ and the national Care Leavers’ Charter, and their principles are embedded throughout this document.

Every good parent knows that children require a safe and nurturing environment in which to grow and thrive. Parents protect and support their children in coping with the dangers and risks of everyday life. Parents are ambitious for their children and strive to support them to reach their potential. Parents celebrate and share in their children’s achievements, however large or small. A child who is cared for by the Council has the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that they would expect from a good parent in the community.

This means the Council will:

- ✓ Preface all our thinking, planning, actions and decisions with: “If this were my child I would...”
- ✓ Know our children, their needs, talents and aspirations and promote their interests
- ✓ Recognise, support and respect their identity in all aspects
- ✓ Support children’s physical health and emotional wellbeing and resilience
- ✓ Ensure children and young people are consulted about their own lives and plans
- ✓ Listen to their views and ensure they influence practice, service developments and policy
- ✓ Hold high aspirations for our children’s future and expect the best for and from them
- ✓ Ensure children take full advantage of the education offered to them, i.e. attend regularly and achieve their educational potential
- ✓ Promote and support high academic and vocational achievement by working with our schools and carers to ensure that the needs of our children are understood and met
- ✓ Take an interest in their successes and problems and show our pride in their achievements, and celebrate them

- ✓ Support transition to adult life, and promote a young person's economic prospects and prepare them to become responsible citizens
- ✓ Learn from outcomes of complaints from children and young people.

For corporate parenting to be effective it needs commitment from all elected members, and council employees in a council-wide approach. The whole council needs to be involved, as well as our partners, i.e. Health, Police, other councils and the voluntary sector, all acting as good parents, committing resources and working together to improve the lives of all children and young people in our care and care leavers. It is about prioritising children and young people's needs, listening to what they want and supporting them to make the most of their lives and opportunities.





Aims and objectives of the strategy

The overall aim of this strategy is to further embed good practice through a whole council approach to corporate parenting and a strong and effective approach to partnership working, thus continue to improve the achievement, life chances and opportunities for all our children looked after and care leavers.

We have a Corporate Parenting Strategy in order to help support children who come into care, as the majority of them need extra support in their lives because they have experienced a lot of disruption and hurt. Their experience may make it harder for them to do as well as they could, for example in their education, looking after their health and in making good relationships. This strategy looks at the areas of work that are needed to support young people and care leavers over the next three years. The Corporate Parenting Plan delivers on five key areas. The key areas are:

Voice of the Child – as set out in the “Listening and Informing” section of our Pledge for all children looked after – the Somerset Children’s Trust Participation Strategy enables the voice of children looked after and care leavers to be heard in a more structured way and develop mechanisms to feed back to young people on action taken because of what they have told us.

Foster Care Development – one of the recommendations from the Sufficiency Statement¹ is to make sure we have enough skilled foster care placements for children looked after, in particular more homes for children in the 11+ age range, and for sibling groups to be able to live together. We also expect that young people leaving care will be encouraged to stay put in their foster home beyond the age of 18.

Care Leavers – from the age of 18 young people who are not in a foster home where they want to remain, will be supported to access good quality and affordable accommodation, and all care leavers successfully take up/remain in further education, apprenticeship/traineeship or employment.

Education – we will ensure that children looked after have the best opportunities to fulfil their potential, and that we have high aspirations for their futures, with the right support being offered, at the right time.

Health of children looked after and Care Leavers – we will ensure that children looked after and care leavers have access to good health and wellbeing services, and are enabled to become responsible for their own health and wellbeing. They will know their health history, in particular when leaving care.

¹ The sufficiency guidance requires local authorities “to take steps to secure so far as its reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority area which meets the needs of children that the local authority is looking after and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation in the local authority’s area.”

Corporate parenting operates at strategic, operational and individual levels. It has three key elements:

1. A statutory duty, detailed in the Children Act 1989 and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017, on all parts of a local authority to co-operate in promoting the welfare of children and young people looked after and care leavers; underpinned by the Seven Principles of Corporate Parenting², and a duty on other partners and agencies to co-operate in fulfilling that duty
2. Co-ordinating the activities of the many different professionals and carers who are involved in a child or young person's life and taking a strategic, child centred approach to the delivery of services
3. Shifting the emphasis from "corporate" to "parenting", making sure our moral and statutory responsibilities towards children looked after and care leavers are being fulfilled.

**'Act in the best interests,
and promote the physical
and mental health and
wellbeing, of children and
young people'**

Seven Principles of
Corporate Parenting



² See Appendix 3 for the Seven Principles of Corporate Parenting



Drivers from Somerset Key Strategic Plans

The Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2019 - 2022 has set the overall priorities for the Council and its partners to fulfil our duties and promote good outcomes for all our children and young people. Along with the Sufficiency Statement the Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out how agencies in Somerset meet the needs of children looked after and care leavers including commitment to the Somerset's Corporate Parenting Pledge, the Local Offer for Care Leavers, and the national Charter for Care Leavers.

The strategy builds on the recommendations from the recent external inspections including the Ofsted inspection November 2017.

This strategy also provides the link between all our corporate and cross-service plans and strategies relating to children and young people many of which have specific targets and key priorities to meet the needs of children and families.

Key Priorities from the Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2019 - 2022 – the overarching plan for improving the outcomes for children in Somerset

- Supported Families - strengthening families and building resilient communities
- Healthy Lives - families making the right choices to support happy healthy lifestyles
- Great Education - high aspirations, opportunities and achievement for all
- Positive Activities - getting the most out of life through play, leisure, cultural and sporting opportunities

Key Priorities in the Sufficiency Statement ³

The key areas of work for the Corporate Parenting Plan 2019–2022, developed from the Strategy, are based on the priorities set in the Somerset Sufficiency Statement 2018–2020. These cover the Voice of the Child, Foster Care Development, Care Leavers' accommodation and support for Education Attainment, Training, Employment, and Health and Wellbeing for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

Corporate Parenting Board Plan - 2019-2022

A number of sub-groups will take lead responsibility for the delivery of the strategy and action plans in each of the key areas. The Corporate Parenting Board will oversee their activities.

Each sub-group will have a nominated lead officer, and lead member, who will engage with the work of the sub-group and support the lead officer in achieving the outcomes of the sub-group. There will be a standing Corporate Parent Board agenda item for a report on progress and actions from each sub-group at each Board meeting.

There are overarching Terms of Reference for each sub-group, these are responsive to current and emerging guidance, and also ensure roles and responsibilities across

³ The Sufficiency Statement 2018–2020 was approved by the Corporate Parenting Board in 2018

professions and agencies are clarified. Each ensures appropriate membership and co-opts members as and when necessary. Each ensures that lessons learnt locally and nationally, in particular from Ofsted inspections, and good practice are embedded into its work.

'Take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people'

Seven Principles of Corporate Parenting



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The Somerset context – Children Looked After and Care Leavers

National and Local Context

In the last three years the number of children looked after in Somerset has been consistently between 480 and 520 with approximately 650 care leavers between the ages of 17 and 24 years old. The local and national trend has shown a steady increase in the number of children becoming looked after.

Outcomes for Children Looked After

The majority of children looked after start from a position of increased vulnerability and disadvantage that needs additional support to overcome. The educational attainment of Somerset's children looked after against the performance of all pupils in Somerset's schools, shows they fall consistently behind their peers. Poor attainment, in addition to other barriers, makes it more difficult for our children looked after to move successfully into further education, training and work.

The proportion of care leavers in Somerset aged 17-19 years who are in Education, Training or Employment (ETE), is well below that of the general population of Somerset's 17-19 year olds. Currently 65% of care leavers are in Education, Training or Employment, as against 83% of their peers (17-19 years). Despite the gap between the Somerset general population and care leavers remaining wide, Somerset care leavers in ETE has shown an improvement of 17% over three years, whilst their peers have fallen by 7%. Somerset's performance is currently above that of its statistical neighbours and equal to the national average.



Lack of opportunities for care leavers to successfully gain employment can also be exacerbated by inappropriate accommodation which is either in a location where job opportunities are scarce or does not have the support needed for care leavers to develop their life skills or sustain their tenancy. Currently 96% of Somerset's care leavers aged 17-21 years are in suitable accommodation. This is 12% above the England average.

Just as children looked after often have a difficult start in life; they also tend to have higher physical, psychological and emotional ill health than their peers. About 60% of those looked after in England have been reported to have emotional and mental health problems, which is four times the rate for children generally. 42% of Somerset's children looked after assessed under a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) were found to have an emotional and wellbeing score that poses concern (2017/18). Many children looked after have experienced early trauma including conditions such as foetal alcohol syndrome and attachment disorders, which can lead to behaviour problems and conduct disorders. Children looked after in

Somerset now have access to an Emotional Health and Wellbeing team. This team deploys a pathway to Tier 1-3 emotional and mental health resources. Additionally, resources such as the Mental Health Toolkit, Kooth and the SHARE Project are also available.

Despite the continuing fall in teenage pregnancy rates in England and Wales which have halved since 1998, vulnerable young women in care are three times more likely to become teenage mothers than peers who have not experienced state care. Factors which are common to teenage pregnancy include having poor educational attainment, not being in education, training or employment, risk-taking behaviours, self-harming, and early sexual activity which may be the result of child sexual exploitation.

'Promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people'

Seven Principles of Corporate Parenting



The role and responsibilities of county and district councillors, council departments, and other partners

All services that support children looked after are corporate parents, and we are all accountable to the children and young people who are looked after in Somerset. We must all strive for children in our care to succeed in the same way that any parent would strive for their own child/ren. This can mean providing advice and guidance to a young person who is starting to live independently, supporting carers, ensuring that children's mental health is safeguarded, helping a young person find a job, or listening to their hopes and dreams, problems and insecurities. There is a wide range of people and organisations who need to work together.

All Councillors should be aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities and must:

- ✓ Have 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
- ✓ Champion the interests of children looked after and care leavers in all they do
- ✓ Ask questions about outcomes for children looked after and care leavers
- ✓ Communicate with children looked after and care leavers so that they can have a say in how decisions are made about the services that affect them, and so that they can influence those decisions. This may include some councillors engaging with the looked after council and the leaving care council
- ✓ Lead on securing work based training opportunities, including apprenticeships for care leavers within the Council and its partners and contractors to improve their future prospects
- ✓ Be equally mindful and responsive in their role of corporate parent to children placed out of county
- ✓ Question whether the Council, as corporate parent, is keeping the promise it has made in the Corporate Parenting Pledge, and the Care Leavers' Charter
- ✓ Demand evidence of positive outcomes for Somerset children looked after
- ✓ Ask how all elements of council business have an impact for children looked after
- ✓ Make connections and links between council plans, strategies and decision-making for children looked after
- ✓ Consistently ask "Would this be good enough for my own child?"



Somerset County Councillors

All County Councillors are in the unique position of being able to promote opportunities for children looked after and care leavers through their political power and influence and; through their connections to the community, schools, health services, youth justice, local businesses, employers and voluntary organisations. The Somerset County Council Cabinet Member for Children and Families has the lead political role in ensuring that children looked after by the local authority have their interests protected, their opportunities maximised, their educational achievement enhanced, their voices heard and have services shaped to meet their needs. Other councillors who are members of the Corporate Parenting Board have a specific role in ensuring that corporate parenting responsibilities towards children looked after and care leavers are being fulfilled.⁴

District Councillors' specific responsibilities – (Somerset West and Taunton Council, Sedgemoor, South Somerset, and Mendip District Councils)

- ✓ Help support the development of work experience opportunities for young people looked after and care leavers within their respective organisations across Somerset, and with key partner agencies
- ✓ Help support the development of apprenticeships and employment opportunities, having a buddying system, so individual support can be given to young people
- ✓ Have a system in place to support and prioritise care leavers for housing/move-on housing in all areas
- ✓ Support working care leavers to be Council Tax exempt
- ✓ Provide priority access to leisure facilities to children looked after and care leavers up to the age of 25 years old
- ✓ Promote fostering for Somerset at a local level
- ✓ Be champions for children looked after and care leavers at every opportunity.

5/5

District Councils have commenced or are commencing Council Tax Exemption (2018)

All Council Services

All councillors and council officers share corporate parenting responsibilities and cannot abdicate this responsibility.

Somerset's most important collective contribution to corporate parenting is how we as the "family firm" in all council departments, can deliver better graduate schemes, employment, apprenticeship, traineeship, and work experience opportunities for children looked after and most importantly care leavers up to the age of 25 years old. These opportunities are promoted by the Virtual School Employment Advisor and designed to:

- ✓ Offer care leaver graduates opportunities to work in a graduate scheme
- ✓ Help young people meet their potential and achieve their ambitions, hopes and aspirations
- ✓ Help them become confident individuals

⁴ See Appendix 1 for specific responsibilities of councillors who are Corporate Parenting Board Members.

- ✓ Give them a taste of the world of work
- ✓ Broaden their horizons from little or no experience of employment options
- ✓ Help them become economically and socially contributing citizens.

Children's Services

Corporate parenting principles will form part of the staff induction programme. The quality of relationships that young people have with their carers and the professionals closest to them is crucial to their success whilst in, and leaving, care. Young people looked after have told us again and again about their need for good relationships that provide love, stability and continuity in the home and in learning, their need to be listened to and involved in decision making, and most of all their need to be parented like other children. This is the basis of our strategy. A good corporate parent encompasses our Pledge to children looked after, and the Local Offer for Care Leavers and the national Leaving Care Charter for our care leavers, and supports the gap between being parented by birth parents to being in the care of, or leaving the care of, the local authority.



Virtual School

The Somerset Virtual School for children looked after is responsible for providing leadership, strategic direction, good inclusion and partnership working with schools to secure successful educational outcomes for all children and young people looked after. It maintains an overview of all children looked after to ensure they can sustain a school place and has in place support designed to meet their individual needs. The relationship between being looked after and poor educational outcomes is explained, in part, by the trauma of pre-care experiences, such as physical or sexual abuse and neglect. In addition, many children looked after have had, gaps in their education, which can sometimes be a continuing

significant factor whilst they are looked after. Children looked after are more likely to be excluded from education than their peers. The assumption that being looked after leads to poor outcomes is incorrect. Educational targets are often set too low, or are not sufficiently challenging, or the support required for a child who is not attaining educationally is not provided. Aspirational education targets would better reflect our ambition for children looked after, accompanied by appropriate and targeted support, having proper regard to the use of

‘Prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living’

Seven Principles of Corporate Parenting

the pupil premium, for each and every child and young person in our care.

Schools, Colleges and other Education Providers

Have a range of responsibilities including ensuring that every child looked after has a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and is supported to achieve. Maintaining children looked after and care leavers in school and endeavoring to avoid exclusions is an important part of achieving this. All schools should have a designated teacher with special responsibility for children looked after. School governors have statutory responsibilities which include monitoring the progress made by children looked after. Schools must engage with the Virtual School and respect the role of the Corporate Parent.



Health Service Providers

Have important responsibilities for improving the health, both physical and psychological, of all children looked after. Health assessments must be undertaken and Specialist nurses for children looked after must ensure that Personal Health Plans (Health Passports) are developed with the child or young person and that they are fully implemented.

Housing Providers

Have an essential role to play in working with Somerset County Council to provide enough good quality accommodation for care leavers who are ready to live more independently and provide a range of move-on accommodation for care leavers

wanting to move from more supported accommodation. Housing Providers must ensure that young people are supported to find employment that does not conflict with their ability to meet rent payments.

Community Organisations

There is a wide range of community organisations throughout Somerset, who provide important services and support for children looked after and care leavers, including advice and guidance, mentoring, supported housing, and drug and alcohol services. These services are vital to the task of preventing care leavers from needing the intervention of statutory services.

‘Children and young people will be safe, and have stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work’

Seven Principles of Corporate Parenting

Leadership and the Corporate Parenting Board

This Strategy has been adopted by Full Council. The Somerset County Council Cabinet Member for Children and Families has the lead political role in ensuring this strategy is taken forward and the Director for Children's Services provides the strategic service leadership. The Corporate Parenting Board will be responsible for the delivery of the identified key objectives and the Board's annual plan.

The Somerset Corporate Parenting Board will lead and support all corporate parenting activity of Somerset County Council and its partner organisations, some of whom will be Board members⁵. The Board will reflect its key role of representing the wider corporate parenting responsibilities of all elected members and officers. The Board has formal accountabilities to the County Council and it also has important relationships with the Health Service, District Councils and Police as well as partnerships such as the Children's Trust and the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB).

The Corporate Parenting Board will act as a leadership, advisory and consultative body to the Council and its partners and will provide challenge to ensure that Corporate Parenting duties are carried out effectively and consistently. It will ensure that the outcomes and life chances of children looked after and care leavers are maximised, so they are in line with their peers, and will act as the champion for these children and young people. It is the role of the Corporate Parenting Board, to monitor the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Somerset's Corporate Parenting Pledge and Local Offer for care leavers.



The Board will hold the Council and its partners to account if there are gaps in service provision to children looked after, or in the performance of their corporate parenting responsibilities. The Board will have access to good qualitative and quantitative management information in order to monitor performance effectively against outcomes, and track delivery of the Pledge commitments. Individual Board members must attend appropriate training to be prepared for their task. In 2017/18 43 out of 55 elected members have undertaken Corporate Parenting Board training.

43

**Elected Members
have undertaken
Corporate Parenting
Training (2017)**

The views of Somerset in Care Council (SICC) and Somerset Leaving Care Council (SLCC) will be made available to the Board through the Voice of the Child Participation Officer. This elected Board member has a specific role to engage with young people, through SICC and SLCC's monthly meetings, in addition to seeking out other opportunities to reach out to all children looked after.

⁵ See Appendix 1 for Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference

Measures of success – How do we know if our services to Children Looked After are Good?

The Board will seek to ensure that current and future priorities and decisions and deployment of resources relating to Children Looked After reflecting **their** needs and concerns.

Data will be provided to support and evidence progress on the priorities of the Corporate Parenting Board. On reading the data provided to the Board, the first question the Board must answer, is, would this be good enough for my child? Elected members are ultimately accountable for the quality of the service, so is the data telling them what they need to know? The Corporate Parenting Board has a three-year plan with priority areas. SiCC and SLCC annually evaluate improvement through their 'We Said, You Did' report to the Board.

A Quality Assurance and performance management framework for the Board is used in its reporting and governance. Data will be provided so that individual elected members can see the outcomes for children looked after living and attending schools in their division. It is anticipated that councillors will be able to build relationships with key partners and groups who deliver services, and to hear feedback from children living in their own division on the issues important to them.

'Help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners'

Seven Principles of Corporate Parenting



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Monitoring and evaluation

This strategy will be monitored and evaluated by the successful delivery of the corporate parenting plan through:

- ✓ Listening to children and young people who are looked after
- ✓ The effective use of local data to identify areas for improvement and the extent to which national and local indicators around children looked after are being met
- ✓ The Corporate Parenting Board receiving reports from across service areas and from partners as required
- ✓ Seeking external evaluation of Somerset's effectiveness in delivering this strategy.
 - ✓ This is essential to ensure that agencies in Somerset deliver continuous improvement. Peer review and challenge will also be sought
- ✓ Feedback from partners, agencies, parents, carers and children and young people about services
- ✓ Continued revision of actions in the plan in the light of monitoring and evaluation to ensure effective delivery of the strategy.

'Encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings'

Seven Principles of
Corporate Parenting



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Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference

Overall aim - To improve the life chances of Somerset's children looked after through the development of a joint approach to the delivery of services. Somerset County Council and its partner agencies together aim to continuously improve the outcomes of children looked after to bring them in line with their peers.

Objectives

1. To listen to the voices of children and young people in our care, and those leaving care, either directly from them as individuals or through their respective councils, SiCC and SLCC, or indirectly (through national/local inspection and surveys, parents/carers, independent reviewing officers, advocates and others) and to use what we learn to improve services and outcomes
2. To take the lead for the children and young people in our care and leaving care, raising awareness and priorities across all agencies, making sure all agencies' responsibilities toward children looked after are being met
3. To promote the role of all elected members as "corporate parents" and to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are put in place by SCC to enable all members to fulfil their statutory responsibilities in this area
4. To review the Corporate Parenting Strategy annually to ensure that it is current and effective and to recommend any changes to the Cabinet for decision and to Full Council to be endorsed
5. The Corporate Parenting Board members, will offer leadership and, via its work plan for children looked after and care leavers, will keep the focus on strategic priorities, that include:
 - a. Health care needs, including physical and emotional health and wellbeing
 - b. Safeguarding, including placement stability, quality of care placements and appropriate supported accommodation
 - c. Educational attendance, attainment, and aspirations
 - d. Positive activities, including leisure, volunteering, sporting and social activities, and prevention of offending
 - e. Employment and training (including work experience and employment opportunities provided through SCC and partner agencies and contractors), housing and support
 - f. Successful transitions to adult life
6. To ensure that SCC and its partners support the Somerset looked after council (SiCC) and deliver against the commitments made in the Pledge to children looked after and the Charter for care leavers
7. To ensure progress is regularly and actively monitored and reviewed.

How will these objectives be delivered? - The Board will work to an agreed plan, which will be based on the key priorities to be delivered, as set out in the Children and Young People's Plan 2019–2022, the Sufficiency Statement 2018–2020 the Corporate Parenting Pledge, and Charter for Care Leavers.



Board members will also regularly meet and hear from children looked after and care leavers, including those in foster care, residential care and independent accommodation, by undertaking visits to schools, attending celebratory events for the achievements of children looked after, and by attending events organised by the children looked after champion. Individual members will feed back on opportunities they have identified for support for employment, apprenticeships, traineeships and work experience.

The Board will:

- receive regular reports from Independent Reviewing Officers to provide an insight into life for children looked after in Somerset
- consider regular reports that set out performance against key agreed outcome indicators to monitor progress over time, and compare Somerset's performance with top quartile authorities and recommend actions for improvement
- regularly monitor and receive reports in respect of SCC and partners' progress against external regulator recommendations; and
- establish links with other key groups responsible for representing children looked after (e.g. Foster Carers Consultative Group).

Status - The Board is a leadership and advisory body with no formal decision-making powers but will seek to influence decision makers to drive improvement across the Council and its partners. Consequently, it will make recommendations where necessary to Cabinet to impact and influence SCC decisions and policies.

Formal Board meetings will not be open to the public or press because of the sensitive nature of the business and will not be subject to the Access to Information Rules set out in the Council's constitution. When reporting to the Full Council, Cabinet, or elsewhere, the expectation is that those reports will be public unless there are good reasons to recommend the exclusion of the public and press to consider confidential information.


All members of the Board shall respect and maintain the confidentiality of the Board's business.

The Corporate Parenting Board will maintain a close working relationship with the Council's Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee to ensure they do not duplicate each other's work.

Accountability - The Board will be accountable to **Full Council**, via an annual report, in recognition of Council's budget setting responsibilities, the role of all elected members as corporate parents, and to enable Council to maintain an overview of the Strategy and the delivery of the Board's Annual Plan.

Reporting - The Board will report on its activities to:

- **Somerset Children's Trust**, which brings together all the relevant agencies to agree how to identify and meet the needs of children and young people in Somerset. The Trust



is responsible for coordinating agencies so that together they fulfill their statutory duties and more effectively meet the needs of children.

- **Somerset in Care Council** via the children in care champion who is a full Board member
- **Somerset Leaving Care Council** via the children in care champion who is a full Board member
- **Cabinet**, reporting as and when necessary, as the key decision-making body for County Council services
- **Scrutiny** Committees, as and when requested, in relation to reviewing the effectiveness of the Board and the Strategies the Board is responsible for.

Voting Arrangements - Formal meetings of the Board will operate by consensus of those present rather than through any formal voting mechanism in recognition of the wide membership and the roles of the Board to advise and challenge.

Membership - The emphasis for Board members is leadership, and so the Boards core appointed elected membership will include any member who, as one way of exercising their role as corporate parent, has the passion and commitment to volunteer as a core Board member. Members will be nominated by their political group leader and notified to the Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance, as the Lead Officer. There will be no limit on numbers of Members although the Chair's discretion will ensure the Board operates effectively.

Core Board Members

- County Council Elected Members
- Children in Care Champion (appointed by the Board)
- Lead Cabinet Member for Children & Families
- Director of Children's Services
- Foster Carer Association
- District Council Elected Member – representative/s – nominee(s)
- Clinical Commissioning Group executive member
- Representation from Somerset in Care Council (SiCC) and Somerset Leaving Care Council (SLCC)

Lead Contributors

- Deputy Director Children and Families
- Virtual School Head
- Assistant Director Inclusion and Education Outcomes
- Assistant Director Commissioning & Performance
- Assistant Director Quality and Safeguarding
- Strategic Manager Commissioning and Performance
- Police representatives
- Council "Voice of the Child" Officer
- All other County Councillors
- Providers of Council or NHS commissioned services.



Co-opted Members - Co-opted members to be invited as and when the agenda requires i.e. Housing, specific voluntary groups etc.

Chairing Arrangements - The Chair will be an Elected Member or an Independent Chair on the Board and will be chosen by the Core Board on an annual basis at the first formal meeting of the Board following the Full Council annual meeting in May.

Officer Lead - Assistant Director Commissioning & Performance

Frequency of meetings - The Board meets every two months with additional sub-group meetings held as required to fulfil the Board's annual plan. The chair of the Leaving Care Council will attend as a full member, and representatives for the Children in Care Council will be invited to suitable meetings. The Board and its sub-group meetings may take a range of different formats, including visits to different locations and informal meetings with children and young people, and those who support them. Sub-groups will report formally to the Board every two months.

Corporate Parenting Board Plan - Will be reviewed at every Board meeting, for updates and progress on the sub-groups.

Preparation for the Board - Chair to meet with the Lead Officer a minimum of two weeks before each formal meeting to agree the agenda and papers. Agendas and papers for formal Board meetings will be sent to the members of the Board at least six working days prior to the meeting.

Support to formal meetings of the Board - This is provided by the Commissioning Team, Children's Services.



Appendix 2: The Statutory and Legislative Framework

The Children Act 1989 is the primary legislation setting out local authority responsibilities to children in need, including children looked after. Section 22 imposes a legal duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child they look after. The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 extended the responsibility of the local authority to young people leaving care, requiring them to plan the young person's transition to adulthood and provide ongoing advice and assistance until at least the age of 21, with a duty to keep in touch until a young person is 25, and in higher education.

The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations and Guidance clarify the expectations of care planning and review for children looked after and strengthen the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) to challenge when identified needs are not being met. The manager of the IRO service is required to prepare an annual report that must be made available to corporate parents.


The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: Planning Transitions to Adulthood for Care Leavers gives details of how care leavers should be provided with comprehensive and holistic personal support so that they are able to achieve their full potential as they make their transition to adulthood. It includes the need for care leavers to be living in suitable and safe accommodation and to receive appropriate, consistent and timely support to continue in education or training and to find employment.

Children and Social Work Act 2017 establishes a set of seven principles aimed at bringing the focus back to the looked after child. It reminds the local authority (LA) what it means to be a "corporate parent". It also advises local authorities that they must publish a Local offer for Care Leavers. The main purpose of the legislation is to:

- Improve decision making and support for looked after and previously looked after children in England and Wales.
- Improve joint work at the local level to safeguard children and enable better learning at the local and national levels to improve practice in child protection.
- Promote the safeguarding of children by providing for relationships and sex education in schools.
- Enable the establishment of a new regulatory regime specifically for the social work profession in England.

The Adoption and Children Act 2002 introduced Special Guardianship Orders as an additional legal order to Adoption to secure permanence for children. The Act also required IROs to ensure children looked after have plans for permanence.

Local authorities have been entitled to expect other agencies, e.g. Housing and Health to assist them in discharging their functions since the implementation of the Children Act 1989 (Section 27). The Children Act 2004 introduced a legal duty on named agencies both to co-operate with the local authority (Section 10) and to ensure that they take account of the need



to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in fulfilling their own functions (Section 11). It also made provision for local authority areas to set up Children's Trusts, bringing together relevant agencies, and to develop a Children and Young People's Plan, through which it can be evidenced that partners are fulfilling their responsibilities. These are now not mandatory however the 'duty to cooperate' (Section 10, Children Act 2004) remains with the requirement to improve the well-being of children in Somerset in relation to: (a) physical and mental health, and emotional well-being; (b) protection from harm and neglect; (c) education, training and recreation; (d) the contribution made by them to society; and (e) social and economic well-being.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 placed a duty on upper-tier Local Authorities and Local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) to undertake a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) of their local population.

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 requires local authorities to take steps to secure sufficient suitable accommodation for children looked after within their area that meets their needs. It also strengthens the care planning process and the role of the IRO in monitoring the care plan. Children's health and education plans are essential components of the care plan.


The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for commissioning local health services, apart from primary care, to Clinical Commissioning Groups. Primary care and specialist services are commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board, who are also responsible for holding the CCG to account. The Act also established Health and Wellbeing Boards, led by the Director of Public Health within the local authority, to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce health inequalities.

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 has introduced a single remand order for children and young people under the age of 18 who are refused bail, which will mean that they become the responsibility of the local authority and will be regarded as a young person in the care of the local authority for the duration of the remand, and may mean that they are entitled to leaving care service, depending upon the length of time they remain looked after.

Promoting the Educational Achievement of children looked after: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities clarified the duty to actively support the education of children looked after. Measures include the priority that must be given to children looked after in terms of school admission, restriction on the use of school exclusion and the introduction of the Pupil Premium to purchase tailored support.

Virtual Head Teacher for Children Looked After

The Children & Families Act 2014 required every Local Authority to have a 'virtual school head' to champion the education of children in the authority's care, as if they all attended the same school. The person appointed to this role has three key areas of responsibility and is accountable for:

- 
- Making sure that there is a system in place to track and monitor the attainment and progress of children looked after
 - Ensuring that all children looked after have a robust and effective personal education plan (PEP), and access to one to one support, including personal tuition where appropriate (using the Pupil Premium)
 - Championing the educational needs of children looked after across the authority including those placed out of authority.

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the Department for Education published statutory guidance for Local Authorities to promote the education of Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children (2018).

Statutory Guidance: Securing Sufficient Accommodation for children looked after requires local authorities to develop a plan to secure sufficient accommodation for children looked after within their local authority area that meets their needs. They can only do this if they work in partnership with other agencies as the requirement is not just about accommodation and placements but also securing a “diverse range of universal, targeted and specialist services working together to meet children’s needs” and applies not only to looked after children but also those on the edge of care and at risk of custody. The Somerset Sufficiency Statement 2018–2020 has recommendations that are incorporated into the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the Corporate Parenting Board Plan.

Statutory Guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Director of Children’s Services and the Lead Member for Children’s Services. This covers both the social care and education services of the local authority. These individuals should provide strong leadership and ensure that there is a clear line of accountability for children’s wellbeing. They have particular responsibility for vulnerable groups of children, including those for whom they are corporate parents. The Lead Member should provide political leadership whilst the Director of Children’s Services should provide professional leadership.


The Equality Act 2010 places an additional responsibility on public organisations to consider the needs of protected characteristics (age, disability, sex, ethnicity, religion and belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, plus locally determined protected characteristics) and the effect of changes on them. This legislation also asks public organisations to support communities to get along better and understand each other. Both requirements are valid for adults and children. This work is captured in the Somerset Children and Young People’s Plan 2019–2022.

The Inspection Framework

Ofsted’s framework and evaluation schedule for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers was published in November 2017 and came into force in January 2018.

The Ofsted single inspection regime consists of:

- Short inspections: Authorities judged to be ‘good’ or better will be inspected for a one-week short inspection every three years

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- Standard inspections: Authorities judged to be 'requires improvement to be good' will be inspected for two weeks every three years
 - Monitoring visits: Authorities rated 'inadequate' will be visited quarterly. Those rated 'inadequate' across all or most areas will repeat a full single inspection, while local authorities with only some areas 'inadequate' may be subject to a 'post-monitoring single inspection', which is a shorter inspection under the single inspection framework
 - Focused visits: Authorities rated above 'inadequate' will receive at least one focused visit between their short or standard inspections.

The Somerset Children and Young People's Plan sets out the key priorities for achieving a good service for all children in Somerset, and partners are integral to that plan. These key priorities are also reflected in the Corporate Parenting Strategy, and the Corporate Parenting Board's Work Plan.



Appendix 3: The Seven Principles of Corporate Parenting

In order to thrive, children and young people have certain key needs that good parents generally meet. The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

1. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those 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; and
7. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

The corporate parenting principles do not exist in a vacuum. They should shape the mind-set and culture of every part of a local authority in how it carries out all of its functions in relation to looked-after children and care leavers.

The corporate parenting principles are not about applying a formulaic approach to how services are delivered in relation to looked-after children and care leavers. Rather they describe the behaviours and attitudes expected of councils when they are acting as any good parent would do by supporting, encouraging and guiding their children to lead healthy, rounded and fulfilled lives. The principles intend to ensure that all councils have high ambitions for the children in their care. In doing so, the application of the principles must respond to the individual needs, vulnerabilities or disadvantages of looked after children and care leavers. This will assist in securing that such children and young people are not placed at significant disadvantage when compared with the support a nonlooked after child or young person may receive from their family.

Appendix 4: The Pledge





YOUR LIFE



We will involve you in the decisions that affect you:

- Where you live
- Who you live with
- Any plans we have for you

We will work hard to give you a choice of the best and safest places for you to live.

We will make sure that if you have to move, other things in your life do not too:

- Seeing the people who are important to you
- Your school
- Your hobbies

We will celebrate with you,


- Birthday
- Successes
- Achievements
- Any other dates that are important to you, including your school prom

SUPPORT

We will give you the support you need to be the best you can be.

We will support during your time in care to develop your skills so that you are prepared for your adult life.

We will help you to understand your story, through life story work. We won't leave bits out but will tell you about them at an age when you can understand and are ready.





?US?



We will make sure you know who your workers are and give you their contact card.

- Your social worker and their manager
- Your Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and their manager

We will make sure that any meetings do not interrupt other things which are important to you and are in a place where you feel comfortable

We will provide you with all the information that you might need;

- Your rights
- Being in care
- Leaving Care
- How to complain
- How you can get involved



NETWORK

We will support you to see the people who are important to you, if it is safe to do so.

We will support you to make new friends.

We will support and encourage you to take part in activities that interest you



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Appendix F – Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference 2019 - 2022

Overall aim - To improve the life chances of Somerset’s children looked after through the development of a joint approach to the delivery of services. Somerset County Council and its partner agencies together aim to continuously improve the outcomes of children looked after to bring them in line with their peers.

Objectives

1. To listen to the voices of children and young people in our care, and those leaving care, either directly from them as individuals or through their respective councils, SiCC and SLCC, or indirectly (through national/local inspection and surveys, parents/carers, independent reviewing officers, advocates and others) and to use what we learn to improve services and outcomes
2. To take the lead for the children and young people in our care and leaving care, raising awareness and priorities across all agencies, making sure all agencies’ responsibilities toward children looked after are being met
3. To promote the role of all elected members as “corporate parents” and to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are put in place by SCC to enable all members to fulfil their statutory responsibilities in this area
4. To review the Corporate Parenting Strategy annually to ensure that it is current and effective and to recommend any changes to the Cabinet for decision and to Full Council to be endorsed
5. The Corporate Parenting Board members will offer leadership and, via its work plan for children looked after and care leavers, will keep the focus on strategic priorities, that include:
 - a. Health care needs, including physical and emotional health and wellbeing
 - b. Safeguarding, including placement stability, quality of care placements and appropriate supported accommodation
 - c. Educational attendance, attainment, and aspirations
 - d. Positive activities, including leisure, volunteering, sporting and social activities, and prevention of offending
 - e. Employment and training (including work experience and employment opportunities provided through SCC and partner agencies and contractors), housing and support
 - f. Successful transitions to adult life
6. To ensure that SCC and its partners support the Somerset looked after council (SiCC) and deliver against the commitments made in the Pledge to children looked after and the Charter for care leavers
7. To ensure progress is regularly and actively monitored and reviewed.

How will these objectives be delivered? - The Board will work to an agreed plan, which will be based on the key priorities to be delivered, as set out in the Children and Young People’s Plan 2019–2022, the Sufficiency Statement 2018–2020 the Corporate Parenting Pledge, and Charter for Care Leavers.

Board members will also regularly meet and hear from children looked after and care leavers, including those in foster care, residential care and independent accommodation, by undertaking visits to schools, attending celebratory events for the

achievements of children looked after, and by attending events organised by the children looked after champion. Individual members will feed back on opportunities they have identified for support for employment, apprenticeships, traineeships and work experience.

The Board will:

- receive regular reports from Independent Reviewing Officers to provide an insight into life for children looked after in Somerset
- consider regular reports that set out performance against key agreed outcome indicators to monitor progress over time, and compare Somerset's performance with top quartile authorities and recommend actions for improvement
- regularly monitor and receive reports in respect of SCC and partners' progress against external regulator recommendations; and
- establish links with other key groups responsible for representing children looked after (e.g. Foster Carers Consultative Group).

Status - The Board is a leadership and advisory body with no formal decision-making powers but will seek to influence decision makers to drive improvement across the Council and its partners. Consequently, it will make recommendations where necessary to Cabinet to impact and influence SCC decisions and policies.

Formal Board meetings will not be open to the public or press because of the sensitive nature of the business and will not be subject to the Access to Information Rules set out in the Council's constitution. When reporting to the Full Council, Cabinet, or elsewhere, the expectation is that those reports will be public unless there are good reasons to recommend the exclusion of the public and press to consider confidential information.

All members of the Board shall respect and maintain the confidentiality of the Board's business.

The Corporate Parenting Board will maintain a close working relationship with the Council's Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee to ensure they do not duplicate each other's work.

Accountability - The Board will be accountable to **Full Council**, via an annual report, in recognition of Council's budget setting responsibilities, the role of all elected members as corporate parents, and to enable Council to maintain an overview of the Strategy and the delivery of the Board's Annual Plan.

Reporting - The Board will report on its activities to:

- **Somerset Children's Trust**, which brings together all the relevant agencies to agree how to identify and meet the needs of children and young people in Somerset. The Trust is responsible for coordinating agencies so that together they fulfill their statutory duties and more effectively meet the needs of children.
- **Somerset in Care Council** via the children in care champion who is a full Board member
- **Somerset Leaving Care Council** via the children in care champion who is a full Board member
- **Cabinet**, reporting as and when necessary, as the key decision-making body for County Council services

- **Scrutiny** Committees, as and when requested, in relation to reviewing the effectiveness of the Board and the Strategies the Board is responsible for.

Voting Arrangements - Formal meetings of the Board will operate by consensus of those present rather than through any formal voting mechanism in recognition of the wide membership and the roles of the Board to advise and challenge.

Membership - The emphasis for Board members is leadership, and so the Boards core appointed elected membership will include any member who, as one way of exercising their role as corporate parent, has the passion and commitment to volunteer as a core Board member. Members will be nominated by their political group leader and notified to the Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance, as the Lead Officer. There will be no limit on numbers of Members although the Chair's discretion will ensure the Board operates effectively.

Core Board Members

- County Council Elected Members
- Children in Care Champion (appointed by the Board)
- Lead Cabinet Member for Children & Families
- Director of Children's Services
- Foster Carer Association
- District Council Elected Member – representative/s – nominee(s)
- Clinical Commissioning Group executive member
- Representation from Somerset in Care Council (SiCC) and Somerset Leaving Care Council (SLCC)

Lead Contributors

- Deputy Director Children and Families
- Virtual School Head
- Assistant Director Inclusion and Education Outcomes
- Assistant Director Commissioning & Performance
- Assistant Director Quality and Safeguarding
- Strategic Manager Commissioning and Performance
- Police representatives
- Council "Voice of the Child" Officer
- All other County Councillors
- Providers of Council or NHS commissioned services.

Co-opted Members - Co-opted members to be invited as and when the agenda requires i.e. Housing, specific voluntary groups etc.

Chairing Arrangements - The Chair will be an Elected Member or an Independent Chair on the Board and will be chosen by the Core Board on an annual basis at the first formal meeting of the Board following the Full Council annual meeting in May.

Officer Lead - Assistant Director Commissioning & Performance

Frequency of meetings - The Board meets every two months with additional sub-group meetings held as required to fulfil the Board's annual plan. The chair of the Leaving Care Council will attend as a full member, and representatives for the Children

in Care Council will be invited to suitable meetings. The Board and its sub-group meetings may take a range of different formats, including visits to different locations and informal meetings with children and young people, and those who support them. Sub-groups will report formally to the Board every two months.

Corporate Parenting Board Plan - Will be reviewed at every Board meeting, for updates and progress on the sub-groups.

Preparation for the Board - Chair to meet with the Lead Officer a minimum of two weeks before each formal meeting to agree the agenda and papers. Agendas and papers for formal Board meetings will be sent to the members of the Board at least six working days prior to the meeting.

Support to formal meetings of the Board - This is provided by the Commissioning Team, Children's Services.

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