

Corporate Parenting Strategy for Looked after Children and Care Leavers 2021 – 2023

Brief Overview:

'Corporate Parenting is the term used to refer to the responsibility of the council, to provide the best possible care and protection for children and young people who are 'looked after'. At the core of this responsibility is the moral duty to provide the kind of support that any good parents would provide their own children. This includes enhancing the quality of life of looked after children as well as simply keeping them safe.'

House of Commons Children, Schools and Family Committee March 2009

This Corporate Parenting strategy describes how the Sheffield City Council and its partners, such as housing, health services, Police and schools, act as 'responsible parents' to children and young people living within their care.

It outlines our vision and approach, reports on some of our recent achievements and developments and sets out how we intend to achieve our goals. The strategy outlines the context in which this strategy sits, and the governance structure in place to ensure that our vision is achieved.

Our strategy demonstrates our Partnership's commitment to ensuring that the life chances of every child and young person in our care are improved in-line with their peers.

Vision

Our overarching vision for all our children and young people in Sheffield's is that:

'Children and young people are safe and supported to achieve their full potential', and that: children are at the centre of our practice; we intervene at the earliest opportunity; our workforce is skilled and supported to do the work that they need to; and that children and families benefit from high performing and high-quality services.

Key objectives:

The strategy details the four strategic outcomes that have been developed by the Corporate Parenting Board, having taken account of what children and young people have told us about their experiences of being in our care, as well as providing a response to the impact that Covid has had on children and young people's lives. These objectives are as follows:

Objective 1. To increase provision of high-quality in city care placements

Objective 2. To support looked after children to catch up with the schooling they have missed.

Objective 3. To improve looked after children and care leavers' emotional wellbeing

Objective 4. To support more care leavers to engage in education, employment, and training (EET)

This is a three-year strategy, supported through a series of live action plans that are driven within specific priority theme groups with by partners/officers and supported by elected member champions. The current strategy will be reviewed in 2023.