



Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-2024



Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd
Working for Cardiff, working together



- The role of a corporate parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. Local authorities in Wales have a legal and moral duty to provide such support to the children it looks after.
- This duty is outlined under **Section 78 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014** which states that local authorities have a duty to safeguard and promote the well-being of each child it looks after. This duty is extended to care leavers under sections **104-118** of the act.



WG review of corporate parenting across public services linked to Taking Wales Forward to 'examine ways of ensuring looked after children enjoy the same life chances as other children and if necessary reform the way they are looked after'

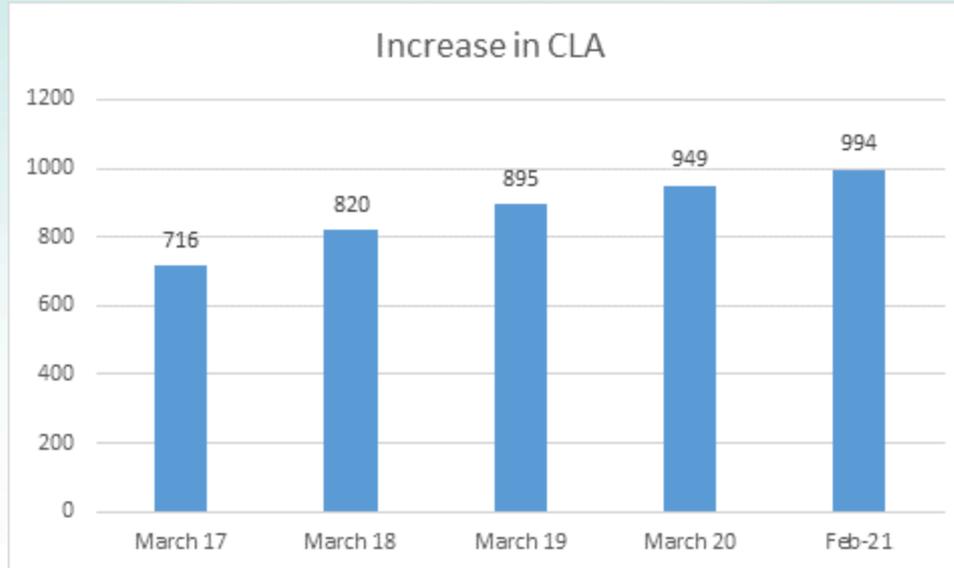
The review:

- Seeks to strengthen the commitment of local authorities and partners across the public sector and extend corporate parenting for care experienced children
- Identified priority areas such as educational outcomes, homelessness and accelerated independence amongst care leavers and they are more likely to have children taken into care, strengthening edge of care services
- The Corporate Parenting Strategy has been developed noting the results in the review and has helped to strengthen partnership working from a variety of agencies



Why do we need it?

- In March 2017 there were 716 children looked after by the authority in Cardiff. There are now 994 (February 2021)



- We know that Children looked after are more likely to suffer ACEs prior to becoming looked after which increases their likelihood of having poor mental health, poor educational attainment and a higher risk of substance misuse
- The 2021-2024 will replace the 2019 strategy and help us to meet these challenges



Co – production

This Strategy's development has been an inclusive process led by elected members, involving children, young people and professionals supported by an action plan.

- Over **20** of Cardiff's care experienced young people, living in a range of care settings, aged 5 - 27 and including children with additional needs, through real life and virtual workshops.
- **255 (44%)** of Cardiff's children looked after participated in the 2018 Your Life, Your Care survey.
- **70** professionals from across agencies and sectors contributed.
- Over **20** carers and kinship carers we consulted in a feedback session
- Members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee have been involved in the development of the strategy throughout.



Our young people have told us the things that are working well in their lives, what isn't work well in their lives and what their aspirations are for the future. Based on their feedback 5 key priorities have been developed:

Priority 1: Improving emotional well-being and physical health

Priority 2 : Better connections, improved relationships

Priority 3: A comfortable safe stable home whilst in care and after

Priority 4: Educational achievement, employment and training

Priority 5: Celebrating our children and young people



Next Steps

- A multi agency action plan is in development to ensure that the key deliverable actions outlined in the strategy are being met.
- The action plan will bring together key partners from a range of agencies who are involved in the lives of looked after children. Outcomes and status of actions will be discussed with partners at quarterly monitoring meetings.
- The Bright Sparks group will develop key activities including workshops, events and consultation based around the 5 priorities outlined in the strategy which will be reported to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
- The Strategy will be reviewed annually and will be amended based on the needs of our young people

