The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
Part 9 (Corporate Parenting)

Lisa Ann Kennedy
8th September 2015
To introduce the role of a ‘Corporate Parent’ and to explore some examples of corporate parenting

By the end of the session, you should:

1. Be able to explain what a ‘Corporate Parent’ is, and why the duties are important
2. Consider how different types of Corporate Parents engage with the role
1. What is corporate parenting?
2. Who does corporate parenting apply to?
3. What does it mean to be a corporate parent?
4. Introduction to the Corporate Parenting duties
5. How are corporate parents engaging with the role?
   - Gordon Currie, Director of Education & Children's Services, East Dunbartonshire Council
   - John Dalziel, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Government Relationship Adviser
What is ‘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.”

*Definition from Statutory Guidance on Corporate Parenting (August 2015)*
What is ‘corporate parenting’?

“It’s about listening to the wishes, needs and fears of the children and young people we work with, and proactive and determined in our effort to meet them.”
Which young people does CP apply to?

a. Every child who is looked after by a local authority

b. Every ‘care leaver’ under the age of 26
Placement Types

There are several types of placements that looked after children or young people live in:

- **Foster Care**: 5,533 (35.5%)
- **Kinship placement**: 4,181 (26.8%)
- **At home**: 4,144 (26.6%)
- **Residential Unit or School**: 1,090 (7%)
- **Secure unit**: 82 (0.5%)
Health & Wellbeing Needs

Looked after children and care leavers are more likely to experience health problems than young people in the general population (even after we control for factors like ‘low income’).
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Educational Outcomes

• Tend to leave school at a younger age
  – 74% left when they were 16 or under, compared to a national average of 27%.

• ‘School leaver’ attainment rates
  – only 12% achieve 1 or more qualification at SCQF 6, compared to a national average of 59%.

• Difficulty sustaining a ‘positive destinations’
  – 27% of looked after leavers, compared to a national average of 8%.

• F.E is the main ‘positive destination’
  – (37% in 2013-14).
Post-education

Looked after children and care leavers can often lack the skills and self-esteem necessary to impress employers, and as a result many find themselves trapped in long term unemployment.
Which does it mean to be a ‘Corporate Parent’?
Part 9 (Corporate Parenting)

56. Schedule 4 (who is a Corporate Parent)
57. Application of Part 9 (who it applies to)
58. Corporate Parenting ‘Responsibilities’
59. Planning requirements
60. Collaboration requirements
61. Reporting duties (incl. providing info to Ministers)
62. Reports to Parliament by Scottish Ministers
63. Guidance on Corporate Parenting
64. Directions to Corporate Parents
65. Reports by Scottish Ministers

➢ Commencement – April 2015
## Who are the ‘Corporate Parents’?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scottish Ministers</th>
<th>A local authority</th>
<th>National Convenor of Children's Hearings Scotland</th>
<th>Children's Hearings Scotland</th>
<th>Principal Reporter</th>
<th>The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A health board</td>
<td></td>
<td>A board constituted under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978</td>
<td>Healthcare Improvement Scotland</td>
<td>Scottish Qualifications Authority</td>
<td>Skills Development Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Scottish Social Services Council</td>
<td>Sport Scotland</td>
<td>The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland</td>
<td>Scottish Police Authority</td>
<td>Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue Service</td>
<td>The Scottish Legal Aid Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People</td>
<td>mentalwelfare commission for scotland</td>
<td>Scottish Housing Regulator</td>
<td>Bòrd na Gàidhlig</td>
<td>Creative Scotland</td>
<td>A “post-16” education body</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 58

**Alert**

Systems in place to stay informed of issues which could have a negative impact on the child/young person/population

**Assess**

To ensure services are relevant and accessible to the widest possible group

**Promote**

Perform actions which will advantage or benefit looked after children and care leavers

**Access**

Help eligible young people to overcome barriers, so that they can benefit from opportunities, services and support

**Opportunities**

Identify relevant opportunities, through which eligible young people can improve their wellbeing

**Improve**

Review performance as corporate parents, and take any necessary action to improve
Corporate Parenting in Action

• Please welcome

  – Gordon Currie, Director of Education & Children's Services, East Dunbartonshire Council

  – John Dalziel, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Government Relationship Adviser
Gordon Currie

Director of Education & Children’s Services

EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Lead Officer
BACKGROUND

We are in year three of development

2013/2014 Awareness Raising with “Who Cares”

- All Politicians
- Head Teacher
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tier Managers
- Community Planning Partners
2013/2014 – continued

- Champion’s Board established
- Steering Group
- 6 Champions identified to support 8 children
2013/2014 Challenges

- Paperwork too wordy
- Champions required better support
- Improved communications required
- Self-evaluation demonstrated variable approaches
ROLE OF CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION
Session 2014/2015

What is your role?

- Find out how the young person is doing
- Get to know what their potential is by asking the questions that any responsible parent would ask
- As a champion, you are being asked to be a “pushy parent”
- Share your experience and learning to affect the outcomes for all looked after children
What we improved?

- Face to face meetings
- Monthly updates for Champions
- Champions info sharing sessions
- Letters and packs reviewed
- Tightened up timelines
- Better communications
- Governance
Champions Support Materials

- Health/Education Timelines: age appropriate
- Carefirst notes
- SEEMIS pastoral notes
- Contact details: all key professionals
- Champion’s Pack: Guidance Pack
- Young Persons Pack: What can they do for you
- Letter templates
Selection of Young People

- In schools with challenging behaviour/multi-agency support
- Primary school setting with particular needs
- Secondary setting early/later stages
- Early years
- Post school
- Out of authority placements
Lessons Learned

The learning experienced by the champions must be used to improve the life changes of all looked after children in the authority.

The width of young person supported must be inclusive of 3 – 26.

Sharing experiences within the champions group is essential.
Next Steps – 2015 and Beyond

- Extend champions from 12 to 18
- Monitor efficacy of governance
- Ensure compliance with the C&YP Act
- Extend champions to CPP members
- Use learning to influence practice for the wider group of all looked after children
Questions?