

Corporate Parenting Executive Board Update – August 2025

Overview

The most recent Corporate Parenting Executive Board meeting took place on 30 July 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

The Charter has been shared with our Registered Providers (RP) for comment, and when the final version is agreed, RPs will be asked to confirm their commitment by adding their corporate logo to the Charter. We will seek sign off from within CEC through the most appropriate route. This will provide our young people with a consistent offer across the four key areas of their housing journey.

We have developed a draft 'to be' pathway for first moves from the start of the independence journey to in tenancy support, learning from feedback from the Youth Ambassadors, registered providers, Children's Services and Housing. We are also using a small pot of money to support paying rent in advance to secure the tenancy more efficiently and working with registered providers to help cover this cost.

Workforce development has agreed that CEC volunteering days can be used to support young people to move into their new homes. We have also extended the Lifestyle benefits provided by Vivup to our care leavers when they are ready to move into their home, this will continue until they are 25.

The area of focus for the next period is gaining approval for the Charter from RPs and finalising the new pathway and planning ways to embed the processes for both Housing and Children's Services and continuing to explore Tenancy Ready training options.

Reviewing feedback from the Local Offer Mid Term Review will form a key part of the ongoing activity.

2. Good Health and Well-being

On review of feedback from care leavers at the care leaver offer mid-point review regarding their health and wellbeing, we identified that some requests were for services that are already in place, but young people were unaware of them. We are now focussed on the communication priority including how children and young people would like to have health information shared with them.

The new paperwork for Initial Health Assessment requests has been launched, this will help to improve the quality of health action plans due to the increase in background information provided regarding the child's history.

We have agreed that the Care Leaver Health meeting will continue as this has proved to be beneficial as more partners are involved with this meeting, this will now report back to the workstream.

Sleep has been identified as one of the most significant factors for improving the emotional health of separated migrant young people. A charity has been identified who can provide sleep packs for the cost of postage only, and we are looking at a funding stream for this.

Our next steps will be to implement agreed actions around communication, including updating online resources such as the Junction16+ app and developing leaflets and newsletters, plan events to ensure ongoing engagement opportunities with cared for children and care leavers for the next twelve months.

SDQ remains a significant area of concern, currently rated red on the scorecard due to ongoing issues. Challenges persist around system integration, particularly involving the education element, and meetings are planned for September to address these.

Cost and compliance are also identified as key issues. The issues and barriers affecting SDQ completion will be a focus for the next corporate parenting executive group and will consider any training requirements and cost barriers.

3. Good Education and Skills

This workstream so far has focussed mainly on post-16, but we are now developing a separate action plan for our pre-16 cared for children. We have identified leads for each area in the action plan, and they will now set up task and finish groups to progress work. Our KPI's need refining, and we will be working alongside the data team to finalise this.

Virtual School

The number of Primary pupils with less than 50% and 90% attendance has significantly decreased in June which is great news. We are holding good collective meetings with IRO's, and actions are being dealt with efficiently. Secondary school attendance shows increases but this is due to a lot of year 11's on study leave.

We are still seeing an increase in numbers of suspensions, but we continue to have no permanent exclusions. This is due to lots of support mechanisms in place.

We are pulling data together for the summer exams, primary school children have done extremely well this year. 77% of year 1 pupils have achieved great results, last year this was at 50%. Year 6 achieved 50%, compared to 16% last year which is excellent.

Corporate Parenting Scorecard

A deep dive has been completed into our 16-18 Care Leavers who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and out of 53, 8 young people were identified as unable to work due to ill health, disabilities, pregnancy etc. 11 young people are signed up to the venture with confidence programme and are engaging well. The remaining 34 have individual support plans in place with EET advisors and plans are updated at least termly, these will support with transitions, 1-1s tuition, work experience and employability courses etc.

We have identified some inaccuracies in our system for recording unsuitable accommodation which are being addressed – there are a handful of our 19-21 year olds who are in custody and therefore in unsuitable accommodation. The remainder are in suitable accommodation.

Areas seeing improvement are the increase for children with a dentist, this has gone from 66% to 96% with IRO support, this data shows that when we focus on something we can see a real shift. Our SGO data is at 17%, above our statistical neighbours at 12% and we have also seen a reduction in placement moves.

Continued focus on improving the % of currently cared for children who have had a C&F assessment in the last 12 months as well as a focus on improving SDQ scores.

Care Leaver Local Offer Mid-term Review

Care leaver ambassadors led the local offer review on 4 June, this was well attended by professionals and key stakeholders. Some key highlights/feedback received from young people include:

The co-production element of independence packs was well received.

Pledge 2 of cared for strategy, linking education and childcare.

General support around the implications of benefits, universal credit, wider support available etc. to make sure they're not worse off.

Providing more work experience and employability skills like English and Maths, this is linked to a piece of work currently ongoing.

There is inconsistency around the local offer and the age that some entitlements go up to e.g. care leavers can get a bus pass until 21, council tax free up to 25 - we need to ensure that our local offer is as accessible and clear as possible, unfortunately, there may be

differences between entitlements, but we need to make that clear and simplify any information we put out there.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Executive Board will take place on 26 September 2025.