



1 What is corporate parenting?

When a child or young person comes into care, the council and our key partners become their corporate parent. We must work together to ensure they get the best possible start in life.



Councillor Julie Gunn

Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education

“In my mind, being a corporate parent is about being a positive role model, making sure we help children and young people to aim high, supporting them to become confident to speak out and to be confident that their voice will be heard, and proudly standing up for children and young people with experience of care.



Jayne Ivory

Strategic Director, Children's Services & Education (DCS)

“In Blackburn with Darwen, our vision is that care-experienced children and young people will grow up to have a happy and healthy life, experience success and overcome challenges.

To make sure this happens we will work with them, the people that love and care for them, and their corporate parents to get them the right help at the right time so that they can each benefit from effective support”.

2 Making It Happen: How you can help

ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected members will provide the political and professional leadership of our corporate parenting commitment and will advocate for looked after children and our care leavers when making key decisions.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The council's Public Health function will support improved health outcomes for looked after children and care leavers through the consideration of their physical, emotional and mental health needs.

THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

The Virtual School will help to secure successful educational outcomes for children in our care and care leavers, and work towards narrowing the attainment gap so everyone can reach their potential.

HOUSING NEEDS

The council's housing team will support the provision of suitable accommodation choices for care leavers who are ready to live more independently, to help reduce the risk of homelessness.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Children's Services staff will reflect corporate parenting principles when carrying out their duties, and commit to effective participation and to improving outcomes for children and young people.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health service providers will help improve the health and wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers by providing regular health assessments and timely access to health services.

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

Schools, colleges and any other educational establishments will monitor the progress of looked after children, and support our children in care and care leavers to meet their goals and achieve academic success.

POLICE/OTHER SERVICES

The police, community organisations and others will provide important services and support for our looked after children and care leavers to keep them safe and meet their individual needs.

3 Our promise to children in care

We have promised children and young people that they will be:

- ✓ able to know and trust their social worker or Personal Adviser
- ✓ listened to and told what to expect throughout their care journey
- ✓ able to tell us what is working well and what we could do better

Children and young people will be:

- ✓ treated as an individual and not just a case number
- ✓ listened to and encouraged to contribute to the support they need
- ✓ given enough time to get to know their social worker or Personal Adviser

We will make sure that children and young people:

- ✓ are able to talk freely and openly to their social worker or Personal Adviser
- ✓ are listened to about what they like and want, as well as any worries they have
- ✓ are listened to about what they enjoy doing at home and at school, such as hobbies
- ✓ play a role in deciding together about what help is needed for them and their family
- ✓ receive the right help at the right time - this includes from the council's services as well as other key services, such as local health providers and their school or college
- ✓ feel comfortable telling us what is working well and what we could do differently

4 Our priorities for 2021-2024

OUR 6 CO-PRODUCED PRIORITIES

1 Participation

This priority is about empowering children and young people to express their voices and influence the decisions the council makes.

2 Placements

This priority is about making sure we provide children and young people with a safe, caring and comfortable home to live and grow up in.

3 Education

This priority is about making sure that children and young people can be happy and successful in their learning, and meet their personal goals.

4 Health

This priority is about looking after the health of children and young people, including their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

5 Identity

This priority is about supporting children and young people to build a sense of identity so that they understand their own histories.

6 Preparation for Adulthood

This priority is about supporting young people to develop the life skills that they need to live independently when they grow older.

Download the full strategy

To view the full version of the strategy, scan this QR code using your phone's camera



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