



Angus Integrated Children's Services

**Getting It Right For Looked After Children,
Young People And Care Leavers In Angus**

**Corporate Parenting Plan
2017 – 2020**

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Foreword

We are pleased to launch our Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-2020 which sets out how we intend to 'get it right' for our looked after and care experienced children and young people in Angus. As a Corporate Parenting Board we are committed and determined to improve life experiences of our looked after children and this plan will ensure we narrow the gap in outcomes between looked after children and young people and their peers.

What we want for our looked after children and young people is the same as we want for all of our children; we want them to grow up in stable, nurturing and caring environments; to remain and achieve in school and places they learn; to be safe, healthy, happy individuals; to stay in their 'placements' until they are ready to move on and to achieve positive destinations and grow and develop into confident young adults.

Our care experienced young people tell us we still have a lot to do to achieve this and we are committed to engaging with our children and young people to make a difference. Working in partnership with a wide range of partners is key to this.

Care experienced young people in Angus have shared some of their "asks" of us;

"We would like to know who our corporate parents are and we would like them to know us."

"We would like our corporate parents to make time to have a real relationship with us"

"We would like our corporate parents to really understand our journey"

"We want our corporate parents to make changes for us when we need them"

"We want to be treated as equals"

Hearing about what our looked after children and young people experience and want from us helps us as corporate parents to keep real the challenges and experiences our children can face and strive to make a difference. We can and must do better.

Mark Armstrong

Strategic Director - People

Chair of Angus Corporate Parenting Board

Our Children And Young People

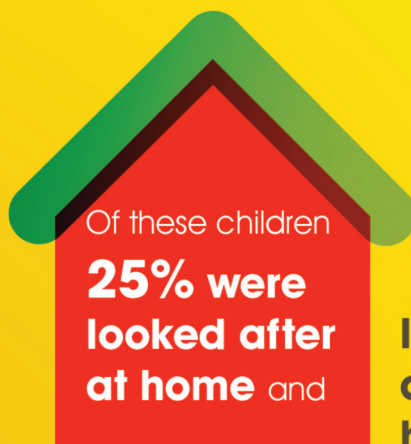
Angus has around **116,500** residents living in a largely rural area (1). The population of Angus accounts for **2.2%** of the Scottish population (2).



16.8% of Angus people are under 17 years old (3). This equates to 22,339 children aged 0-17 (4) and **32,200** people aged up to 25 (5).



At 30th June 2017, **240 children were looked after** which is approximately 1.1% of Angus children and equals the national average (6). These children represent 23.7% of the looked after children in Tayside (7).



Of these children **25% were looked after at home** and

75% were looked after away from home.



89% of our looked after children were in a family based placement.

Of these children, 25% were looked after in kinship care. 49 young people receive a through care service. 26 of these are managing their own tenancy.

Sources:

- 1 – National Records of Scotland, 2 – National Records of Scotland, 3 – National Records of Scotland,
- 4 – NHS Tayside Child Health Report 2016, 5 – National Records of Scotland (mid 2016),
- 6 – SCRA National Statistics (published August 2017), 7 - NHS Tayside Child Health Report 2016.

Corporate Parenting

What does it mean?

Corporate parenting is defined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 as

“formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers.”

As Corporate parents we have additional and specific statutory duties under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in our care. This means that all agencies working in Angus including Angus Council, NHS Tayside, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Children's Reporter Administration and others (full list – appendix 1) must work together and be proactive in efforts to meet the needs of looked after children and care leavers. Integrated Joint Boards managing services for adults and primary care also play an important role in Corporate Parenting.

The Act sets out 6 responsibilities of Corporate Parents:

- **Being alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers**
- **Assessing the needs of those children and young people for services and support they provide**
- **Promoting the interests of those children and young people**
- **Seeking to provide looked after children and care leavers with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing**
- **Taking action to help looked after children and care leavers:**
 - **access opportunities to improve wellbeing and**
 - **make use of services, and access the support, which they provide**
- **Taking any other action to improve the way in which it exercises the Corporate Parenting functions**

A wide range of legislation, regulation and guidance provides clear direction for community planning partners on corporate parenting. These all have the same goal in mind; to achieve nurturing, positive childhoods from which our vulnerable children can thrive and develop into successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

Listening To Looked After Children And Young People

We currently have a range of ways of engaging and involving our looked after children and young people including access to an advocacy service through Who Cares? and the promotion and use of a variety of tools including Viewpoint, Wellbeing Web and feedback forms.

Our commitment to becoming better corporate parents is underpinned by engagement with children and young people. Our plan seeks to further strengthen this commitment by making improvements in this area and we have set out a number of actions including increasing our range of advocacy services and exploring digital tools to improve participation. We will make these developments in partnership with young people and plan for others based on what they tell us.

An integral part of a looked after child's experience is the Children's Hearing system. The Better Hearings agenda ensures that children are at the centre of all decision making. In order to ensure participation the Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration will develop methods to help children and young people express their views and encourage their attendance at hearings either in person or via digital technology.

Our Vision

We are committed to working with our partners across Tayside to achieve our shared vision for all

children and young people to have the best start in life and for Tayside to be the best place in Scotland to grow up.

As part of our Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017-2020 we have identified 5 key priorities. Working together across Tayside to improve outcomes for looked after children, young people and care leavers is one of our priorities. This means we will look at ways to share resources and services, jointly commission, enhance and improve our workforce and use our resources more efficiently. This work is in the early stages and we will review and adapt this plan in line with the work we will take forward on a Tayside basis.

Angus Corporate Parents have high aspirations and ambitions for our children and young people who are looked after or who have care experience. That is why we have made a pledge setting out what we commit to.

Our Children, Our Pledge

We pledge the following to all children and young people who are or who have been looked after in Angus:

We promise:

- 1. We will listen to what you have to say and ensure you are involved in the decisions that affect your life.**
- 2. We will find the best possible place for you to live that matches what you need and help you to stay in touch with people who are important to you.**
- 3. We will help you to achieve your best at school and in all places where you learn.**
- 4. We will take care of your wellbeing and encourage you to be healthy and active.**
- 5. We will ensure you have a lead professional who visits you regularly and works with you and others to provide you with an assessment of your needs and a clear, up to date plan.**
- 6. We will support you to have a positive transition into adulthood.**

We have detailed what the pledge means in real terms in appendix 2. We encourage corporate parents to share this with all children and young people and for us to be held accountable for delivering this standard to all.

Delivering The Pledge

Under section 59 a corporate parent must prepare, publish and keep under review, a Corporate Parenting Plan. Our plan must say how we will fulfil our corporate parenting responsibilities (see section 58 of the Act). The Angus Corporate Parenting Plan 2017 – 2020 (attached) sets out how we will do this.

The actions in the plan will be evaluated and updated on an annual basis. They will continue to be informed by consultation with looked after and care experienced children and young people through participation work with Who Cares? Scotland, and other partner agencies.

A Corporate Parenting Lead Officer Group made up of representatives from Corporate Parents in Angus will lead on the actions. This group reports directly to the Angus Corporate Parenting Board made up of senior leaders including Elected Members and senior officers from a range of agencies.

How Will We Know We Are Making A Difference?

We already collect and report on performance relating to looked after children. We are working on developing a core data set to support and monitor the success of the plan and will use this to report our progress at the end of year 1.

Angus Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2017 – 2020

1 We will listen to what you have to say and ensure you are involved in the decisions that affect your life.

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
We will support children and young people to fully take part in planning and reviewing their circumstances	Provide independent advocacy for children and young people looked after away from home Increase the availability of advocacy services for children looked after at home	In place – review March 2018 March 2018	Angus Council Children and Family Service
	Explain and promote children's rights by providing clear, accessible information on children's rights and support and encourage children and young people to raise concerns they may have about any service/agency/individual working with them	March 2018	Angus Council Reviewing Service
	In partnership with children and young people, develop and improve the range of ways children and young people participate in the review process; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a review of current arrangements for participation • Scope new developments including digital innovations 	March 2018	Angus Council Strategic Planning
We will ensure children and young people are able to participate effectively in their Children's Hearing	Children and young people will be given information to help their participation especially around decisions being made about them. Children and young people will have the opportunity to express their views either in person or via technology. All partners will engage in discussions to promote the 'Better Hearings' agenda.	June 2018	Children's Reporter
We will design meetings around the child or young person	Introduce a system to support children and young people to participate in planning their meetings including an opportunity to say where and when their meeting takes place and who should attend and make every attempt to take these views into account	March 2018	Angus Council Children and Family Service & partners

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
	Continue to provide an independent person to chair review meetings who will quality assure plans for children and young people and provide challenge where plans are not being progressed effectively	In place – review annually	Angus Council Children and Family Service
Ensure care experienced children and young people are partners in designing and delivering services	Develop opportunities for care experienced children and young people to engage with corporate parents, share experiences and ideas and co-produce plans for improvement This will include review of the 'Champion's Board' model to ensure positive participation	June 2018	Angus Council Strategic Planning/Corporate Parents/Who Cares?
Promote positive relationships with young people and Police officers	Alongside the other work by Police Scotland to engage with children and young people, a dedicated Looked After Young Person's Officer will work with staff and young people to understand specific needs of looked after young people	Review annually	Police Scotland

2. We will always try to find the best possible place for you to live that gives you what you need and help you stay in touch with people who are important to you.

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
We will provide services to parents/carers which supports them in improving outcomes for their children	Deliver a range of accredited parenting programmes to support children to live at home with their families or return home	July 2018	Early Intervention Service
	Increase respite provision for children living at home to allow them to remain within their family	April 2017	Angus Council Foster Care Service
Where children cannot live at home we will identify, assess and support family members to provide their care where possible	Implement kinship care policy to promote children and young people's positive identity including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to kinship carers including access to advice, support groups, training and opportunities to share views; • Provide financial support to eligible kinship carers. 	September 2017	Angus Council Children and Family Service
We will provide local high quality, stable placements and will minimise the number of times children and young people to move	Continue to recruit and support foster carers to increase good quality local provision	Annual review of strategy	Angus Council Children and Families Service

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
	Review respite provision to foster carers to minimise the number of moves children experience	April 2017	Angus Council Foster Care Service
	Train staff in secure base parenting models to support children in foster and residential care (i.e. Theraplay, attachment training)	June 2017	Angus Council Foster Care Service
	Promote a 'support carer' scheme for children to remain in their foster's carer extended family during periods of carer respite	April 2017	Angus Council Foster Care Service
	Work towards consistent opportunities for children with regards to pocket money and clothing allowance, no matter where they are placed	June 2018	Angus Council Foster Care Service/Resource Manager
We will provide the highest possible standards of residential care for the young people who require it	Continue to review and improve Angus Council residential provision and outcomes including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External inspection • Consultation with young people in the residential provisions, family and professionals • Information on performance and outcomes from LAC Reviews 	Reported annually	Angus Council Resource Manager

3. We will help you to achieve your best at school and all the places you learn.

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
We will provide early learning and child care and will promote uptake for eligible 2yr olds.	Support children to access early learning and childcare provision to support development; Promote flexible provision for eligible 2 year olds (looked after)	Review annually	Angus Council Early Intervention Service
We will ensure educational settings know about individual children's needs, listens to their views and have support strategies in place	All school aged looked after children will have an Individual Education Plan to help them achieve the best educational outcomes. The child will be involved in the preparation and review of this plan. Full time educational experiences will be tailored to the individual needs of looked after children and young people.	In place – review annually	Angus Council Schools and Learning
	Use data to identify individual/ groups of children and young people for whom targeted mentoring/ interventions would raise attainment	April 2018	Angus Council Schools and Learning

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
We will develop refreshed and realigned policy on managing school exclusions	Revise Angus procedures in relation to national guidance (Included, Engaged and Involved part 2) to develop alternatives to exclusion for looked after children and young people	January 2018	Angus Council Schools and Learning
We will support families to learn and achieve together	When developing family learning resources for literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, we will consult and collaborate with parents and carers of looked after children to ensure that the available resources are easily accessible will meet their specific needs	October 2018	Angus Children and Learning
We will provide opportunities for our looked after children to achieve positive destinations post school	<p>We will encourage applications for Angus Works, Modern Apprenticeships and other positive destinations for looked after children</p> <p>We will provide support at the application and assessment centre for 'Angus Works' and guarantee a proportion of placements for looked after children</p> <p>Develop guaranteed interview scheme for modern apprentices</p>	June 2018	Angus Council Schools and Learning

4. We will take care of your wellbeing and encourage you to be healthy and active.

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
We will ensure the health needs of children and young people are met at the time they come into care and throughout their time in care	<p>Ensure all children who become looked after receive a full health needs assessment and effective health interventions (focused on their physical and emotional health) within 4 weeks of coming into care</p> <p>All pre school looked after children away from home or in kinship care will have a named health visitor</p> <p>We will ensure all children have support to register with a General Practitioner and dentist and all their immunisations are up to date</p>	In place – review and report performance every 6 months	NHS Tayside Children's Board
We will prioritise emotional wellbeing of children and young people	<p>All school aged children (LAC) will have an identified school nurse who will focus on positive health outcomes</p> <p>We will ensure school nurses have the knowledge and skills to provide early health interventions to support wellbeing and know when to refer for specialist support (including sexual health services)</p>	In place – review and report performance every 6 months	NHS Tayside Children's Board

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
We will enhance the support available to prevent/reduce care experienced young people experiencing poor emotional wellbeing - mental health issues	We will ensure we improve access for school age children requiring specialist mental health support (e.g. enhanced support to intervene early/reduce poor emotional wellbeing/mental health). We will ensure the mental health and wellbeing of all (LAC) school aged children is assessed within 12 weeks of undertaking the strengths and difficulties questionnaire	In place – review and report performance every 6 months	NHS Tayside Children's Board
We will ensure young people moving from children's to adult services access appropriate support and services	Work in partnership with Angus Integrated Joint Board to raise the profile of adverse childhood experiences and the needs of care experienced young people in adult care services	January 2019	Corporate Parenting Lead Officers Group
We will ensure children and young people have a range of opportunities to be physically active	Ensure the Physical Activity Strategy for Angus takes account of the needs of looked after children and young people in sports, leisure and culture Work in partnership including with Angus Alive, Active School, Voluntary Action Angus, Schools and Learning to increase the numbers of looked after children and young people and care experienced young people given opportunities to pursue sports, cultural and leisure activities	September 2018	Angus Physical Activity working Group/ Angus Alive, Angus Council, Voluntary Action Angus
Active Schools will enable increased participation of children and young people in activities within school and the community	All active schools coordinators will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know who the looked after children and young people are in each of the schools • work with young people, parents, carers and key staff to identify needs and interests and work with partners to match children with appropriate organisations, clubs and facilities • monitor and evaluate the participation levels and outcomes for young people • work with schools to build partnerships with agencies, clubs and local community groups to support the use of pupil equity funding 	March 2018	Active Schools Manager

5. We will ensure you have a lead professional (who is a dedicated person) who visits you regularly and works with you and other to provide you with an assessment of your needs and a personal, up to date plan.

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
We will provide each looked after child with a worker who will coordinate the Child's Plan	All looked after children will continue to have a lead professional appointed from social work who will coordinate their plan; The social worker will visit the child or young person at least once per month	In place – review performance every 6 months	Angus Council Children and Family Service
We will ensure children, young people and families are partners in assessment and child's planning	Improved formats for assessments and plans will be introduced to achieve better clarity and measurement of progress in achieving agreed outcomes An appropriately detailed chronology will be available for all looked after children and young people to ensure the fullest understanding of a child/young persons experiences Every child's plan will contain clear outcomes, actions and timescales in a way children and families can understand and be part of	June 2018 January 2018 November 2018	Angus Council Children and Family Service
Children will get the help they need when they need it	All agencies with a responsibility/action in the child's plan will deliver their services within agreed timescales and when there are barriers to this happening, children and young people will receive an explanation and senior managers will be informed	April 2017	All agencies in the plan; Angus Council Children and Family Service
	Any decision to change a child's lead professional will be informed by the needs and views of the child keeping changes for the child, young person to a minimum	April 2017	Angus Council Children and Family Service
	All Lead Professionals will receive training and support to ensure good quality assessments, plans and chronologies	November 2017	Angus GIRFEC/CPC Training Sub Group
We will improve our work with children identified as in need of permanence and ensure decisions are made and progressed timeously	The Permanence Team in the Children and Families Service will be expanded to provide more dedicated time to progressing children to permanent placements more speedily	October 2017	Angus Council Children and Family Service
	We will join the national PACE programme led by CELCIS in order to benefit from this national improvement programme relating to children requiring permanent placements	December 2017	Angus Council Children and Family Service

6. We will support you to have a successful transition into adulthood

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
We will provide care leavers with good quality support tailored to meet individual needs	Strive to continually improve the quality of support provided by the Throughcare and Aftercare Team to meet identified need - involving the young person in developing their Pathway Plan Offer diversion from prosecution to care leavers as an alternative to entering the adult court system in accordance with the principles underpinning the draft Youth Justice Strategy 2017	Already in place	Angus Council Through Care After Care Service
We will ensure young people are aware of their choice and right to continuing care or other options	Provide information to all young people who are looked after about their right to request continuing care; to 'stay put' as one of their options when they are no longer 'looked after'	Already in place	Angus Council Through Care After Care Service
We will work with young people to access quality accommodation	In partnership with Angus Council Through Care services, Angus Council Housing and other partners will provide quality accommodation to meet the diverse needs of care experienced young people by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a range of housing options to offer choice • awarding outright priority for housing for care leavers • working together to prevent homelessness and the need for temporary accommodation • working together to ensure housing outcomes are sustainable 	Already in place; Review and report on performance 6 monthly	Angus Council Through Care After Care Service/Housing
Young people will have access to a range of positive destinations and support to access	We will encourage applications for Angus Works, Modern Apprenticeships and other positive destinations for looked after children We will provide support at the application and assessment centre for 'Angus Works' and guarantee a proportion of placements for looked after children Develop guaranteed interview scheme for modern apprentices	June 2018	Angus Council Schools and Learning
We will reduce the impact of poverty on care experienced children and young people	Scope opportunities for council tax exemption for care experienced young people	March 2018	Angus Council Strategic Support/Revenue and Benefits

How will we achieve this?	Specific actions	Timescale	Lead responsibility
<p>We will we support young people in their parenting role</p>	<p>The Family Nurse partnership will support women aged 20-24 years of age who have been looked after themselves or whose baby may be at risk of becoming looked after.</p> <p>We will ensure all care experienced (care leavers) young people aged 24 and under will be offered enhanced support in their first pregnancy</p>	<p>Already in place</p>	<p>NHS Tayside</p>

Appendix 1

Schedule 4 Corporate Parents - Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

- 1 The Scottish Ministers
- 2 A local authority
- 3 The National Convener of Children's Hearings Scotland
- 4 Children's Hearings Scotland
- 5 The Principal Reporter
- 6 The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- 7 A health board
- 8 A board constituted under section 2(1) (b) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978
- 9 Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- 10 The Scottish Qualifications Authority
- 11 Skills Development Scotland Co. Ltd (registered number SC 202659)
- 12 Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland
- 13 The Scottish Social Services Council
- 14 The Scottish Sports Council
- 15 The chief constable of the Police Service of Scotland
- 16 The Scottish Police Authority
- 17 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- 18 The Scottish Legal Aid Board
- 19 The Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland
- 20 The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland
- 21 The Scottish Housing Regulator
- 22 Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- 23 Creative Scotland
- 24 A body which is a "post-16 education body" for the purposes of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005

Appendix 2

What does each promise mean in practice...

1 We will listen to what you have to say and ensure you are involved in the decisions that affect your life. This means we will:-

- Ask you what you want and listen to what you say
- Act on what you have told us. We can't promise to do everything you ask, but when we can't we will always explain why
- Consult with you about how meetings will happen
- Respect your privacy unless there is a danger to you or others, when we will explain who we need to tell and why
- Make sure you know how to get an independent advocate. That's someone who will listen to you, make sure your views are heard or support you to get changes made if necessary
- Take your complaints seriously and deal with them fairly and quickly

2 When you can't live at home we will find the best possible place for you to live that give you what you need and will help you to stay in touch with people who are important to you. This means we will:-

- Check if family members can care for you before we consider a care placement
- Give you an information profile on carers before you move in
- Arrange for you to visit a placement before you move in where possible
- Move your belongings in suitcases
- Do everything possible to provide a loving, secure and stable place for you to live
- Try not to place you too far away from family and friends.
- Listen to your opinions when we are arranging contact with family and friends
- Ensure that your lead professional helps you understand if and why you are not allowed to see someone
- Support you to make an easier transition to adulthood by ensuring you can remain where you are until you are ready to move.

3 We will help you to achieve your best at school and in all the places you learn. This means we will:-

- Help you access an early learning and childcare placement as soon as you are eligible
- Make sure that you are involved in drawing up your individual education plan and that you get a copy of the plan
- Guarantee every school has a Designated Manager to arrange the help you need
- Ensure your school has all the information they need to support you
- Ensure that your carers take an active interest in your education and make good links with your school including going to parent's evenings and other school events
- Give you support to stay in education beyond 16, including help going to university and further education if you want to do this
- Celebrate your achievements and success

4 We will take care of your wellbeing and encourage you to be healthy and active. This means we will:-

- Make sure that you have access to physical activities which are fun
- Support you to take part in hobbies and sports based on your interests
- Make sure you get health and dental check-ups and treatment which meets your needs
- Support you with any appointments you have or treatment you need
- Give you information to help you keep yourself safe and healthy
- Give you the name, address and phone number for the nurse for Looked After children and young people who can give you confidential advice

5. We will ensure you have a lead professional (who is a dedicated person) who visits you regularly and works with you and others to provide you with an assessment of your needs and a personal, up to date plan. This means we will:-

- Be honest and clear with you about the reasons why you are coming into care and what the future plans are for you.
- Ensure your plan is written down and give you a copy of this
- Write all the support you need into your plan, including ways to meet your identity needs
- Make sure that your assessment and plan contains positive things about you as well as the things you need support with.

- Provide you with contact details for your lead professional. If you leave a message for your worker, someone will return your call within 24 hrs.
- Ensure professionals do what they say they will do and provide accurate information for you
- Ensure your lead professional only changes when necessary
- Provide an independent person called a Reviewing Officer to review your plan on a regular basis, at least every six months

6 We will support you to have a successful transition into adulthood. This means we will:-

- Allocate you a worker from the Throughcare Aftercare Team who will draw up a Pathway Plan with you and offer you ongoing support when you are ready to leave care
- Ensure you have access to independence training that includes support in developing the practical and emotional skills you will need as you move towards adulthood
- Ensure that you are able to find good quality housing
- Help you make the most of your chances for training, further education and employment
- Explore opportunities to provide you with work experience, training or an apprenticeship within the council or NHS Tayside
- Ensure your transition to any adult services is as smooth as possible.

If you would like more information about this plan, email: PEOPLE@angus.gov.uk

Angus Integrated Children's Services Partner Agencies

