

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 th April 2023
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028
Purpose of Report:	To consider the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028
Scrutiny Chair:	Robert Llewelyn Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Gary Pritchard- Children & Families Services
Head of Service:	Fon Roberts, Director of Social Services, and Head of Children & Families Services
Report Author: Tel: Email:	Saul Ainsworth & Emma Edwards Business Manager, Adults' Services 01248 751887 Emmaedwards@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Relevant to all Members

1 - Recommendation/s

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- confirm that it is satisfied with the content of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028, noting any comments
- Make recommendations to the Executive that the Strategy is accepted and approved.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

Yes linked to the YM Council Plan 2017-22 - Objective 1, 2 and 3.

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities **[focus on customer/citizen]**

3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality **[focus on value]**

3.3 A look at any risks [focus on risk]**3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance & quality]****3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:**

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]**4 - Key Scrutiny Questions**

1. How does the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy link to the Council Plan: 2023/2028?
2. What are the resource implications of implementing the proposed Strategy and how affordable is this in the current climate?
3. What risks face the Authority and what mitigation measures are proposed to minimise impact on our looked after children and young people?
4. What impact will this strategy have upon the people of the Isle of Anglesey?

5 – Background / Context

Copy of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028 is attached as a separate document.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]**6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010**

EIA are carried out on all formal projects, in line with the Social Care and Well being Wales Act.
N/A for this report.

6.2 Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (strategic decisions)

The Corporate Parenting Strategy addresses the Social Services statutory responsibility, to support the children and young people within our community.

6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

All our Services are offered and available through the medium of Welsh.

7 – Financial Implications

Not Relevant.

8 – Appendices:

Not relevant.

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

None

Ynys Môn
THE ISLE OF
Anglesey



CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2023-28



www.ynysmon.gov.uk

Foreword

**Councillor
Gary Pritchard**
Portfolio Holder –
Children (Social
Services) & Youth
Services

Why do we need a Corporate Parenting Strategy?

Corporate parenting refers to the shared responsibility across the Council to ensure that children and young people in our care or leaving care are supported to thrive; they are 'our children'.

The role the Council plays in looking after children & young people is one of the most important things we do. The Local Authority has a unique responsibility to the children & young people we care for, as well as those leaving our care.

A good corporate parent should have the same aspirations for a child/young person in care, as a good parent would have for their own child. It means providing them with the stability and support they need to make progress; and helping them to set ambitious goals for themselves. It means celebrating their successes, but also recognising they will sometimes make mistakes and need help to get back on track. It also means supporting them to gain the skills and confidence to live independently, whilst letting them know they have someone to call on for help if the going gets tough.

Our strategy is produced to set out how we intend to challenge ourselves as corporate parents over the next five years. It provides the legal and local context in which we operate, our vision for children & young people in care, as well as those leaving our care and how we intend to deliver on the priorities which are set out in legislation.

Who is the strategy for?

150 children and young people looked after

63 Care leavers

10 Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers

Rate of Care:
95/10000


65% Children & Young People living with foster carers

75% children & young People living on Ynys Mon

The strategy is for all elected members and all officers of the Council, on behalf of all children and young people cared for by the Council as well as those leaving our care

2022-23 GCSE Results for looked after children:

5 A-C: Welsh, English, Maths
18%

5 A-G: Welsh, English & Maths
64%

1 A-G: Welsh, English & Maths
18%



Legislative Framework

We aim to support most of our children and young people within their own families and communities; however, for a small number, this is not possible, and they require alternative care arrangements (either in the short term or long term).

Children and young people are in our care either by virtue of a court order or with the agreement of their parent(s) or guardian(s). A child or a young person may come into care as a result of temporary or long-term difficulties faced by their parents, as a result of abuse, neglect or a range of difficulties. The delivery of our children is underpinned by a number of key pieces of legislation:

- Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014)
- Children Act (1989)
- Leaving Care Act (2000)
- Children Act (2004)
- Children & Families Act (2014)

Our Vision, Our Commitment

Our Vision

The children and young people of Ynys Mon who are looked after or leaving care are, 'Our Children'. This fundamentally shapes our vision and aspiration for them. Ultimately, we want all our children to receive support to develop into adults who contribute and who demonstrate positive principles and values.

Our commitment

We will be an effective and trustworthy corporate parent for any child or young person who is in our care, irrespective of their age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, faith or disability. We shall also ensure our young people receive good-quality advice and support when they leave care.

The offer of support to care leavers will be transparent and shared with all young people before they leave care.

We will listen to our children & young people in order to help them make the most of their lives and in addition in how services are shaped to make the most of our resources.

How are we going to do this?

The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet quarterly to:

- ✓ Challenge and scrutinise in order to continually improve standards to help our children & young people achieve the best they can
- ✓ Ensure we are meeting our statutory duties and responsibilities to a high standard
- ✓ Ensure effective partnership working to meet the needs of our children & young people
- ✓ Elicit the views of our children & young people to effectively shape the development of services.

Maslow's Pyramid: Hierarchy of Need



Maslow's 'hierarchy of need' pictorially demonstrates a five-tier model of human need. Needs lower down the hierarchy must be met before people can attend to the needs identified in the higher tiers. As corporate parents, we want to provide the foundations to enable our children and young people to be able to meet their basic needs independently as they grow towards adulthood, which in turn will enable them to attend to their higher needs.

As Corporate Parents we will:

1. Protect our children and young people from risk and vulnerability
2. Know our children and young people their needs, talents and aspirations, and promote their interests
3. Hold high aspirations for their present and their future and expect the best for and from them
4. Take an interest in their successes/challenges and celebrate their achievements
5. Listen to their views and ensure these views influence practice, service and policy changes
6. Recognise, support and respect their identity in all aspects
7. Support high academic and vocational achievement. Support their enterprise and creative contributions
8. Support their health, emotional wellbeing and resilience through access to the right services at the right time
9. Support them to be ethically informed citizens
10. Support their transition to adulthood by preparing them to become responsible citizens
11. Learn from compliments and complaints from children and young people

Strategic Priority: Elected members' challenge

Why is this important?

In order to support our children and young people, in addition to those leaving our care, it is important that elected members and officers across the Council have an understanding of the issues faced by our young people as they grow, develop and prepare/enter adulthood.

What are we going to do?

We will ensure that elected members possess the key knowledge and skills to both challenge and scrutinise the service's ability to collectively and effectively meet the needs of our children and young people.

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Arrange a workshop for elected members and officers to develop their understanding of this strategy in the context of the type of issues our young children face
- ✓ Ensure the Corporate Parenting Panel meets quarterly with an opportunity to challenge and scrutinise data and reports presented by officers across the partnership
- ✓ Ensure members of the panel have an opportunity to meet with some of our children & young people to gain first hand understandings of their experiences

Strategic Priority: Accommodation

Why is this important?

It is essential that the service has placement choice in order to best meet children & young people with placements in accordance with their identified needs. This is likely to lead to increased stability for our children & young people, which is the bedrock for the potential for improved life chances and opportunities.

What are we going to do?

Ensure we have enough of the right type of placements to accommodate the children & young people we care for.

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Continue to work with Foster Wales nationally and regionally to increase the numbers of foster carers to meet the diverse needs of our children
- ✓ Continue to build on the successful Catref Clyd small group home programme to enable more of our young people whose needs are best met by residential care to remain living on the island within their communities
- ✓ Continue to offer prospective foster carers enhanced benefits to encourage fostering for the Council
- ✓ Continue to take advantage of new technologies in supporting our foster carers and small group homes.

Strategic Priority: Care Leaver Accommodation

Why is this important?

It is essential that the service has placement choice in order to best meet children & young people with placements in accordance with their identified needs. This is likely to lead to increased stability for our children & young people, which is the bedrock for the potential for improved life chances and opportunities.

What are we going to do?

Ensure we have enough of the right type of placements and living arrangements for our young people leaving our care.

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Contribute to the Support People tendering process relating to accommodation for vulnerable young people, ensuring our young people's voices are heard
- ✓ Continue expansion and development of 'When I'm Ready' to enable more of our young people to remain in their foster placements post 18, if this is their desire
- ✓ Further develop 'pathway' partnership meetings between Social Services (Adults and Children & Families) and Housing Provider Services to ensure individual young people's accommodation needs are met, with a view to reducing homelessness

Strategic Priority: Emotional Health & Resilience

Why is this important?

Looked after children and care leavers are over-represented in mental health services in comparison with the general population. We want to address this trend for our children.

What are we going to do?

We will promote the emotional health and resilience of our children in order that they are better equipped emotionally as they move into adulthood

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Continue on our journey to becoming a trauma informed island, ensuring that those who care for our children (foster carers/residential workers), those who teach our children and those who support our children.
- ✓ Continue our training package for the island's workforce so that the Trauma Recovery Approach is embedded enabling professionals/carers are informed and skilled
- ✓ Review the impact of the Trauma Recovery Strategy via the key performance indicators established within that strategy
- ✓ Co-locate CAMHS practitioners with Social Care staff to facilitate and enhance effective joint working for individual children

Strategic Priority: Education, Employment & Training

Why is this important?

Care leavers are over-represented in unemployment figures, which often contributes to over-representation across a range of poverty indices. We want to equip our young people with the skills, knowledge and abilities which will enable them to gain employment, develop their independence and contribute positively to society and their local communities

What are we going to do?

Increase the number of care leavers in education, employment and training.

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Measure the impact of the Basic Income Pilot (BIP) upon education, employment and training, which provides care leavers reaching the age of eighteen years between July 2022 and June 2023 with a basic guaranteed income
- ✓ Evaluate the impact of the independent living skills accredited diploma, which is available to ten care leavers during 2023-24
- ✓ Evaluate the impact of the 16+ Youth Engagement & Progression Panel, which focuses upon the needs of young people leaving care whom are not in education, employment or training.

Anglesey Council Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Corporate Parenting Panel

Looked after children & young people as well as young people leaving care are 'our children & young people'. As a Council, we are extremely ambitious for each individual child/young person we are responsible for, to reach his or her full potential.

A key priority for Anglesey Council is that it is a place where our children & young people thrive. As corporate parents, both elected members and officers of the Council, with the support of colleagues within other statutory agencies, we have a duty to ensure that during our children & young people's time in care, and subsequently as they leave care, their voice and experience is heard; that their needs are met and they are afforded the same life chances as any other child.

For this to be achieved, it will be necessary for:

- Elected members to champion the needs of our children & young people
- Partners to have high expectations for our children & young people
- The North Wales Safeguarding Partnership and Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) to provide effective leadership and contribute significantly to the development of services, which are audited for effectiveness.

In exercising its duties, the panel will be mindful to promote the following for the children & young people the Council is responsible for:

- Physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
- Protection from abuse and neglect
- Education, training and recreation
- Family and personal relationships
- Involvement in the local community
- Securing rights and entitlements, inclusive of not living in poverty
- Living in suitable accommodation.

The legislative context is S78 Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014, which places a duty upon councils to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child it looks after in addition to every care leaver.

Responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Panel

1. To ensure that the Council's children & young people's champions and children & young people in care champions continue to advocate on behalf of our children & young people.
2. To receive and scrutinise reports in relation to services for our children & young people.
3. To rigorously monitor and challenge service improvement and the impact of social work practice upon improving outcomes for our children & young people.

4. To monitor and challenge the effectiveness of services in improving the educational attainment of our children & young people.
5. To monitor and challenge the effectiveness of services in improving the physical and emotional health of our children & young people.
6. Ensure that leisure and cultural opportunities are offered and taken up by our children & young people.
7. To raise members' awareness and understanding of our children & young people, their needs and experiences both within the Council and across the wider community.
8. Ensure that all elected members are able to fulfil their role as corporate parenting champions and advocates for our children & young people by offering appropriate training and development opportunities.
9. To be aspirational and ambitious in driving better outcomes for our children & young people.
10. To ensure that the voice and experience of the child is central to the work of the whole Council and to creatively consider ways in which the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) will hear and respond to the views of our children & young people.
11. To develop expertise in issues affecting our children & young people.
12. To provide the inter-agency strategic direction to achieve good outcomes for our children & young people.
13. To contribute to the development of the 'Looked After' Children & young people and Care Leavers Strategy; to challenge and hold to account for its delivery.
14. To deliver the Council's 'pledge' to our children & young people.
15. To report to the Council annually outlining the work undertaken during the year and identifying a work programme for the following year.

Membership and Governance of the Corporate Parenting Panel

Meetings will take place on a quarterly basis preceded by an agenda setting meeting.

Members

Chief Executive (Chair)

The Executive

Portfolio Member for Social Services

Portfolio Member for Education

Portfolio Member for Housing and Supporting Communities

Scrutiny Committees

Elected Member for Corporate Scrutiny
Elected Member for Regeneration and Partnership
Member from Foster Carers' Association
Member from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Member from Voices from Care Cymru

Officers

Director of Social Services
Director of Learning Service
Service Manager – Intensive Intervention
Independent Reviewing Officers
Senior Manager School Standards and Inclusion
LAC Education Liaison Officer
LAC Health Officer

The Director of Social Services is responsible for ensuring that the panel has sufficient officer support to lead the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The Service Manager for the Intensive Intervention Services will be the lead officer for the panel with support from service leads for looked after children & young people and care leavers, adoption & fostering and advocacy.

Democratic Services will provide the administrative arrangements and constitutional guidance to the panel. Agenda and reports to be circulated one week in advance of the meeting.

Charter: Supporting Parents in and Leaving Care

As parents we are committed to supporting mothers and fathers who are in care, or who are eligible for leaving care services.

This charter was developed with care experienced parents and professionals who work for charities and local authorities. The charter sets out what we will do to help you plan for being a parent, how we will support you when you become a parent and what we will do to challenge stigma and disadvantage.

Before you become a parent

We will discuss sex and healthy relationships with you, and make sure you have access to family planning advice and contraception.

We would like you to start a family at a time that is right for you. We can help you prepare for being a parent. This could involve opportunities to learn about caring for babies and children, mentoring and advice from parenting role models (such as foster carers) and providing support to help you work through your thoughts & feelings about the parenting you experienced.

When you are expecting a child or becoming a parent

During pregnancy, the health and well-being of expectant mothers and babies is our priority. We are also committed to supporting the well-being and inclusion of fathers.

Individual needs and circumstances are different. Some parents will need little support, whilst others may need more help. We promise to listen to you, to be honest with you and to work with you to ensure:

- You have the things you need, including a place to live, money and essential items
- You know your rights and entitlements, including benefits, grants and resources in your local area
- You know what to do, inclusive of how to change a nappy or bath a baby, when you need to seek medical advice or how to register for a school place, a dentist or optician. This support will be on-going as what you will need to know will change as your child becomes older

Parenting can be rewarding but also challenging. We promise to work with you so that you know:

- Who is available to support you. We will make sure you know who you can contact if you need advice and support, even in the middle of the night or on weekends
- What services and support are available in your local authority or local area. We will discuss these options with you and help you to attend if you would like to. This will include services available to all parents as well as those specifically available for care experienced parents
- We will make sure you can have a break. This could be time for rest, or time to pursue hobbies/interests. We will make sure you can access our leisure centres and gyms

- We can help you plan for your future. We will support you to continue your education, access training or employment. This could include providing careers advice and guidance as well as practical help with childcare, transport and other things you need.

Challenging stigma and discrimination

We know that you and other parents in and leaving care can experience stigma and disadvantage. This is unacceptable. We will:

- Make available resources that challenge unhelpful assumptions about parents in and leaving care
- Make clear that referrals to Children's Services based only on care status or history are unacceptable. This is discrimination. Concerns about parenting should only be raised when there is evidence of risk.

If concerns are raised about parenting, we will make sure:

- You have access to advocacy and a legal service
- Your care history and records are not used against you. If a parenting assessment is needed, we promise to support you and make sure you are assessed as you are now and not how you were in the past
- You are treated fairly and your rights are respected. Where you and your family are worried about being assessed fairly, we will discuss options with you such as recording discussions with social workers or being assessed by an independent social worker.

We will support you to respond to concerns about parenting. This will involve making sure:

- You understand what is happening and what plans are in place
- Your opinions are heard and included
- You have access to support to address concerns and demonstrate change. This could include support with housing, mental health or counselling, relationship or parenting courses and drug/alcohol services

If you are living apart from children:

Parents may be separated from children for a range of reasons. This could include situations where there are no concerns about parenting (such as when children are living with another parent), as well as when children have been removed on a temporary or permanent basis.

Whatever the circumstance, we will support you in building or maintaining a relationship with your child, unless there is a legal reason why we cannot. Depending upon the situation, this support may be practical (e.g. assisting you to see and spend time with your child), financial (e.g. travel costs), emotional (e.g. discussing your thoughts and feelings) and ensuring you have access to advocacy or legal advice (e.g. make sure your children's rights to see you are respected).

If your child has been removed, we will not abandon you and will never give up on you. We will take time to support you and help you deal with the practical, financial and emotional implications. This could include supporting you through legal proceedings, attending meetings, dealing with housing

issues, managing benefit changes, as well as coping with grief and loss. We will support you to build and maintain a relationship with your child, even if this is through letterbox contact.

Finally

We are your corporate parents, doing our best to support parents in and leaving care is important to us.

We promise to make this support available to parents up to the age of twenty-five and we expect to be challenged if we fail in our responsibilities.

We also promise to keep reviewing how we are doing and will continue to work with parents, services and charities to make sure parents in and leaving care are well supported and fairly treated.

Signatories

Fon Roberts
(Director of Social Services – Isle of Anglesey County Council)

Councillor Gary Pritchard
(Portfolio Holder – Children (Social Services) and Youth Services – Isle of Anglesey County Council)