



One Minute Guide Corporate Parenting



When a child comes into care, the council becomes the Corporate Parent. Put simply, the term 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us.

A child in the care of the council looks to the council to be the best parent it can be to that child. Every member and employee of the council has the statutory responsibility to act for that child in the same way that a good parent would act for their own child.

Why is it important?

Every good parent wants the best for their child, to see their child flourish with good health, to be safe and happy, to do well at school and enjoy good relationships with their peers. To make the most of leisure opportunities, hobbies and interests, and to grow towards adulthood equipped to lead independent lives and make their way as adults in higher education, in good careers and jobs, and to be financially secure.

Corporate Parenting is one of the most important jobs that a council can do. When a child cannot safely stay at home, it is up to us, as the local authority, to step in and give them the care, support and stability that they deserve and need.

It is important to remember that just as not all children are the same, looked after children and care leavers are not one homogenous group. Therefore they need to be treated and supported as individuals. Whilst many children thrive in care, there are certain risks that particularly affect children in care and care leavers that corporate parents need to be aware of.

How do we do it?

Being a Corporate Parent means we do everything we can for every child in our care and every care leaver, to give them the opportunities that other children receive. This covers everything from ensuring their ongoing safe relationships with their birth families and people who are important to them, supporting their progress at school/college, to looking after their health and wellbeing, to preparing them for life as independent adults. It also means supporting them as adults up to the age of 25 years. We need to be more ambitious for our children in care, encourage them to dream big and take chances even if they do not feel they can. Help them build confidence and self-belief. Support them to take up work experiences, build networks of relationships including with their families. We provide high-quality care (usually foster care for looked after children), but where young people cannot live in a family setting, identifying the right care provision for them. We advocate for our young people, we ensure their views are heard and acted upon. We help them make sense of their life experiences and repair relationships that they can build on for their future. We help our young people to have fun and to love themselves through positive activities and stable placements.

We have a Corporate Parenting Board that monitors the services we and our partners deliver to the children we look after and our care leavers, with the aim of continually improving outcomes. The Board is made up of elected members, council officers and our partners.

For more information:

LGA Corporate Parenting resource pack -

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15.11%20Corporate%20parenting_v05.pdf