

Corporate Parenting

Milton Keynes Council



ITEM 5



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Definition: Corporate Parents

- Sadly, some children cannot remain at home safely and come into Local Authority (LA) Care. As 'Corporate Parents', we all have a unique responsibility for our Children in Care (CIC) and Care Leavers (CL) to ensure their individual needs are met.
- Milton Keynes currently has 400 children in Care and 180 Care Leavers. All our children have an allocated Social Worker and/or Personal Advisor. Children's care arrangements include foster care, adoption, children's homes, secure children's homes, young offender institutions and kinship care.

So What Does 'Corporate Parents' Mean?

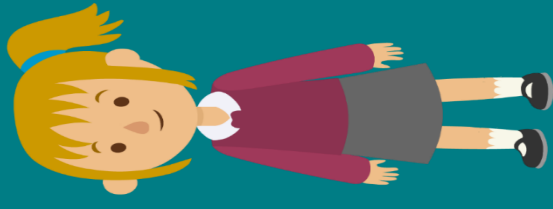
- 'Corporate Parent' means the 'collective responsibility' of the council, elected members, employees and partner agencies to safeguard and provide the best possible care for our CIC and CL. We all and you as councillors have a key role to play to ensure that the welfare of our CIC and CL is promoted and their health, mental health, education, employment, contact with family, housing, placement needs are met.
- When considering the needs of our CIC and CL, the critical question we as Corporate Parents should be asking is:

Would this be good enough for my child'?



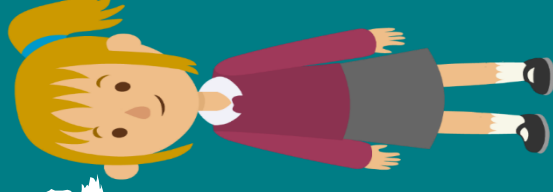
Children and Social Work Act 2017

- **The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced seven corporate parenting principles that Local Authorities must consider when exercising their function or role in relation to CIC and Care Leavers**
- Act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people.
- Encourage children and YP to express their views, wishes and feelings,
- To take into account children/YP views, wishes and feelings
- Make sure our children and YP have access to services
- Make sure our children and young people are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work
- Promote high aspirations and try to secure the best outcomes for them
- Prepare them for adulthood and independent living.



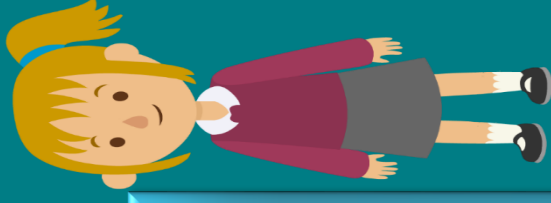
Corporate Parenting Panel and ‘Children in Care Council’ or ‘Our Voice’

- Corporate Parenting Panels were established by Local Authorities to ensure challenge, accountability at every level relating to a child’s health, education, employment, placement and housing. It is a forum for every councillor and representatives to consider if the corporate parenting principles are being adhered to and to address the quality of support and service provided to our CIC and CL.
- Key Members of Milton Keynes Corporate Parenting Panel consist of the Councillors, the chair, Vice Chair, Lead Member, Children’s Director and Head of Service for Corporate Parenting. The Lead Participation Manager will be part of this forum.
- The Children in Care Council (CICC) or ‘Our Voice’ as it is known in Milton Keynes is a forum where a group of CIC and CL share their views and experiences about the support and services provided to them. They are involved in the recruitment of staff and key events and training.
- Feedback from our CiC and CL is key to how we measure outcomes and what we need to build on to improve outcomes.
- Key Performance Indicators – Will be presented to Corporate Parenting Panel to determine areas of support and what is working well for relating to CIC and CL.



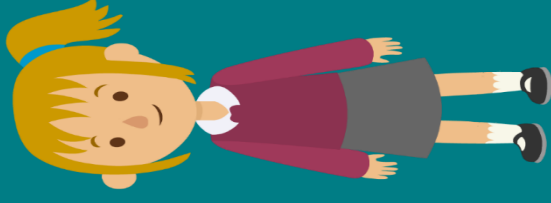
Challenges are our Priorities for CIC and CL

- The Local Government Association confirmed the number of CIC has risen 78150 an increase of 28% since the last decade.
- Children in care are three times more likely to go missing than children not in care. CIC are more likely to experience Child Sexual Exploitation and County Lines.
- Half of the children in Custody, have been in the public care system.
- Education/Employment: Government Statistics 2017 reflected 40% of care leavers (19-21) are not in employment and education or training compared to 13% who are not in care and same age group.
- Mental Health: CIC 4 times more likely to experience mental health than those not in care.
- Housing : CiC and CL are more likely to experience homelessness. Research undertaken by Centre Point 2017 confirmed that the 26% Care Leavers interviewed had sofa surfed and 14% had slept rough.
- Placement Sufficiency : A higher number of children are placed with external providers than in house or not within local area.
- Stability Index – CIC experiencing social worker, school and placement changes.
- Adoption Falling- Government in January 20 raised concerns adoption fallen by third in last 4 years.
- CIC and CL – Wishes and Feelings to what extent are they heard.



Corporate Parents should Champion the needs of CIC and CL

- Our Pledges as highlighted in our Corporate Parenting Week are implemented.
- Lead Member, Councillors and Representatives should recognise that CIC/CL are part of LA 'family'
- Working together and holding each other accountable as CIC and CL is a priority for everyone (not over to you)
- Recognise, it is not simply about keeping children safe, but also promoting, recovery, resilience and wellbeing.
- To lead and Champion specific areas of need and priority – how can we make a difference?
- Champion our children and CL voice. Listen and follow up what children are raising.
- Support cost effective placement and recruitment of carers.
- Head of Service and Director and Chair meeting quarterly with CL /CIC and Our Voice.
- Themed Board reflecting what difference we as Corporate Parents and Councillors are making.
- Promoting partnership and acknowledging that the easiest option of managing risk is not necessarily the right option for a CIC and CL.



As a Corporate Parent : What I need to do!



- You need to be aware of not just how many CIC and CL we have but assured we have the right CIC
 - MK: 58.7 CIC per 10k ENG: 65 CIC per 10k
- You will need to evidence your specific contribution to the Agenda
 - CIC Champion on a particular portfolio
 - Evidence how you have heard from CIC
 - Be clear how you have made a difference for CIC
- Be assured that your children are being given the best opportunities
 - Education/Health/Housing
- You are bringing their voice to the table in the work of the Council and ensuring their needs are represented
 - Transport/Leisure/Building and Regeneration/Community Safety
- Be prepared for scrutiny and contribute to the culture of Improvement
 - Scrutiny Committee and Ofsted will want to evidence our effectiveness and Ofsted may wish to question you on how good a parent you are!

