

Corporate Parenting in Bury

Once a child/young person is placed in the care of the Local Authority, all Members, Officers and Partners of the Council take on the duty of "Corporate Parent" for that child. The role of Corporate Parent is to seek the same childhood experience for children and young people in care as they would for their own children.

This duty encompasses the health, education and wellbeing of the children and young people, what they do in their leisure time and holidays, how they celebrate their culture and heritage and how they receive praise and encouragement for their achievements. This duty also extends to providing appropriate support once young people have left care in order to enable them to achieve independence in their community. This continued support includes education, training and employment post 18 years old.

In addition it is important to Bury Corporate Parents that 'our children' have the opportunity to shape and influence the parenting they receive.

Our Corporate Parenting Priorities 2020/23

- Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers have access to the same opportunities, aspirations and experiences as their non-looked after peers
- Corporate parenting is a high priority and at the heart of all the work undertaken by Council/CCG employees
- Financially sustainable services and support

Key Objectives 2020

- Improve figures for care leavers in EET
- Expansion of the Corporate Parenting Champions Programme
- Ensure young people have the opportunity to have good mental health, build and sustain positive relationships, feel safe, have access to leisure and sporting activities.
- Through the Virtual School we strive to improve performance and outcomes for CYPiC and care leavers.
- We will ensure that CYPiC and Care leavers have access to a wide range of cultural activity and experiences
- The voice of the young people are key to everything we do
- Seek to provide extra support for those young people adversely affected by the COVID 19 outbreak and lock down/restrictions.

Governance of the Corporate Parenting Strategy Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Responsible for overseeing and monitoring the Strategy and all corporate parenting activity within the Council/CCG

Joint Executive Team

To escalate issues, seek clarification, share information and obtain changes in policy etc.

Childrens Management Team

Children's Services and wider Council/CCG

Involves Workforce, Children, Young People & care leavers at all levels of CP Strategy



Bury Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-23



Bury's Corporate Parenting Vision is that:

"All Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers from Bury feel supported, inspired and empowered by their Corporate Parents".

Burys Corporate Parenting Principles

As Bury Council Corporate Parents we strongly believe:

- Children and young people in our care are entitled to the same care, support, stability, health and education as our own children.
- We need to ensure that services are flexible enough to support children and young people in our care to have high quality lives and have a happy childhoods and adolescence.
- In developing new practices and initiatives the Council considers the needs of children and young people in our care and care leavers.
- Children in our care are actively encouraged to participate in decisions made about their lives, so that their experiences influence policy and practice.
- Access for children in our care to universal services is actively promoted, encouraging young people's sense of community and belonging.
- Service provision, communication and policies meet the needs of children with additional needs, disabilities and children from a range of cultural and religious backgrounds.
- Transition to adult services should be timely and well planned with services working together.
- In challenging negative perceptions and stereotypes of children in our care and raise awareness at all levels across the council.
- Corporate parenting is about commitment and teamwork to bring about positive change.

Legislation and National Guidance includes

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- The Adoption and Children Act 2002
- The Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- The Equality Act 2010
- Leaving Care Guidance 2010
- The Health and Social Care Act 2012
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- Working Together 2015
- Children and Social Work Act 2017

Local drivers include:

- Promise to Young People
- Care Leavers Charter
- Bury Integrated Safeguarding Partnership
- Bury Children in Care Strategy
- Bury Care Leavers Offer
- Bury Corporate Parenting Champions Programme
- Bury EET Strategy
- Virtual School

Bury Council Corporate Parents Promise to Children and Young People in Care (2020-23)

- We will tell you why you are in care and help you to understand these reasons, we will keep explaining this as you grow.
- We will keep you safe both physically and emotionally.
- We help you to access all the money you are eligible to receive so you have the same financial opportunities as young people not in care.
- We will listen to your wishes and feelings and respond to what you have said with a full and reasonable explanation.
- We will make decisions together with you and not simply decide things for you without discussion.
- We will be honest with you about what is possible. We will not commit to promises that we cannot keep.
- We will strive to provide you with as many opportunities as possible to help to give you the best possible chances in your future career and in fulfilling your aspirations.
- If it's suitable and safe, we will support you to return to your birth family. If this is not possible, we will explain why. We will continue to offer you support after you have moved back to birth family.
- Where possible and appropriate, we will always endeavour to place you with your siblings. If this is not possible, we will explain why not.
- We will ensure that you have a safe place to live with people who care about you for as long as you need it.
- We will ensure that the foster carers, key workers and professionals where you live are well supported and well trained to ensure they are able to support you and help you access all possible experiences and opportunities available.
- We will make sure you have access to good quality accommodation when you leave care that we would be happy to live in ourselves.
- We will give you access to an advocate who can support you to have your voice heard.
- If you want to we will ensure you are able to have as much contact with your family and friends as is possible and will continue to negotiate with you about this.
- We will support you in your education for as long as you want to continue learning. We will ensure that your teachers are aware of how they can help you and ensure they empathise with your situation and act as your advocates in your learning
- We will challenge what we believe to be unfair exclusions and where we believe your teachers are not supporting you well enough or setting appropriate targets needed to help you achieve your full potential
- We will seek to provide opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships as well as jobs and training, using our influence and resources as a major employer in the Borough including giving you access to high quality careers advice and guidance.
- We will support you to pursue your passions and take part in hobbies and clubs outside of school wherever possible.
- We will make you aware of your rights as Young People in Care.
- We will support you with any health concerns.
- We will ensure that all members of Bury Council understand their responsibility to care about you, understand your needs and empower you as we would our own children. We will report this to you via the Corporate Parenting Board, Newsletters, CiCC and CL Forum.
- We recognise that changes in your social worker is disruptive. We will therefore strive keep changes in Social Worker to a minimum. When changes are necessary, we will do our best to ensure your old social worker introduces you to your new social worker.
- We will involve young people in your situation in the training of staff who support you so that they understand your point of view.
- We will protect your privacy and only share information that is necessary and will always speak with you about what we are sharing and why.

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