

# Corporate Parenting Newsletter



April 2020

Councillor Rhys  
Cathcart  
Chair of Bury  
Corporate Parenting  
Board



## News:

Welcome to our new  
Interim Head of the Virtual  
School, Paul Tinsley.

Bury Council, Bury CCG and their Partners have promised to care and support children and young people in their care as they would their own children. What this means is set out in Our Promise to Children and Young People in Care, the Care leavers Charter and the Bury Corporate Parenting Strategy. Find all this information at [www.bury.gov.uk/childrenincare](http://www.bury.gov.uk/childrenincare)  
For more information contact Jacqui Waite: [j.waite@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.waite@bury.gov.uk)

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

We hope you are all safe and well during the coronavirus outbreak. The Government guidance is currently that people should stay at home. Therefore this, and the need to focus on front line, key services, means that there is currently a reduction in some services across the Council and CCG. Non-essential employees are working from home and other staff have been redeployed into essential roles.

Government guidance says that we must all now stay indoors at home and not go out except for essential shopping, medication or for a solo walk/run or a secluded walk with other members of our household once per day. Everyone must stay at least 2 meters away from other people.

***However, we are still here for all our young people and carers at this time so if you need to contact us please do so via your Social Worker. Care Leavers should contact their PA or Social Worker directly.***

**Please keep checking the Bury Directory and Care Leaver Offer to keep updated on support services being put in place across Bury and news on the Coronavirus. The Directory will be updated regularly. There is a dedicated area on The Bury Directory and the link is on the front page of the website together with a link to both Children and Families services and the Care Leaver Offer at: [www.theburydirectory.co.uk](http://www.theburydirectory.co.uk)**

The Bury Directory has links to current health advice and this is updated daily. It also includes information about essential support services, information and advice in one place. There are also links on childcare, families, mental wellbeing and more. *There is a translation button so this information can be accessed in over 100 languages.*

**We understand this can be a distressing time or many of us. For anyone who is or knows someone who is struggling with their mental wellbeing, there is a comprehensive guide and links to Mental Health and wellbeing Support Services and online resources. The direct link to these can be found at: [Link to MentalWellbeing](#) or click on the link on the front page of The Bury Directory.**

In terms of meetings, some meetings are still continuing but in a different format – please see next page for details.



You could make an incredible difference to a child's life by fostering in Bury. If you have a spare room you could offer Supported Lodgings to a Care Leaver. To find out more phone 08009555311 or email [fosterwithbury@bury.gov.uk](mailto:fosterwithbury@bury.gov.uk)

## Children's Trust

Bury Children's Trust Partnership brings together partners from a wide range of agencies with a shared commitment to helping children and young people be the best that they can be.

During the corona Virus the weekly email will be focused on support and services available to families and professionals. See the Bury Directory [www.theburydirectory.co.uk](http://www.theburydirectory.co.uk) or email [childrenstrustbury.gov.uk](mailto:childrenstrustbury.gov.uk)

## Meetings during COVID-19 restriction period

Although current Government guidelines do not allow us to hold traditional meetings it is important that we carry on business as usual as much as we can. Therefore, the Corporate Parenting Board will "discuss" the papers as listed in the agenda by email. This will be done via Jacqui Waite by email. Please could members watch out for these in your inbox ([j.waite@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.waite@bury.gov.uk))

The Care Leaver Forum will continue using Zoom as an online meeting platform. The next meeting is at 5pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> April then fortnightly. Please contact Heather Walton or Jane Hayes for more details and how to join the meeting.

([h.walton@bury.gov.uk](mailto:h.walton@bury.gov.uk),  
[j.hayes@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.hayes@bury.gov.uk))

The Children in Care Council Meetings are also continuing as virtual meetings. Please contact Mike Nichols to get dates and details of how to join ([m.nichols@bury.gov.uk](mailto:m.nichols@bury.gov.uk))

Both these meetings will be fun and interactive and offer a chance for our children to connect with each other and with staff. Therefore, please encourage young people to join in wherever possible.

## Appeals for donations



The Care and Support Service (CASS) hold a stock of products such as cleaning products that can be accessed by care leavers who are in need of every day products. Recently there has been a shortage of both female sanitary products and toiletries and these had been requested by care leavers. In order to tackle this shortage, appeals for donations of these goods were sent out to employees of the Council and CCG and collection points were hosted by Corporate Parenting Champions.

The response to the appeals were phenomenal with Corporate Parenting champions coming forward to host donation points and delivering the goods to the New Kershaw Centre and many people both from within the Council and wider partners offering a large range of donations.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated and collected the products. The store room is now fully stocked which is really great news, especially at the moment during the current COVID-19 restrictions when products are hard to buy.

## Good news on funding

### Care Leavers Fund:

In February 2020, Bury Council agreed a new Care Leavers Fund to support care leavers from Bury. The fund is for £100K over two years. It is unclear as yet how the funding will be allocated or the eligibility criteria. However, the money will be solely used for supporting care leavers and how the money is spent will be decided by care leavers.

### Friends of Bury Care Experienced Young People:

A constituted group has been set up consisting of young people, local business and corporate parenting champions and is supported by Youth and Participation Services. The aim of the group is to access funding that is not open to Councils, similar to a charity. Young People from CiCC, the Friends Group and Care Leavers Forum will decide how best to spend the funding. Anyone wishing to join this group, please contact Jacqui. We will aim to meet quarterly. ([j.waite@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.waite@bury.gov.uk))



### Fostering friendly Policy

Demonstrating the council's commitment to fostering, the new policy offers employees of Bury Council and Bury Clinical Commissioning Group additional support to make it easier for them to foster for Bury and support the children they care for. This includes paid leave for training purposes and for those who are going through the fostering application process, as well as a flexible approach towards working arrangements and time off to attend key fostering events or meetings. A qualifying employee who becomes an approved foster carer with Foster with Bury may also be granted up to six weeks paid leave of absence following the placement being made. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, said: "This additional support for foster carers provides recognition for the work they do, as well as offering reassurance and understanding from their employer. When our foster carers flourish, our children do too."

There are currently around 340 children and young people looked after by Bury Council. With the launch of its new fostering policy, the council hopes to encourage people to become foster carers so that more children can be matched with the best possible support.

It is also hoped that the council's new Fostering Friendly status will lead the way and encourage partners and other local organisations to support their employees who may already foster or who are considering fostering. Bury Council already has provisions in place to support adoption; mirroring its maternity arrangements in terms of pay and leave, and exceeding its statutory requirements.

### Corporate Parenting Champions Programme

The Corporate Parenting Champions programme was launched in August 2019. The aim is to recruit Corporate Parents across all levels and departments in the Council and CCG to "champion" and raise awareness of corporate parenting and why it is important to be a good corporate parent and understand how important the role of the corporate parent is to our children and young people. The aim of this programme is to open up a variety of new opportunities and experiences for children and young people in care and care leavers and also to raise awareness of corporate parenting across the Council, CCG and wider partners. There are currently 62 Corporate Parenting Champions signed up to the programme. Champions have been involved in the recent appeals and individual requests for support by care leavers. They have also become involved in the new constituted group, offering work experience opportunities and specific one off requests by care leavers. The aim is to develop this role further into a volunteering and mentoring role in the future. More details on this to follow.

If anyone is struggling and would like friendly telephone support or some help from Corporate Parenting Champions during the Coronavirus please contact Jacqui at [j.waite@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.waite@bury.gov.uk) and she will get back to you with some advice on what is on offer.

#### For the attention of all employees of Bury Council and Bury CCG:

Did you know that you are a Corporate Parent? As a Corporate Parent you can help enhance the opportunities and outcomes for Children in Care and Care Leavers by becoming a Corporate Parenting Champion.

To find out more about this rewarding role, contact Jacqui on 0161 253 7340 or [j.waite@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.waite@bury.gov.uk) There is no obligation to sign up 😊



## Poems by Young people in Care and Care Leavers :

Young People from the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum were asked to write poems about their aspirations and dreams for the future. These are a selection of two of the fabulous poems they wrote. (Note: have a tissue handy as they are tear jerkers).

### Dreams

#### A poem by a young person in care

I don't know what I want to be when I'm older  
 But I know how I want to feel  
 I want to feel a sense of normality  
 With relationships that are real  
 I thought about being an air hostess  
 Or a beautician doing nails  
 Something I can earn my own money  
 To spend in all the sales  
 I'd like to live out in the sun  
 Maybe the United States  
 Somewhere by a golden beach  
 Just hanging with my mates  
 I hope wherever I end up  
 My life is full of smiles  
 I dream of feeling safe and loved  
 Without social work files

### Our Dreams

#### A poem by Bury Care Leavers Forum

I dream of travelling far away  
 And working in the sun  
 I'd have a place all of my own  
 I'd feel like I had won  
 I dream of having space  
 Rolling hills and time to think  
 No one telling me what to do  
 What to eat and what to drink  
 I dream of time to just relax  
 To sleep per chance to dream  
 To have a job that I enjoy  
 With an amount of cash that's just obscene  
 I simply dream of happiness  
 To feel secure on my two feet  
 To have a home I can share  
 On my own nice, quiet street  
 My future's mine and I decide  
 What, why, where and when  
 I just need a chance, a break, a hand  
 I'll get there in the end

## Valentine's Day Bake Sale



Care Leavers in Bury held a Valentine's Day bake sale at the New Kershaw Centre.

The young people and staff did really well and some fabulous cakes were made. They raised £160.

Well done to all involved 😊

## Congratulations to Keith and Helen from the Corporate Parenting Board



A big "thank you" and a bunch of flowers were given to Keith and Helen, Fostering Ambassadors in Bury, to mark their 25<sup>th</sup> year of fostering for Bury. Thank you for your dedication and for making a positive contribution to the lives of many of our children and young people.

**Finally, a big thank you to all our Key workers and everyone who is working to support our children and young people during the Corona Virus Outbreak, your dedication and commitment is much appreciated**