

POST TRAINING PACK

CORPORATE PARENTING

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for attending our workshop on Corporate Parenting, we hope you found the session useful. This additional information pack has been created to supplement your learning from the training session and highlight additional resources around topics we explored. Should you have any further questions or need any more information about anything in this pack, please get in touch with us at corporateparenting@whocaresscotland.org

WHAT IS CARE EXPERIENCE?

You may be familiar with the terms **“Looked After”** or **“Care Leaver”** to describe children and young people who are, or have been, in the care of their local authority. However, people often tell us that these legal terms can feel like a label placed upon them, rather than one aspect of a multifaceted identity. These terms also only include children or young people who are currently in, or recently left, care – and this impacts the support they may be entitled to at any one time.

We use the term **“Care Experienced”** to include anyone who is, or has been, in care at any point in their lives. This could include foster care, kinship care, residential care, or looked after at home. This includes babies, infants, children, young people and adults of all ages – because we recognise the impact of care can be lifelong. The term Care Experience also recognises that care may be part of an individual’s journey, alongside many other identities, but does not define who they are.



**WHO
CARES?**
SCOTLAND

EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE

CORPORATE PARENTING

WHAT DO CARE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE SAY THEY NEED FROM CORPORATE PARENTS?

All children and young people need a strong scaffold of support in order to realise their rights and reach their full potential. When it comes to those with experience of care, Corporate Parents must act as a key part of this scaffold to ensure all Care Experienced people can thrive into adulthood and beyond.



Corporate Parenting should be more than a tick-box exercise, but something that can really be felt throughout an organisation's culture. The most important question to ask yourself as a Corporate Parent when designing services or opportunities is: "Would this be good enough for my child?".



In the video above Sam tells what it can feel like going into care. This is a composite story of experiences shared with by the Care Experienced people we support. It is by no means an extreme example and we know that everyone's journey is different.

Corporate Parenting duties, set out in the **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**, and accompanying [guidance](#), are there to help organisations consider how they plan to support Care Experienced people.



Be **alert** to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers.



Assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support.



Promote the interests of those children and young people.



Seek to provide looked after children and care leavers with **opportunities** to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing.



Take action to help looked after children and care leavers **access** opportunities and make use of the services and access support they provide.



Take any other action you consider appropriate for the purpose of **improving** the way in which you exercise your functions in relation to looked after children and care leavers.

Remember – you're not alone! A key part of Corporate Parenting is to **collaborate** and work in partnership with other Corporate Parents to ensure that together, you can have a positive impact on all aspects of the lives of Care Experienced children, young people and adults.



The Promise

Scotland made a promise to Care Experienced people and Corporate Parents will play a key role in keeping this promise.

In 2016, an [Independent Root and Branch Review](#) of the care system was launched in response to the demands made by the Care Experienced community. On 5 February 2020, the Independent Care Review published [seven reports](#), with '[the promise](#)' narrating a vision for Scotland, built on five foundations that underpin #KeepThePromise.

The [Promise Scotland](#) is responsible for driving the work of change demanded by the findings of the Independent Care Review.

The Promise works with all kinds of organisations to support shifts in policy, practice and culture so Scotland can #KeepThePromise it made to Care Experienced infants, children, young people, adults and their families – that every child grows up loved, safe and respected, able to realise their full potential.

Further reading and resources

You can find a range of multimedia resources on the [Resource Library](#)* on our Corporate Parenting [webpage](#). We have thematic [videos](#) which capture the voice of our Care Experienced members, as well as accessible written guidance and advice on Corporate Parenting. * **Please select 'Filter by theme' and choose 'Corporate Parenting' to see all our resources.**

The [Who Cares? Scotland Website](#) also contains a wealth of information on supporting Care Experienced people via independent, individual [advocacy](#), as well as all of our [themed reports and consultation responses](#) which provide rich insight into the lives, voices and perspectives of Care Experienced people.



External Resources

All Corporate Parents must be aware of the impact trauma can have on an individual and understand how to apply a trauma-informed approach to their practice. Creating this type of work environment will not only benefit Care Experience people but will ensure that your organisation is a safe and accessible space for everyone. Please see the [NHS Trauma-Informed Toolkit](#) for more information and resources.

Children's human rights need to be essential part of every decision made by Corporate Parents on the policy, legislation and practice level. You can read more about the UNCRC here on the [Scottish Governments website](#).

Do you need further support or information?

Don't hesitate to contact the Training & Education team at corporateparenting@whocaresscotland.org

Who Cares? Scotland also run a helpline for Care Experienced people as well as those who support them – including Corporate Parents!



THE HELPLINE 0330 107 7540

For Care Experienced people and those supporting them.

We offer connection, a listening ear, lifelong advocacy and support and signposting around the following:

Finances, Benefits, Housing, Health, Employment, Education & Rights.

MON-FRI 12-4PM

help@whocaresscotland.org



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