

Appendix 1: CORPORATE PARENTING - Defined Responsibilities

Services for children looked after and care leavers need to be coordinated, focused and effective. Responsibility for this rests at a corporate level with Elected Members, who hold senior officers to account for the implementation of strategies and services.

In 2009, NCB created a gold-standard approach to corporate parenting, with a range of resources available to Councillors to help them design the best-fit corporate parenting model for local needs and to understand and fulfil their corporate parenting roles; [ncb corporate parenting tool-kit](#)

NCB identify three distinct levels of role responsibility for Councillors: 'universal', 'targeted' and 'specialist'. These responsibility levels are defined below:

Universal responsibility

Every elected member and manager within the Council, in conjunction with members of governing bodies of partner agencies, needs to:

- Be aware of their 'Corporate Parenting' role
- Have some knowledge of the profile and needs of looked after children and young people and care leavers
- Understand the impact on looked after children and young people of all council decisions
- Receive information about quality of care and services children and young people are experiencing and consider if this would be 'good enough' for their own child
- Ensure that action is being taken to address any shortcomings in services and support for looked after children and young people and strive to continually improve outcomes

Targeted responsibility

For elected members who visit Children's Homes or who are members of the Corporate Parenting Committee, and for managers of children's services, their responsibilities are as for universal responsibility. In addition, they will need to make sure, in partnership with those with lead responsibility in partner agencies, that they:

- Are aware of Government expectations regarding services to looked after children and young people
- Have access to and examine qualitative and quantitative information about this group
- Consider how they are going to respond to and hear the voice of children and young people and their carers/parents
- Regularly take action, in conjunction with officers and partner agencies, to improve services and respond to changing needs

Specialist responsibility

[Statutory guidance](#) on the role of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children describes how those roles set the tone for the local authority to be an effective corporate parent.

There is a responsibility for these individuals to:

- Provide leadership across the authority in safeguarding and monitoring the welfare of children looked after and young people
- Ensure governance arrangements are in place
- Undertake regular in-depth analysis of the needs of looked after children and young people and the services required to meet these needs
- Ensure strategic plans of the local authority and joint plans with partner agencies reflect the needs of children looked after and young people, particularly the Children and Young People's Plan, and the Directorate Children's Services Plan
- Keep up-to-date with national research and new performance indicators in relation to children looked after children and young people