

# SHROPSHIRE

## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

### Appendix 2 Shropshire Corporate Parenting Board

### SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS' CHARTER



## Charter for Children in Care & Care Leavers

The council should use these priorities when they are making decisions that will affect young people's lives. This document aims to raise expectation, aspiration and understanding of what the council should do to be good corporate parents. This charter will try to ensure that all children in care and care leavers have equal access to services, support and life opportunities.

### My Health

Offer me advice and opportunities to help me be healthy. Give me easy and open access to health services, including sexual and mental health.

### Education, Work and Training

Provide me with a suitable education, a budget if I choose to go onto university, and help seeking employment, training or education. Shropshire Council should continue to provide young people in care the chance to do work experience with the council as if it was the 'family firm'.

### My Social Life

Make my life fun! Provide opportunities and activities for me to take part in.

### Support

Support me in my endeavours. Offer me practical and financial support. Give me access safe people to turn to when I am upset or angry, and the chance to talk things through with someone who is not part of the council.

### Inform Me

Explain to me what my rights are. Tell me what I'm entitled to and what I can ask for at different points of my life. Give me clear information about myself and my time in care when I want it.

### Generally

Respect me and treat me fairly, and so an individual. Be honest and don't make promises you can't keep. Do your best to promote children in care and make sure they don't get a bad name. Acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of children in care.

### My Voice

Listen to my views and opinions. Put my needs and feelings at the heart of all decisions about me. Ask me what I think and I want to do. If you don't agree then tell me why.

### My Home

Give me carers who are people-friendly and a home that is appropriate to my individual needs. Offer me a home where I can be safe and happy, not just a bed. Don't forget about me if I live far from home. Help me to move onto independent living when I am ready.

### Moving On

Plan for the future with me clearly, and be ready to put support in place if things go wrong. Prepare me before it's time to move on, with things like life skills, cooking, driving and money management.





## Appendix 2 Shropshire Corporate Parenting Board

### SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING PLEDGE

Every good parent knows that children require a safe and secure environment in which to grow and thrive. As parents we want to protect and support our children against the dangers and risks of life. Parents are ambitious for our children and we want them to reach their potential. As good parents we celebrate and share in the achievements of our children and, as young people, we want to set them on the road towards adulthood with all the guidance, support and opportunities we can provide.

A child who is cared for by the Council has the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a good parent.

#### **This means as a Council we will:**

- Know our children, their needs, talents and aspirations and promote their interests
- Hold high aspirations for their future and expect the best for and from them
- Take an interest in their successes and problems and show our pride in their achievements, and celebrate them
- Listen to their views and ensure they influence practice, service developments and policy.
- Ensure they are consulted about their own lives and plans
- Recognise, support and respect their identity in all aspects
- Ensure our children attend their education regularly
- Promote and support high academic achievement by working with our schools and carers to ensure that the needs of our children are understood and met
- Support their health and emotional well-being and resilience
- Support transition to adult life and promote their economic prospects & prepare them to become responsible citizens
  
- **and most importantly....** as Corporate Parents we will preface all our thinking, planning, actions and decisions with:

***“would this be good enough for my child.....”***



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### THE CORPORATE PARENTING PRINCIPLES

Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 states that local authorities must have regard to the seven Corporate Parenting Principles identified in the Children and Social Work Act when exercising their functions in relation to children and young people looked after and care leavers:

1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people;
2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
4. 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;
5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
6. For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

### SHROPSHIRE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

#### ROLE

- High Support and High Challenge to ensure effective undertaking of the Corporate Parenting Responsibility – holding to account on behalf of the council.
- Clear line of sight on practice and what good practice looks like and assure selves it is delivered, including the role of the IRO.
- Scrutiny and oversight of performance, outcomes and impact for children and young people of the work of the Local Authority and key partners.
- Lead the culture and share the message about Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
- Lead the narrative – these are our children, good enough parenting that would be good enough for our own children.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Chair-Lead Member for Children

Director of Children's Services

Assistant Director of Children's Services



## **Appendix 2 Shropshire Corporate Parenting Board**

Deputy Lead Member for Children

Other Member representation

Virtual School Head

Officers representing Children's Services

Representative of Children in Care Council

Care Leaver's Champion

Partner agency representatives from Health

Youth Offending Service

Foster carer representative

### **STRUCTURE & FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

- CPB to meet every 12 weeks
- Sub-groups to meet 4-6 weekly and drive the programme of work priorities
- Led by an officer from the partnership, Chaired by Member Champion.
- Annual Forward Plan for each sub group to report a 'deep dive' progress report.
- 6 monthly focus on the outcomes of Quality Assurance Activity – led by IRO's
- Annual meeting with Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum
- Annual Meeting focus of success and outcomes, with extended invite to partners.

### **SUB-GROUPS**

- Participation
- Aspirations
- Virtual School Governing Body
- Health
- Stability
- Care Leavers' Local Offer