
Report to: Council

Date: 4th June 2009

Subject: Corporate Parenting Strategy

Report by: Head of Social Services

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The Council meeting of 6th November 2008 discussed a report on Corporate Parenting in Clackmannanshire. It agreed with recommendations to establish a Corporate Parent Group to scrutinise all aspects of the life of Looked after Children in Clackmannanshire. It gave this group the responsibility of producing a Corporate Parenting Strategy document that would identify the key areas of improvement for this Local Authority in terms of the outcomes of Looked After Young People and their life chances and experiences.
- 1.2. Furthermore the Council agreed that regular reports on the success of the Local Authority with respect to the strategic improvement targets should be tabled thereafter.
- 1.3. The Corporate Parent Group under the chairpersonship of Councillor Sam Ovens has produced the attached strategic document for the consideration of the Council

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. The Corporate Parent Group recommend that the attached Corporate Parent Strategy document and its explicit strategic priorities and targets be agreed by Council and that progress reports be brought back to Council on an annual basis.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. The *"Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better"* report sets out 19 specific and targeted actions designed to deliver under 5 key themes identified in the report: working together; being effective life-long learners; developing into successful and responsible adults; being emotionally, mentally and physically healthy; and, feeling safe and nurtured in a home setting.

3.2 The report highlights and addresses 8 notable messages:

- the importance of the corporate parent role
- the need to raise awareness of the educational needs of looked after children and young people and improve training for all foster carers, residential workers, lead professionals, support workers and associated professionals
- the need for clarity regarding the role and responsibilities of the designated person within schools and residential establishments
- the importance of providing flexible and appropriate support before, during, and post transition
- the importance of physical, mental and emotional health and well-being in facilitating positive educational outcomes
- the need for good quality accommodation, which supports the education, training or employment of looked after children and young people
- the importance of clear advice and a range of emotional, practical and financial support for looked after young people as they make the transition to adult hood/independent living; and,
- the vital importance of stability and continuity within education and care settings

3.3 The above document and the September 2008 document "*These Are Our Bairns*"; a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent, make recommendations for councils, teachers, social workers and health workers, including:

- reminding councils of their role and responsibility as corporate parents
- improving training for teachers and other professionals to ensure that they have the skills to deal with these pupils
- providing key workers with guidance on their role and supporting individual young people
- ensuring that councils continue to provide young people with support beyond their 18th birthday, including financial support for those going on to further and higher education

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. The successful implementation of the Corporate Parent Strategy will make a valuable contribution to the sustainability of the communities of Clackmannanshire as young people are our most valuable resource for the future.
- 4.2. Providing better outcomes for the Looked After population will allow them the potential to contribute more to the material, ecological and moral fabric of our communities through offering a real stake in the future development of their communities.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. There are no financial requirements in relation to the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. It requires all local authority services and key partners to work collaboratively and to prioritise the needs of the Looked After population to improve their outcomes in the areas of their lives where improvement is most needed.

Yes ☐

- 5.3. There are no additional staffing requirements.

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No **X**

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities 2008 - 2011** (Please tick ☒)

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive	X
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment	X
Our communities are safer	X
Vulnerable people and families are supported	X
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced	X
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing	X
The environment is protected and enhanced for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

- 8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes ☒ No ☐

9.0 Legality

- 9.1 In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒ X

10.0 Appendices

- 10.1 Appendix 1 is the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

11.0 Background Papers

- 11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes ☒ X (please list the documents below) No ☐

Scotland's Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better".(2007)

"These Are Our Bairns": a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent. (2008)

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CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY For CLACKMANNANSHIRE

In Partnership With



2009 - 2012

" Caring Parents Delivering Improved Outcomes For Young People"

DRAFT

Executive Summary

This Corporate Parenting Strategy provides the framework for elected members, officers and partners in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, as corporate parents of Looked After children and young people in Clackmannanshire.

Vision

"We are committed to ensuring every child and young person in our care has the opportunity to achieve the outcomes we would want for our own children."

What is a Corporate Parent?

Corporate parenting means the formal and local partnerships needed between all local authority departments and services, and associated agencies, who are responsible for working together to meet the needs of Looked After children and young people, and care leavers. Being a good corporate parent means:

- accepting responsibility for all children in the Council's care;
- keeping meeting the needs of looked after children and young people as a high priority;
- seeking the same outcomes, any good parent would want for their own child.

Priorities:

- Establish a commitment to corporate parenting across all relevant services.
- Development of assessment and planning systems as part of implementation of "Getting It Right for Every Child".
- Ensure that the views of children and families are better taken account of.
- A reduction in the number of children placed in accommodation out-with the authority.
- A commitment to providing full time educational provision for all looked after children.
- Greater and improved housing support for care leavers, including dedicated provision.
- Enhanced support into employment and training.
- A dedicated health screening and health planning process.

Aims:

- To respect and nurture each individual looked after young person and care leaver. To be ambitious for them by encouraging and supporting their personal development, to ensure that they maximise their potential.
- To ensure that the health needs of looked after young people are properly provided for in a way that promotes better health and well being.
- To protect looked after young people from abuse and social exclusion.
- To ensure that the needs of looked after young people are identified and addressed

Caring Parents Delivering Improved Outcomes

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1. Introduction

1.1 This strategy sets out the Corporate Parent responsibility for Clackmannanshire Council and its partners, with specific regard to our Looked After children and young people.

"We are committed to ensuring every child and young person in our care has the opportunity to achieve the outcomes we would want for our own children."

This commitment includes the provision of support that addresses disadvantage and enables children and young people to reach their full potential. Delivering on the Corporate Parent responsibility of the whole council and its partners will ensure improved outcomes for looked after children and young people. This strategy is linked to the Clackmannanshire Integrated Children's Services Plan¹ already in place, which aims to deliver a coherent approach to meeting the needs of children and young people.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Who are our looked after children and young people?

The term *Looked After* includes children Looked After at home, subject to a supervision order from a Children's Hearing, but living at home with their birth parent(s) or with other family members, as well as children Looked After away from home who live with foster or kinship carers, in residential care homes, residential schools or secure units.

1.2.2 Why do children become Looked After?

There are many reasons why children become Looked After. Some have experienced neglect; some have experienced mental, physical or emotional abuse; some parents are unable to look after their children because of their own substance misuse or poor parenting skills; some young people need a bit of time away from their birth family or community while a package of support is put in place to try to rebuild family relationships or their ability to function; some have complex disabilities and need to be placed in specialist residential schools; some have become involved in the youth justice system.

Looked After children and young people are not a homogenous group with the same backgrounds or needs. They are individual children and young people with their own personalities, needs and experiences. The only thing they have in common is that life has not been easy for them, and for most some aspect of their life circumstances has led to a children's hearing or a court deciding that some form of compulsory intervention is required. A small number become Looked After away from home through a voluntary agreement between their parent(s) and the local authority.

Once a local authority has taken the profound and difficult decision to remove a child, short or long term, from his or her family, it is the duty of the whole local authority to safeguard and promote his or her welfare.

¹ <http://clacksweb/children/childrensservicesplanning/>

1.2.3 What happens when a child or young person stops being Looked After?

Some children or young people will stop being Looked After to return successfully to their families, and some will be Looked After at various times throughout their childhood as their families struggle to cope in particular situations. If a young person is still Looked After at school leaving age, the council will put in place throughcare and aftercare services to support them into independent living. This transition to independence will be at a younger age than most young people leave the family home, and they will need significant support to help them to find somewhere suitable to live, take up further or higher education, training or work, and even to cope with the every day aspects of living independently.

Councils have a duty² to provide advice and support to their young people up to age 19, and a power to do so up to age 21. They are encouraged to make sure that young people stay Looked After for as long as possible, preferably until they reach 18 if that is in the best interests of the young person. They should make sure that when young people do leave care they are equipped with the necessary life skills, and receive adequate financial and other support at what is a difficult time for all young people.

1.2.4 What is a Corporate Parent?

Corporate Parenting means the formal and local partnerships needed between all local authority departments and services, and associated agencies, who are responsible for working together to meet the needs of Looked After children and young people, and care leavers.³

The Corporate Parent means the whole Council, including elected members and all local authority staff. The responsibility of the Corporate Parent towards a child, or young person, in their care may (depending on how long they have been looked after) continue up to the age of 21 years and, in some cases, beyond this age if the young person is engaged in a continuing course of higher education. It is important to remember that responsibility continues beyond the time when a young person ceases to be looked after.

The extent of the involvement of all professionals, or elected members, will vary according to the needs and circumstances of each child or young person.

The concept of the Corporate Parent was evolved through the publication of national legislation, policy and position statements. These are: *The Children (Scotland) Act 1995*, *Getting It Right for Every Child (2005)*, and *Extraordinary Lives (2006)*⁴. The policy documents *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can And Must Do Better (2007)*⁵ and *These Are Our Bairns: A Guide for Community Planning Partnerships on Being a Good Corporate Parent (2008)*⁶ set out the expectation that every Local Authority will develop a corporate approach to the care, welfare, and protection of children and young people who are Looked After and accommodated.

² Sections 29 and 30 of the Children Scotland Act 1995 set out councils' responsibilities to care leavers

³ Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better, Scottish Executive, 2007

⁴ <http://www.swia.gov.uk/swia/files/Looked%20After%20Children%20-%20Extraordinary%20Lives.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/162790/0044282.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/236882/0064989.pdf>

The Scottish Government's vision for children is, that by working together, we will enable and empower children and young people in:

- becoming effective life long learners;
- developing into successful and responsible adults;
- being emotionally, mentally and physically healthy; and,
- feeling safe and nurtured in a home setting.

When a child or young person is taken into local authority care, the council is making a commitment that they will do better with the council as a Corporate Parent than with his or her birth parent(s).

Source: These Are Our Bairns

1.2.5 What do Looked After children expect from their Corporate Parents?

A report⁷ that explores what helped people who have been Looked After, become and feel successful, identified the following common themes:

- having more people that genuinely care about Looked After children
- the need to increase stability and consistency
- more encouragement, support and greater participation by young people
- the need for social workers to spend time with young people & act in their interests
- the need for social workers and others to take decisive action where children's needs are not being met
- increased support for Looked After children in education
- good support for young people leaving care and becoming independent
- more positive attitudes towards Looked After children and young people

1.2.6 Why do we need a Corporate Parenting Strategy?

The needs and outcomes of Looked After children and young people are such that a combined approach is necessary in order to succeed in our Corporate Parent role. A specific strategy is required in order to explain the need and importance of the role, raise awareness and improve skills of relevant professionals, offer clarity on responsibilities, and ensure flexible and appropriate support when it is needed. Support will take many forms including accommodation, finance, as well as advice and actions to ensure emotional and physical well-being.

Children and young people who are looked after should have the same opportunities as all other children.

Responsible parents hold together many strands in their children's lives – they care about their safety, their health, their education, their friendships and their futures. They have continuous knowledge of their child's development and what their particular talents, achievements and problems are. They listen to and talk to their children, so that they are aware of their needs and concerns.

⁷ SWIA Celebrating success: what helps looked after children succeed Jun 2006
<http://www.swia.gov.uk/swia/files/Celebrating%20success%20-%20what%20helps%20looked%20after%20children%20succeed.pdf>

2. Key Principles

Successful Corporate Parenting depends upon having clear strategic leadership with elected members and senior officers to the Council having a key role to play in ensuring that the outcomes and life chances of Looked After children and young people are maximised.

2.1 Being a good Corporate Parent means:

- Accepting responsibility for all children in the Council's care;
- Keep meeting the needs of Looked After children and young people as a high priority;
- Seeking the same outcomes, any good parent would want for their own child.

There are four national expectations of local authorities and their partners in fulfilling their corporate parenting role, these are as follows.

That the local authority will:

- Have an overarching plan for the Looked After children and young people, covering all of the services and support they can expect to receive;
- Ensure that the views of children in council care are taken account of;
- Provide training and support, for those who have to act as the collective Corporate Parent;
- Identify and share best practice in Corporate Parenting throughout the council area.

2.2 Aims:

- To respect and nurture each individual Looked After young person and care leaver. To be ambitious for them by encouraging and supporting their personal development, to ensure that they maximise their potential.
- To ensure that the health needs of Looked After young people are properly provided for in a way that promotes better health and well being.
- To protect Looked After young people from abuse and social exclusion.
- To ensure that the needs of Looked After young people are identified and addressed.

2.2.1 We will do this by:

- Working together to improve the outcomes and maximising opportunities for Looked After young people and care leavers.
- Establishing the role of the Corporate Parent and ensuring that all staff and elected members are working in the best interests of Looked After young people and care leavers.
- Encouraging young people to express their views, ensure that they are listened to and included in key decisions about them.
- Ensure that times of transition in a young person's life are planned and supported.
- Ensure that the care and welfare of young people are appropriate, stable and of good quality.
- Sharing information that is relevant to ensure a consistent service across agencies.

3. Clackmannanshire Council the Corporate Parent

Expectation 1 - A Planned Approach.

Our Corporate Parenting Strategy has been developed to set out a clear commitment to our Looked After children and young people. The strategy will be further developed through consultation and involvement with children, young people and their families, fellow professionals and services, and our Children's Services partners.

The aim of the strategy is to improve the outcomes for Looked After children and young people in Clackmannanshire through an authority wide commitment to Corporate Parenting. It keeps Looked After children and young people as a high priority within the corporate agenda, ensuring that momentum is not lost in our efforts to achieve positive outcomes and improved life chances for those in our care. One of the outcomes of the corporate strategy will be clear lines of accountability and governance. This will ensure that we deliver a high quality and competent service to children, young people, and their families.

The final element of the strategy will be a framework for action, which will set out our action plans to progress the strategy including developing effective ways to engage with all of the services who contribute to the care and welfare of Looked After children and young people.

Outcome - focused action plans will be developed to deliver key priorities within the framework for action.

Expectation 2 - The views of looked after children and young people.

In Clackmannanshire, Corporate Parenting responsibilities will be overseen by the Corporate Parenting Working Group for Looked After children and young people. The group will meet with Looked After children and young people at least twice a year via the "Meet the Bosses" framework to gain their views. The group will provide opportunities for elected members to have direct contact on a regular basis with Looked After children and young people and in particular those accommodated by the local authority.

Expectation 3 - Training and Support.

Training and support will be provided to those who have strategic responsibility as Corporate Parents. We will also provide training and support for those who act as a Champion for Looked After and accommodated children.

Expectation 4 - A Planned Approach.

There are already a number of good examples of Corporate Parenting activities in Clackmannanshire. By building on this already established good practice the Clackmannanshire Corporate Parenting Strategy will ensure that a more consistent and effective approach to Corporate Parenting is delivered across the council area.

4. Outcomes For Looked After Children

4.1 All of the national research that has been undertaken into outcomes for Looked After children identifies that they have poorer social, educational and health outcomes than their peers.

It is a major national priority to redress this situation, and when the Scottish Government published a key document on improving outcomes for looked after children, "We Can and Must do Better". This was seen as an opportunity to use this document as an impetus to re-channel efforts and target improvements.

It is recognised that the experiences that children have during their early years are of crucial importance in a child's future physical, emotional, creative and intellectual development.

4.1.1 In summary, the national research confirms that:

Although diverse, young people leaving care tend to come from poorer socio-economic backgrounds; to have had previous poor life experiences and disrupted childhoods; to have experienced trauma and abuse during childhood; and, as a result, to have often experienced a number of care settings.⁸

4.1.2 Many Looked After children experience:

- Instability (e.g. frequent changes of care placement or school);
- Too much time out of school;
- Lack of additional support if they fall behind;
- Carers who are not expected or able to provide sufficient support for learning and development;
- The need for extra help with emotional, mental or physical health issues.

4.1.3 Accordingly, Looked After children have:

- School exclusion rates which are ten times higher than their peers;
- Attainment levels of between one half to one third of the general population – and particularly poorer performance amongst the group who are looked after at home;
- Less regular dental and physical health checks.

4.1.4 Looked after children of the age of criminal responsibility are three times more likely to be cautioned or convicted of an offence than others.

4.1.5 Around a third of looked after children will end up not in education, employment or training between the ages of 16 and 19. Only 6% will go to university compared to around a third nationally.

4.1.6 Young women leaving care are three times more likely to become pregnant.

4.1.7 Looked after children who live with kinship carers (members of their extended family) or move to permanent settings with adoptive parents tend to have better outcomes.

⁸ Review of Research on Vulnerable Young People and Their Transitions to Independent Living sep 2007
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/08/23161736/1>

5. The Clackmannanshire Context

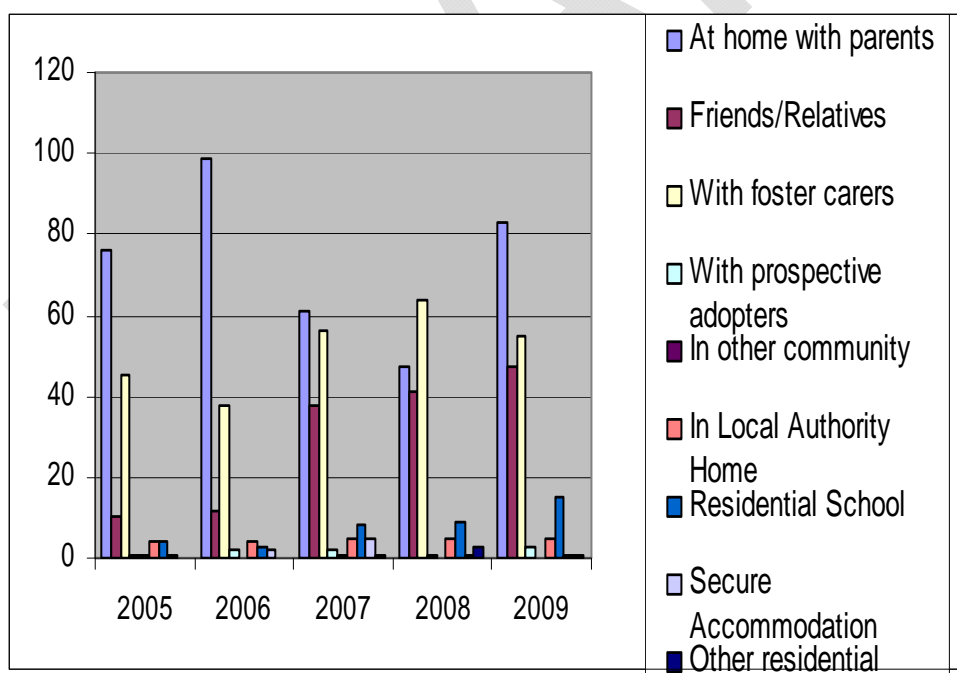
5.1 There are currently 209 Looked After children in Clackmannanshire. This number has increased by 16% since April 2008.

As at 31 st March	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of children looked after by Clackmannanshire Council	160	182	171	209

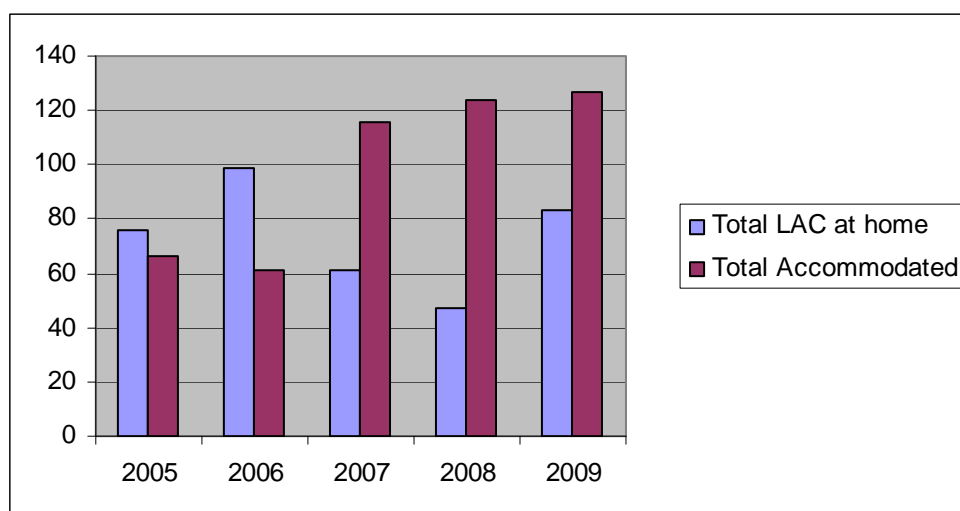
Source: Scottish Government CLAS statistics

The increase in the number of young people in care seems to have been accommodated within the kinship (friends/family) and foster care sectors. This has had financial implications for the authority who have struggled to meet this demand locally, resulting in more expensive services being purchased out-with Clackmannanshire.

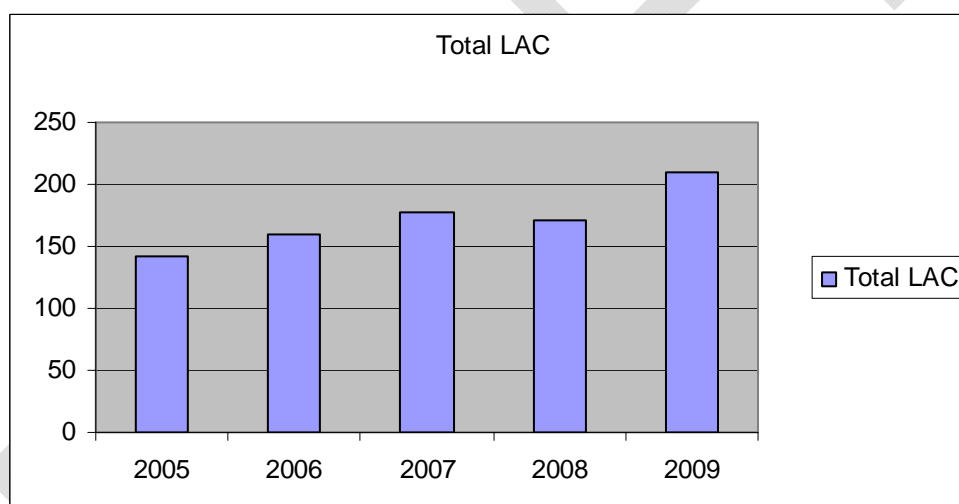
5.2 As at 31st March 2009 there were 83 children on supervision at home, and 127 are Looked After away from home in the following settings. The following graph also highlights changes over the last 4 years to these statistics:



5.3 It has been our firm intention to increase the number of children at home, rather than away from home.



5.4 In comparison with other local authorities, Clackmannan has a high number of children in kinship care placements, the basis of such placements is currently being reviewed.



5.5 Like many local authorities we have a small, but significant number of young people placed out-with the local authority in residential and residential school placements. This group of young people have significant behavioural problems and 2 are currently in secure accommodation.⁹

⁹ Residential Care Placements (6), Residential School (9), Secure Care (2).

5.6 Educational outcomes for Clackmannanshire looked after children are:

The Standards and Quality Report for 2007/2008 summarises the work which was undertaken by Education and Community Services. It states that 17 Looked After children were taught in Clackmannanshire's schools, a further 8 (S4 pupils) were Looked After outwith the authority, 3 of them within secure accommodation. 13 (76.5%) of the 17 pupils taught in Clackmannanshire's schools attained awards in both English and Mathematics at SCQF Level 3 or better; the average Tariff Score, or Unified Points Score (UPS) of these 17 pupils was 88 (with a range from 16 to 181); for young people looked after at home the average was 67.9 and for those looked after away from home it was 106.8.¹⁰

Despite the fact that Clackmannanshire's looked after children attain relatively well, they remain inherently vulnerable and the need to work with them and their families in identifying and addressing their needs remains a priority for the Council. The evidence from various studies is that looked after children and young people face significant cultural and institutional barriers which impede their success in education. Encouragement to achieve in a broader sense is more important than a narrow focus on educational attainment, however, there is research evidence showing that looked after children and young people with higher attainment have generally better life outcomes.¹¹

The annual national survey, called the *Children Looked After Survey*, collects information about looked after children and how well looked after children who stopped being in care in any year did in school. The survey collects information about how many of these children attained at least one SCQF Award at Level 3 or better and the how many of them attained SCQF Awards in both English and Mathematics at Level 3 or better.

In Clackmannanshire in 2006/2007 12 young people stopped being looked after; half of these young people attained at least one award at SCQF Level 3 or better and 5 of them attained awards in both English and Mathematics. In 2008, 6 out of 9 looked after and accommodated young people who left care attained at least one award and 5 obtained an award in both English and Mathematics. These figures compare well with national averages and with the attainments of looked after young people in Clackmannanshire's comparator education authorities.

¹⁰ Standards and Quality Report - Education and Community Services 2007/2008 <http://clacksweb/document/meeting/196/289/2791.pdf>
The average tariff score obtained by Looked After children (LAC) is the same as the average tariff score of their peers (at the end of S4: +/- 8 points). The average attainment of LAC is the same as the average of their peers in each of reading, writing and mathematics at the end of each of P3, P4, P6 and P7. In secondary schools 2007/2008; 10% (7% in 2006/2007) of pupils excluded were looked after. The average rate of attainment and exclusion is the same as the average for their peers at all stages up to the end of S4. The % of LAC finding/being found a positive post-school (post 16) destination is the same for their peers.

¹¹ Improving the Education of Looked After Children: A Guide for Local Authorities and Service Providers
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/265301/0079476.pdf>

Many looked after children remain at risk of not finding their way into further education, employment or training when they leave school; they are young people who will often need *More Choices and More Chances*.

Young people entitled to aftercare, percentage in touch with social services and percentage in employment, education or training, by local authority, 2007-08				
Local authority area	Young people entitled to aftercare services	Per cent still in touch with social services	In employment, education or training	
			As percentage of those with known economic activity	As percentage of all entitled to aftercare services
Clackmannanshire	8	50	25	13
Scotland	3,765	72	42	30

5.7 Through Care and After Care services for young people in Clackmannanshire are currently being reviewed. Of particular significance is our obligation to provide pathway plans for all supported care leavers. This is an area where we have made an improvement.

5.8 We require to develop a more integrated support pathways plan for care leavers with dedicated support from the housing service, including developing housing support options that keep young people away from general homelessness provision.

5.9 Advocacy & Children's Rights¹². Clackmannanshire has employed a Children's Rights Officer since 1997.

We all need rights - they help ensure we survive, develop and receive protection and that we have the opportunity to be involved and included on matters that affect us.

Initially the service was for children and young people who were in care (now called Looked After and accommodated), but this was developed in 2002 into an independent service for all children and young people in Clackmannanshire. A partnership agreement with the voluntary organisation "Who Cares? (Scotland)", ensured that dedicated support continued to be available for children who are or have been Looked After and accommodated.

¹² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/Childrens-Rights#a1>

6. Corporate Parent Strategy

Like most extended families, the corporate family consists of many parts – local authorities as a whole; health services, both universal and specialist; independent sector providers; the police and all those parts of the system which support service delivery agencies. Bringing up a child successfully depends very much on all family members playing their parts. It may be at a particular point in a child's life, or it may be constant, but together all of those parts are a powerful force for good.

Source: These Are Our Bairns

6.1 The Integrated Children's Services Plan for children is managed by an inter-agency strategy group, chaired by the Director of Peoples Services. The plan will seek to:

- Establish and maintain an integrated information system between agencies.
- Improve educational outcomes through improved individual planning, and services to address drift, ensuring full time provision.
- Improve health outcomes, ensuring effective assessments and identifying opportunities to develop the role and engagement of primary care services.
- Focus on care planning and interventions to: reduce the length of time that children are looked after and the number of placement moves.
- Reduce the length of time children and young people are awaiting permanent and adoptive placements.
- Achieve quality in foster and residential care, and continue to modernise the foster care service.
- Implement national standards for services provided to children on supervision.
- Ensure improved access to Kinship Care for extended families.
- Reduce the number in out of authority placements.
- Develop further means whereby looked after children can influence strategic and individual service planning.
- Improve services to Children's Hearings.

6.2 It is proposed that the Corporate Parent Strategy should incorporate the following immediate priorities:

- The inclusion of a commitment to Corporate Parenting, as set out in this report.
- The significant change in assessment and planning systems as part of implementation of "Getting It Right for Every Child", and we need to ensure that the views of children and families are better taken account of in the new processes.
- A major focus on reducing the number of children placed outwith the authority, and a projected budget pressure of around £0.6 million.
- A commitment to providing full time educational provision for all Looked After children.
- Greater and improved housing support for care leavers, including dedicated provision.
- Enhanced support into employment and training, including opportunities within the Council.
- A dedicated health screening & planning process for all Looked After young people.

6.3 The success measures for looked after children services will include:

- Improve the educational attainment of Looked After children.
- Fewer moves between placements.
- Reduce the length of time that children are Looked After.
- Reduce the proportion of the children who are Looked After away from home.
- Reduce the number of children placed outwith the authority.
- More Looked After children moving into supported housing arrangements.
- More Looked After children leaving school for further education/training or employment.

DRAFT

7. The Corporate Parent Role

7.1 The Scottish Government expects local authorities to undertake a Corporate Parent role for Looked After children.

Like any good parent, we want our children to enjoy school and do well there; we want them to be healthy and happy, secure and confident. We want them to go on to college or university, to find good jobs, to have loving relationships and happy lives. In addition, we want them to be included and effective members of our communities, indeed in the fullness of time to be good parents themselves.

Source: These Are Our Bairns

7.2 The Council has already agreed that a champion will take a particular interest in issues relating to Looked After children.

7.3 As a Corporate Parent, all councillors have a right and duty to question the authority as to whether children and young people are safe, well looked after and supported. This level of scrutiny might include:

- How are children supported in school?
- What support is there when they leave care?
- Are outcomes improving?
- Is the Council doing enough to equip and support staff and foster carers who have responsibility for the direct day to day care of these children?
- Has the Council a role as employer in supporting Looked After children into employment?

The message is to behave corporately, but think like a parent.

Source: These Are Our Bairns

7.4 In addition, as part of discharging its responsibilities the Government has committed to:

- Identifying measures to improve the effectiveness of their corporate parent role.
- The appointment of a Senior Civil Servant to work closely with Chief Executives and Senior Officials within each local authority.
- Ensuring that progress on improving the educational outcomes of Looked After children and young people is one of the key components of the outcome agreements for children's services.
- Improving training for parents, foster carers, residential workers, teachers, social workers, health workers and appointed lead professionals.
- Continuing to work in partnership with local authorities to deliver a more robust and comprehensive data collection and reporting framework in relation to the educational outcomes of Scotland's Looked After children and young people.
- Clarifying the duty on local authorities to ensure that they provide safe, secure and appropriate accommodation to Looked After young people until at least 18. The accommodation must appropriately support their longer-term outcomes in terms of

- education, employment and training.
- Clarify the duty on local authorities to provide appropriate support to their care leavers up to the age of 21.
- Including services for Looked After children in all inspection regimes.

7.5 What does Corporate Parenting mean for services?

Housing:

Anti-Social Behaviour

Addressing anti-social behaviour is a sensitive issue for councils, particularly housing services. Children can be disadvantaged by the anti-social behaviour of their families, and indeed some children become Looked After as a result of anti-social behaviour, or behave anti-socially whilst Looked After. It is important that staff within the authority involved in addressing anti-social behaviour understand their special responsibilities as Corporate Parents to Looked After children and young people, for example when considering pursuing an anti-social behaviour order.

It is also important to remember that there is a small but significant number of Looked After children and young people and care leavers who present a risk of serious harm to themselves or others. Their care is particularly challenging to manage and can present significant issues for the Corporate Parent, for example when identifying suitable accommodation. Particularly in these circumstances, multi-agency risk assessment and management is essential.

Homelessness

The transition into independent living is a key milestone and a life-changing event for any young person. For young people leaving care, it is probably the most significant transition, and securing accommodation that meets their needs will impact significantly on how successful it is. Looked After young people experience stigma throughout their lives and one way to reduce such stigmatisation is to ensure that relevant partners effectively plan a young person's transition from care to avoid unnecessary homelessness.

Moving into independence is about more than simply finding a roof. Corporate parents will want to satisfy themselves that young people leaving care have the necessary life skills and confidence to cope with independent living and the supports they need to sustain the move must be in place. Some young people will need more support than others and a range of services may need to be available. A permanent, single person's tenancy may not be the best option for a young care leaver. Care leavers are particularly vulnerable to homelessness and prevention of homelessness amongst care leavers should be recognised in local strategies and plans.

Homeless young people warrant specific attention as a key group among the general homeless population because of their highly vulnerable position due to their age.¹³ Young people may not have the experience to recognise and articulate their needs. Unlike most young people however, they may have few or no responsible adults to advocate on their behalf. Young homeless people may also distrust statutory and regulatory services.

¹³ <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/?entryid5=38765&char=H>

Being a looked after young person or care leavers is a key risk factors for homelessness, along with other factors such as; family breakdown, enforced or voluntary exclusion from the family home, insecure housing, drug and alcohol dependency, or criminal activity.

Nationally, 30% of young single homeless people have been looked after and 20 per cent of care leavers experience some form of homelessness within two years of ceasing to be looked after. Approximately 40% of care leavers had experienced homelessness within six months of leaving care.

Source: Tracking homelessness: a feasibility study. Scottish Exec research publication 2003

The impact of homelessness on young people's health and life chances is considerable. There is a compelling body of evidence showing that homeless young people are particularly vulnerable to:

- poor mental health
- poor physical health
- risk taking behaviour (such as self neglect, self-harming, suicide, sexual risk behaviour, substance use and criminal activity)
- being a victim of crime
- exclusion from education, employment and social support.

In addition, links between mental health problems and substance use is particularly high among homeless young people. Many young people with insecure accommodation also become dependent on others - often people with similarly fragile accommodation.

Key Outcome

Staff working in housing services understand their additional responsibilities to looked after young people and care leavers. Put in place effective joint working arrangements with clear procedures and effective resolution mechanisms. Make sure that support for independent living includes an awareness amongst young people of their responsibilities to the community within which they live, and the potential consequences of their actions. This will be demonstrated when looked after young people or care leavers find somewhere suitable to live and manage to sustain it.

Activities

What we do out-with education or work makes us into confident individuals and effective contributors to our communities and can help us to learn throughout our lives. Access to play, sport and other leisure activity can be difficult for Looked After children and young people and care leavers for a variety of reasons such as practicalities like transport and cost of clothes or equipment, and less tangible issues like lack of confidence, low self-esteem, feeling excluded, not having experience of participation in earlier life, fear of the unknown.

As corporate parents, councils are privileged to have leisure facilities and cultural facilities at their disposal. What parent would not encourage their own children to use their swimming pools, tennis courts or theatres? Engagement in sport, the arts and other similar activities can provide a foundation for lifelong learning, build friendships, promote active citizenship, promote physical, mental and emotional well-being. Participation in the arts and cultural boosts confidence, fulfilment and contributes to young people leading happier lives.

It is an important function of the corporate family, then, to encourage Looked After children and young people and care leavers to take up hobbies and interests and to make sure that culture and leisure services are accessible to them, including those children with disabilities.

Key Outcome

This will be demonstrated when

- looked after young people and care leavers are integrated into their community, when they participate in the local youth activities and when they feel achieve the same or similar goals and achievements as other children and young people.
- looked after young people and care leavers fulfil their potential, no longer feel stigmatised and excluded from services and communities.

Learning & Employment

Good corporate parents know exactly which children and young people are looked after. Schools, in particular, need to be aware that they have particular responsibilities to all looked after children and young people, including those looked after at home. An explanation of the legal distinction between being looked after at home and away from home (sometimes referred to as being accommodated) is provided in A Brief Summary of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995: Looked After Children (Scottish Government, 2008b) which can be downloaded from the Looked After Children website.¹⁴

Compared with other young people, those leaving care are more likely to: have poor educational outcomes and access to further and higher education; experience low paid employment or unemployment; have problems with health, particularly mental health, conduct disorders and misuse of alcohol and drugs; have difficulties with relationships with family and friends; be young parents; and feel affected by stigma and prejudice. A Ministerial report on improving educational outcomes for looked after children and young people – *Looked After Children and Young People – We can and must do better* – also recognised the important part which health and well-being play in enabling such young people to fulfil their academic potential.

“We know that looked after children can overcome early experience of trauma and adversity. Our participants demonstrate that children’s histories do not have to predict their future, and that journeys through childhood to adulthood can be changed. We are learning that being looked after should be a time at which there is real opportunity for change.” Source - Celebrating success: what helps looked after children succeed

Designated managers in schools and residential establishments have a crucial role in helping to provide a stable environment as the basis for achievement. Advice for designated managers about the responsibilities of their role is outlined in *Core Tasks for Designated Managers in Educational and Residential Establishments*.¹⁵

¹⁴ Improving the Education of Looked After Children: A Guide for Local Authorities and Service Providers <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/265301/0079476.pdf>

¹⁵ Scottish Government (2008c). *Core tasks for designated managers in educational and residential establishments*. Edinburgh: The Scottish Government. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/09/09143710/0>

Schools can only put in place support systems if they know which pupils are looked after. There should be very clear arrangements within a local authority for informing schools when a pupil becomes looked after, or when a looked after child or young person joins the school. Similarly there should be arrangements for informing schools about changes in legal status, care placement, or discharge from care. Schools will normally receive information from the Children's Panel Reporter. (For more information about the children's hearing system, refer to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration website.) Schools also need to have access to good advice from, for example, a social worker, educational psychologist and looked after children's nurse, so they can provide the most appropriate support.

Looked after children and young people can improve in both school attendance and attainment in a relatively short period of time when provided with additional support and engaged in flexible and individually tailored activities.

Source: Improving the Education of Looked After Children: A Guide for Local Authorities and Service Providers

Key Outcome

Schools are inclusive, aspirational for all children and young people including those who are looked after, and have in place strategies to ensure that looked after young people are not disproportionately represented in poor attendance, exclusions, bullying and underachievement. This will be demonstrated when looked after young people or care leavers attend school regularly, pass exams, find and sustain jobs or a place at college or university on leaving school, find somewhere suitable to live and manage to sustain it.

Care leavers are amongst the group of young people most likely to be, or become unemployed or at risk of missing out, along with: carers; young offenders; young parents; low attainers; persistent truants; young people with physical/mental disabilities; and young people misusing drugs or alcohol. The proportion of 15-19 year olds who are not in employment education or training in Scotland is high on an international comparison. The economic and social cost extends well beyond a young person's nineteenth birthday. Research indicates that young people who are not in employment education or training for a prolonged period are most likely to encounter persistent problems of worklessness and social exclusion in later life.

Skills Development Scotland Careers Services aim to become involved in the Pathway planning process for looked after young people, where appropriate, to progress and sustain them into positive opportunities. Accordingly, these young people will receive appropriate 16+ Learning Choices.

Social Services

From the child's perspective, there is evidence¹⁶ that exposure to high levels of parental stress, neglect and abuse can have a severe effect on brain development. There are clear gaps between the development of children whose parents face such stresses and those being brought up in less stressful households. These gaps continue through life. At age 3, children at higher risk of poor outcomes can be identified on the basis of their chaotic home circumstances, their emotional behaviour, their negativity and poor development.

¹⁶ Early Years Framework Dec 2008 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/13095148/6>

These children face many risks and improving early years support is key to improving child protection.

By the time such children reach adulthood, these children are more likely to have poor health outcomes, be unemployed, have criminal convictions, have substance misuse problems and have experienced teenage pregnancy.

Improving the early years experiences of these children is therefore a central element for regenerating communities, reducing crime, tackling substance misuse and improving employability. It will also help us to break the repeating cycle of poor outcomes often associated with teenage pregnancy.

All looked after children and young people have individual care plans, which are monitored through the Looked After Children review system. Evidence shows¹⁷ that children looked after by local authorities have significantly poorer physical, mental and emotional health than their peers, and a much lower uptake of health services. Local authorities must ensure care leavers' health needs are assessed, and any actions taken as part of their plan for independent living.

Key Outcome

This will be demonstrated when

- families have been supported to enable them to look after their own children, where appropriate, and are able to enhance their parenting role.
- When young people access the local services when they need them, and their experience is of the highest quality.
- When staff in different organisations know who to talk to, feel comfortable working together and sharing information and are jointly accountable for their work.
- Joint inspections demonstrate excellent collaborative integrated working.

Police Services

Research into outcomes tells us that young people who are looked after are more likely to be involved in offending or anti-social behaviour. For a small minority, this may be why they have become looked after. Young people's life circumstances are likely to be significant contributors to the reasons for their offending behaviour and it is therefore important that police officers are aware of those circumstances when considering how to address the behaviour, especially when a young person has been detained within a police station.

The police are also likely to be involved in prevention and diversionary activity in local communities where they will have an opportunity to promote the inclusion of looked after young people, to build positive relationships and to provide good role models. Within the wider corporate family, the police will build on the work which has already been achieved to promote a more holistic approach to dealing with children and young people.

¹⁷ SWIA The health of looked after and accommodated children and young people in Scotland Jun 2006

<http://www.swia.gov.uk/swia/files/Health%20of%20Looked%20After%20and%20Accommodated%20Children%20in%20Scotland.pdf>

Health Services

Children looked after by local authorities have significantly poorer physical, mental and emotional health and a much lower uptake of health services - they are less likely to engage with universal health services such as GPs, dentists and opticians. Flexible and targeted advice and assistance is essential to meet their needs. Looked after children continue to need care well into young adulthood.

Addressing the needs of Looked After children and young people, and care leavers, depends on effective assessment and planning. Better Health, Better Care (Scottish Government, 2007)¹⁸ includes a commitment to addressing the health needs of Looked After children and young people

Looked After children and young people and care leavers are more likely to need specialist health services than their peers, whether Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, help with addictions or sexual health advice. For example, The Action Framework for Children and Young People (Scottish Executive, 2007)¹⁹ indicates that 40% of children in care will have mental or emotional health problems. This is considerably higher than their peers who are not Looked After.

It is estimated that approximately 67% of young care leavers are smokers, 79% of young offenders smoke, and 94% of homeless young adults smoke aged 16-24.²⁰

Teenage Pregnancy - Teenagers who become parents are known to experience more educational, health, social and economic difficulties than young people who are not parents. Consequently, their children may be exposed to greater social deprivation and disadvantage. These outcomes have been demonstrated to be more adverse still in the case of looked-after children who become parents. This is because this group is more likely than others to be unemployed, have more mental health problems, be expected to be independent and have little support.²¹

Looked-after young people are at greater risk of teenage pregnancy and are 2.5 times more likely to become pregnant than other teenagers.

Research²² has demonstrated that looked-after children are more likely to become sexually active earlier than other groups of children. A quarter of young women leaving care are either pregnant or already mothers, and almost half of female care-leavers become mothers between the ages of 18 and 24. Pregnant looked-after children are less likely than other groups to choose abortions or adoption because of personal experiences.

There is evidence from young mothers who had been in care of a feeling of maturity and status thus contributing to achieving an adult identity. The gains for some included a

¹⁸ www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/206458/0054871.pdf

¹⁹ www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/165782/0045104.pdf

²⁰ NHS publication Dec 2008 Young Adult Smokers in Scotland

http://www.scotpho.org.uk/home/Publications/scotphoreports/pub_youngsmokers.asp

²¹ Smoking, drinking, drug use, mental health and sexual behaviour in young people in East London. Publication by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit. <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RW42c.pdf> http://www.southampton-partnership.com/meetings_events/reports/2005.09.27/TP_&Alcohol.pdf

²² <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2008/01/23/107036/teenage-pregnancies-among-children-in-care-research.html>

renewal of family links and improved relationships with their mothers and their partner's families. Reasons for early parenthood are less researched. In *Moving On*²³, just over half of the parents said that their pregnancies were unplanned and nearly two-thirds of these were 17 years or younger. Disruption through movement in care, problems with truancy and the absence of a consistent carer capable of inspiring trust may mean they miss out on advice.

Reducing teenage pregnancy rates and supporting teenage parents is not always linked into the wider agendas of social inclusion and regeneration - but it should be. Teenage pregnancy is now a mainstreaming issue which has to be integrated into many different areas of work, including targeted youth support, integrated youth services, children and young people's health services, child poverty, raising educational attainment and reducing those who are not in education or training. Joined up working has been shown to be critical in achieving a reduction in rates.

Source: Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group Annual Report 07/08



²³ Helping care leavers, problems & strategic responses
www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=20849&Rendition=Web-

Appendices

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Appendix 1 - Framework For Action

National Outcome: Our Children Have The Best Start In Life And Are Ready To Succeed, We Have Improved The Life Chances For Children, Young People And Families At Risk.					
Community Planning Aim: Vulnerable People & Families Are Supported, Our Communities Are More Cohesive & Inclusive.					
Priority: The inclusion of a commitment to Corporate Parenting.					
	Lead	Partners	Outcome	Target	Timescale
1	Clackmannanshire Council	Health, Police, Voluntary Sector, Housing, Education.	1.1 The needs of Looked After young people and care leavers are recognised in strategic plans, strategies, and the Single Outcome Agreement.	Establish the role of the Corporate Parent and ensure that all staff and elected members are working in the best interests of Looked After young people and care leavers.	March 2009
				Appoint a Children's Champion	Nov 2008
			1.2 The needs and aspirations of Looked After young people and care leavers are voiced and supported at a strategic level. There is a recognition and pride of young people's achievements and they are defended against criticism.	Establish a Corporate Parenting working group for Looked After children.	January 2009
			1.3 Clear lines of accountability and governance in respect of Looked After young people and care leavers.	Evaluation of the action plan will be reported annually to Scrutiny Committee	March 2010
			1.4 Wherever a young person lives they feel they belong, are secure and can grow in confidence as their developing needs continue to be met.	All children are reviewed within appropriate timescales with young people encouraged to participate as fully as possible in their reviews.	Ongoing
Priority: The significant change in assessment and planning systems as part of the implementation of "Getting It Right For Every Child", and we need to ensure that the views of children and families are better taken account of in the new processes.					
	Lead	Partners	Outcome	Target	Timescale
2	Clackmannanshire Council	Health, Police, Voluntary Sector, Housing, Education, Community Learning & Development.	2.1 Partners work together to improve the outcomes and maximising opportunities for looked after young people and care leavers.	HMIE/Care Commission. SWIA report that the care and welfare of young people are appropriate, stable and of good quality.	October 2010
			2.2 Barriers are removed that prevent Looked After young people and care leavers achieving desired outcomes.	Ongoing consultation to identify barriers and gaps in services.	Ongoing
			2.3 Looked after young people and care leavers are able to access local services when they need them, and their experience is of the highest quality.	Increase the involvement of young people from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the full range of sporting and other activities available to young people as a whole. ²⁴	2010
			2.4 Ensure that the care and welfare of young people are appropriate, stable and of good quality.	Commitment to the establishment from existing resources of a dedicated Throughcare Aftercare Social Worker.	October 2009
			2.5 Looked After young people and care leavers are able to access local services when they need them, and their experience is of the highest quality.		
			2.6 Sharing information that is relevant to ensure a consistent service across agencies.	Establish protocols between all parties to ensure Looked After children and care leavers are visible and provided support at the appropriate time, particularly at points of transition e.g. leaving school/care, moving from primary to secondary etc.	October 2010
			2.7 There is knowledge about care leavers and there is support available to them that meets their needs.		

²⁴ Improving the Education of Looked After Children: A Guide for Local Authorities and Service Providers <http://clacksweb/document/meeting/196/289/2791.pdf>

Priority: The significant change in assessment and planning systems as part of the implementation of "Getting It Right For Every Child", and we need to ensure that the views of children and families are better taken account of in the new processes.					
	Lead	Partners	Outcome	Target	Timescale
2	Clackmannanshire Council	Health, Police, Voluntary Sector, Housing,	2.8 Encourage young people to express their views, ensure that they are listened to and included in key decisions about them.	75% of all children over the age of 8 should be encouraged to complete a 'Having Your Say' form for Childcare reviews that expresses the young persons feeling and views about their support from the local authority and partners.	March 2010
			2.9 The views of Looked After young people and care leavers are heard and listened to, and when decisions are made their views are taken into account.	Request CFIS to be updated to incorporate a field that pursues this issue to enable recording and monitoring.	August 2009
Priority: A major focus on reducing the number of children placed out-with the authority					
	Lead	Partners	Outcome	Target	Timescale
3	Clackmannanshire Council		3.1 Ensure that times of transition in a young persons life are planned and supported.	100% of children who leave care and are eligible for aftercare support will have a pathway plan.	October 2009
			3.2 Fewer moves between placements	Children have a maximum of 2 moves within a year of becoming accommodated.	Ongoing
			3.3 Reduce the number of children placed out-with the authority.	5% Reduction in foster placements out with Clackmannanshire	March 2010
Priority A commitment to providing full time educational provision for all Looked After children					
	Lead	Partners	Outcome	Target	Timescale
4	Clackmannanshire Council	Health, Police, Voluntary Sector, Housing, Child Care, Adult Care.	4.1 Improvement in the educational attainment of Looked After children	Continue to take action to improve young people's attainments. Including monitoring and tracking of attendance, behaviour and progress being made by all pupils. Paying particular attention to boys and young people who are vulnerable and at risk of failure so that appropriate interventions can be planned and implemented to reduce such risk.	2010
				schools have in place strategies to ensure that Looked After young people are not disproportionately represented in poor attendance, exclusions, bullying and underachievement.	2010
			4.2 Looked After young people or care leavers attend school regularly, pass exams, find and sustain jobs or places at college or university on leaving school.	Continue to work to reduce the numbers of young people between the ages of 16 and 19 and school leavers who are not in education, employment or training. ²⁵	2010
			4.3 Schools know who their Looked After young people are and work closely with carers (including foster, kinship and residential) and/or birth family to meet the young persons needs.	Continue to operate to the guidance in the Core Tasks for Designated Managers document published in 2008. (New responsibilities launched at seminar in Clacks in Feb 09).	Ongoing

²⁵ Improving the Education of Looked After Children: A Guide for Local Authorities and Service Providers <http://clacksweb/document/meeting/196/289/2791.pdf>

Priority Greater and improved housing support for care leavers, including dedicated provision.					
	Lead	Partners	Outcome	Target	Timescale
5	Clackmannanshire Council	Health, Police, Voluntary Sector, Housing, Child Care, Elected Members.	5.1 Ensure that times of transition in a young persons life are planned and supported	Explore closer working arrangements between Housing and Child Care and implement recommendations.	November 2009
				Review Action For children Path management arrangements to ensure child care representation.	August 2009.
			5.2 More Looked After children moving into supported housing arrangements	Dedicated accommodation for two care leavers being provided from September 2009	September 2009
			5.3 The provision of a greater range and more appropriate accommodation for Care Leavers.	Review and report on projected accommodation needs of care leavers.	November 2009
				Set up specialist accommodation project to meet identified needs.	2011
			5.4 There is a variety of options available to young people moving from care into independent living with appropriate levels of support.	Child care needs will be incorporated into local Housing strategy.	July 2010.
			5.5 Changes to the Allocations and Homelessness Policy to reflect the needs and priority status of Care Leavers throughout their life.	Homeless policy amended and awaiting ratification by Council. Allocations policy review to begin in Nov 2009.	April 2010.
			5.6 Young people leaving care are able to access suitable accommodation without recourse to homelessness services.	Put in place agreed effective joint working arrangements with clear procedures and effective resolution mechanisms.	November 2009.
			5.7 Staff working in housing services understand their additional responsibilities to looked after young people and care leavers.	Frontline staff already undergone training organised by child care on child protection. To be rolled out to all staff.	December 2009

Priority Enhanced support into employment and training, including opportunities within the Council					
	Lead	Partners	Outcome	Target	Timescale
6	Clackmannanshire Council	Clacks Works, Social Services, Careers Scotland, Voluntary Sector	6.1 More looked after children leaving school for further education/training or employment	Ensure that Looked After young people and care leavers are recognised as a priority within employment programmes and initiatives such as Clacks Works.	Ongoing.
			6.2 All care leavers pathway plans will be sent to Careers Scotland who will offer a dedicated employability service to all young people leaving care.	Care leaver careers destinations will be reported annually and appropriate year on year targets set.	March 2009
Priority A dedicated health screening and planning process for all Looked After young people.					
	Lead	Partners	Outcome	Target	Timescale
7	Health	Child Care	7.1 Work with placing authority to make sure that arrangements are made for Looked After young people and care leavers to be provided with health care services, including medical and dental care treatment.	All Looked After and accommodated young people will have their health needs identified and an individual health plan agreed including registration with General Practitioner. This will be undertaken by the Well Chosen service within Health.	Ongoing
			7.2 Physical, mental and emotional well-being of Looked After young people and care leavers are addressed at the earliest opportunity.	Engage with all young people as they move out of the Looked After system and into independence to make sure they are engaged with the specialist Through care health services to meet their changing needs.	July 2009
			7.3 The Health service is accessible and inclusive, and this is reflected in inspection reports and feedback from other professionals as well as service users.	Looked after young people will be asked to comment on their health plan and support at all Looked After children reviews.	Ongoing.

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Web sites

- General Teaching Council for Scotland (see Publications, Guidance for Teachers, Looked After Children): <http://www.gtcs.org.uk/>
- Looked after Children: <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/lookedafterchildren>
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration: <http://www.scra.gov.uk>



Clackmannanshire
Child Protection
Committee



**Integrated
Children's
Services Plan**

Caring parents delivering improved outcomes for young people.

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