



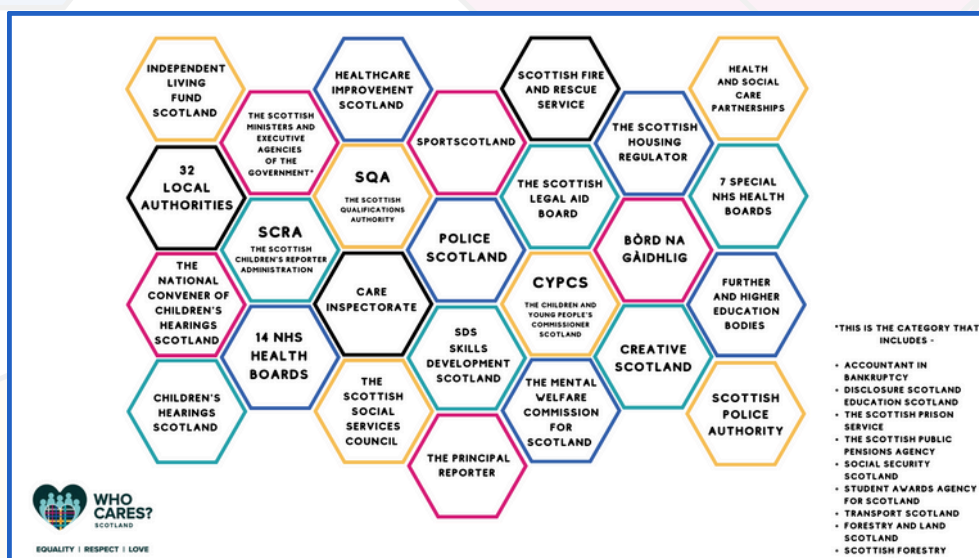
**WHO
CARES?**
SCOTLAND

COLLABORATING AS CORPORATE PARENTS

Guidance Document

COLLABORATING AS CORPORATE PARENTS.

Corporate Parenting is an important responsibility, but one that can feel challenging when resources are stretched. However, you are not alone in this journey! The [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) names 26 organisations as Corporate Parents. These organisations span a variety of services and each organisation will uphold the statutory duties in different ways. **Corporate Parents also have a duty to collaborate** with each other to ensure a holistic and robust scaffold of support around Care Experienced people. This guide provides more information on the duty to Collaborate and provides tangible examples of impactful Corporate Parenting collaborations.



For any Corporate Parent to be successful in meeting their responsibilities, collaboration with other Corporate Parent organisations will be essential. Section 60 of the [Statutory guidance on Part 9 \(Corporate Parenting\) of the Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) *'requires all Corporate Parents to collaborate with each other, in so far as is reasonably practicable, when exercising their corporate parenting duties, where they consider that doing so would safeguard or promote the wellbeing of children and young people to whom Part 9 of the Act applies.'*

Collaborations should be included in Corporate Parenting reports, and full explanations should be included when no collaborations have taken place.

The statutory guidance provides suggestions on how Corporate Parents can best collaborate with each other:



A **Sharing Information:**

When sharing personal data is essential in **safeguarding the wellbeing of Care Experienced people**, it is important to ensure that this is done proportionately and in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and GDPR guidance. There are many other ways that sharing information with other Corporate Parents can enable you to fulfil your duties. For example, consider how you can effectively communicate opportunities that you are providing for Care Experienced people. You can work in collaboration with Corporate Parents who are more likely to work directly with the Care Experienced community (e.g. local authorities) to raise awareness of these opportunities. This would be an example of you fulfilling your duty to 'Promote the interests of Care Experienced people' through collaboration.

B **Providing advice or assistance:**

This could be interpreted in two different ways. The first is working alongside other Corporate Parents to provide advice or assistance to Care Experienced people. An example of this could be where a Care Experienced student due to graduate from university and wishing to move on to employment is having concerns about obtaining a Disclosure. The university could collaborate with Disclosure Scotland to provide the advice and guidance needed.

Corporate Parents can also provide advice and assistance to each other. Implementing new initiatives and policies can sometimes feel daunting, and you may be unsure where to start. Remember that other Corporate Parents may have already implemented something similar and could be a supportive tool to help guide you.

PROMISING PRACTICE

Social Security Scotland have a longstanding practice of utilising "Employee Passports" to ensure that that Care Experienced employees are well supported throughout their employment journey, without having to retell their story when moving between roles and departments. Police Scotland are interested in exploring this idea to potentially support their Care Experienced recruits and employees through their vetting processes, and have therefore connected with Social Security Scotland to learn more.

C Co-ordinating activities (and seeking to prevent unnecessary duplication):

Strong communication between Corporate Parents is essential to avoid unnecessary overlap of activities and opportunities. You are encouraged to consider who you can work with when organising and hosting events for Care Experienced people. Remember to host fun events as well as informative ones – they are just as important for building meaningful relationships within the Care Experienced Community.

PROMISING PRACTICE

Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Disclosure Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Police Authority and NHS collaborated to create the first Emergency Services Engagement Event, combining all service providers. The event was held at the Scottish Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Cambuslang in May 2024. This event welcomed Care Experienced people aged 16 and above to meet and engage with uniformed and non-uniformed members of each emergency service.

This provided an opportunity for those with lived experience of care to gain an understanding of the emergency services, learn more about the wide range of roles that exist across all services, and to speak to officers and staff from different areas of each organisation in an open and relaxed environment. This event also aimed to help improve relationships between the Care Experienced community and their 'blue light' Corporate Parents. This event created a legacy, and there are plans to repeat the event across different areas of Scotland.



D sharing responsibility for action.

The statutory guidance is clear that an organisation's Corporate Parenting duties apply to *“all eligible children and young people, regardless of where the child or young person lives, or who they are formally looked after/provided with aftercare support by.”* This means that all Corporate Parents have a responsibility to all Care Experienced people, and that there will be times when Corporate Parents will need to work together and share responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of Care Experienced people. This is especially important when Care Experienced people are placed in a different local authority to the local authority they were “looked after” by. The statutory guidance states that the placing local authority is the main Corporate Parent in these situations. However, in order to ensure that the scaffold of support surrounding each Care Experienced person is as robust as possible, it will be essential for both local authorities to work in close collaboration, sharing this Corporate Parenting responsibility jointly. For example, ensuring that individuals have access to suitable housing, education and employment opportunities, financial support and health services.



E funding activities jointly

Corporate Parents may be able to provide Care Experienced people with better support, and a wider variety and quality of opportunities, when funding activities jointly and combining resources. This is especially important during challenging economic times. The statutory guidance is clear that *“it will not be acceptable for a corporate parent to claim resource constraints as the reason why an opportunity, service or support cannot be provided, without evidence that they have comprehensively explored the opportunities for collaboration (including joint funding) with other corporate parents”*.

PROMISING PRACTICE

Kirklandneuk Primary, One Ren and Active Schools have worked together to support Care Experienced children within the school to be more active through creating, planning, and delivering a weekly sports club. Everyone involved in the partnership has received Communities that Care training from Who Cares? Scotland to

ensure that all staff understand care experience and the unique barriers that Care Experienced pupils may face in relation to participation in extracurricular activities. Transport to and from the club is provided to ensure there are no barriers preventing Care Experienced pupils from attending. Care Experienced attendees are also able to identify a friend who they want to attend the club with them to try to mitigate any possible stigma of attending. As a partnership, the team have listened and responded to the voices of Care Experienced pupils by consistently seeking feedback. One pupil commented: *“it was the best moment of my week, and I am so happy I now attend a club in the school”*.



F exercising functions under this Part jointly

Where Corporate Parenting organisations have similar functions or operate within the same geographical area, it may be beneficial to publish a joint Corporate Parenting plan and/or submit joint Corporate Parenting reports. This can be particularly true for local authorities and Integrated Joint Boards. In these situations, the plan should be named in such a way to make it explicit that it is a joint plan. Within the plan, each organisations' objectives and actions must be clear, and it should be easy to locate the plan on the websites of both organisations.

The duty to collaborate can be fulfilled in many ways and the examples and guidelines provided above are not exhaustive. You are encouraged to remain open to the possibility of any opportunities to collaborate with fellow Corporate Parents in new and innovative ways. Each connection and collaboration between Corporate Parents strengthens the network and scaffold of support around the Care Experienced community, ensuring that everyone in our communities have a fair chance to thrive and to succeed.

What is Corporate Parenting? - Collaboration

In this video some Corporate Parents talk about the importance of collaborating with each other.

Please click the image to [view the video.](#)



Collaborative Corporate Parenting Network

Who Cares? Scotland is funded by Scottish Government to host the Collaborative Corporate Parenting Network. The network has representatives from Corporate Parents across Scotland and provides opportunities for Corporate Parents to share best practice and support each other. The network meets quarterly to share updates on current projects, develop partnership working and participate in CPD opportunities. If you are interested in joining the network, please get in touch with us - corporateparenting@whocaresscotland.org.

