

Flintshire County Council  
Social Services  
**Corporate Parenting**  
**Charter**  
2025-2028





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Cymraeg

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg. Gweler y dudalen Gymraeg ar ein gwefan.

This document is also available in Welsh. See Welsh page on our website.

# Introduction

Sarah Grant, Senior Manager Children's Services,  
Flintshire County Council

Our vision for Flintshire is to be a place where everyone can reach their full potential and live a healthy, ambitious life. We want all children and young people to be safe, healthy, and successful, with hope and aspiration. The Council acts as a Corporate Parent to every child in our care and young people leaving care, ensuring the best possible care and safeguarding. This is more than a legal duty, it is about kindness, doing the right thing, and providing opportunities as we would for our own children.

We know that our children who are looked after face some very big and, at times, difficult challenges. We want to reduce inequalities and support them through life's ups and downs as every good parent would do.

Our Corporate Parenting Charter sets out how we will do this and how we will know that we are getting it right for our children and young people.

As Corporate Parents, we want the best for the children and young people in care and leaving care. This means doing everything we can to give them a safe, secure and nurturing home where they can grow in confidence. To enable them to have positive relationships with their family, friends, professionals and other trusted adults, while upholding their rights. For them to flourish with good health, to be safe and happy, to do well at school and in life.

Our Charter shows the commitments we are making and the pathways to ensuring we are working collaboratively, delivering and reviewing our promises and pledges. Together, we work to ensure long, happy, and fulfilling lives for all our children and young people, collaborating to be the best parents and provide the best care and support. Our Charter shows our commitments and pathways to delivering and reviewing our promises. Together, we can ensure our children have the best start in life and live well.

The Welsh Government has introduced the Corporate Parenting Charter: 'A Promise for Wales' to enhance services for children. The goal is to ensure that children and young people in care have equal opportunities, with their rights respected and voices heard. This initiative was shaped by care leavers, including those from Flintshire, and Young Ambassadors who represented children with care experience. The shared vision aims to improve public organisations' roles as 'corporate parents'.



# What is a Corporate Parent?

Corporate parenting means that everyone in the public sector works together to protect and improve the lives of children and young people who have been in care. It's everyone's job to make sure these children and young people have the same opportunities and rights as others.

## Why a Charter - What is it for?

The Charter is a set of principles and promises created with the help of young people who have been in care. It gives:

- **Principles** that all organisations and their leaders should follow when providing services to these children and young people.
- **Promises** that any public organisation can use when working with children and young people who have been in care.

The Charter has 11 principles and 9 promises. These promises explain how care-experienced children and young people will be treated, listened to, and included in decisions that affect them. These principles and promises align with the United Nations Convention on Rights of a Child (UNCRC), the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

The Charter encourages all public organisations, including local authorities, third sector, and private sector members, to become good Corporate Parents.





# Principles and Promises as Corporate Parents

## The Charter sets 11 shared principles for Corporate Parenting:

**Equality** - We will support care-experienced children and young people to have the same life chances as every other young person in Wales.

**Eradicate Stigma** We will recognise care-experienced children and young people for who they are, not just by their experience of being in care.

**Togetherness** - We will work alongside care-experienced children and young people to ensure their views, feelings and ideas are integral to, influence and inform the services they receive and the way they receive those services.

**Support** - We will ensure professionals working with care-experienced young people understand their care experiences children and young people's needs and/or have access to information and training.

**Ambition** - We will ensure every care-experienced child and young person reaches their potential and can enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sport and social activities.

**Nurture** - We will make all care-experienced children and young people feel valued, respected, cared for and loved.

**Good Health** - We will provide support to access the right health care and advice needed to support the best physical, mental health and general well-being for all care-experienced children and young people.

**A Stable Home** - We will seek out and provide stable places to live that are right for all care-experienced children and young people.

**A Good Education** - We will provide opportunities and support for all care-experienced children and young people to learn/develop and help them become who they want to be.

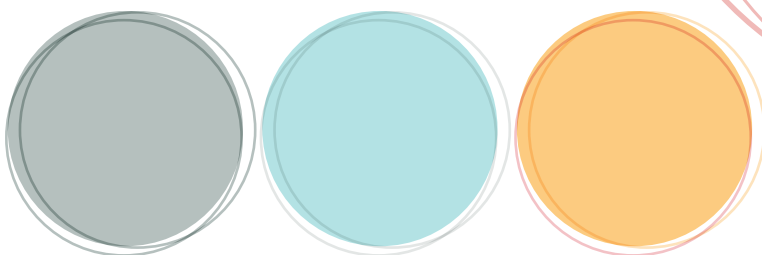
**Thrive** - We will ensure all care-experienced children and young people are prepared for the future and are able make positive choices for independent living and adulthood.

**Lifelong** - We will work to provide access to and raise awareness of the support and information available after leaving care.



The Charter also sets out the following **promises** all Corporate Parents should fulfil when working with care-experienced children and young people:

- We will take time to listen to all care-experienced children and young people and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard and actively considered in all decisions made about them
- We will treat all care-experienced children and young people with respect
- We will involve all experienced children and young people in decisions that are made about them.
- We will keep all care experienced children and young people informed about our involvement with them and explain our actions to them.
- We will use straightforward language when we communicate with all care-experienced children and young people
- We will show compassion when considering the needs of all care-experienced children and young people
- We will work with all care-experienced children and young people to help them achieve their goals.
- We will advise all care-experienced children and young people of the process to make a complaint should they feel we are not adhering to this charter.
- We will advise all care-experienced children and young people that they have a right to access independent advocacy to make sure their views, wishes and feelings are heard during decisions



# The Pledge

We know we are part  
of the biggest family in Wales!

By signing this pledge, we agree with the  
principles in the Charter and will follow  
the common behaviours.

We promise that everything we do for children and  
young people who have been in care will be based  
on empowerment, equality, non-discrimination,  
participation, accountability, and protection.

We will fully respect, protect, and promote  
your human rights according  
to the UNCRC.





### Our pledge is to:

- ✓ Work to deliver a better offer of help for you and all care-experienced children and young people in order for you to thrive and reach your potential.
- ✓ Help you gain access to and make the best use of our services.
- ✓ Act in your best interests and make you feel secure and well in our relationship with you.
- ✓ Encourage you to express your views, wishes and feelings and where needed provide you with support to promote these.
- ✓ Ensure your voice is heard and actively considered in all decisions about you and explain why decisions have been made.
- ✓ Provide you with information and resources that you need, in a way you understand.
- ✓ Make sure we are accountable to you for the decisions we take and the outcomes that affect your life.
- ✓ Help you to reach your potential.
- ✓ Prepare you for leaving care and support you to thrive independently.
- ✓ Ensure all staff are made aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities during their induction.





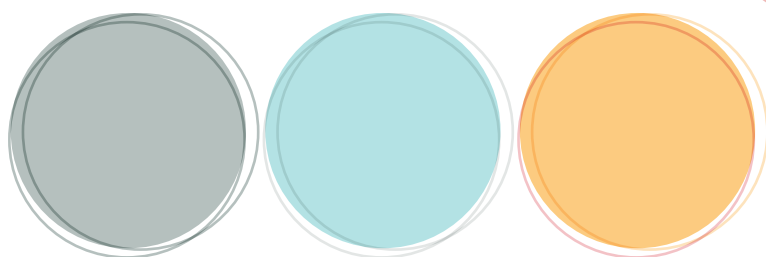


# Our vision for Corporate Parenting in Flintshire

Together, we will build a place where every child in care feels safe, is surrounded by love, opportunities, and the belief that their dreams are both valid and achievable. When they leave our care, they will feel prepared and supported for their onward journey and experience happiness and success.

We have developed our Corporate Parenting Strategy to deliver this for our children and young people under the following themes:

1. Positive Futures
2. Learning, and Having Fun
3. Listening, Hearing and Understanding
4. Meaningful Relationships, Identity and Belonging
5. Safe and Protected
6. Physically and Mentally Healthy



# Our Values

In delivering our strategy we will ensure that the local authority and all our partners have regards to the following local values that will direct the way we work to improve outcomes, future aspirations and goals:



## **Dedicated:**

We are committed to creating caring and supportive places where children and young people feel safe, respected, and encouraged to do their best. It will take time, effort, and the right skills to support all our children and young people. We will always ask ourselves, “Would this be good enough for my own child?”



## **Respectful:**

We will treat every child and young person with respect and kindness, thinking about their background, experiences, and who they are. Respect means listening to what they have to say, including them in decisions, and, when we can, following their wishes.



## **Hopeful and Ambitious:**

We believe in hope and have big dreams for our children and young people. This plan should help them feel positive about the future and believe in themselves. It means setting high goals for every child and helping them aim high and go after their dreams with confidence. We want to give them chances to learn, train for jobs, and enjoy fun activities - so they can see new possibilities, overcome challenges, and reach their goals.



## **Responsible:**

This plan will only work if everyone who has a corporate parenting responsibility works together to support their wellbeing. We will keep working closely with our partners to help children and young people reach their goals.

As a council, we will make sure that caring for children and young people is part of how we make decisions, plan services, and check for fairness. This will help us find ways to make a positive difference and avoid doing anything that might harm children by unintentionally.

Our leadership team will make sure that everyone in the council takes this responsibility seriously, and we will encourage our partners to do the same.





# Our Commitments to You

## Children's Services Forum

This is your "Parliament" where you can scrutinise and hold to account the local authority and other bodies in ensuring the Corporate Parenting Charter and our commitments are being delivered and responded to effectively.

Our Children's Service Forum members have been actively involved in developing the commitments in our Corporate Parenting Charter.

The commitments below will be monitored and reported to the Children's Services Forum annually.

### Positive Futures

Our children and young people have safe, stable and caring places to live and call home.

Our young people leave care and become independent and thriving adults.

#### Our children and young people told us they wanted:

We want you to have honest information and be able to understand our accommodation choices at 18.

We would like a better opportunity to access work, internships and work experience.

We want more chances to be independent.

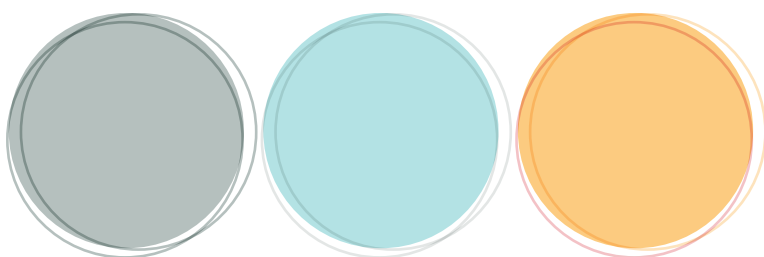
### Our commitments:

We'll work with you to understand what kind of housing you need and make a plan to support you. This plan is called your 16+ Pathway Plan. It includes helping you connect with the housing team to explore different types of places you could live as you become an adult.

### Measure of success:

% of young people with an active 16+ Pathway Plan.

% of young people suitably accommodated at 18.





Our commitments:	Measure of success:
<p>We'll work with local employers to help them feel confident about hiring young people with care experience by giving them the support they need.</p> <p>We'll also encourage these employers to offer work experience and apprenticeships made especially for children and young people in care or who have been in care.</p> <p>We'll work to create a guaranteed interview scheme for care experienced children and young people for opportunities within Flintshire County Council.</p>	<p>% of young people in training, education or employment at 16+</p>
<p>We'll make sure you have a care plan that helps you grow, become more independent, and focus on what matters to you most.</p> <p>Each plan will be different and based on your own needs and goals, but for example, it might include things like meeting up with friends, having a later curfew, learning how to manage money, using public transport, or learning to drive.</p>	<p>% of children and young people with a care plan that contains discussion about driving independence and actions to support this.</p>



## Learning and Having Fun

Our children and young people have every chance to reach their full potential, gain confidence and skills for their future.

Our children and young people have opportunities to have fun and do activities and things that they enjoy.

### Our children and you people told us they wanted:

We would like schools and other learning places to provide a link person for us to discuss any education, learning or other concerns.

We would like more opportunities to be involved with Theatre Clwyd.

We would like to understand how Youth Services can assist and support us.

### Our commitments:

We'll help you stay in school by making sure schools have the skills and support they need to understand and care for your social, emotional, and mental health needs.

We'll also encourage schools and colleges to have clear plans specifically for how they will support care experienced students.

We'll also share a list of key contact people at each school who are there to help you.

We want more care experienced young people to be in education, training, or work after the age of 16.

We know there are lots of different paths you can take in education, and we'll help you explore your options to find what works best for you—so you can stay motivated and reach your full potential.

We'll also make sure your hopes and goals are talked about early on in your care plan and are a key part of your regular reviews.

### Measure of success:

% of children with an allocated suitable education place.

Attendance and exclusion data.

Children and young people report feeling positive at school or college through the Mind of My Own app.

% of schools engaged with trauma informed approach.

% of young people in education, employment or training at 16+.

% of young people attaining 5 or more grade C and above at GCSE.

Our commitments:	Measure of success:
<p>We'll make sure you can take part in hobbies and activities that you enjoy, that matter to you, and that help make your life better.</p> <p>We'll explore options to partner with Gwella and Youth Services to offer a wide variety of options for you to choose.</p>	<p>Number of children and young people who are regularly involved with a hobby or activity.</p>
<p>As Theatre Clwyd reopens, we'll look at ways for you to get involved. This could include joining their summer programmes, going to see shows, or getting work experience there.</p>	<p>Number of opportunities available</p> <p>Number of children and young people who have taken up these opportunities.</p>
<p>We'll support you to build a connection with Youth Services to help you to understand and make use of their services.</p>	<p>Their attendance at Children's Services Forum and young people's groups.</p>





## Listening, Hearing and understanding

Our children and young people feel like they have a say and are heard and valued in the decisions that affect them.

Our children and young people make their voice heard and shape how services are designed and delivered.

### Our children and young people told us they wanted:

Representatives who have agreed to the Corporate Parent Pledge, to attend the Children's Services Forum and update us on their progress.

We would like our reviews not to be held in school, if possible.

### Our commitments:

We'll ensure that your reviews are held in an appropriate place, keeping away from schools.

We'll listen to your views and opinions and make sure that they are taken into account in decisions that affect you.

We'll promote and encourage the use of the Mind of My Own app with all our children and young people. This app lets you share your thoughts and opinions with us, and the information you give will help us improve the support we offer.

### Measure of success:

% of review meetings held in schools, decreasing year on year.

% of Practitioners actively using the Mind of My Own app

% of children and young people actively using the Mind of My Own app

% of children and young people referred for advocacy support.



**Our commitments:**

We'll listen to your opinions and make sure they influence changes in practice, service, and policy.

We'll investigate your compliments and complaints, review themes and ensure that we learn from where we have got things right as well as where we can do better.

**Measure of success:**

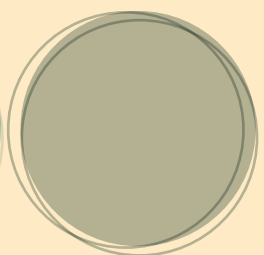
We'll report "You said, We did" at least annually to the Children's Services Forum.

Number of children and young people who actively engage with the Children's Services Forum.

Number of complaints from our children and young people in a 12 month period.

Number of compliments from our children and young people in a 12 month period.

Analysis of feedback obtained through Mind of My Own app.









## Meaningful Relationships, Identity and Belonging

Our children and young people can build trusted relationships with the people who are important to them in their lives.

Our children and young people feel respected and proud of who they are.

### Our children and young people told us they wanted:

Living with carers should be stress-free, and they should understand our needs better.

We want to celebrate and have fun at the Pride of Flintshire event.

### Our commitments:

We'll work with you to make a clear profile so everyone knows you, as an individual, your needs, strengths, likes dislikes and future aspirations.

We'll use your profile to support your interests and help you find opportunities to meet your needs, develop your talents, and achieve your goals.

We'll use your profile to help us appreciate and respect all parts of your identity and enable your carers to understand you better.

### Measure of success:

% of children and young people with a personal profile

We'll celebrate you and your successes.

We'll hear from you, about what matters to you at the Children's Services Forum.

We'll hold an annual Pride of Flintshire event celebrating you and your achievements with you, our wider council and key partners.

Qualitative measures including, testimonies and photographs from our children and young people.

We'll work with you to complete "Life Story" to help you to understand your journey into care, why we are involved in your life and the role of our corporate parenting services.

% of children and young people who have been involved with Life Story.

If you come from an ethnic minority background, we'll support you in learning about it, celebrating it, and making it a proud part of who you are.

Number of cultural/religious festival payments awarded.  
Purchase of cultural/religious festival clothing/items.

## Safe and Protected

Our children and young people are safe and protected from harm, abuse and exploitation.

Our children and young people will feel part of their community.

### Our children and young people told us they wanted:

We have concerns about being exploited on social media, we would like support to understand how can we avoid being put in this situation and if we are, what we can do.

We would like support to get a better understanding of criminal prevention and how to avoid getting into trouble.

### Our commitments:

We'll give you both practical and emotional support when you need it.

We'll make sure you know about the support and opportunities available by sharing them in ways that are easy for you to understand and access.

We'll also update our staff training so they know how to spot and deal with all types of exploitation, including things that happen on social media.

We'll help you learn how to stay safe online by giving you advice and information—this could be through online or in-person sessions, or by sharing helpful links and resources.

We'll keep working with our partners, like the police, to make sure that when a young person is being exploited, they are seen as a victim. We'll make sure they get the right support to help them stay safe and recover.

We'll build a connection with our local police and create a safe space where you can talk to them and share their thoughts and feedback.

### Measure of success:

Number of staff who have undertaken training on exploitation, including online.

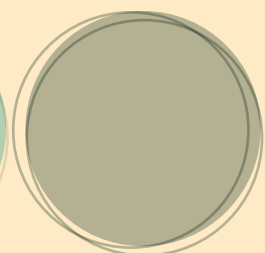
% of children and young people with a missing episode, decreasing year on year.

% of children and young people who have been reviewed at MET Panel as at risk of exploitation / trafficking, decreasing year on year.

Their attendance at Children's Services Forum and young people's groups.



Our commitments:	Measure of success:
<p>The Youth Justice Service will give you the chance to share your views on crime and safety. What you say will help shape future plans for how youth justice works.</p>	<p>Number of Youth Justice Service consultation events</p>
<p>We'll work to lower the number of children and young people, including those in care, who get involved in the criminal justice system. We'll do this by offering other positive options and support to help them stay out of trouble.</p>	<p>Number of first time entrants into the Criminal Justice System, decreasing year on year.</p>
<p>We'll keep growing and improving our group of Foster Carers and Residential Care Homes for children and young people in Flintshire. This will help more children stay in or return to Flintshire—closer to home—so they can stay part of their local community and keep in touch with the people who matter most to them.</p>	<p>% of children and young people accommodated outside of Flintshire, decreasing year on year.</p> <p>Number who have returned to live in Flintshire.</p>



## Physically and Mentally Healthy

Our children and young people will feel physically and mentally healthy.

Our children and young people will feel supported and encouraged to access all the health, fitness and well-being services, activities and opportunities that they need or choose to explore.

### Our children and young people told us they wanted:

We would like support from a person in health to access to GPs and Dentists when we leave care.

We would like better access to services to support our mental health.

### Our commitments:

If you agree, we'll help you understand and manage your thoughts and feelings. If you want extra support for your mental health and wellbeing, we'll help you to get it.

We'll make sure our staff understand the needs of care experienced young people, so they can give you the time and space to talk about how you're feeling and what kind of support you need.

We'll also help you find out where you can get support for your mental health and wellbeing.

We'll make sure that when you turn 18 and no longer require an annual health assessment, you are:

- registered with a GP
- have been offered a dental check and where possible are dental fit,
- have had your eyesight checked.

We'll give you the information you need to make good choices about your health and wellbeing, whenever possible including, Sexual Health and Education. This means you can decide what kind of support works best for you and have more control over your own care.

### Measure of success:

Number of young people who are open to RAP (Repatriation and Prevention) Project.

Number of children and young people who have been supported by School based counselling.

Number of children and young people referred to CAHMS.

% who are registered with a GP

% who are registered with a dentist

% who have had a dental check up

% who have had an eye test.

% of children who have access to LAC Nurse services.

% of care experience young people having unplanned pregnancies.

# Glossary / Further reading

## **United Nations Convention on Rights of a Child (UNCRC)**

The UNCRC consists of 54 articles that set out children's rights and how governments should work together to make them available to all children.

Under the terms of the convention, governments are required to meet children's basic needs and help them reach their full potential. Central to this is the acknowledgment that every child has basic fundamental rights.

<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/uncrc-childrens-rights/uncrc/>

## **Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014**

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into force on 6 April 2016. The Act provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.

<https://socialcare.wales/resources-guidance/information-and-learning-hub/sswbact/overview>

## **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act**

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

The Act gives a legally-binding common purpose – the 7 well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which specified public bodies must work, and work together to improve the well-being of Wales.

It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

This will help us to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

<https://www.gov.wales/well-being-future-generations-act-essentials-html>





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