Corporate Parenting: What is your Role as an Elected Member?

Corporate Parenting is the collective responsibility of the Council, its partners and elected members to provide the best possible care and protection for all children and young people in our care.

What are your duties as corporate parent?

- Ensure the provision of care provided is the best possible, safeguarding for children looked after
- Ask yourself "Would this be good enough for my own child?"
- Have a clear understanding of the issues faced by children looked after and care leavers
- Ensure those responsible for their welfare and education are held to account
- Remember that children placed outside the borough are still your responsibility
- Support young people and care leavers to access opportunities into training and work
- Keep children and young people informed through appropriate channels
- Find ways to raise awareness of the corporate parenting role
- Consideration to any possible impact on care leavers and children looked after about any council change.

The Corporate Parenting Pledge

The Corporate Parenting Pledge and local offer for care leavers are our commitments to the children and young people we care for. The pledge sets out how we will provide children and young people with the best possible care, support and access to opportunities to meet their current and future needs. The pledge and local offer apply to care leavers to help them transition to independence and reach their full potential.

As elected members, your role as a "parent" should be taken very seriously. You should acknowledge and understand the needs of children looked after and ensure pledges are kept by the council and its partners. The local offer for care leavers can be found here: www.nelincs.gov.uk/safeguarding-and-social-care/local-offer-care-leavers

What to expect as a board member

The Corporate Parenting Board is there to make sure the Council is fulfilling its duties towards children and young people in our care. The board is made up of six elected members.

- Expect regular updates and evidence of outcomes
- Consider how new plans and policies might affect children in our care and care leavers
- Challenge and question the promises made and the outcomes
- Co-ordinate council plans, strategies and decision making for children looked after
- Promote co-operation between local partners to improve the wellbeing of young people under section 10 of the Children Act (2004)

Our Voice, Listen Up

Children looked after ages between 10 and 17 have a council where they can comment on what matters to them, and allows them to share their views and feelings.

Group members meet regularly to take part in the discussions and activities and eat together. For more information, visit: www.nelincs.gov.uk/safeguarding-and-social-care/childrens-social-care/your-voice