

# **2021 Elected Member Induction Programme**

**Councillors as Corporate Parents**

**Lead Officer, Siobhan Williams, Service Manager  
Children Looked After & Care Leavers**

**Lead Officer, Lisa Preston  
Fostering, Adoption & Residential Services.**

# Corporate Parenting Priorities

- **The whole council has a role in ensuring that we safeguard children. Corporate parenting is not something that can be left to a single Directorate or Team but is something that can only deliver effective outcomes if it is managed in a collaborative way.**
- **It takes a community to raise a child and we should focus on the outcomes we need those communities to deliver.**



# Did you know now you are a councillor you have become a parent to 700 children and young people?

- By law, every professional who works with children and young people looked after and care leavers has a responsibility as a corporate parent.
- This can be a social worker, **councillor** or other professionals who work in police, health, housing, probation and education.

# The Role of a Councillor as a Corporate Parent

***“The role that councils play in looking after children is one of the most important things they do. Local authorities have a unique responsibility to the children they look after and their care leavers”***

(Children and Social Work Act 2017)

Being a corporate parent means providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by the council.

# Councillors' responsibilities

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 **all Councils must have regard** to enact 7 Corporate Parenting Principles when exercising their functions in relation to children and young people looked after and care leavers:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people;
- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.



# Shropshire Council's Corporate Parenting Vision

We intend to be ***the best parent that we can be*** to every child and young person we look after.

We ask ourselves ....

Would our care be good enough for our own child?















What do our children and young people  
want most from you?

**MOST OF ALL THEY NEED YOU TO  
UNDERSTAND THEIR NEEDS,  
LISTEN TO THEM AND CARE  
ABOUT THEM** 

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Corporate Parenting  
Home-Finding for our looked after  
children and young people

# Home-Finding

- Most children thrive best living within their birth family- parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles.
- For some children this is not possible and so we seek the best foster carers or adopters to match the needs of a child
- We try to keep brothers and sisters together
- We try to maintain and grow family ties where this is safe and leads to a secure and stable home life
- We try to build lifelong links to take a child through adulthood















# **2021 Elected Member Induction Programme**

**Being Corporate Parents to  
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking  
Children and Young People**

# Who are Unaccompanied Asylum -Seeking Children?

- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) are children and young people who are seeking asylum in the UK but who have been separated from their parents or carers.
- While their claim is processed, they are cared for by a local authority.
- They have often faced danger, including persecution and death threats, in the country they left behind and have undertaken arduous journeys alone to arrive in the UK.
- Many remain permanently separated from their birth family.
- Their families are desperate to enable their child to be in a safer country and pay a lot of family money or owe a large debt to traffickers.
- As a consequence the children are at high risk of exploitation and modern slavery.



# Who are Unaccompanied Asylum -Seeking Children?

- This Government has pledged to continue to support and offer a home to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who arrive in the UK and to work in cooperation with our European neighbours post-Brexit.
- The majority of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arrive on the south coast and those local authorities have carried a disproportionate duty of care.
- Therefore, there is now a government backed National Transfer Scheme (NTS) for all councils to share this duty more fairly.
- Under the NTS Shropshire may be responsible for between 20-30 additional children over the next year.

# Who are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (known as UASC)?

- Shropshire currently looks after 11 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and we have 22 care leavers who came as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- Their home countries are mainly Vietnam, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.
- Some have really liked the rural location and our Vietnamese young people have settled well in the Shrewsbury area.
- We have some care leavers living with Supported Board & Lodgings providers in Shropshire and are able to travel to Telford or Wolverhampton for worship/cultural links.
- However, many who are of the Muslim faith live in the Wolverhampton and Birmingham areas as we have few facilities to offer them in Shropshire to meet their religious and cultural needs.



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## Corporate Parenting Celebrating Our Care Leavers

























**Mike's Story** - Mike has a placement at very prestigious company in the tech world. He has helped to create our Care Leavers' Local Offer. Mike is living independently and is studying for his degree at University

**Amy's Story** - Amy moved into her new place did an amazing job at cleaning it up. She is upcycling her own furniture. Amy is looking after her own mental health. She is good at baking. Amy is a member of our Care Leavers' Forum

**Brittany's Story** - Brittany had her baby during lockdown! She and her baby live independently and her baby is thriving. Brittany wants to train as a nursery nurse

**Liam's Story** - Liam is very proactive in Forum. He is looking at career options. Liam is a great friend to others and he is good at keeping in touch. Liam lives independently. He has thousands of likes on tiktok – he creates dance and comedy content!

**Dan's Story**-Dan lives independently and works full time in computer engineering. He is a dog parent! Dan is an active forum member and he is really passionate about creating opportunities for our care leavers and under privileged young people

**Charley's Story**-Charley has been at university this year, and has coped so well with the restrictions! She has been incredibly positive through out lockdowns. Charley knits & is an active forum member







CORPORATE GRANDPARENTS!













