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**Supporting young people in and leaving care
who are parents:
Research findings and a charter for change**

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Introduction & Background

- 5-year study undertaken 2014 - 2019
- Idea came from Voices from Care Cymru
- Study included:
 - Interviews with parents
 - Interviews with professionals
 - Snapshot of parents
 - Secondary analysis
- Book: The Children of Looked after Children
 - Ends with letter from a parent
 - Free to download



Outcomes from the Voices Study

Wales Adoption Study (Roberts et al. 2017)

- 374 CARA forms for children placed for adoption between July 2014-July 2015
- 27% of birth mothers, 19% birth fathers were care leavers
- Adoption was more likely to be in respect of first child

- **Data from 20 / 22 LAs in Wales (Roberts et al. 2019)**
- 258 parents (aged 16-21) identified by leaving care teams
- 238 children and 44 on-going pregnancies
- 74% of children were living with at least one biological parent
- 26% of children were separated from parents

(Mendes 2009, Svoboda et al 2012, Connolly et al 2012; Fallon and Broadhurst 2015; Winter et al. 2016; Eastman et al. 2019; Gill et al 2020, Purtell et al. 2020)

*1 in 4 children
were separated
from both birth
parents.*



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Making sense of the findings

Data from parents and professionals:

- **Stigmatised views of parents**
 - Influence of past experiences on parenting capacity
- **Systemic disadvantage**
 - Increased likelihood of assessment and scrutiny
 - Historical records
 - Dual responsibilities of professionals
- **Disadvantaged access to support**
 - Availability of informal support - 'having someone by your side'
 - Availability and adequacy of formal support
 - Corporate parenting support 'poor substitute'
- **Parents' relationships with social workers**
 - Pervasive and enduring fear



Research Video





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Supporting Parents in and Leaving Care
#MessagesToCorporateParents ESRC IAA project
Jan 2021- Jan 2023



#MessagesToCorporateParents?

- Opportunity to strengthen Corporate Parenting
- Involving both care-experienced parents and professionals, to ensure the generation of meaningful and achievable commitments for the good practice charter.
- Lots of support and positive feedback
- Local authority sign ups - Map showing progress
- Different approaches

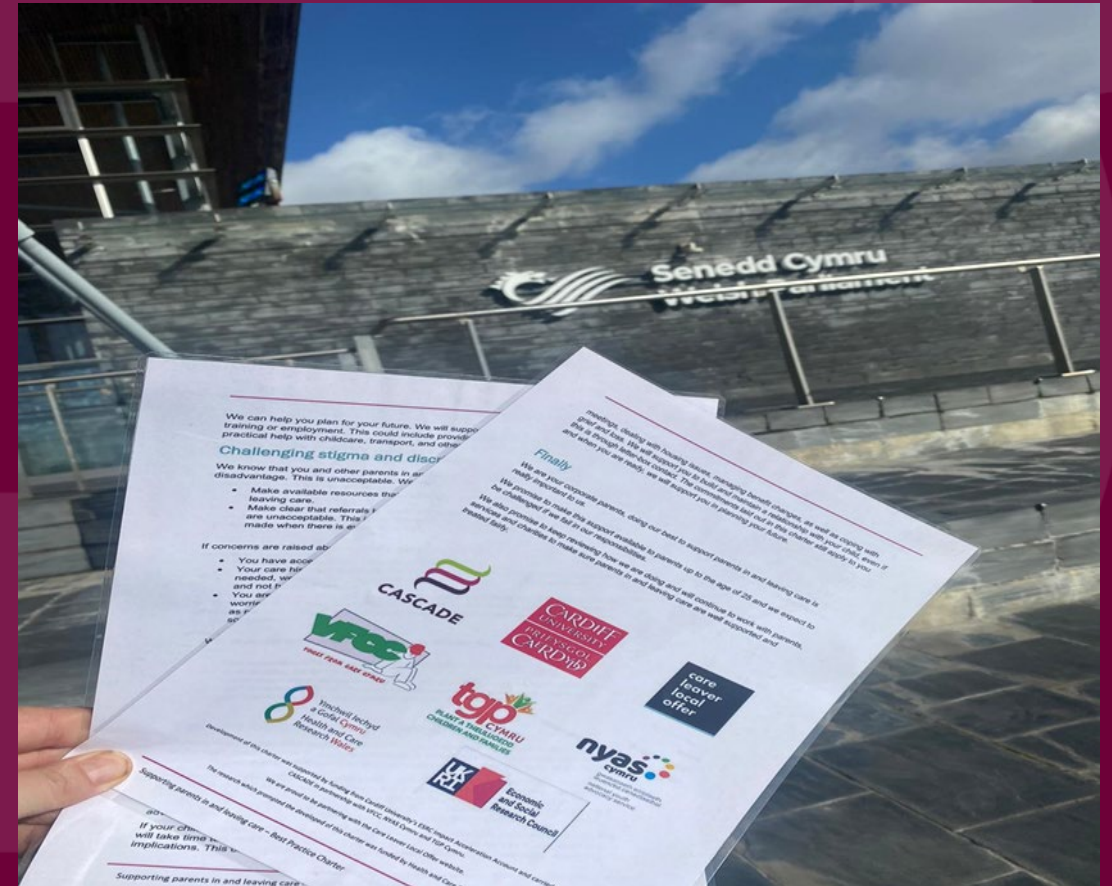


Good Practice Charter and Supporting Resources

Charter, book, short films, blog, podcast,
webinar ...

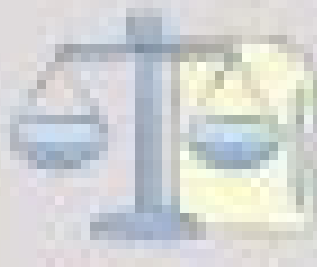
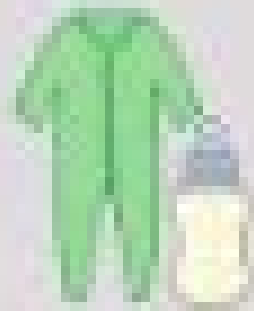
<https://www.exchangewales.org/supporting-parents-in-and-leaving-care-messages-to-corporate-parents/>

<https://www.exchangewales.org/cy/cefnogi-rhieni-mewn-gofal-ac-wrth-ei-adael-negeseuonirienicorfforaethol/>



The Charter

WE'LL MAKE SURE YOU KNOW
WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE





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