



# Corporate Parenting Panel

# Corporate Parenting?

- The responsibility of local authorities to improve outcomes and actively promote the life chances of children they look after is referred to as “corporate parenting” in recognition that the task must be **shared by the whole authority in partnership with partner agencies along with parents.**
- The role of corporate parent is to act as the **best parents** for each child they look after and to **take action to speaking out** on their behalf, **arranging for appropriate services to meet their needs, standing up for them** and representing them as needed, to ensure they **grow up in the best possible way**



# Corporate Parenting Principles


In order to thrive, children and young people have certain key needs that good parents generally meet. There is a Legislative Framework covering requirements and responsibilities of Corporate Parents.

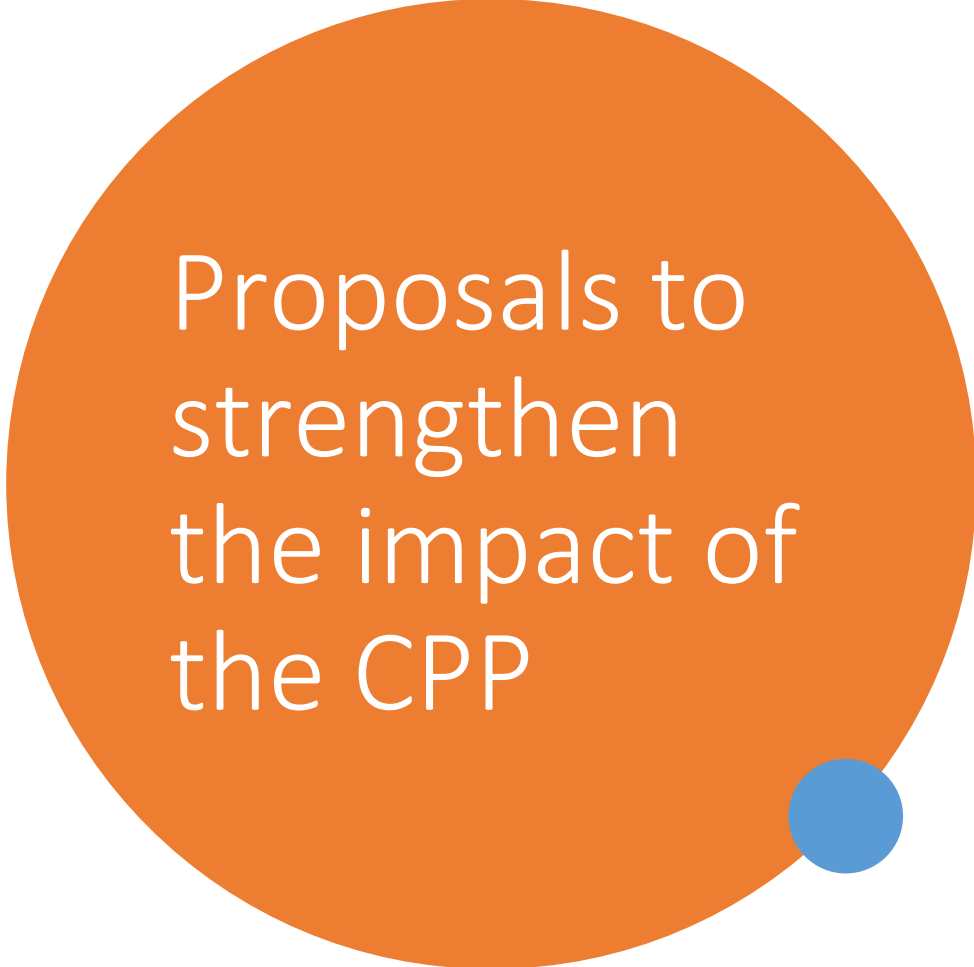
**The Children & Social Work Act 2017** sets out seven corporate parenting principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

## Working with partners

- Children's Act 2004-LA's have duty to promote cooperation between relevant partners, including police, the NHS and education providers.
- Corporate parenting is a 'task' that must be shared by the whole local authority and partner agencies.
- Role of Corporate parent should not be a passive one
- Corporate parents should work closely together with partner agencies to ensure the needs of our children and young people are clearly identified and met at every level.

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- Hearing more directly from our looked after children and care leavers, through the CiCC and junior CiCC, including going to their bases for meetings sometimes rather than pulling them into County Hall
  - Taking the themes of our corporate parenting strategy in turn for in depth consideration with the right colleagues from partner agencies involved, e.g. Bringing our health partners together for a joined up at health issues with health partners there
  - Building the membership of the panel to include representatives from other parts of the council and partner agencies and foster carers
  - Establishing task and finish groups which could include interested councillors around particular areas of work. E.g. Creating volunteering opportunities for young people



Proposals to  
strengthen  
the impact of  
the CPP

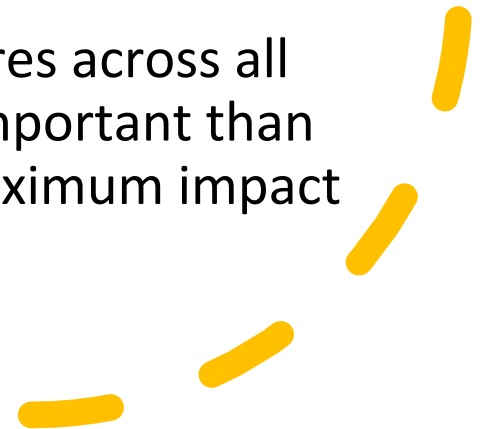
# East Sussex CPP-Starting from a position of strength....

*“Senior and political leaders are enthusiastic and meticulous corporate parents. Members of the children in care council are enthusiastic about making changes that will benefit all children in care. They are helped by senior and political leaders who listen to them.”*

*“Probing oversight and challenge from the corporate parenting board, scrutiny committee and the East Sussex safeguarding children’s board are routine, all closely holding senior managers to account.”*

(Ofsted, 2018).

- Given the increasing demand and pressures across all services (including partners), it is more important than ever to think about how we make the maximum impact for our children through CPP.



# Themes to consider

01

Ensure children and young people in our care and care leavers receive a good

education and achieve the best educational outcomes

02

Ensure children and young people in our care and care leavers have good

opportunities to maintain and improve emotional health and wellbeing.

03

Improve education, employment and training opportunities for care leavers

04

Ensure that placements are of the highest standard and that there is a wide range

available and support is in place

05

Ensure that relationships with family and friends are promoted

06

Ensure that children and young people participate in decisions about their own lives

and influence policy, through their involvement in the panel.

# Proposed Agenda for meetings



Welcome



Minutes and actions from previous meeting



CiCC presentation on theme-Key issues, what works well, what could be improved-suggestions



Presentation of date/quality re theme



Relevant annual reports



Actions and next steps.