City of Edinburgh Council Corporate Parenting Plan 2023-2026



Upholding our responsibility to make sure Edinburgh's children grow up feeling loved, safe, and respected.

This plan is aligned to -

Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2022-2028

Edinburgh Children's Partnership Children's Services Plan 2023-2026

Edinburgh's Promise - Vision and Plan 2021-2024

What is Corporate Parenting?

Corporate Parenting refers to the responsibilities of Public Bodies, like local authorities, to do their best for Children and Young People who are, or have been, in the Care System. We refer to people who have been in the Care System at any point in their lives as being Care Experienced.

This means anyone who has been; adopted; in foster care; lived in Kinship care; been looked after at home; stayed in a residential house; or spent time in secure care.

The Scottish Government describes a good Corporate Parent as one who wants the best for those who are Care Experienced, takes responsibility for their wellbeing and prioritises their needs. As part of these responsibilities, each of these Public Bodies must create a Corporate Parenting Plan, stating how they will fulfil their duty as a Corporate Parent.

Corporate Parenting Responsibilities are placed on all Public Body employees, not only those working directly with children and families. This means that Corporate Parenting needs to be considered across the work of the entire organisation and imbedded into the work of all departments.

What has happened so far?

Our previous Corporate Parenting Plan has now been evaluated and is available as a separate report. In summary, that plan was written under three broad themes: Best Start in Life; Bridging the Gap; Be Everything You Can Be.

These key themes were taken from the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Children's Services Plan. The plan focused on, amongst other things, getting a Corporate Parenting team established, making sure we had the right kinds of care environments available, and improving how we monitor attainment. Any targets that were not reached or still in progress have been reviewed, and if still necessary, carried forward to the new plan.

Who is the plan for?

Corporate Parenting responsibilities placed on Public Bodies come into effect upon a child or young person's entry into care, and in some circumstances can remain in place until a young person turns 26. However, City of Edinburgh Council recognises that Care Experience is lifelong. As such, the City of Edinburgh Council Corporate Parenting Plan 2023 – 2026 has been written to take into consideration the impact of Care Experience across the lifespan.

City of Edinburgh Council also acknowledges that preventing children and young people from becoming Care Experienced and remaining with their families is the ultimate goal for Edinburgh's children. In line with this, the plan considers how we can intervene earlier to support families, in order to avoid children and Young People becoming Care Experienced, where possible.

Edinburgh's Corporate Parenting Plan for 2023-2026 is written to guide both City of Edinburgh Council Officers and Elected Members to be the best Corporate Parents that they can be. It is also written with Edinburgh's other Public Bodies in mind – this plan should complement and support their own organisation's Corporate Parenting plans, as well as highlight areas where joint working between agencies can improve outcomes for Edinburgh's Care Experienced Community.

Following the publication of this plan, a delivery model will be created, with more detail about how each task will be accomplished and which teams will be involved. We have also created a simpler version, showing just the priorities. This will allow people to see our Corporate Parenting Plan 'at a glance' and is more accessible for children and young people.

What has influenced the plan?

The Promise is the outcome of an independent review of the care system across Scotland, which made recommendations about how to improve the Care System. The recommendations are based on five foundations – family, voice, care, people and scaffolding. We have taken these into consideration when considering our priorities in this plan.

It is written in a complex planning environment, crossing over with the work of Edinburgh's Local Outcome Improvement Groups, Edinburgh's Children's Partnership and Edinburgh's Promise.

This plan is written in line with the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). GIRFEC is the Scottish Governments commitment to provide all children, young people and their families with the right support at the right time. They want every child and young person in Scotland to reach their full potential. We have used the GIRFEC Wellbeing Indicators to frame how we aim to support our Care Experienced Community to reach their full potential.

What are the Wellbeing Indicators?

As described above, the GIRFEC indicators are used to frame how we consider the overall wellbeing of a child or young person. This goes for all children and young people in Scotland, not just those who are Care Experienced. We have chosen to use these indicators to frame the priorities and tasks in this plan, to highlight that we are looking to provide for the Care Experienced Community what we wish for all children - namely that they are Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included. For each Wellbeing Indicator we have noted how the Scottish Government has defined that wellbeing indicator, before going on to note what our priorities are under these headings and how we plan to achieve these.

Nurtured Growing, developing and being cared for in an environment which provides the physical and emotional security, compassion and warmth necessary for healthy growth and to develop resilience and a positive identity.

Best start

in life:

Ready to

succeed

Confident individuals Active Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport, which contribute to healthy growth and development, at home, in school and in the community.

Scessul learners Being supported and guided in learning and in the development of skills, confidence and self-esteem, at home, in school and in the community.

> Having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare, and support in learning to make healthy and safe choices.

Healthy

Responsible citizens Growing up in an environment where a child or young person feels secure, nurtured, listened to and enabled to develop to their full potential. This includes freedom from abuse or neglect.

Safe

Being involved in and having their voices heard in decisions that affect their life, with support where appropriate.

Having help to overcome inequalities and being accepted as part of their family, school and community.

Included

Who wrote the plan?

Edinburgh Champions Board provides a platform for Care Experienced young people to talk directly to their Corporate Parents and influence policy and practice change. Members of the Senior Champions Board have set key priorities for their own areas of work, with a focus on improved support with mental health, supporting and nurturing sibling relationships and better support into adulthood. These priorities are reflected in the plan. They also consulted on drafts of the plan and asked for certain changes to be made in terms of language and simplicity. These changes were also made and accepted by the Senior Champions Board.

City of Edinburgh Council has a Corporate Parenting Board, with membership including representatives from organisations with Corporate Parenting responsibilities across Edinburgh, as well as Elected Members and Council Officers. The board spent time as a group considering the priorities for the next three years, noting where there was crossover with their own agency or department plans, and considering how we can be the best Corporate Parents that we can be. Once drafts were available, Board Members consulted with their own staff groups and helped to tailor the tasks that would be undertaken to achieve the priorities.

Corporate Parenting events were held in May 2023 and attendees were consulted on the plan. Attendees included Council Officers, representatives from other Public Bodies, as well as representatives from other Organisations who have an interest in Corporate Parenting. Feedback from staff has helped to frame the priorities and tasks, as well as helping to influence the use of a clear structure to help us frame the plan.

City of Edinburgh Council's new Social Work Recording System will allow much better tracking and monitoring of the aims outlined in this plan, than the previous recording system.

<u>Safe</u>

"Growing up in an environment where a child or young person feels secure, nurtured, listened to and enabled to develop to their full potential. This includes freedom from abuse or neglect."

Safe 1 - When statutory measures of care are necessary, including children who are 'Looked After at Home', provision of care is led by the need of the individual and their family.

	Task	Deadline	Owner
Safe 1.1	Ensure that regardless of where in Edinburgh a family is from, they receive the appropriate level of support and	June 2024	Janine McGowan/Karen
	guidance from their social worker, and they feel involved in the planning process		Pedder
Safe 1.2	A broad range of care placements are available so that we can meet the needs of the individual children and young people who come into our care.	June 2026	Steve Harte
Safe 1.3	Strengthen early identification of concerns and information sharing through strong and effective early assessment and planning	June 2024	Karen Pedder

	Safe 2 - Redress the over-representation of Care Experienced individuals within the Justice System				
<u> </u>	Task	Deadline	Owner		
Safe 2.1	Alongside Police Scotland work to stop the unnecessary criminalisation of care experienced children and young people through changes in policy and practice. This will include implementation of the findings of CEC research, funded by CORRA, into criminalization of children and young people in care.	June 2025	David Happs/Janine McGowan		
Safe 2.2	Increase knowledge of Trauma Informed Practice in legal proceedings through networking and training events	December 2024	Claire Ryan- Heatley		
Safe 2.3	In partnership with Police Scotland ensure safe alternatives to police cells are maximised where children and young are in police custody. Alternatives places of safety do not need to be secure care.	June 2024	David Happs		

Safe 3	Safe 3 – When young people leave care and move on to independence, they are supported into			
the ric	ht type of home setting and offered appropriate support and guid	dance.	-	
	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Safe	Consider the recommendations of the Housing Support	June	Derek	
3.1	Review and how these could be put into practice	2024	McGowan	
Safe	Implement agreed actions from the Housing Support Review	June	Derek	
3.2	to create more positive pathways into independent living, that	2026	McGowan	
	are better suited to the needs of our young Care Experienced			
	individuals			
Safe	Create links with Community Benefits team to identify	December	Emily	
3.3	companies that may be able to provide home items via the	2025	Dempsey	
	Corporate Parenting Cashless Shop			

<u>Healthy</u>

"Having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare, and support in learning to make healthy and safe choices."

Healthy 1- Ensure prompt access to high quality healthcare as and when required				
	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Healthy	Increase the uptake of health assessments for children and	June	Carolyn	
1.1	young people in care, via the Care Experienced Nursing	2026	Wyllie/	
	Service		Pamela	
			Murray	
Healthy	Work with other Local Authority and Health areas to make	June	Carolyn	
1.2	access to health services for Care Experienced children	2026	Wyllie/	
	and young people equitable regardless of where they are		Pamela	
	originally from, or where they currently live.		Murray	
Healthy	Increase access to dentists for children and young people	June	Carolyn	
1.3	who are looked after and care leavers.	2026	Wyllie/	
			Pamela	
			Murray	

Healthy 2	Healthy 2- Specific healthcare inputs for Care Experienced Individuals are accessible and					
tailored t	tailored to need					
	Task	Deadline	Owner			
Healthy	Monitor the implementation of the NHS Lothian's target of	June	Carolyn			
2.1	single points of access for Mental Health & Emotional	2026	Wyllie/			
	Wellbeing for Care Experienced Young People		Pamela			
			Murray			
Healthy	Use of the Corporate Parenting Hub to deliver wellbeing	June	Emily			
2.2	events such as cooking, meditation and mindfulness	2026	Dempsey			
	sessions					

Achieving

"Being supported and guided in learning and in the development of skills, confidence and selfesteem, at home, in school and in the community."

-	Achieving 1 - Create opportunities for extra support for Care Experienced learners, where and				
when best	<u>suited to their needs</u>				
	Task	Deadline	Owner		
Achieving	Scope funding for support to 'catch up' on missed learning	June	Emily		
1.1	when ready, which may be into adulthood, through one on	2026	Dempsey		
	one or group tutoring sessions at the Corporate Parenting				
	Hub				
Achieving	The work of the We Matter Team will be reported into the	June	Faye		
1.2	Corporate Parenting Board quarterly to update on progress	2024	Calder-		
	including information on attendance and attainment of		Kelly		
	Care Experienced Children and young people in early years,		-		
	primary and secondary education.				
Achieving	Audit tracking and monitoring of Care Experienced	June	Faye		
1.3	learners 'Out of Authority'. Enhance processes to ensure	2024	Calder-		
	information is up to date and used to support learners		Kelly		
	needs in being met		-		
Achieving	Care Experienced learners out of education and on flexible	June	Faye		
1.4	timetables will be prioritized for enhanced supports,	2024	Calder-		
			Kelly		
Achieving	Exclusions of Care Experienced children and young people	June	Lorna		
1.5	from education will be stopped, in line with the Promise.	2024	French		

Achieving 2 - Raise aspiration and feelings of empowerment amongst the Care Experienced Community Deadline Task Owner Creation of a peer-to-peer mentoring scheme for Care Achieving December Emily Experienced Children and Young People to support one 2024 2.1 Dempsey another in a managed and supervised manner Opportunities for Care Experienced Young People to June 2025 Achieving Emily develop work skills and experiences linked to youthwork, 2.2 Dempsey training and mentoring, via membership of the Senior **Champions Board** Support Care Experienced People to access The June 2024 Achieving Lucy Edinburgh Guarantee to engage with education, training 2.3 Pearson and employment support, whilst upskilling all Edinburgh Guarantee providers in Trauma Informed Practice. Achieving Work alongside the HUB for SUCCESS partnership to June 2026 Lorraine Moore & 2.4 support their work supporting more care experienced Catherine individuals to get in, stay in and return to college and McCormack university.

Nurtured

"Growing, developing and being cared for in an environment which provides the physical and emotional security, compassion and warmth necessary for healthy growth and to develop resilience and a positive identity."

Nurtured 1 - Relationships between brothers and sisters are prioritised and nurtured, regardless				
of care se	<u>tting or geography</u>			
	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Nurtured	Edinburgh Champions Boards to co-design bespoke spaces	December	Emily	
1.1	within the Corporate Parenting Hub for sibling time	2024	Dempsey	
Nurtured	Where brothers and sisters are not living together, time with	December	Brenda-	
1.2	one another should be considered at each review meeting	2023	Anne	
			Cochrane	
Nurtured	Where possible siblings should be placed together, and	September	Brenda-	
1.3	when this has not been possible, bringing siblings back	2024	Anne	
	together should be reviewed regularly		Cochrane	
Nurtured	Community events hosted by the Corporate Parenting	June 2026	Emily	
1.4	Team are used to support quality sibling time in a relaxed		Dempsey	
	and fun environment			

Nurtured 2 - Maximising income for our Care Experienced Young People, so that they have enough money to live on				
	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Nurtured 2.1	Complete an audit of different funding and support streams for members of the Care Experienced Community to maximise their incomes, and then consider areas of vulnerability and how these may be addressed.	December 2024	Emily Dempsey	

Nurtured 3 – Financial and practical support for Children and Young People in care, as well as Care Leavers, is provided as needed and is not placement-type dependent				
			Ourpor	
	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Nurtured	Understand the numbers of care experienced young	June	Emily	
3.1	people not eligible to access TCAC services and for what	2025	Dempsey	
	reason			
Nurtured	Create a resource that makes it simple for care	December	Emily	
3.2	Experienced Individuals to understand the supports	2025	Dempsey	
	available to them, depending on their circumstances			

Nurtured 4 – Family time is available in spaces that are suitable and well equipped				
	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Nurtured 4.1	Complete an audit of spaces across the city where family time is conducted, noting the suitability for different ages and stages of children and young people, and family group compositions and create a proposal based on the findings of the audit.	December 2024	Janine McGowan/ Brenda-Ann Cochrane	

Active

"Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport, which contribute to healthy growth and development, at home, in school and in the community."

	Active 1- Ensure that all Care Experienced children can access Universal Services, such as youth clubs and out of school activities			
	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Active 1.1	Joined up working with universal services to increase understanding about access to universal services for Care Experienced children and young people. Use this knowledge to consider how we can increase access to youth clubs, after school clubs and activities for Care Experienced children and young people.	December 2024	Laurene Edgar	

Active 2	Active 2 - Removing financial barriers for Care Experienced Individuals accessing life skills and			
<u>develop</u>	ment opportunities			
	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Active	Administer an annual Individual Grants scheme to support the	Annually	Emily	
2.1	Care Experienced Community to access items or experiences	by June	Dempsey	
Active	that would normally be out with their means Analyse the information gathered from the Individual Grants	Annually	Emily	
2.2	Scheme to consider funding gaps or areas of support that could be addressed for the community and report the findings to the Corporate Parenting Board.	by December	Dempsey	
Active 2.3	Through partnership working with external agencies, create a matrix detailing opportunities of support, including access to life skills and experiences, such as driving lessons, training courses and apprenticeships.	June 2025	Emily Dempsey	
Active 2.4	Support young Care Leavers to move into their new homes or to make home improvements through the development of a Care Experienced DIY scheme, in partnership with Community Benefits providers.	June 2025	Emily Dempsey	
Active 2.5	Work in partnership with external providers such as Edinburgh Leisure and Edinburgh Zoo to create opportunities for the Care Experienced Community.	June 2026	Emily Dempsey	

Respected

"Being involved in and having their voices heard in decisions that affect their life, with support where appropriate."

Respected 1 - Recognising Care Experience as a lifelong identifier				
	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Respected		June	Steve	
1.1	through City of Edinburgh Council's reviewed Through Care and After Care service	2025	Harte	

Respected 2	- Ensure that all staff have a basic understanding of what it	means to be	Care
Experienced, as well as raise awareness amongst the general population of Edinburgh			
	Task	Deadline	Owner
Respected 2.1	Monitoring and reporting on the delivery of Trauma Informed Practice training to council staff, through links with the Trauma Informed Services Advisory Panel (TISAP)	June 2025	Claire Ryan- Heatley
Respected 2.2	Creation and launch of a Corporate Parenting e-learning module that is mandatory for all council staff	December 2023	Emily Dempsey
Respected 2.3	Create regular training opportunities for CEC and non-CEC staff, through tailored training and input sessions	December 2024	Emily Dempsey
Respected 2.4	Regular symposiums for frontline social work staff to keep them up to date about ongoing work around Corporate Parenting and gain their views and ideas about how we can improve	Annually by June	Emily Dempsey
Respected 2.5	Corporate Parenting training across the board's membership is supported through the use of the Corporate Parenting e-learning module, or through creation/delivery of agencies own learning materials	December 2024	Emily Dempsey
Respected 2.6	All staff in school and social work settings will undertake annual Child Protection training through City of Edinburgh Council's learning and development team.	Annually by June	Faye Calder- Kelly / Rose Howley
Respected 2.7	Awareness raising campaigns run regularly targeting the general population of Edinburgh, so they have a better understanding of what it means to be Care Experienced, and who is classified as being Care Experienced.	Annually by December	Emily Dempsey

Respected 3 - Ensure that we uphold the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), regardless of a child or young person's living arrangements

	Task	Deadline	Owner
Respected 3.1	Audits of social work case files will include specific focus on the language of the promise and the degree to which this is being used.	December 2024	Keith Dyer
Respected 3.2	Promote the use of advocacy services, including Who Cares Scotland and Children's Hearings advocates, tracking uptake through agency reports and children and young people's review meetings and using their role as the Independent Reviewing Officer to advocate on behalf of the Young person ensuring their views and voice are heard in all forums.	December 2024	Brenda- Anne Cochrane
Respected 3.3	Data gathered regarding complaints received where a child or young person has noted that their rights under the UNCRC were not upheld, and analysis of such to determine any practice learning	June 2025	Rose Howley

Respected 4 - Monitoring achievements and progress of Care Experienced Children and Young People			
	Task	Deadline	Owner
Respected 4.1	Celebrate the successes of our Care Experienced Community, through events, communications and social media, with a clear method for staff and young people to report these successes	June 2026	Emily Dempsey
Respected 4.2	Create and implement a tool that will allow us to track and monitor the successes of our Care Experienced Children and Young People, using the GIRFEC Wellbeing indicators	December 2024	Keith Dyer

Responsible

"Having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles at home, in school and in the community, and where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision."

Responsible 1 - Ensure that Edinburgh's Care Experienced community are connected, well informed of opportunities, and empowered to share their thoughts and views throughout their lifespan

	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Responsible	Creation of a Corporate Parenting Hub, that serves the	June	Emily	
1.1	Care Experienced Community as a space for drop ins, group work, training, reviews and meetings, sibling	2026	Dempsey	
	time, support time and other events.			
Responsible	Opportunities for our Care Experienced Community to	June	Emily	
1.2	feedback about services and influence change are meaningful, valued and acted upon through implementation of the voices document developed by the Promise Group	2024	Dempsey	
Responsible	Community events will be held regularly to allow the	June	Emily	
1.3	Care Experienced Community to come together in an informal environment	2024	Dempsey	

Responsible 2 - Help Care Experienced parents in Edinburgh to feel valued and supported to be the best parents that they can be, with resources available as and when required					
· · · ·	Task Deadline Owner				
Responsible 2.1	Gather baseline data to better understand the support needs of our Care Experienced Parents, including how many young people entitled to TCAC support are parents.	December 2024	Steve Harte		
Responsible 2.2	Create opportunities for our Care Experienced Parents where they can be supported by their peers and access supports, at whatever stage they feel ready.	December 2025	Emily Dempsey		

Responsible 3 - Independent living skills and budgeting advice is available from an early age					
through speci	through specific programmes as well as through day-to-day opportunities				
	Task	Deadline	Owner		
Responsible	Gather baseline data to better understand how children	June	Steve		
3.1	and young people are being supported to develop age-	2025	Harte		
	appropriate life skills, and consider how best to support				
	our care leavers to be ready for independent living.				
Responsible	Training developed for carers and residential staff	June	Emily		
3.2	regarding day-to-day opportunities to engage with	2025	Dempsey		
	children and young people to help them develop their				
	life skills				

Included

"Having help to overcome inequalities and being accepted as part of their family, school and community."

and their partner agencies, so that the Corporate Parenting plan can be achieved Task Deadline Ov			
Included	Establish and maintain an active and focused Corporate	June	Emily
1.1	Parenting Board for City of Edinburgh Council and	2024	Dempsey
	Edinburgh's other Public Bodies to come together		
Included	Create a work force that better understands one another's	June	Rose
1.2	roles, highlighting opportunities for shared working and	2025	Howley
	peer support		
Included	Use of the GIRFEC Wellbeing Indicators tool to track the	June	Rose
1.3	impacts of our services and the outcomes for our Care	2026	Howley
	Experienced Community, to help guide service planning and		
	delivery.		
Included	Update City of Edinburgh council's Integrated Impact	December	Emily
1.4	assessment guidance to highlight the impact of Care	2023	Dempsey
	Experience and what provision may be helpful/necessary.		

and well w	2 - Records that are kept about children and young people are a vritten		Sidered
	Task	Deadline	Owner
Included 2.1	Training module created for City of Edinburgh Council staff in social work, education and residential settings, as well as foster carers, regarding language used when talking about/writing records for children, young people with care experience.	June 2024	Emily Dempsey
Included 2.2	A digital vault will be implemented that will allow children and young people to access their childhood memories, photos etc, into adulthood, with a review of it's use and effectiveness made to the Corporate Parenting Board	December 2024	Emily Dempsey
Included 2.3	Report and recommendations made regarding how City of Edinburgh Council can best support Care Experienced individuals to access their records	June 2024	Emily Dempsey
Included 2.4	Create policy and procedure to ensure a coordinated approach to life-story work, across social work services, for children and young people in care.	June 2025	Steve Harte
Included 2.5	Review team create child friendly letters and minutes, which are age and stage appropriate ensuring that the child/ YP understands their plan to help support their life story . Review team to continue to develop resources and different ways to help communicate with Children including child friendly invites and information leaflets to promote an understanding of the role and their rights with the reviewing process	September 2024	Brenda- Anne Cochrane
Included 2.6	Support provided to all educational establishments to ensure records of Care Experienced learners are up to date, relevant and used to identify need and supports	June 2024	Faye Calder- Kelly

Included 3	Included 3 – Create employment opportunities for our Care Experienced Community that are			
varied and	varied and well supported			
	Task	Deadline	Owner	
Included	Ensuring that the needs of the Care Experienced	June	Lucy	
3.1	Community are considered during ongoing mapping and new commissioning across Edinburgh's Strategic Skills Pipeline via the Scottish Service Design Principles Approach.	2025	Pearson	
Included 3.2	Creation of a Guaranteed Interview Scheme that will both support Care Experienced Individuals into employment with City of Edinburgh Council, but also create a supportive and nurturing work environment	June 2026	Emily Dempsey	