

Corporate Parenting: Best practice for Elected Members

Corporate Parents all have an opportunity to positively impact Care Experienced people, regardless of their job title or position. Additionally, Elected Members have an important role in holding senior management to account and ensuring their Local Authority fulfils their Corporate Parenting duties, as outlined in the Statutory Guidance.

Corporate Parents have 6 substantive duties in respect of Care Experienced people.

The role of a Corporate Parent and the duties that come with that role are intended to improve the wellbeing of Care Experienced people in Scotland. By being alert to matters that can impact wellbeing, understanding and assessing their needs, promoting their interests, providing meaningful opportunities, looking for ways to overcome barriers to accessing services and continually improving, Corporate Parents can make a real difference in the lives of Care Experienced people

This document outlines examples of best practice for Elected Members, highlighting practical ways you can fulfil your statutory duties and create meaningful change for the Care Experienced community.

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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.

Alert- Attending Corporate Parenting training is a valuable way for Elected Members to develop an understanding of the lived realities of Care Experienced people, and the challenges and barriers they can face. Encouraging your Senior Leadership Team to also engage in Corporate Parenting training is a tangible way to fulfil this duty within your role.

Assess- Listening to the issues raised by Care Experienced constituents is important. Are you considering Care Experienced people and assessing their needs when reviewing or supporting policies, practices and motions?

Promote- What opportunities can you champion for Care Experienced people? How can barriers be addressed? You should consider whether independent, relationship-based advocacy is available for Care Experienced people within your local authority, and familiarise yourself with organisations that provide this support, such as Who Cares? Scotland.

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Opportunities- In your role, you could support or back funding for wellbeing initiatives for Care Experienced people, such as discounted/free access to local gyms or leisure passes. You may also wish to consider ring-fenced funding or grants for Care Experienced people to support opportunities such as holidays and hobbies.

Access- You should consider how accessible you are as an Elected Member to your Care Experienced constituents. Considering the barriers the Care Experienced community can face, how easily can they access you and the support your local authority provides?

Improving- It is important to keep your local authorities performance in fulfilling its Corporate Parenting responsibilities under review. Remember, as an Elected Member, you have an important role in scrutinising the activity of senior management.

Remember you are not alone on this journey.

You have a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with other Corporate Parents and other local authorities to work together to support our Care Experienced community.