

# Corporate Parenting Strategy

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2018-2022

# Why have a strategy?

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The Corporate Parenting Strategy provides the framework for elected members, officers and partners in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as corporate parents to children and young people looked after and care leavers in Lancashire

# The Care Principles

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- To act in the best interests of children & young people and promote their physical and mental health and wellbeing
- To encourage children & young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children & young people
- To help children & young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners

# The Care Principles

- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes for children & young people
- For children & young people to be safe, have stability in their home life, relationships and education or work
- To prepare children & young people for adulthood and independent living

# What are we going to do?

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- **Objective 1: Children & young people have a voice in the way we deliver services**
  - Feedback will be collected from young people's reviews, complaints and compliments
  - Consult with young people regarding the services we commission through the tender process
- **Objective 2: Children & young people can remain safely at home**
  - Provide Early Help: right service at the right time, by the right people to prevent escalation
  - Ensure all Children Looked After Reviews consider whether a child can return home

# What are we going to do?

- **Objective 3: Care leavers in Lancashire will have a 'Local Offer'**
  - Ensure appropriate accommodation is available for young people leaving care
  - Ensure young people leaving care are prepared for independent living
- **Objective 4: Children & young people will be supported in their education, employment & training**
  - Provide access to individual support for education/career pathways
  - Ensure young people have access to appropriate bursaries to support entrance into Further and Higher Education, apprenticeships and funding to reduce barriers to training, education and work

# What are we going to do?

- **Objective 5: Children and young people will have a suitable place to live and be cared for**
  - Understand what provision is available and what is needed
  - Improve social worker knowledge regarding types of placements
- **Objective 6: The health and wellbeing of our children and young people in care & care leavers will be priority for Lancashire County Council**
  - Improve the timeliness and quality of health assessments
  - Improve access to specialist health services. E.g. Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services

# What are we going to do?

- **Objective 7: Children & young people will receive appropriate financial support**
  - Develop a more flexible approach to where the care leaver grant can be spent
  - Improve engagement of young people in pathway planning
- **Objective 8: Children are protected from harm and risk of exploitation**
  - Return home interviews are completed to understand why young people go missing
  - Work with our partners to ensure co-ordinated support to children & young people at risk of harm. E.g. Missing From Home Panels



# What are we going to do?

- **Objective 9: Children and young people in our care and care leavers achievements are celebrated**
  - Identify and implement Corporate Parenting Champions across LCC to raise the profile of corporate parenting
  - Explore events that recognise and celebrate achievement and success. E.g. PROUD awards

# Our Promise

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# LANCASHIRE'S PROMISES

CHILDREN IN CARE & CARE LEAVERS

## FROM YOUR CORPORATE PARENTS

These Promises have been made by Lancashire County Council and our partners to children looked after and care leavers. We promise to do our best to help you achieve your full potential, we are committed to involving you in any decisions that affect your life, we will ask you what you think, we will listen to you and take your views into account. This is part of our commitment to making sure that children and young people are valued in every aspect of their lives.



## GETTING INVOLVED

There are lots of different ways you can get involved in having a say about the service you get. You may have suggestions about what we could do differently or even what's going well for you which could have a positive impact for other children and care leavers.

You might be interested in joining LINK, Lancashire's children in care council or the care leaver forum. The groups are made up of children and young people who are in care or care leavers. It is another way of getting your voice heard. They provide a great opportunity for you to talk about issues affecting children in care and care leavers which can be fed back to the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Corporate Parenting Board is there to make sure the council does a good job for you. Attending the Corporate Parenting Board is another way you can raise issues for children in care and care leavers. Get in touch with LINK for more information.

Want to meet an Independent Visitor?  
An Independent Visitor attends a young person in care. They will visit twice a month away from your home and plan activities together.

More information on the IV service and Virtual IV is on the [Children's Rights Service website](#) or call 01772 750 233.

Need an Independent Advocate?  
This service helps children and young people in care to have a say about what happens in their lives. All young people in the care of Lancashire County Council aged 0-18 years are eligible for the service including those living at home or with friends and extended family. We also work with care leavers up to the age of 25.

An advocate can support in various ways:

- Attending reviews/meetings with, or on behalf of, the child or young person
- Helping with placement issues
- Discussing contact arrangements with family members
- Making complaints
- Providing information

Contact The Children's Rights Service 01772 750 233 or complete a request form Children's Rights Service

## HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

If you have any concerns about the service and support you are receiving then please raise this as soon as possible with your social worker, personal adviser or their manager, hopefully this will be resolved quickly.

Or you may want to contact Children's Rights Service to request an advocate, phone 01772 750 233 or Freephone 0800 085 6324.

However, if you do want to make a complaint contact the Customer Service Centre on 0800 123 6720.

## MOMO One

Mind Of My Own - MOMO One App  
MOMO One is a way for children in care and care leavers to prepare for meetings, raise problems or ask for something.

You can download MOMO One as an App for Android or Apple devices or use it on any internet browser device such as a tablet or Xbox.

You can ask for the information you put in to go to a worker of your choice, for example your social worker, personal adviser or the complaints team.

MOMO One is not an instant messaging service and you will not receive a response back through the App. The information gets picked up and passed on to the worker during normal working hours, Monday to Friday. The worker will then contact you by phone or email as usual.

For more information see the [MOMO website](#).

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