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# Scottish Care Leavers Covenant & Agenda for Change What's the big idea?

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[www.celcis.org](http://www.celcis.org)



- Social Work (Scot) Act 1968
- Children (Scot) Act 1995
- Supporting Young People Leaving Care (Regs & Guidance) 2004
- GIRFEC 2006
- These Are Our Bairns 2008
- Children & Young People (Scot) Act 2014...?

- ADHD
- ADD
- OCD
- ODD
- IDD...
- **...Implementation  
Deficit Disorder**

# Strong Foundations

- A core message from research suggests that while leaving care represents a crucial moment in a young person's life, it needs to be built upon the firm foundation of a stable and positive experience of being looked after during which young people can be adequately prepared for adult life

*Helping care leavers: Problems and strategic responses*  
Stein, M and Wade, J 2000  
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/pdf/helpingCL.pdf>

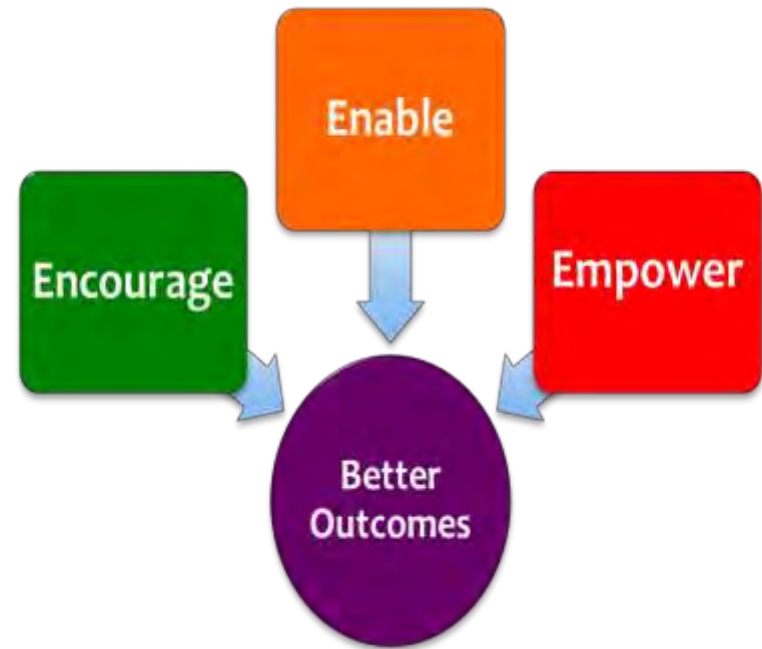




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# Staying Put Scotland 2013: An Explicit Philosophy of Care

- **Staying Put:** looked after young people are *encouraged, enabled and empowered* to remain in positive care settings until they are *ready* to move on towards more independent living.
- **Graduated & Extended Transitions:** ensure the avoidance of accelerated, abrupt transitions from care settings for looked after young people and care leavers
- **Post Care Accommodation Options:** Housing Options Protocols for Care Leavers - Guidance for Corporate Parents and Community Planning Partnerships:



Staying Put Scotland Providing care leavers with connectedness and belonging  
Guidance for Local Authorities and other Corporate Parents  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00435935.pdf>



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# Relationships Matter...

*“The weight of evidence, from all quarters, convinces us that the **relationships** with people who care for and about children are the **golden thread** in children’s lives...”*

*“unless in exceptional circumstances....planning should focus on ensuring continuity of key valued relationships for the child”.*





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# *The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*

- **Corporate Parenting (Part 9):** identifies additional range of Corporate Parents and imposes new duties upon them
- **Aftercare (Part 10):** extends the entitlement to receive advice, guidance and assistance from the local authority up to their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday
- **Continuing Care (Part 11):** The right for young people, 16+ who cease to be looked after, to remain in the same in the same accommodation and receive other assistance, up to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday



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# *Corporate Parenting*

*An organisation's performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted.*

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00483676.pdf>





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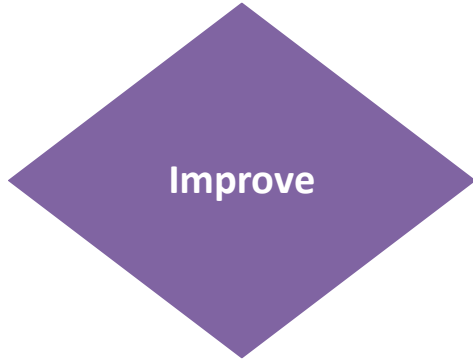
# The Corporate Parenting Family



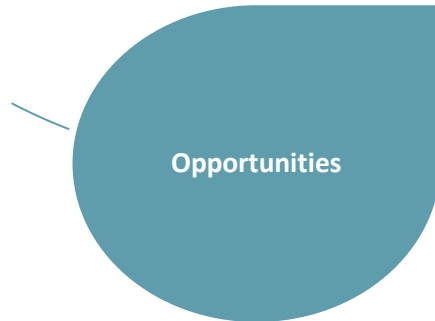




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# Section 58





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# *Outcomes from Corporate Parenting*

**Section 63** recommends that every corporate parent consider their contribution towards:

- Active **participation** in shaping services.
- Providing **safe, secure, stable and nurturing homes** for looked after children and care leavers
- Enabling looked after children and care leavers to develop or maintain **positive relationships** with their family, friends, professionals and other trusted adults.
- Securing **positive educational outcomes** for looked after children and care leavers
- Ensuring ‘care’ is an experience in which children are **valued** as individuals, and where support addresses their strengths as well as their needs.
- Ensuring **physical or mental health** concerns are identified early and addressed quickly
- **Increasing** the number of care leavers in education, training and employment
- **Reducing** the number of looked after children and care leavers who enter the youth and criminal justice systems.



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# Access All Areas (UK) 2012

- **Explicit recognition** of the vulnerability of care leavers aged 18-25 and prioritisation of them in policy documents
- **Automatic entitlement** for care leavers aged 18-25 to provisions addressing their needs as vulnerable adults
- Where discretion exists in definitions of vulnerability or in giving priority access **create a favourable supposition** that these are exercised in favour of care leavers up to the age of 30.
- Create or maintain robust systems of **information and data sharing** between different government departments and local services
- Ensure **joint working and protocols** are in place between different government departments and local services and leaving care services
- **Responsive, personalised services** to care leavers.

<http://resources.leavingcare.org/uploads/a061b11723876ecc89f36166cc622521.pdf>





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#ScotCLC

Believe in  
children



Barnardo's  
Scotland



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*SCLC Alliance*



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# *SCLC Membership of Subgroups*

Action for Children  
ARC Scotland  
Breathing Space, NHS  
CLAN Childlaw  
Creative Scotland  
Community Jobs Scotland (SCVO)  
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)  
Children's Hearings Scotland (SHS)  
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)  
Enquire  
Includem  
Interventions for Vulnerable Youth (IVY )  
NHS Forth Valley  
National Union of Students (NUS)  
Police Scotland

The Princes Trust  
Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)  
Rock Trust  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Scottish Prison Service (SPS)  
Scottish Government (Mentoring & Advocacy)  
Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH)  
Scottish Funding Council (SFC)  
Skills Development Scotland (SDS)  
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration  
(SCRA)  
St Mary's Kenmure  
Supporting Offenders with Learning Disabilities  
(SOLD),  
Social Work Scotland (SWS)  
Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)  
Up-2-Us  
Young Scot



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## *Our #ScotCLC Journey*

- Alliance group includes: CELCLIS, Who Cares? Scotland, STAF, IRISS, Life Changes Trust, Barnardo's Scotland, Quarrier's, Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (with reference to, support from and inclusion of other partners and stakeholders)
- Production of the 'agenda for change' under key policy themes
- Development of branding and profile
- Launching of the Covenant in October 2015 to coincide with NCLW
- Engagement and targeted sign up to the Covenant from MSP's, EM's, CEO's, and leaders at local and national level
- Cross-sector endorsement, profiling, campaigning, support for, and monitoring of, implementation over the next 2-3 years at both local and national level.



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## *Scottish Care Leavers Covenant*

- Developing a cross-sector ‘agenda for change’ designed to fully support and drive forward the implementation of Parts 9 & 10 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- Closing the implementation gap between legislation, policy and practice.
- Closing the outcomes gap for care leavers
- Informing and influencing the culture change required to do this





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# *Corporate Parents A Promise to Act*

- **Actively endorse the Scottish Care Leavers Covenant** and commit to uphold and promote the key principles within and across their specific remits and responsibilities and;
- **Take specific relevant action** to fully support and implement the **Agenda for Change** to close the gap and make real our ambitions and aspirations for care leavers.

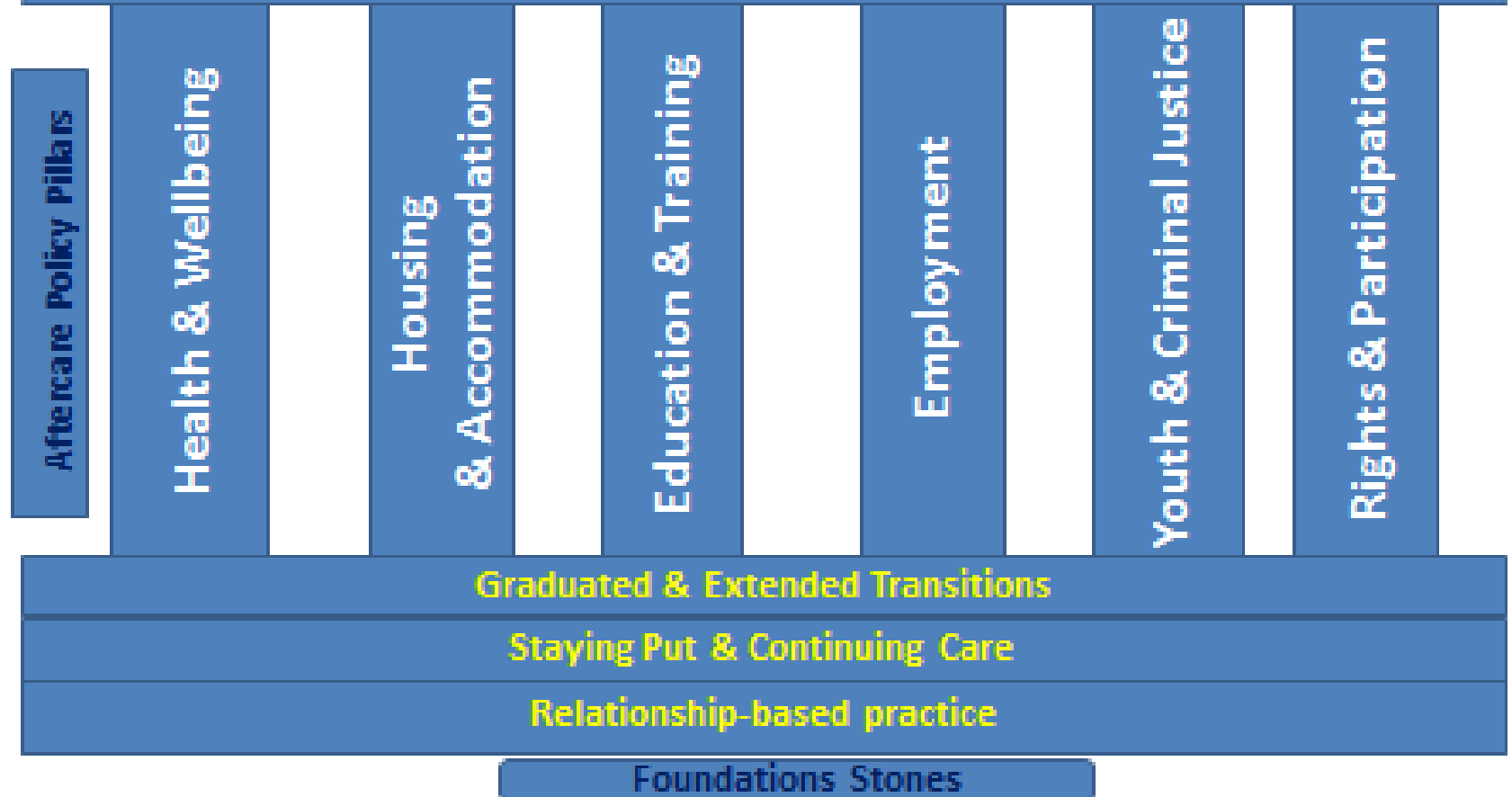


# Guiding Principles

- **Care-proofing of policy:** Corporate parents recognise the vulnerability of care leavers as young adults, with explicit reference to, and prioritisation of them as a ‘protected group’ in policy documents.
- **Assumption of entitlement:** A default position where care leavers are entitled to services, support and opportunities, up to their 26th birthday. Where discretion exists in definitions of vulnerability or in giving priority access, these are exercised in favour of care leavers.
- **Staying Put and Continuing Care:** The full and meaningful implementation of Continuing Care where looked after young people and care leavers are actively encouraged, enabled and empowered to ‘stay put’ in positive care settings until they are ready to move on.
- **‘Relationships are the ‘golden thread’ of good practice.’** All good practice is based on good relationships, based on understanding, empathy, respect, and ‘stickability’. Young people are supported to maintain positive relationships and attachments with previous carers and professionals throughout their care experience and beyond.

# Corporate Parenting into Adulthood

Care Proofing the policy landscape for care leavers to ensure an **Assumption of entitlement** in favour of care leavers for all discretionary powers



# Scottish Care Leavers Covenant Agenda For Change

## Housing & Accommodation

- ALL 32 LA's have HOP's in place; effectiveness monitored
- No use of B&B for u-21 (Use of B& B is recorded and reported as zero-use for u-21's; restricted/emergency use only for 21-26 and reported as unsuitable accommodation)
- Multi-Agency Transitions Forum: all LA's have a MATF to plan monitor and report on implementation and outcomes of HOP's and link across other key areas
- All LA's have Supported Carers Scheme
- Role of Care Inspectorate in monitoring implementation/call for integrated inspections for Aftercare provision across all Corporate Parents
- All LA's fully implement Staying Put/Continuing Care - evidenced incremental increase year on year - **the 'new norm'**
- No 'homelessness' route for care leavers to 26
- Improve and increase the range and quality of housing & accommodation options for care leavers in all LA's

LA's inspected on SP & CC outcomes

## Rights & Participation

- CL Participation Forum: All LA's have participation strategy and evidence its impact and influence on local policy and practice
- Champs Board Development
- Care Leavers Covenant or Charter
- Info & Awareness Campaign re CYPS Act

## Education & Training

- Increase numbers of care leavers accessing S.30
- Dedicated/Named College Link & Support for CEYP in ALL HE/FE settings
- More Than One Chance/Default access to all provisions up to 26
- Proactive/default access to Bursaries
- Join up whole education journey

## Health & Wellbeing

- Local Protocols in place for care leavers to access adult MH services.
- LA Leisure Cards/Access for All care leavers; active promotion of leisure opportunities; improved/free access
- Relationship Based Practice Protocol (implemented and evaluated) to promote and support access to positive relationships which transcend role, boundary and setting
- Dedicated LAC & MH Nurse Provision with direct access for care leavers up to 26
- No Case Closure for missed appointments
- Research/Inspection for quality of contacts
- Protocol for reciprocal CAMHS/Mental Health support and access across boundaries when young people move areas
- Duties to support CEYP not powers

- CAMHS & Adult MH proactive in liaison with LA/TCAC if missed appts.
- Clear stated aims in Corp parenting Plan - inspected & evidenced
- Transitional Services developed to bridge gap between CAMHS & Adult MH
- Explicit acknowledgment of impact of abuse/neglect/delayPTSD in childhood and approp MH responses

## Youth & Criminal Justice

- Arrest, Detention & Discharge Protocols: Police, Courts, SPS & LA's (%reduction in CL's remand & custody)
- Engagement of Adult CJ's as Corporate Parent
- SG, SPS & LA's work to improve identification of CL and Data Collection
- All adult CJ services/provision have explicit statement of intent re Corporate Parenting responsibilities
- No carry-over Criminal Record from CHS - disregard/non-disclosure

## Employment

- DWP Marker (profiled and implemented)
- Regular JC+ Liaison with LA/TCAC & Local Protocol in place
- Family Firm Policy (All CP's) and incremental increase in genuine employment opportunities across all corporate parents
- SDS work to improve access and sustainability of employment opps for CL's (% increase from baseline)
- Guaranteed Work Experience for All CEYP
- Higher Age Provisions for Apprenticeships/Traineeships with associated financial supports
- Training & support for work-place supervisors/mentors

- Evidence of CL's early access to employability programmes (% increase from baseline)
- Evidence of reduction in Sanctions for care leavers (% reduction from baseline)
- All care leavers have right to support and representation at all JC+ meetings and interviews (agreed and actioned by end 2015 in all JC+)
- Ringfenced/Dedicated MA's for Care Leavers (% increase from baseline)
- Dedicated employment opps for CL's identified in all externally commissioned projects (% increase from baseline)
- Personalised, flexible & bespoke support for CEYP in work & training settings



# *Buzz Group Discussion*

- With reference to the Agenda for Change
  - Discuss the implications of the Covenants Agenda for Change for practitioners and agencies?
  - How can the Care Leavers Covenant be maximised for greatest impact?
  - Identify one action that you or your agency can take to support the successful roll-out of the Covenant and Agenda for Change.



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# *Changing Cultures - Changing Expectations*

“Everything makes a difference.....but nothing makes *all* the difference. We build better lives and a better world slowly, painstakingly, and there are no short cuts, just lots of improvements: most small, a few greater, none...decisive.”

Iain Banks, The Quarry, 2012



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