

# North East Lincolnshire Corporate and Community Parenting Quarterly Newsletter

May 2025



## Welcome to the first NEL Corporate and Community Parenting newsletter!

This newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis, following meetings of the Corporate and Community Parenting Board, and will celebrate the positive news of our partnership approach to supporting the children in our care and care leavers. It will also include information on any upcoming training opportunities and events, as well as any relevant legislation or guidance to help us to be the best possible Corporate and Community Parents for our children.



## Corporate and Community Strategic Plan and Employability Strategy Launch Event

Since the last Corporate and Community Parenting Board meeting, we have officially launched our Corporate and Community Parenting Strategic Plan and introduced our Employability Strategy for Children in Our Care and Care Leavers - both strategies are available below, or can be accessed via the following link: [Corporate and Community Parenting | NELC](#).



The launch of the Employability Strategy also introduced to the partnership the 'Family Enterprise' project, which will be aimed at promoting employability and creating options for care experienced young people – please look out for more information on this project as it develops.

The event opened with a powerful reflection on the importance of collaboration and action to provide our care-experienced young people with the best support and opportunities to succeed in all areas of



their lives. The question “What if ... what if ... what if...?” was posed to explore how our partnership working can transform the narrative for our children.

The room was filled with energy and ambition and dynamic discussions incorporating calls for action: imagining what we could achieve if there were no limitations; highlighting the importance of opportunities and networks; stressing the need for “doing something different”.



The absolute highlight of the event was hearing from our own Ellemae Barber and Mell Stacey, as we watched and reflected on a film made by talented local filmmaker Archie Fox. This aimed at raising awareness of the unique contributions care-experienced individuals bring to the workforce. It is imperative to echo how powerful, emotional, and impactful this was, and how incredibly proud we are to work alongside Mell and Ellemae.

The feedback from this event was tremendously positive, with the overwhelming focus being on giving the children and young people in our care and care leavers the opportunities and support needed to thrive in their communities.

Several key areas of focus were highlighted to enhance what we provide, which emphasised a commitment to collaboration between various partners to achieve our goals: encapsulating that it is through working together that we can create an environment where our children can flourish and reach their full potential. To this end, partners at the event agreed to create further opportunities for care leavers through the Council and wider partnership that are flexible, accessible, and creative in order to seek to engage young people in the working environment.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in co-ordinating, attending and contributing to the event. The focus now is on the “so what” and the “why not” and turning these discussions into reality - a process to be proud to be part of.

## Strategies

[North East Lincolnshire Corporate and Community Parenting - STRATEGIC PLAN - 2025/29](#)

North East Lincolnshire  
**Corporate and Community Parenting**  
**STRATEGIC PLAN**

2025/29



North East Lincolnshire Corporate and Community Parenting – EMPLOYABILITY STRATEGY - 2025/29

North East Lincolnshire  
**Children in Our Care and Care Leavers**  
**EMPLOYABILITY STRATEGY**

2025/29

## Logo Refresh

The Strategy Launch Event also saw the introduction of the revamped Corporate and Community Parenting logo. This was created in partnership with our young people, with the concept of it being working together to support the growth of our children and young people.

The proposals around the visual theme included images of flowers and trees, with a tree being the most favoured symbol.

The wording emphasises Corporate and Community Parenting, featuring the strapline "helping us grow together" in a handwriting font.

The colour scheme is designed to convey a sense of purpose and positivity.

We believe this new logo beautifully encapsulates our mission and values, and we are excited to see it become a symbol of our collective efforts to support and nurture the growth of our young people.



## Corporate and Community Parenting Board Meeting 14th April 2025

The Corporate and Community Parenting Board recently met to discuss various initiatives and updates aimed at improving the lives of the children in our care and care leavers. The meeting began with the Chair expressing his gratitude to Rob Walsh for his dedication and service to the Corporate and Community Parenting Board, presenting him with a card signed by representatives of the Board. He also thanked attendees of the annual civic ceremony at St Mary's on the Sea Church and Grimsby Town Hall, sharing positive feedback that he received from foster carers and children in our care.

The importance of ensuring that there is a strong voice of young people being present on the Board was emphasised. To this end, topics for creative conversations are being determined. Currently, suggestions for topics include education, employment, and training, or discrimination faced by care-experienced children and young people. One such conversation on domestic abuse and healthy relationships has already taken place, with key themes and considerations including signs being displayed in places young people access, safe ways of reporting concerns, challenging gender stereotypes, and respect for each other.

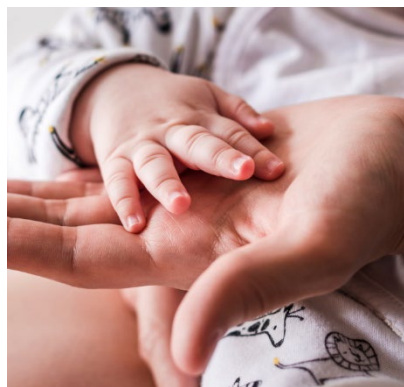
This has led to further actions in relation to domestic abuse and healthy relationships being identified, including focused groups, gathering more information from young people, and developing quiz-style questions. This has enabled positive discussions to take place with our partners in Public Health, who are interested in this approach and intend to undertake a campaign in partnership with young people.

Massive thanks goes to the young people who attended the Board meeting, who shared powerful personal stories with the other Board members.

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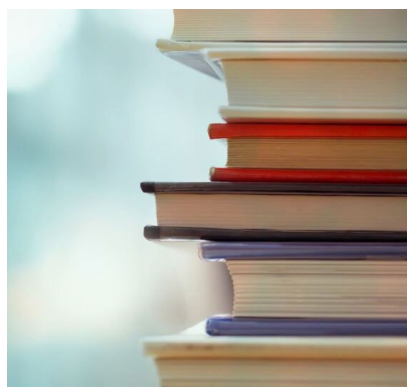
## Sub-group Updates

### Education



This sub group has been focusing on data, as per feedback from March's Virtual School peer review, and we are pleased to report good academic progress for the children in our care compared to regional and national figures. The Key Stage 4 outcomes from last year are particularly positive, especially in maths and English. Our focus remains on continuing this progress and ensuring better outcomes for our children. Additionally, we are working on ongoing assurance around Personal Education Plans (PEPs), with further necessary training being explored as part of the sub group's efforts. This progress would not have been possible without the involvement and contribution from our colleagues in our education settings, which has been acknowledged by the Board.

### Help and Protection



Within this sub group, efforts are ongoing to develop a police tracker aimed at increasing understanding of "hot spot" locations and identifying areas where support may be needed. The success of the introduction of the Risk Analysis Framework, and its embedment into care planning documents, was celebrated. It was shared that ongoing work within NLaG health systems ensures there are relevant flags for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan and care leavers. Training on a trauma-informed approach is being delivered, and Navigo care leaver drop-in sessions have been successful. Discussions have also focused on ensuring police are aware of care leaver properties, with an emphasis on data and markers as a response to any concerns. Additionally, the police have launched an electronic vulnerability tracker to aid in data analysis and understanding exploitation profiles. Future sub group meetings will focus more on the outcomes for the children in our care and care leavers, supported by data.



## Health



It was good to hear, from our Health colleagues, of the progress that has been made in the last quarter. Efforts to mitigate risks around delays in assessments are underway, with increased contact with mental health services and reduced waiting times being apparent. It was shared that free prescriptions for our care leavers are now available and efforts are being made to raise awareness about how to access this benefit. The working draft care leaver offer booklet has been distributed to personal advisors, and meetings with young people are scheduled to agree the final version. A previous area of focus of the Corporate and Community Parenting Board has been the impact of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. To this end, training on this (delivered by the ICB) has been well received. Discussions took place around the pending changes to the ICB and proposed funding cuts. Clarity on these changes is expected by the end of April 2025, with NHS England providing direction. The Board will maintain a watching brief on this to understand the implications for our children. Despite these challenges, reassurance has been given that support will remain unchanged for now.

## Housing



The Care Leavers Accommodation subgroup recently held its first meeting, which focused primarily on establishing the Terms of Reference and ongoing membership. Discussions were held on maintaining recent progress, with a long-term focus being on improving the stability of accommodation and how this can be sustained. The group is considering how success can be measured, acknowledging the necessity of contributions from our care leavers for this. The importance of matching care leavers with areas where they want to live, and which are near their established support networks, was emphasised.

## Champions



The Board celebrated the attendance and successes of this sub group, including the work to design the arrangements for the Family Enterprise which is showcasing the impact of effective partnership working. The focus of future meetings will be on how champions can continue to challenge the understanding of protected characteristics and ensure colleagues have the necessary resources to confidently share this message. Current areas of focus include evolving the current offer to being a lifelong one, incorporating the concept of 'corporate grandparenting'. Workstreams are evolving to ensure the best-placed partners are involved in these discussions. If you would like to be part of this, and add your voice to the championing of Corporate and Community Parenting, then please contact: [corporateparenting@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:corporateparenting@nelincs.gov.uk)

## Voice and Influence



There has been a recent focus on recruiting Independent Visitor 'Buddies', who are volunteers who choose to spend time with a child in our care to develop a trusted relationship doing things they both like to do. As a result of a successful recruitment campaign, predominantly focussed in the Council in the first instance, we will be undertaking value-based interviews and commencing a training programme for 10 new Buddies.

The next step will be to raise awareness of Buddies to children in our care, and to encourage and support them to engage if this is something they would wish to do. This will be followed by matching Buddies to a child or young person with similar likes and interests. Once this is completed, it is hoped that there will be up to 16 Buddies in place by the start of the school summer holidays.

Another recruitment campaign will take place from September to December 2025 to further increase the number of Buddies available for our children and young people. If you would like any more information, please contact [CAPE@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:CAPE@nelincs.gov.uk) for more details.

The Board acknowledged the work to increase the number of Buddies available to our children and young people, and supported the further recruitment.

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## Upcoming events

Upcoming events and activities include:

- The Armed Forces weekend (27 to 29 June 2025)

Future events pending including summer holiday activities and the Corporate and Community Parenting Fortnight, from 27 October to 7 November 2025 - more details to come!

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If you would like to know more about Corporate and Community Parenting, please go to the website via: [Corporate and Community Parenting | NELC](#) or contact: [corporateparenting@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:corporateparenting@nelincs.gov.uk)

If you would like to know more about Fostering, please go to the website via: [Fostering in North East Lincolnshire | NELC](#) or contact the Fostering team on: <mailto:fosteringandadoption@nelincs.gov.uk>