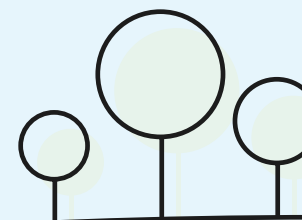
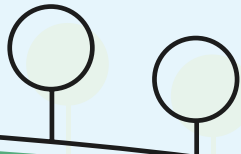
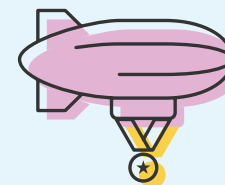
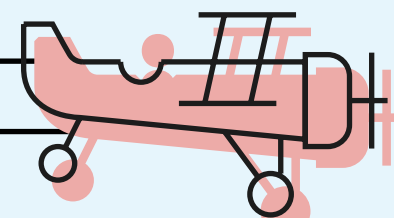


# Wiltshire Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2026



# Wiltshire's Children in Care Council

Hello and welcome to Wiltshire Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy, which is about what children in care and care experienced young people and adults expect our corporate parents to do and work towards to be good in their role.

The strategy is about us – the children and young people in and leaving Wiltshire Council's care. It's about how we are looked after and how things can be made better for us – not just while we are in care but also afterwards.

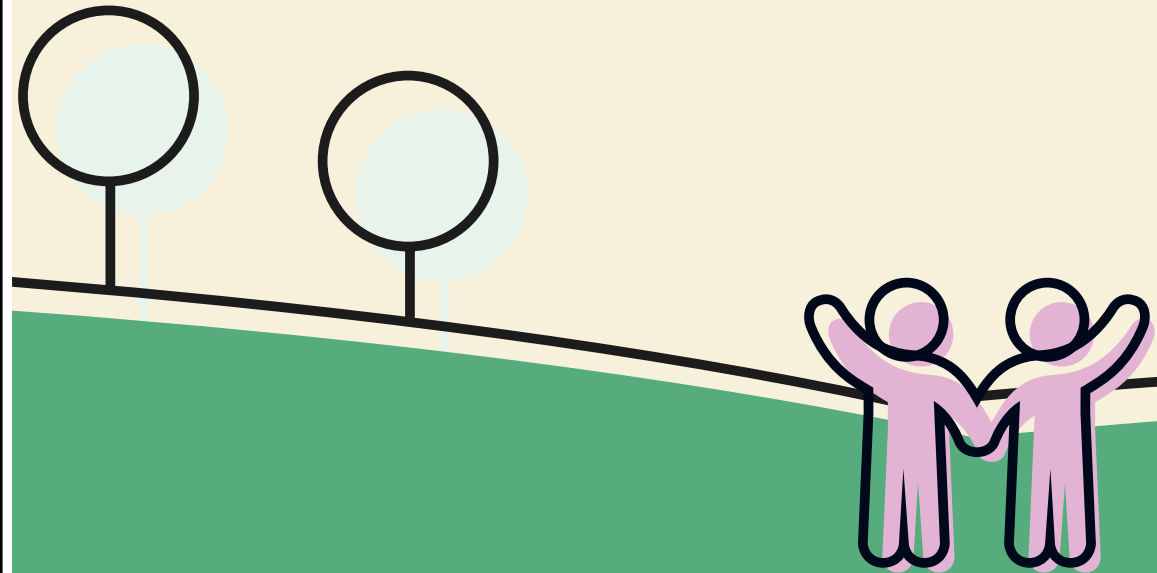
Within the strategy the corporate parents have worked with the Children in Care Council to set out a number of priorities. This is important as it means our views are included within the strategy.

As the Children in Care Council represent the voice of all children in care and care experienced young people and adults, it is really important to us that the strategy works, so that children and young peoples' experience of being in Wiltshire's care is a positive one and builds solid foundations for our future.

We run this programme to benefit all children in care and care experienced young people. As young people, we want our voice to always be heard and we ask that all corporate parents commit to spending time listening to us.

**Children in Care Council members**

August 2023



# Vision

Our children in care, care experienced young people and adults have the right to expect everything from their corporate parents that they would expect from any good parent. We want our children and young people to achieve their dreams, be ambitious and be their best self. We recognise the challenges that young people face in their day to day lives. Children and young people's emotional wellbeing, safety, health and most importantly happiness are our key priorities. We want to continue to improve our services to ensure that children and young people are supported at every step of their journey to independence and beyond.



## Leader of the council



I am very keen to ensure that Wiltshire is a county where everyone can share in its success. Central to this vision is making sure everyone can play their part in supporting Wiltshire's children and making our county the best place to grow up in for a child in the care of this local authority.

I am extremely proud of Wiltshire's children in care and care experienced young people and adults, and I am committed to do all I can to support them to benefit from the many opportunities our great county has to offer. In all we do we want children and young people who have experienced care to feel loved, accepted and safe.

This Corporate Parenting Strategy underpins our commitment to champion Wiltshire's children and young people and to ensure they have every opportunity to live happy and fulfilling lives, and we will continue to build on the structures that have already been established for children in care and care experienced young people and adults and to be the best corporate parents we can be.

**Cllr Richard Clewer**  
Leader of Wiltshire Council

## Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills



I am delighted to share this updated Corporate Parenting Strategy for our children in care and care experienced young people and adults. It is so important we listen to young people to ensure our strategy continues to meet their needs. This new strategy demonstrates how their views have shaped decisions that affect them, and I look forward to continuing working with our young people to achieve the objectives.

**Cllr Laura Mayes**  
Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills

## Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel



As chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel my role is to ensure all panel members have the detailed information on the children we look after, the opportunity to challenge and scrutinise, work together with officers to improve and enhance the wellbeing of our children ensuring their voice is heard in all sectors both inside and outside of the council and to enable them to explore all opportunities for a positive future.

**Cllr Peter Hutton**  
Chairman of Corporate Parenting Panel



## Chief Executive, Wiltshire Council

One of the most important roles we have in the council is working for you, our children and young people in our care or those who are care experienced. Our business plan clearly states we want you to achieve your educational potential and create opportunities and aspiration about your next steps in education, employment or training.

I take this commitment extremely seriously having worked as a social worker in children's services. Being a corporate parent is one of the most important things we do. I'm proud of the great work we're already doing in this area but we know there is always more we can do. This document sheds a light on our services and our promise to you, our children and young people in care and those who are care experienced, and is a clear way forward for the next three years.

**Terence Herbert**  
Chief Executive, Wiltshire Council



## Corporate Director of People / Director of Children Services

This strategy maps out exactly how we will work with you, our children and young people in care and those who are care experienced, both now and in the future. This document contains clear promises to ensure we provide the right care and life chances for you. A key part of developing and delivering on our strategy is involving you in decisions that impact on you and hearing about how we can do better. Our promise is to always work hard for you and where we need to do better, we will take on that challenge. I am very pleased to present this strategy to you and look forward to continue working with you to ensure it is delivered and we are the best corporate parents in the country.

**Lucy Townsend**  
Corporate Director of People / Director of Children Services



## Director of Families and Children

Every one of you deserves to have the same opportunities to thrive, to reach for your goals and to feel supported and cared for as part of that. I've many years' experience working in families and children services and I have seen what a difference it makes to have the right support and inspiration to achieve everything you want to achieve. Being a corporate parent is a privileged role and I honour to make decisions for you as I would my own children. This strategy sets out for the next three years how we will deliver these promises and to ensure you will be supported to reach your full potential.

**Jen Salter**  
Director of Families and Children

# Corporate Parenting Panel Members

The aim of this strategy is to ensure that the council Corporate Parenting functions support improvement in services and to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people. To achieve this, it is essential that councillors:

- Understand their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents.
- Scrutinise and challenge how the council performs in delivering its services as a corporate parent.
- Engage effectively, with energy, consistency, and confidence with children and young people so that their voice is heard and has influence.
- Support and enable children and young people to challenge where services need to improve.
- Maintain a comprehensive overview of the progress of children in care and for care experienced young people, ensuring they consistently scrutinise the quality, effectiveness and performance of the services that support them.

# Corporate parenting responsibilities

Services for children in care and care experienced young people need to be coordinated, focused and effective. Responsibility for this rests at a corporate level with councillors who will work with senior officers for the implementation of strategies and services. It is important for all those who provide a service for children in care and care experienced young people work together to ensure a joined up approach.

The corporate parenting principles are about embedding a positive culture in the local authority towards children in care and care experienced young people and their success will depend on the extent to which directors, councillors, heads of service and front line managers champion and promote the understanding of them. (DfE - "Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers", Statutory Guidance, February 2018).

Councillors and senior officers will promote that children in care, and care experienced young people are part of the council "family".

Councillors and senior officers will demonstrate that they care about what happens to children in care and care experienced young people by taking their corporate parenting role seriously.

# Principles

The government introduced clear corporate parenting principles that require all departments within a local authority including staff, councillors and partner agencies to recognise their role as a corporate parent and encourage them to look at the support and services they provide. The principles are:

- To act in the best interest and promote the physical, mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in our care.
- To encourage children and young people in care to express their views, wishes and feelings.
- To consider the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people in care and those young people that leave care.
- To help children and young people in care and those that leave our care to gain access to, and make the best use of, the services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
- To promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for children and young people in care and those that leave our care.
- To ensure children and young people in care and those that leave care are safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships, education and/or workplace.
- To prepare children and young people in care for adulthood and independent living when they leave our care.



# Our promise

An effective corporate parent will ensure that our children in care and care experienced young people and adults have at least the same care, nurture, support and life chances as any other child in our society might expect. Where these opportunities are not provided corporate parents will have failed in their primary duty.

Each year the Corporate Parenting Panel will hold two Dragons Den sessions with our Children in Care Council to update them on the progress of our strategic priorities.

We, the corporate parents commit to the following promise for the children and young people in our care.

- To involve you in decisions about a safe/ positive home where you can stay until you are ready to move on from our care.
- To keep you together with your brothers and sisters whenever we can, and to help you stay in close contact with your family if that's what is right for you and is safe to do so.
- To listen to your views, act on them when we can and be honest when we cannot.
- To support you to understand your journey into and through care, understand your history and why decisions have been made. Support you to understand your identity, heritage and have a record of your journey via your life story, photos and letters.
- That your social worker will work hard for you to solve problems.
- To tell you what your rights are and what you are entitled to.
- That you will be involved in decisions taken during your review.
- To involve you in decisions about school and to help you get to school so that your education can continue.
- To arrange transport for you that is reliable and gets you to school, and important meetings, on time.
- To invite you to group activities with other children living in care, and those leaving care, to help you feel more confident.
- Support you in building positive and healthy relationships with peers and work with you and your schools through peps and your annual review to resolve any difficulties (for example, bullying).
- To support you when you need help with school, transitions between schools and preparing for employment and training.
- You have the help you need to develop your skills to gradually look after yourself and are given continued support to negotiate the challenges of adult life.
- You are provided with a good standard of accommodation and housing and that your move to independence is a positive experience.
- That we keep in touch with you on your journey and you know what you are entitled to including the care experienced young peoples' promise and our local offer.
- To support you to achieve your best outcomes.
- To hold an annual star awards to celebrate your achievements.
- You get additional support when you are a young parent.



# We want to know if we are not keeping our promises

We need you to tell us how we are doing at keeping our promises to you. You need to let us know if:

- We are not keeping our promises to you.
- You are unhappy with the support you are given.
- You are not getting the support and help you need.
- We need to get better.
- Someone who supports you are doing well.

We want you to be able to share your experience with us, both good and bad.

You can always ask to speak someone who can make a difference.

Tell your carer, social worker, independent reviewing officer about how things are for you, and what is good or bad. Tell them if you do not think we are keeping our promises and this person will try and help you sort it out.

You can use **Mind Of My Own App** to share with us.

You can contact Your Voice team and our Children in Care Council to share your views.

Your message and views will be shared with senior leaders in our service and our Corporate Parenting Panel.

It's our job to make sure you are happy, safe and supported and that you feel listened to.

# Partnership working

To deliver on our promises and deliver our ambitions for children in care and those young people that leave our care; as senior officers we will work with a number of partners who report into the Corporate Parenting Operational Group and the Corporate Parenting Panel. Our ambition is to work together across the partnership to deliver on our strategic priorities and ensure there is momentum of pace to deliver change for you.

The Corporate Parenting Operational Group will be chaired by the Head of Service for Children in Care and Young People.

There will be a number of subgroups that feed into the Corporate Parenting Operational group:

Care Leavers Development Group and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Development Group – which are chaired by Katrina McJannet (Head of Service – Children in Care and Young People).

# Priorities for development 2023 - 2026

What our children and young people need:

- To feel safe and happy in a stable home and in my local community. To try and ensure I live in a community that reflects my cultural and religious needs.
  - Ensuring my physical and emotional wellbeing is supported and at time and place that suits me.
  - To have positive relationships with people who are important to me and for me to be part of my local community where I am trusted, respected and accepted and feel included.
  - For my voice to be heard and for it to matter and influence decision making and drive change.
- To be the best that I can be, to achieve personally, educationally throughout my life and be supported to access training and employment opportunities.
  - To have support for as long as I need it and plan my transition to independence with good access to Staying Put, Staying Close and quality supported accommodation and eventually my own home.
  - To have additional support when I am a young parent.

Please click the link for updated quarterly data measures stated in the 'How we know we are doing well' performance indicators below.

## Our plan for you

We want all our children and care experienced young people and adults to have the best start in life and be supported to reach their potential and goals. We want the very best for our children in care and we will ensure that the best outcomes for our children are everyone's top priority. We want our children and young people to aspire to lead a successful, fulfilling life.

We want to ensure that you can learn and develop skills and achieve from early childhood throughout your journey through your transition to adulthood and moving to independence and beyond. We want you, our young people, to be supported in every step of your learning from early years learning to school, higher education and that you have access to a range of work experience, training opportunities and apprenticeships and employment opportunities within the family business and the wider Wiltshire community as part of our local offer.

We are responsible for ensuring the local authority carries out its duty to promote the educational and aspirational achievements of you our children in care and care experienced young people. The Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council, the Lead Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills and the Director of Children's Services will ensure that they prioritise and drive a culture of high educational achievement and aspiration within the local authority and with partners.

# Challenges

Wiltshire's children and young people achieve well nationally in comparison with other local authorities. There are still challenges in this being consistent for all children and young people in providing long term, stable loving homes, and achieving well throughout education, training and employment.

We are always looking for creative solutions and innovative approaches to improve the services we provide you, some of these are nationally recognised such as Staying Put and Staying Close.

We have recently secured funding to introduce Mockingbird which is a nationally recognised programme to support retention of foster carers.

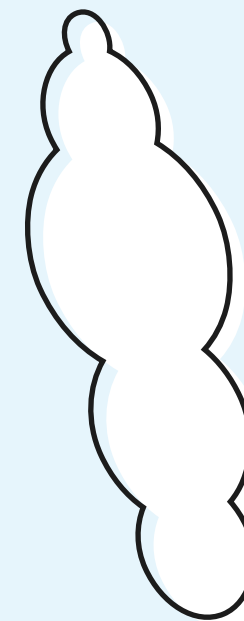
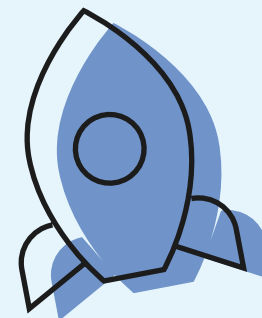
We are also trailblazers for our contextual safeguarding approach for children in care, working with Durham University and with formal recognition from DfE for a fifth category of risk, recognising risks outside of the home (ROTH).

We work closely with our regional adoption agency, Adoption West, to ensure that we are promoting permanence for those children whose permanence plan is adoption.

We were successful in being awarded two bids from the DfE's Children's Home Capital Programme which forms a part of our ambitious Placement Sufficiency Strategy. We will have three children's homes within Wiltshire.

We are exploring additional provision in county for our young people in care including increased provision for our unaccompanied children and young people and supported accommodation and tenancies for our care experienced young people to support them with transitioning to independence.

We as a Corporate Parenting Panel will continue to work hard to ensure our focus is overcoming these challenges so that we can provide the best for you as we believe there is always more we can do.



# Strategic priority

1

## To feel safe and happy in a stable home and in my local community

When children need to come into care, we will do our very best to maintain them in Wiltshire within their family with connected family carers. Where this is not possible, we will provide a range of foster placements within Wiltshire with carers that are trained in DDP (Dyadic Development Psychotherapy) and understand their needs and support them to build trust in their new homes. We will also commission a range of specialist fostering and residential homes for those with more complex needs and we will work with providers to retain a number of these within county. Wherever possible any placement change will be planned and subject to a pre disruption meeting to ensure this is child and young person centred.

We will work hard to achieve long term permanence for the children of Wiltshire.

### Key Challenges

Post Covid there has been a national rise in the number of children coming into care. Whilst Wiltshire's number remain within target, there is increased competition nationally for all independent and residential placements. Recent research also shows that local authority and independent fostering agencies are seeing a reduction in the number of new registrations of carers. We need to ensure that our commissioning services are creative and responsive to the changing complexity of needs. We need to bolster the support we provide to placements to prevent breakdown.

## What we will do

## How do we know we are doing well?

Children and young people will have stable placements

Percentage of children (under 16 years old) looked after for at least two and a half years who have been in the same placement for at least two years

Percentage of children with three or more placements

Subject to their needs children and young people will be placed in Wiltshire

Twice yearly update to CPP as within target range for this KPI

Quarterly reporting post POB

Percentage of children placed 20 miles or over from home

Percentage of children placed in local authority foster placement

Percentage of children placed outside of Wiltshire

Percentage of children placed with connected carers

We will continue to develop our services for those children and young people unaccompanied and seeking asylum

Link to UASC development group

Quarterly updates on National Transfer Scheme, spontaneous arrivals and good news updates

Children and young people will be supported to remain in their extended families

Quarterly reporting post POB

Percentage of children achieving permanence via SGO's and connected carers

Care plans for rehabilitation will be actively considered throughout a child, young person's life

Percentage of placement with parents regs and orders rescinded, twice yearly reporting

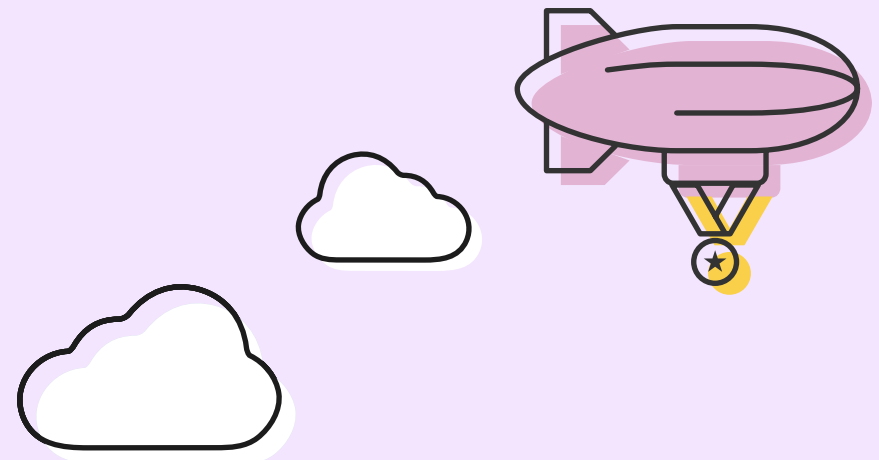
## What we will do

## How do we know we are doing well?

Our young people leaving care will be supported to stay "put" or "close".  Staying Put, Staying Close Project	Percentage of young people staying put	Percentage of young people staying close
Increase the number of foster carers  Twice yearly Mockingbird updates	Number of enquiries to assessment to approval	Number of foster carers recruited and retained
We will provide high quality trauma informed care to support best outcomes for our children and young people	Number of foster carers accessing DDP training	Number of carers progressing in levels of payment for skills
We will have oversight and understand the themes of why our children in care have missing episodes to ensure that they are safe	Twice yearly updates of missing data for CIC	
We will ensure that young people in care and those that have left our care have access to good quality supported accommodation	Link to updates of Care Experienced Development Plan	
We will ensure that young people always have suitable accommodation and are not homeless and that their local connection is lifelong	Twice yearly reporting on those not in suitable accommodation	

### Key Partners for this strategic priority are:

- Social Workers Children in Care and Through Care Teams, Support and Safeguarding Teams, PA Service and UASC Team, Emerald Team, CYPDT
- Virtual School
- IRO's – Quality Outcomes Service
- Kinship and Fostering Service
- Commissioning Service
- Children's Brokerage Service
- Children's Commissioner ICB



# Strategic priority

2

**To be the best that I can be, to achieve personally and educationally throughout my life and be supported to engage with training and employment opportunities.**

As corporate parents and leaders we want the same for you as any parent, for you to have the best start and for you to reach your full potential and be happy and engaged in life. Wiltshire wants the very best for you and we have high aspirations for you.

We want to enable you to engage fully in all aspects of learning from your early year's nursery, primary and secondary schooling and post 16. We want you to have no barriers to education to ensure you can remain engaged at all times and have access to good personal development opportunities, to provide you with the educational outcomes, skills and positive experiences needed to support you through to independence.

We want to provide you with positive relationships that support you to aim high, including college and university. We want you to have the chance to experience work and support you to engage in training, apprenticeships and employment within Wiltshire and beyond. Wiltshire has a strong economy, and we want to build on our links with businesses and employers to ensure our local offer is as good as it can be.

### Key Challenges

Both regionally and nationally, Wiltshire children and young people compare well in good outcomes linked to education, employment and training but we have high aspirations and we want all children in care and care experienced young people to be achieving their goals and aspirations. The corporate parenting panel seeks to improve these areas for you.

## What we will do

Ensure all our children and young people in care will have an up to date, good quality PEP stating how they will be supported to achieve their goals at each key stage

Ensure all our children and young people in care will have their SEND needs clearly identified and addressed in their PEP

All children 15yrs and six months will have an up-to-date Pathway Plan that clearly sets out their goals, what skills they need to learn to reach independence and what support they need to achieve these

All Pathway Plans will evidence and consider a young person's SEND

All Pathway Plans will evidence young people's SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) needs

That we continue to offer apprenticeships to a percentage of vacant hard to fill posts to our care experienced young people

## How do we know we are doing well?

Percentage of children and young people with an up-to-date PEP

Percentage of children and young people with a PEP rated 'Green'

Percentage of children and young people with My Support Plan

Percentage of young people with an up-to-date Pathway Plan

Percentage of young people with a Pathway Plan that encompasses any relevant SEND

Percentage of Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires

Percentage of apprenticeships offered on a quarterly basis

Percentage of children and young people with an up-to-date EHCP

Outcomes of children and young people with SEND vs non-SEND

Percentage of young people where the final PEP targets are included in the Pathway Plan

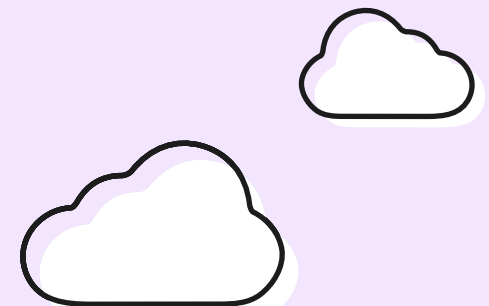
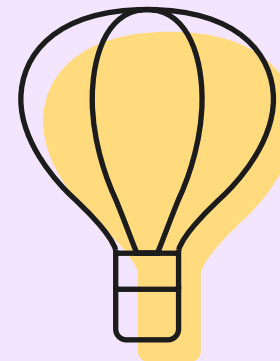
## What we will do

## How do we know we are doing well?

All children and young people have appropriate educational provision	Number on a reduced timetable	Breakdown of reasons for no school place
All children with a reduced timetable or accessing AP have a clear plan that is reviewed regularly	Number Accessing AP	Number with a REP (reduced timetable)
	Number of children not on school roll (including EOTAS)	Number with an ILP (use of AP)
Our children in care are supported to access higher education and care leavers accessing graduate and post graduate courses	Percentage increase of children in care and care leavers in higher education	Percentage of care leavers in university, graduate and post graduate
Our children in care and care experienced young people are offered work experience opportunities within the council	Percentage offered/engaging in work experience	
Our care experienced young people are proactively supported to access higher education and/or employment. Our care leavers NEET Panel will proactively support all those NEET	Percentage children in care and care leavers in EET 16 – 18yrs	Percentage young people EET 21- 25yrs
	Percentage young people EET 19 - 21yrs	Twice yearly update from Care Leavers NEET Panel
That all care experienced young people know of our local offer	Percentage of young people provided work experience, apprenticeships, employment	
That we sign the Care Leavers Covenant to build on our local offer		

## Key Partners for this strategic priority are:

- Virtual School
- SEND
- School Effectiveness
- Education and Skills
- Participation and Skills Team
- Schools
- IRO's – Quality Outcomes Service
- Social Workers Children in Care and Through Care Teams, Support and Safeguarding Teams, PA's Service and UASC Team
- Kinship and Fostering Service
- Care Leavers Covenant



# Strategic priority

3

## Ensuring my physical and emotional wellbeing is supported and at a time and place that suits me

We want all our children and young people to be happy, healthy and safe. We want them to be supported to be in their best physical health and have their emotional wellbeing needs met in a timely way to support their resilience so that they learn the skills they need to be successful independent adults who achieve their ambitions. We want them to be safe in their home and community and online, protected from harm and exploitation. We want our children and young people to have a clear understanding of their personal journey into care and why decisions have been made and to have the opportunity to engage in Life Story work. We want their emotional needs to be met in a timely way with access to services to improve their wellbeing and mental health.

## Key Challenges

Research evidence shows that care experienced young people are sadly over-represented in mental health services, school exclusions, poor housing and poor health outcomes and the youth justice and prison system.

We know that children and young people who are in our care who have been exposed to adverse childhood experiences and its resulting trauma, can have lasting impact on their physical, emotional and mental health. When in care, disrupted attachments, frequent moves and instability can add to their experiences and impact on their outcomes. For our disabled children and young people, they can face additional challenges in not being able to live within their home due to their complex care and health needs. These vulnerabilities can continue into adulthood where our young people may not have learnt the emotional coping and life skills they need to thrive. Care experienced young

people face increased challenges in accessing services, appropriate accommodation and isolation in their communities due to strained family links. For some of our young people who have travelled to the country on their own, they have few family ties and face additional challenges adjusting to a new

language and culture. Their sense of belonging is best supported by being with other young people they have travelled with and by being close to others who share their culture and or religion.

## What we will do

## How do we know we are doing well?

All children and young people have IHAs and RHAs undertaken as per statutory guidance

Quarterly reporting of IHA and RHA timeliness into POB and CPP

All children and young people in care have access to dental, optical services

Percentage annual dental check

Percentage optical checks

Those needing support with their emotional wellbeing and mental health are supported via local CAMHS services

Twice yearly reporting from In Reach with outcomes for our children in care

All our care experienced young people have access to their health information, health passport

Percentage of care experienced young people who have been given their health passport

Our young people have a clear pathway for transitional safeguarding into adult services, mental health, learning disability and autism services for all our young people

Twice yearly update from transitional safeguarding lead to CPP



## What we will do

For care experienced young people on low incomes to have access to prepaid prescriptions, dental services

Our care experienced young people have access to our Emotional Wellbeing workers.

Emotional Wellbeing workers are trained in understanding the needs of our UASC young people.

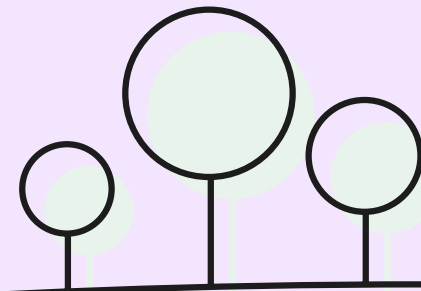
## How do we know we are doing well?

Care Leavers Development Plan shared quarterly with CPP

Quarterly updates on referrals and outcomes to CPP

## Key partners for this strategic priority are:

- Designated doctor
- Designated nurse
- CAMHS In Reach
- Children's Commissioning Lead ICB
- Adult services, Adult mental health, LDAS
- Wiltshire Commissioning
- Children in Care teams, Senior PAs



# Strategic priority

4

## To have positive relationships with people who are important to me and for me to be part of my local community where I am trusted, respected, accepted and feel included

We know that children and young people achieve the best outcomes when they are able to trust and build strong relationships with others and these relationships stay with them through to adulthood. We want all of our children and young people in care to have the opportunity to build long lasting, trusting relationship with those people most important to them, their family, carers, significant others, social workers and IROs. We want these relationships to endure into their adult lives so that that our young people do not experience isolation and loneliness. We are commissioning Lifelong Links to ensure relationships are built and maintained with family networks.

For some children and young people, it can be a challenge to build new relationships, sometimes they need the opportunity to build these outside of their immediate circle and existing relationships, with someone independent. We want to widen our offer of Independent Visiting for our children in care and the take up of Grandmentoring for our care leavers. We want a one council offer for volunteering for our children in care and care experienced young people.

We want our children and young people to be accepted and have a sense of belonging to their community and engage with extracurricular activities to support their integration. We want young people's voices and views to be included in the shaping of all of our services.

### Key Challenges

Many of our children entering care are from disadvantaged

backgrounds who may not have had the opportunity to engage in their communities in a positive way.

Research tells us that the benefits of enjoying activities outside of formal education are key in our children's development, building confidence, self-esteem and reducing isolation. Achieving outside of the classroom can also boost educational attainment and lead to children

developing their own aspirations and future success.

Access to leisure services and social groups can be hard to access for our young people who may have anxiety and lack confidence. We also hear from our older children in care and care experienced young people that with increased independence there can often be increased anxiety and isolation.

### What we will do

Activities outside of school will be a key focus in all annual reviews for children in foster care, connected carers and residential care.

Social activities to be a clear focus in all Pathway Plans to reduce social isolation

That the Independent Visitor Scheme is offered to all children and young people as part of their review

Work with our provider to increase the offer of matches for Grandmentoring

### How do we know we are doing well?

Placement Plan audits

Placement Plan audits

IV annual report to CPP includes feedback from children and young people

Six monthly reporting to CPP

## What we will do

## How do we know we are doing well?

A One Council wide volunteer list offering support with hobbies and befriending to be devised

Six monthly reporting

That we support and encourage (where safe) our children and young people to have relationships with their family and relatives

Six monthly reporting of Project into CPP

Project within fostering Stronger Families Team to promote links with families that endure (Lifelong Links)

Build relationships with local leisure facilities and the voluntary sector to increase our local offer to our care experienced young people. A task and finish group to be appointed

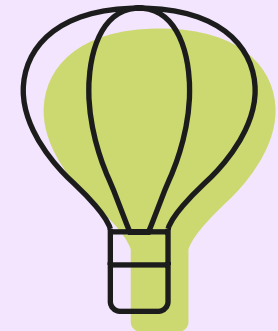
Report progress of local offer into CPP

We provide opportunities for our children and young people in care and care experienced to meet up and have fun

Schedule of activities Voice Team

## Key partners for this strategic priority are:

- One Council
- IRO's – Quality Outcomes Service
- Voice Team
- Social Workers Children in Care and Through Care Teams, Support and Safeguarding Teams, PA's Service and UASC Team
- Virtual School
- Independent Visitor Scheme
- Grandmentoring
- Voluntary Sector Forum



# Strategic priority

5

## For my voice to be heard and for it to matter and influence decision making and drive change

We will always support and encourage children, young people and care experienced adults to share their voice, wishes and feelings. We will work in partnership with them and consult them on their views when decisions are made that affect them and have a say in how our services are delivered and shaped to meet their needs. We will meet with them regularly to hear their views and get to know them during activities and celebration events.

### Key challenges

We have an established Children in Care Council with new members, but we want to widen its membership and ensure it is fully inclusive of our UASC and those with SEND and disabilities and reaches more

of our children in care and care experienced young people.

We want to further develop how we capture voice in all that we do and ensure that it drives change in delivery of our services.

We want to work with more care experienced young people and adults and those who have gone on to have their own children to ensure that services meet their needs through to independence and that this shapes practice and policy.

We want to provide a range of tools to capture their voice and build on the success of Mind of My Own app.

We want our Voice Team to build on its success and develop a range of engagement methods to promote voice and participation.

## What we will do

## How do we know we are doing well?

Our Children in Care Council's voice is heard at each Corporate Parenting Panel either in person, video or written views

CPP members and officers will develop relationships with our CIC, care experienced via activities and celebration events

We will celebrate the successes of our children and young people at each CPP

We will routinely gather the voice wishes and feelings of our children and young people, care experienced young people and adults

Our children in care and care experienced young people will work with our Voice Team and take part in the recruitment, training of our elected members and families and children's workforce

Updates to CPP  
Christmas Event

Success stories continue to be standard on the agenda

Percentage of use of Mind of My Own App

Voice Team updates to CPP

Star Awards  
Scheduled activities

Bright Spots survey

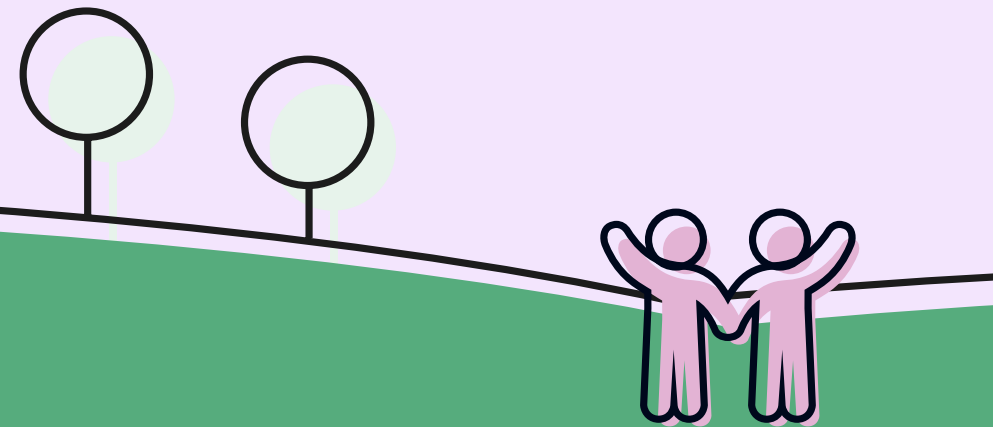
**Key partners for this strategic priority are:**

- Care Leavers Council
- Voice Team
- Social Workers Children in Care and Through Care Teams, Support and Safeguarding Teams, PA's Service and UASC Team
- Virtual School
- IRO's – Quality Outcomes Service
- CAMHS In Reach
- Designated nurse

## Councillors' corporate parenting responsibilities

All councillors are corporate parents and can promote their responsibilities in a number of ways.

The Families and Children's Service and its appointed officers will support members in this task by providing training sessions as part of the induction for all councillors.



# How to be an effective corporate parent

- Ensure you always ask yourself “would this be good enough for my child”.
- Ensure that you support them in having a voice, that it is heard and considered in all our local policies and service design and delivery .
- Ensure you know about our children and young people in care in Wiltshire and placed outside of county. Know about the national and local picture and how this affects them.
- Ensure that you consider their needs across the wider council business.
- Ensure they are updated about changes that affect them and include their views.
- You are confident in communicating with children in care, care experienced young people and adults via a range of media and through service leads.
- Ensure you are familiar with “Our Promise” and constructively challenge whether the council is delivering.
- You actively question how all elements of council business may impact on our children and young people and you join the dots between the wider council agenda linking the needs of our children and young people.
- You consider how your area boards understand and meet the needs of our children and young people in care and our care experienced young people and adults.

# Councillors’ corporate parenting panel responsibilities

The panel will appoint a chairperson and vice chair on an annual basis.

To ensure strategic oversight and momentum to improve services we have set out five strategic priorities that will be the focus for services and our partners over the next three years.

To ensure effectiveness, critical challenge and momentum, all members will be assigned a priority theme alongside a lead council officer. This means that you will meet with our Children in Care Council to share updates on the progress of your priority, gain their views and consider how these will be fed into the strategic priority.

The councillor will provide support and challenge on progress and support the operational lead in promoting the priority across wider council forums, committees and community events.

The councillor will receive updates from the operational lead as agreed and prior to reports being represented to the Corporate Parenting Panel.

## **Quorum**

The quorum of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be 50% (4) councillors. Where the meeting is not quorate, the chairperson will adjourn the meeting.

## **Frequency of meetings**

The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet a minimum of five times a year.

## **Reporting**

The panel will report its work through the Wiltshire Council Children’s Select Committee. Following each meeting the panel clerk will send a copy of the panel minutes and action log to the Chairman of Children’s Select Committee. On an annual basis the panel chairperson will prepare a report for the chairperson of the Children’s Select Committee, addressing progress against each of the five strategic priorities.

In addition to this the chairperson of the Corporate Parenting Panel will present an annual report to Full Council which will be shared with the Children’s Select Committee prior to submission.

# List of annual and six monthly reports for CPP:

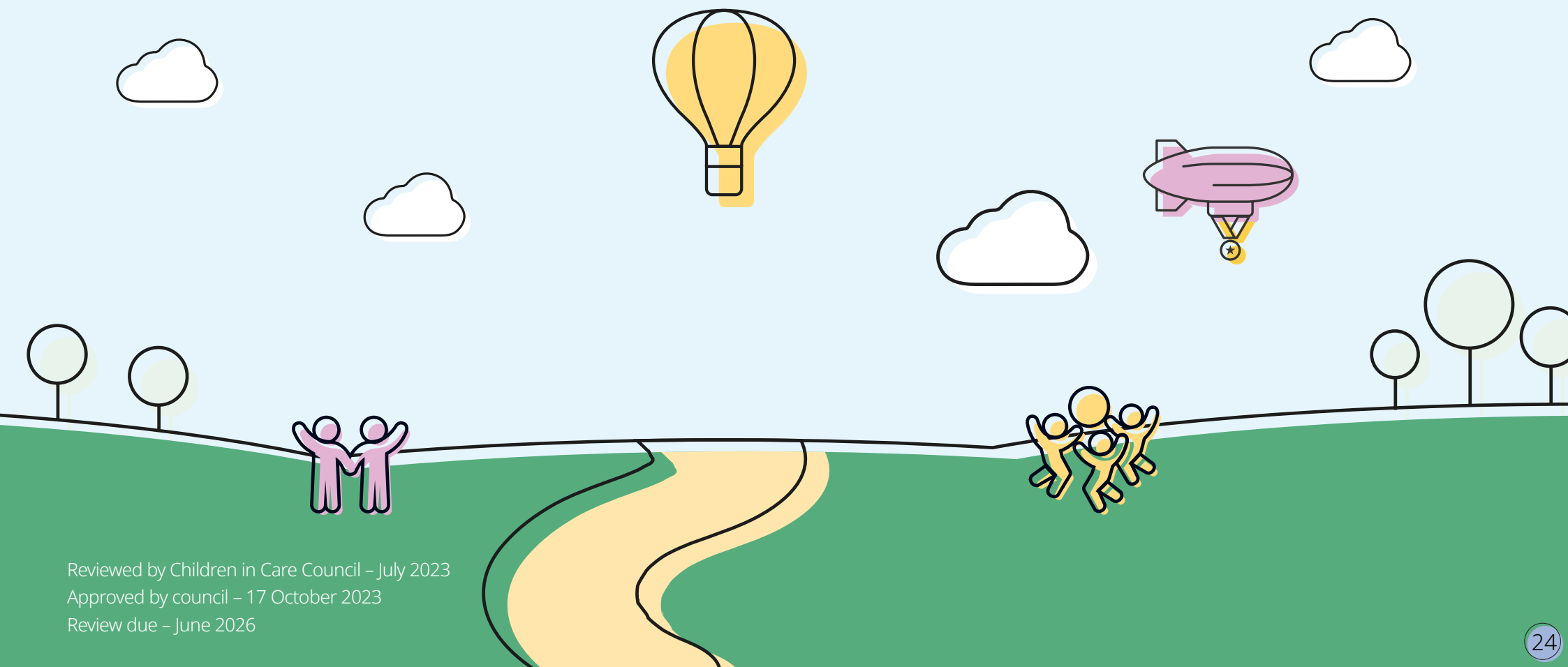
January	March	June	September	November
Annual Virtual School report	Six monthly UASC report from the working group	Annual Child and Youth Voice Team report	Virtual School Preliminary Examinations Results	Annual Adoption Service report
Annual Health of Children Looked After report		Annual Motiv8/Connect (Substance Misuse) Service	Annual Fostering report	CAMHS In Reach Annual Report
		Annual Independent Reviewing Officers report	Annual Wiltshire Independent Visitor Scheme report	Six monthly Care Experienced Development Group update
		Draft annual report of CP Panel for Full Council	Annual report on Grand mentors Scheme	

## Terms of reference

The Corporate Parenting Panel will;

- Make a commitment to prioritising the needs of children looked after children and care experienced young people and their carers and ensure that all departments within the council prioritise the needs of this group.
- Receive reports from the Children in Care Council and act on their views.
- Provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting.
- Show ambition and aspirations for all our children in care and care experienced young people and adults.
- Ensure that all councillors and Wiltshire Council departments are fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents proactively. This may involve, for example, the Corporate Parenting Panel organising specific education and training events for all members to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to be corporate parents.

- Investigate on behalf of all councillors, ways in which the role of corporate parenting can be improved, using examples of research and effective practice from other local authorities.
- Listen to the views of children, young people and their carers to involve them in the assessment and development of services.
- Engage with children and young people who are looked after, or have left care, by inviting them to act as advisers to the panel.
- Monitor the performance, quality and outcomes of the council's services in relation to children and young people in public care and identify any areas for improvement.
- Scrutinise key performance indicators in relation to children and young people in the care of Wiltshire Council.
- Meet with government inspectors, where appropriate, for their input into inspections.
- Participate as members of the adoption and fostering panels.
- Agree a work plan, review progress, membership of the panel and attainment of its role and terms of reference and report to the Cabinet and Children's Services Select Committee as appropriate, and in any case to the Full Council annually.





# Corporate Parenting Panel acronym list

<b>AP</b>	Alternative Provision A place that provides education for children who can't go to a mainstream school	<b>IV</b>	Independent Visitor A volunteer who visits and befriends a child or young person living in care
<b>ASYE DM</b>	ASYE Development Manager Experienced social workers who support and mentor ASYE's	<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicators Those indicators deemed to be essential to enhance performance
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	<b>NEET</b>	Not in Education, Employment or Training (and EET – in Education, Employment or Training)
<b>CiC</b>	Children in Care	<b>PA</b>	Personal Adviser working with care experienced children and young people (care leavers)
<b>CiCC</b>	Children in Care Council	<b>PEP</b>	Personal Education Plan
<b>CiN</b>	Children in Need	<b>POB</b>	Performance and Outcomes Board (Meets six weekly)
<b>CLA</b>	Children Looked After	<b>POG</b>	Performance and Outcomes Group Service level regular meetings that scrutinise performance and report by exception to POB
<b>CPP</b>	Corporate Parenting Panel	<b>RHA</b>	Review Health Assessment
<b>CYPDT</b>	Children and Young People with Disabilities Team	<b>ROTH</b>	Risk Outside the Home
<b>DDP</b>	Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy	<b>SEHM</b>	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
<b>DfE</b>	Department for Education	<b>SEN</b>	Special Educational Needs
<b>EET</b>	In Education, Employment or Training	<b>SEND</b>	Special Educational Needs and Disability
<b>EOTAS</b>	Education other than at School	<b>SGO</b>	Special Guardianship Order
<b>EHC Plan</b>	Education, Health and Care Plan	<b>UASC</b>	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
<b>ICB</b>	Integrated Care Board Replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) from July 2022		
<b>ILP</b>	Individual Learning Plan		
<b>IHA</b>	Initial Health Assessment		
<b>IRO</b>	Independent Reviewing Officer Chairs all statutory reviews of looked after children		