

Corporate Parenting Executive Board Update – June 2025

Overview

The most recent Corporate Parenting Executive Board meeting took place on 28th May 2025. The meeting covered updates from the three workstream areas and performance updates from the virtual school and corporate parenting scorecard. The board also approved the document in relation to care leavers entitlements, subject to some minor amendments.

Workstreams Overview

1. Good Homes for All

A housing workshop took place on 22 May with 10 of our housing providers to develop a Charter for Care Experienced Young People. 4 of our youth ambassadors attended to share their experiences. It was a positive workshop, and providers were keen to support the charter. A review of the Tenancy Ready training is being planned, which will review the existing provision, and consider alternative options and internal and external delivery methods. A dedicated Officer within Cheshire Homechoice has been identified to be the key contact for care experienced young people.

The area of focus for the next period is pre and post tenancy information and support, mapping out the existing offers, looking for gaps and improvements and developing the charter for care experienced young people. The review of the Tenancy Ready training will form a key part of the group's activity, as well as responding to feedback from the Local Offer where this is not currently being considered in other groups.

2. Good Health and Well-being

The first 2 meetings of this group have taken place with good engagement and attendance and the focus areas agreed are:

- Communicating our local offer for health
- Health assessment timeliness
- Migrant young people
- Substance and alcohol misuse

Positive impact was reported to the last board in relation to health and wellbeing, including:

- 100% uptake of care leaver summaries to ensure timely identification of health needs and better-informed care planning.
- Improved dental health tracking includes a new system implemented since August/September to track which cared for children have a dentist and have been seen in the last 12 months. This supports early intervention and better oral health outcomes.
- Pure Insight's wraparound service—including mentoring, trauma therapy, and wellbeing support—is being incorporated into the improvement plan. This flexible model supports young people aged 16–28 with short waiting times and tailored care.

- Tailored UASC Support: Continued engagement with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) has helped reduce isolation and improve access to health services. Feedback mechanisms are being developed to further tailor support.
- Substance Misuse Awareness and Action: Concerns over ketamine and synthetic opioid use have led to the development of a training plan for staff and plans to disseminate drug education through family and care leaver hubs. The Local Drug Information System (LDIS) is being promoted for real-time intelligence.

3. **Good Education and Skills**

An action plan workshop took place I with partners to map out priorities in relation to this workstream. Task and finish groups will then be established to progress actions. This will be reported to the next board, along with progress against the plan.

Key Data Exceptions & Next Steps

The meeting reviewed two key scorecards – the Virtual School Scorecard and the Corporate Parenting Scorecard – to assess service performance and outcomes for children and young people.

Virtual School

The group discussed some of the issues in being able to access some data, including for under 5's, which is not easily reportable, particularly if they are out of area. There will be a data workstream as part of our Education and Skills workstream to address these issues.

Data for “Number of Primary pupils with less than 50% and 90% attendance” has stayed consistent and actions are clear with schools. Further work is needed to understand secondary school attendance as this has recently increased and we need to understand why. A report will also be provided to the next board on whether children who have a long-term placement/ SGO/ adoption order impacts positively on school attendance at the next meeting.

We continue to have no permanent exclusions; a team around the school has been established to support and understand what we need to do together to keep this number at zero.

Corporate Parenting Scorecard

The group discussed the percentage of children and young people involved in their reviews, which is very good at 96%.

The number of 16–18-year-old care leavers that are NEET has doubled in the last quarter. Further work is underway to understand this and will be reported to the next board.

The number of children in care living with relatives and friends has decreased slightly. We would want to support children staying with extended family members when they are placed away from parents.

The percentage of currently cared for children who have had a C&F assessment in the last 12 months is currently down to 61%. Work is under way to improve practice in this area.

It is positive that the percentage of 17-18 former relevant care leavers in suitable accommodation and 19-21 former relevant care leavers in suitable accommodation are currently at 96%. However, we are ambitious for our young people and would want this to be 100% so are looking at what barriers there are to achieve this.

The 2025/26 scorecard is being updated to reflect the new corporate parenting priorities.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Executive Board will take place on 30 July 2025.