
Report to Council

Date of Meeting: 20 December 2018

Subject: Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-2021

Report by: Head of Social Services and Chief Social Work Officer

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced a number of important changes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Scotland
- 1.2. Corporate Parenting responsibilities are set out under section 58 as a duty of every Corporate Parent, in so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its other functions –
 - (a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,
 - (b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,
 - (c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,
 - (d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,
 - (e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people-
 - (i) to assess opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph d and
 - (ii) to make use of services and access support which it provides and
 - (f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children or young people.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. Council are asked to endorse the Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-2021 and as Corporate Parents ensure the legislative duties are met.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 Under section 59 of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 a Corporate Parent must prepare, keep under review, and publish a Corporate Parenting Plan. This plan must set out how the Corporate Parent proposes to fulfil its corporate parenting responsibilities (as set out in section 58 of the Act and replicated above).
- 3.2 The Corporate Parenting Plan 2018- 2021 has been co-produced with looked after young people, in partnership with
- Clackmannanshire Council
 - NHS Forth Valley
 - Scottish Children's Reporters Administration
 - Skills Development Scotland
 - Scottish Fire and Rescue
 - Forth Valley College
 - Who Care's? Scotland
 - Police Scotland
- 3.3 Corporate Parents are working together to make sure they meet the priorities of the Corporate Parenting Plan and that children and young people in Clackmannanshire are :
- Safe from harm
 - Have the best possible start in life
 - Grow up healthy, confident and resilient
 - Have skills for life, work and learning
- 3.4 The plan sets out the priorities and the Corporate Parent Champions for each priority, and the Outcomes to be achieved and performance measures
- 3.5 Under section 61 a Corporate Parent must report annually on how it has exercised its corporate parenting responsibilities. Corporate parenting reports will include information about standards of performance, and the outcomes achieved for looked after children and young people.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. Under section 59 of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 a corporate parent must prepare, keep under review, and publish a Corporate Parenting Plan. This plan must set out how the corporate parent proposes to fulfil its corporate parenting responsibilities (as set out in section 58 of the Act).

5.0 Resource Implications

- 5.1. *Financial Details*

5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. No ✓

5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. No ✓

5.4. *Staffing*

6.0 Exempt Reports

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

7.0 Declarations

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

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box ☒)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all ☐
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life ✓

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential ✓
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish ✓

(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 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ✓

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1 – Clackmannanshire Corporate Parenting Plan 2018 -2021

11.0 Background Papers

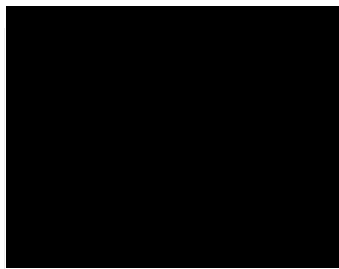
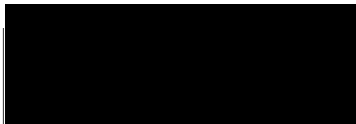
11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes ☐ (please list the documents below) No ☒

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Clackmannanshire's Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-2021

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Foreword

We are your corporate parents and this plan is for you – our looked after and care experienced children and young people, wherever you live. You have helped us to write this plan by being honest with us and telling us about what has worked well for you and what needs to be better.

We have a collective responsibility for looked after and care experienced young people. For this to work, it requires everyone, from senior managers to staff who work directly with you, to understand and act on their responsibilities.

We are working to make sure that all of Clackmannanshire's children and young people:

- Are safe from harm ,
- Have the best possible start in life ,
- Grow up healthy, confident and resilient ,
- Have skills for life, work and learning

This plan tells you how we will make this happen for you.

At different times of your lives, you may need some extra help and support. We will work together to help you overcome any barriers you may face and to celebrate your achievements.

Thank you to all of you and to everyone from the following organisations who have helped to write this plan:

Clackmannanshire Council
NHS Forth Valley
Police Scotland
Scottish Fire and Rescue
Scottish Children's Reporters Administration
Skills Development Scotland
Forth Valley College
Who Cares? Scotland

There are 24 organisations in Scotland who have the role to be your corporate parents. You can see a full list of all your corporate parents at Appendix 3.

Signed off by Chair of CPP and Elected Member Champion for Corporate Parenting

1. Corporate Parenting: An Introduction

1.1 What's it all about?

As corporate parents, our job is to look out for you and care about you in the same ways as other parents do. This includes making sure your rights are protected and caring about you as you grow up. This means caring about your health, wellbeing, your education and your future. It is also important that you know our duties and responsibilities extend to all looked after children, young people and care leavers aged 0-26 years.

“Our ambitions for looked after children should be no less than those for our own children.”

Scottish Government,
Care and Permanence
Planning for Looked after
Children

Scottish Government Guidance tells us about our duties as your corporate parents:

“uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, (to promote their) physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development”

Scottish Government, 2015

You can find out more information about the law and legal guidance at Appendix 2, page X of this plan.

When we wrote this plan, we looked at what we know about the children and young people who are looked after. We've listened to you talk about your lives and what is important to you.

We used this information to develop the priority areas for improvement. We have Corporate Parenting Champions for each priority. The promises and actions contained in this plan are linked to these priorities. Our Corporate Parenting Champions are responsible for making sure that we keep these promises to you.

“ Being a corporate parent equates in many ways to being a birth parent. You have the overall responsibility for ensuring that looked after children and young people and care leavers grow up to be successful, confident and responsible citizens.”

The Scottish Government (2008) *These are our Bairns: a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent.*

1.2 Your Views

We want you to shape and influence the parenting that you receive from your corporate parents. We want your ideas about how we can improve the services and supports that are important for you or would have made a difference to you.

Some of you are working with us to help us engage with looked after and care experienced young people and get their views heard.

There are groups in schools, at college and groups of looked after young people who have worked with the Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration and shared their opinions and views.

We have worked with Who Cares? to develop a participation group, which is known as *Oor Clacks Voices*.

“Oor Clacks Voices is a group of local care experienced young people. We meet every couple of weeks. We play a part in making change happen. We look at the issues affecting the care journey and we engage with corporate parents to do this. All while having fun.”

Oor Clacks Voices, July 2018.



We worked with *Oor Clacks Voices* and asked for the views of other looked after and care experienced children and young people when we were writing this plan.

We know that it is important to find ways to hear the views of all looked after children and young people and we know that we have more to do to achieve this. Who Cares? worked with some representatives from our corporate parents to establish

another participation group for younger people to increase the number of young people who are engaged in this way. We are also investigating more innovative digital solutions to accessing the views of looked after and care experienced young people.

We know that it is important to find ways to hear the views of all looked after children and young people including those who do not live in Clackmannanshire and we know that we have more to do to achieve this.



speaking out for young people in care

Clackmannanshire Advocacy Service

We asked *Oor Clacks Voices* what the most important things that they would want a corporate parent to do. This is what they told us:

**"CARE for us,
UNDERSTAND
us"**

**"LISTEN to me.
Just because I am
a child my opinion
is still valid"**

**"take TIME to
build a
RELATIONSHIP
with me"**

**"help us to arrange to
see family members
and to keep in
contact with them"**

**"help us to
LEARN useful
things"**

**"RESPECT
us"**

**"don't treat me
differently in school.
Think about how you
can support me without
taking me out off
classes for meetings"**

**"I want to get to know
people and be able to
trust them. Please
think about this
before you change
my social worker or
support worker"**

**"make
sure we
are SAFE
and
SECURE"**

**"Make sure I
have a safe and
stable place to
stay when I
leave care"**

**"The person I
am with may not
be my mother or
father, think
about it!"**

**"help us to
get the right
advice and
support"**

**"Get to
know me as
a PERSON"**

**"it takes one
person to
make all the
difference –
DO IT!"**

**"offer me the
chance to volunteer,
and to get work
experience, training
and employment"**

**"make sure
that we don't
feel alone
when we are
struggling"**

**"spend TIME
doing FUN
things with
us"**

**"Take time to understand
what it is like to be care
experienced. If you are a
manager, make sure you
staff have training"**

We also people who work in education, social work, health services, housing and other organisations what they think it means to be a corporate parent. This is what they told us:

"it's about collective responsibility"

"having pride in their achievements"

"it's about believing in our children and young people and being willing to fight for them"

"being a champion"

"taking time to get to know them"

"asking children and young people what they want to happen"

"being an advocate"

"Responsibility & accountability for the wellbeing and future prospects of children in care ultimately rest with the corporate parent"

"It's an opportunity to make being in care a positive experience, one that gives young people, the care, stability, and opportunities that every child deserves"

"stable and supportive relationships are crucial"

In August 2018, we held an event at the Town Hall in Alloa, called *These are Oor Bairns*. We were delighted that some of the young people from *Oor Clacks Voices* took part in the event. Ellen Forson, the Council Leader, opened the event.



It was great that so many people came along. This included elected members from Clackmannanshire Council, senior managers and staff from across the Council, NHS Forth Valley, Stirling University, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration and representatives from Who Cares?, Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface and other voluntary organisations. We heard from Kenny McGee CELCIS, the Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland, based at the University of Strathclyde and from Shumela Ahmed from the Resilience and Learning Partnership about her personal experiences and what made a difference. Morag Cantwell, Advocacy and Participation Worker with Who Cares? interviewed a local care experienced young person, which gave everyone present a really helpful insight into what it means to be care experienced.

This is what people told us at the end of the event:

Please give us one word to describe today's event!

Mentimeter



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The event raised awareness of corporate parenting across Clackmannanshire and for corporate parents. Everyone in attendance was invited to sign up to make a pledge to our care experienced young people. Thirty six people made pledges at the event and in follow up to the event there has been a commitment from agencies including the Fire and Rescue Service and Clackmannanshire Council HR Service to identify new ways in which they can fulfil their corporate parenting responsibilities.

These were some of the pledges that individuals attending the Corporate Parenting Event signed up to:

- I pledge to look at you as a person, not a label
- I pledge to provide training for staff in the care experience journey
- I pledge to offer care experienced young people training, work experience or employment.
- I pledge to offer volunteering opportunities to care experienced young people.
- I pledge to be imaginative and innovative when engaging with care experienced children and young people.
- I pledge to take action which will pursue advantage or benefit for care experienced children and young people.
- I pledge to ensure that I am fully aware of my Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
- I pledge to provide activities/outings to promote the wellbeing of care experienced children and young people.
- I pledge to acknowledge that you have a valid opinion.

These were some of the comments from corporate parents at the end of the event:

For those of you who are corporate parents,
how do you feel now about this?

Mentimeter



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2. Corporate Parenting- What's happening now?

2.1 What do we know about our looked after children and young people?

The rate of looked after children Clackmannanshire is above the Scottish average.

At the end of June, 2018:

- The number of children and young people looked after by Clackmannanshire Council was 219.
- As a rate per 10,000 children under 18 years old, Clackmannanshire has more looked after children than most other Scottish Local Authorities. In 2016-2017, Clackmannanshire had the sixth highest rate across Scotland.
- The number of children and young people looked after away from home was 141, 64% of the total number of looked after children.
- The number of children and young people looked after at home was 78, 36% of the total number of looked after children.
- The number of looked after children being cared for by relatives was 55, 25% of the total number of looked after children and 39% of the number of accommodated children.
- The number of children in foster care was 66 (22 in local authority provided foster care and 44 in purchased foster care). Children in foster care are 30% of the total number of looked after children and 47% of the number of accommodated children.
- The number of children in residential units/schools was 12, 5% of the total number of looked after children and 9% of the number of children looked after away from home.
- There are 14 young people who continue to be in continuing care placements after the age of 16.

We have been working hard to improve the outcomes for looked after children and young people:

- We have been successful over the last year in supporting an increasing number of our looked after children and young people to return from residential care to live with their own family or in more homely settings in Clackmannanshire.

In 2017-2018, 52% of looked after children remained at home or in a kinship placement, we are using intensive support services, Family Group Decision Making and Functional Family Therapy to increase the number of those who are supported to live at home or with relatives

- We have kept the number of placements for children and young people changes to a minimum

In 2016-2017, 17.4% of looked after children and young people had more than one placement. We have consistently improved our performance ... reducing the number of moves for children and young people. We want to continue to do better, while supporting children and young people wherever possible to return to their own community.

- We are working to increase the proportion of children and young people who are cared for by Clackmannanshire Council foster carers. In 2017-2018, 31% of children who were with foster carers were with carers provided by the Council and 69% were with external foster carers purchased by the Local Authority.

Educational outcomes have been improving for looked after children and young people

- School attendance is improving
- School exclusions are reducing
- Attainment and achievement are improving
- More looked after young people are going on to college

- School attendance rates for looked after children have been consistently high for the last three years and were 94% in 2016-2017.
- **62%** of looked after children achieved 1 or more SCQF Level 5 in 2018 (This was **higher** than National Average in 2017 which was 44%)
- There was *an increase* in number of looked after young people achieving National 5 & Higher English 2018
- There was *an increase* in number of looked after young people achieving Higher Maths in 2018

Some of our care experienced young people are sharing their experiences and contributing to improving services for other children and young people in schools, colleges and in other settings. Some are being supported to look at career options through volunteering and shadowing opportunities and through going to college and university.

These are some of the achievements of our young people over the last year:

- Volunteering with the Children and Families Services
- Working as modern apprentices with Clackmannanshire Council
- Investigating work based opportunities with local employers including the Council and Police Scotland
- Completing their final year at College
- Attending summer schools at University
- Studying at University
- Sharing their lived experience as part of training for corporate parents
- Meeting the First Minister and the Children's Commissioner contributing to the Independent Care Review
- Being a crew member on one of the Tall Ships
- Achieving Duke of Edinburgh Awards, John Muir Trust Awards and Youth Achievement Awards
- Gaining Saltire Awards for Volunteering

These are some of the messages that looked after and care experienced children and young people told us about their experiences:

"I know where to go for help, if I make a mistake, the first thing I do is phone my through care worker"

"My experience has been very positive...I'm living (with a) supported carer at the moment, I'm now at university...I am settled and happy."

"lots of changes of placement did not work well for me, I wanted to know that there was a constant person there for me"

We are proud of your successes and achievements, but we know that we need to do more to make sure that the outcomes for all of our looked after children and young people improve.



3. Corporate Parenting – What do we plan to do?

3.1 Priority Areas for Improvement

We have agreed the following priorities for our Corporate Parenting Plan. Corporate Parenting Champions have agreed to be responsible for each priority. We will tell you more about these priorities in the next sections.

Priority:	This is the corporate parenting champion who will make this happen
Rights and Participation	Council Chief Executive - Nikki Bridle
Skills for life, work and learning	Chief Education Officer - Anne Pearson
Being Safe and Belonging	Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Children and Families and Justice - Celia Gray
Health and Wellbeing	NHS Forth Valley Health Board Director with responsibility for looked after children and young people- Professor Angela Wallace
Continuing Care, Support and Stability	Chief Officer in the Council with responsibility for Housing -

As a corporate parenting steering group, we want to do the best job we can to be good parents to each of you.

Each champion will ensure that reporting arrangements are in place for the Corporate Parenting Group to receive information about progress in each priority area. The champions will make sure that the people who work with you on a day-to day basis understand their role and responsibilities to you as your corporate parents.

The champions will work together, recognising the importance of the links between the different priorities. For example, we know that the age at which young people leave care is a very significant factor in improving educational attainment and helping young people to stay in employment. So ensuring that young people have stable placements and are able wherever possible to benefit from continuing care is vital to support improved educational outcomes.

The champions will also make sure that the corporate parenting steering group gets the information it needs to can make the right decisions. We will get your views, from those who work directly with you and people who care for you, and we will use performance information about what is making a positive difference and what is working less well to help us to understand what we are doing well and what we need to do differently in the future.

3.2 Our Promises to you

Rights and Participation

We'll spend time getting to know you to work out what you need and how we can help you. We will give you time and space to talk about what matters to you. We'll give you information about what is happening and about any decisions that are made. The team of people who are working with you will make sure that your views are listened to and that you are taken seriously. You will be given a chance to record your views. A rights-based approach to support and services for care leavers is promoted to take full advantage of enabling legislation and policy.

We can only make the changes to services that we need to make through partnership with you and involving you in decision-making at all levels. We will find more creative ways to increase the opportunities for you to contribute to service change. This will include extending the opportunities for participation, building on our current work together with Who Cares? Scotland and using established channels for gaining the views of children and young people and youth participation in Clackmannanshire.

We promise to talk to you about your rights, choices and what you are entitled to

We promise to promote your rights and help you take your part in decisions about you

We promise to learn from you about what we are doing that is working well and what you think we could do better

We promise to involve you in how we are changing our services and the design and delivery of our services

We value your ideas and opinions



“You have the right to be looked after well, to feel safe and to have your say in decisions that are made about you. Adults are responsible for promoting and safeguarding your rights. If you feel the rights that you are entitled to are being denied, you can challenge this and get support to do so.”

Scottish Government, (2014) Rights and Information for Looked after Children and Young People who are looked after away from home

“We firmly believe that care experienced young people have a wealth of experience, insight, energy, compassion and commitment to contribute – if only they are given the space and support to do so.”

Life Changes Trust

<https://www.lifechangestrust.org.uk/care-experienced-young-people/champions-boards>

Skills for life, work and learning

If you need extra support in school because of any difficulties or challenges you face, then we will make sure you get help. We will recognise your strengths and interests. We will support you to take part in activities, to get new skills and to help you become more confident and celebrate your achievements. This might include when you do well at a hobby, sport or activity, in a volunteering role, in school, further education or in a work setting.

We are ambitious for you. We will encourage you to dream big

We will support you to achieve the best that you can in school

We will celebrate your successes. This may include musical, sporting, academic, volunteering, employment achievements or other skills or qualifications that you achieve

We promise to help you access meaningful opportunities for further education, college, university, training and work

We will work with each other and with other local employers to create more opportunities in your local community. This will include work placements, job shadowing and employment opportunities



Research shared at the Scottish Care Leavers Covenant first Annual Conference identified that education is a massive predictor of doing well in adulthood.

“Wider benefits of school, such as new opportunities, friends, leisure and other activities outside of care, are often downplayed. Education can help young people (to make) a leap from a care identity to a common identity.”

[SCLC, Report of Annual Conference, 2017](#)

We have been working hard to improve educational outcomes and we recognise where you may need some extra support to help you.

There are some really positive examples of where you are doing well in school and at college, getting involved in volunteering or other activities in your local community. But we know we need to do more to help you to achieve your potential. In particular, we want to do more to help you get the skills and opportunities you need as you move on from school, so that you get the support you need to sustain work placements or jobs, attendance and achievement at college and university. This will include developing opportunities for mentoring and job-based support for looked after and care experienced young people. We will work closely with Skills Development Scotland, Forth Valley College and Universities and other local employers to build on what we are doing well already and making sure we listen to you about what support you need.

Here are some key statistics...

62% of looked after children achieved 1 or more SCQF Level 5 in 2018 (**higher** than the national average in 2017 - 44%)

Pass rate for both National 5 and Higher in 2018 is **higher** than in 2017

Pass rate for National 5 for looked after children is the **same** as the Clackmannanshire overall average

The average school attendance rate for looked after children is **93%**. This is **higher** than the national average for in 2016/17 - 91%

The exclusion rate for looked after children in 2017/18 **significantly lower** than in 2016/17 – There were only 4 exclusions

66% of looked after children leaving school entered an initial positive destination in 2016/17

Young people who are looked after tend to do less well at school than other young people, and they are leaving school when they are younger. It can also prove difficult for them to sustain attendance at college and university or at work placements :

"Looked after children are less likely to go on to positive destinations than all school leavers (77% compared to 93%), particularly higher education (4% compared to 39%). The positive destination is also less likely to be sustained after nine months for looked after leavers than for all school leavers."

Scottish Government, 2016, *Education outcomes for looked after children 2014/15*.

Being Safe and Belonging

We know that if you are looked after at an early age you are likely to have had difficult things to deal with at the start of your life. This can affect your future development. You need people around you who will look after you and make sure that you are safe and that you can thrive. Where possible, we will support your parents or carers to do this. We will work with you and your family, including members of your wider family, to help you have a loving and stable home.

“Unless there are clear reasons why placement within the family would not be in the child’s best interests, care within the wider family and community...will be the first option for the child”

Scottish Government, 2007, Getting it Right for Every Child in Kinship and Foster Care

Some of you may need to be cared for away from your family home for short or longer periods of time. For some children and young people, members of their family or family friends may be able to provide a stable long term home with the right help and support. This may be through a kinship care placement. For some children and young people, foster carers can play a valuable role in providing a stable home. Some children and young people will live with foster carers for a short period of time, for others they may stay with foster carers into adulthood. For other children and young people, a residential placement may be needed. For some children who are unable to live with their family in the long term, the best way forward may be adoption.

“I believe it’s really key to have a secure unit around you that loves you and helps you navigate the world and understand yourself and the world around you”

Pandora Christie, KISS FM DJ, discusses her experiences of growing up in care in The Fostering Network , Foster Care Magazine, Summer 2018, p.22

We promise to work with your parents to support to remain at home wherever possible and when it is safe for you to do so. We have developed a range of intensive support services that will help this to happen and we will continue to develop new ways of getting help to you at the right time

We promise to reduce the number of moves that you will experience between different carers

We will seek and take your views into consideration



We promise to always look for ways to find a safe and secure place for you to live. This will be through either returning you home, securing a home for you with someone in your wider family, through a permanent placement or through adoption

We promise to reduce the length of time it takes to secure a home for you, where you belong and will remain

“Children and young people have a basic need for belonging and connection, for ‘felt’ security and a need to be claimed especially if, and when, a return home isn’t possible”

SCLC Conference Report, 2017

“All partners and decision makers with corporate responsibilities for a child need to be aware of the damage that multiple placements can have and the need to secure permanency at an early age.”

Scottish Government, Care and Permanence Planning for Looked after Children

Health and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing is important for everyone. Some of your experiences may have been different to other children and young people and this may affect your health and development. Your carers may need extra advice and assistance so that they can help you.

We will make sure that your family or carers have the skills and confidence that they need to help you. We have a dedicated Health Team for looked after children. This team will work with you to identify any health needs you may have.. If you need extra support, there is a wide range of health and social care professionals, support workers and education staff who can meet with you, in a place you feel comfortable, and help you to get the support you need. This includes school guidance staff, school nurses, school based counsellors, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), other specialist health staff and Educational Psychology Services. We are working to implement the new role for School Nursing in line with the national vision and this includes having a focus on the needs of looked after children.

We are aware you may be distressed at times, especially if you are living away from family for the first time. Whilst this is normal, a range of supports and advice will be made available for you and your carers to help you cope better. This may include advice on sleep, diet and exercise and mental health and wellbeing.

We can also help you to make safe, informed choices around relationships. Our Sexual Health Clinics offer a Fast Track Service to you so you don't have to wait to be seen. We also offer free training to your carers and to staff who support you, so that they can better support you with questions you may have around relationships, sexual health and parenthood.



We will make sure that you have opportunities to take part in activities that help you to feel good about yourself

We promise to listen to you to understand the issues which affect your health and wellbeing and will make sure you get the right support when you need it

We want you to thrive and to be as healthy and active as you can be

We will ensure you can participate in a health needs assessment which will allow you to focus on your health and give you any help that you need

We will improve the ways we communicate with you about your health and wellbeing . This will include using technology so that you can communicate with us easier. We will ask you what you think about this.

“Health in the earliest years—beginning with the future mother’s well-being before she becomes pregnant—strengthens developing biological systems that enable children to thrive and grow up to be healthy adults.”

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-the-foundations-of-lifelong-health/>, accessed 05/08/2018

Continuing Care, Support and Stability

Where you are in a care placement, we will work with you to support you to remain there after your 16th birthday. Young people have a right to request to remain in their care placements until they are 21. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, local authorities have a legal duty to provide this.

To support the need for 'felt security' and belonging, and improved emotional wellbeing, care plans should be proactive in 'claiming' children and young people, and expect staying put/continuing care to be the default position. Young People should be encouraged, enabled and empowered to stay put (Scottish Government, 2013) where a return home is not possible.

Your care team will ensure that there's a plan in place for you to move on when the time is right for you, and that you have the skills you need to do this successfully. We understand this can be hard. We will be there for you if you when and if you need extra help. We will start planning at an early stage and we will "stick with you" to make sure that the plan works for you. This will include providing those of you who are eligible with after care support up to the age of 26.

We promise to work in partnership to make sure you have a safe and secure place to live

We will work together to support you to continue to live in safety and security. This will include supporting you to maintain positive relationships and to gain skills to be involved in your local community and live inter-dependently

We will encourage, enable and empower looked after young people and care leavers to remain in a positive care placement until they are ready to move on.

We will actively encourage and enable you to benefit from 'Staying Put' arrangements, supporting them to remain in positive care settings, for example foster care, until you are ready to move on

We will work together to ensure that you are receive services, support and opportunities, up to your 26th birthday, where you are leaving care and moving on to more independent living

"Care leavers often struggle on their journey into adulthood. For many the leap from care to independence is just too great, and too many continue to experience problems that lead to much poorer outcomes than the general population."

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant, 2015

"Relationships are the 'golden thread' of good practice. Corporate parents will demonstrate that priority is given to relationship-based practice, based on understanding, empathy, respect, and 'stickability'". Scottish Care Leavers Covenant, 2015



3.3 Our Action Plan

This action plan is designed to enable us to deliver on the priorities and promises set out in sections 3.1 and 3.2.

Rights and Participation

Outcome: Looked after children, young people and their families have an understanding of their rights and participate in decisions which affect them Corporate Parents meet their responsibilities and listen and respond to the voices of children and families and carers	
Activity	Who will make this happen?
The Corporate Parenting Champions will meet with looked after young people to talk with them about what matters to them and about the progress in each priority area	Chair of Corporate Parenting Steering Group
Work with “ <i>Oor Clacks Voices</i> ” to develop more ways of listening to and involving children and young people. Develop representation of care experienced young people on boards and decision-making forums.	Chair of Corporate Parenting Steering Group
Who Cares? Scotland will produce an annual report about their work with Clackmannanshire’s looked after and care experienced young people including the work with <i>Oor Clacks Voices</i> and on the use of advocacy services	Who Cares? Scotland
“Better Hearings” working group will work to improve the participation of children and young people within Children’s Hearings.	SCRA Children’s Hearings Scotland
Develop digital approaches to gaining the views of children and young people in a range of settings	Managers across all Children’s Services
Looked after children and young people are involved in interviews for key posts in Children’s Services	Managers across all Children’s Services
All staff who are corporate parents access training so that they understand their role and responsibilities	Senior Managers across all corporate parenting organisations
Clear accessible information on the choices and options open to looked-after young people preparing for or leaving care will be made available and accessible	Children and Families Social Work
How we will measure success	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish a Champion’s Board (Chair of Corporate Parenting Steering Group) by July 2019 ➤ Target of 75% of children and young people engaged and feedback from report from Who Cares? and Oor Clacks Voices (Who Cares?) ➤ Evidence of engagement by Corporate Parenting Champions (Who Cares? and Champions) ➤ 75% of looked after children and young people using advocacy (Who Cares? and Children and Families Social Work) 	

Skills for Life, Work and Learning

Outcome: Looked after children and young people have equality of opportunity and improved educational outcomes More looked after young people access and maintain positive post-school destinations	
Activity	Who will make this happen?
Target the use of the Scottish Attainment Challenge/ Looked After Children Fund interventions to improve attainment for looked after children and young people.	Children and Families Social Work and Education
Support foster and kinship carers in Clackmannanshire to assist them with children's learning and emotional wellbeing, including Parenting Programmes in Early Learning and Childcare	Education and Children and Families Family Placement Team
Deliver extended transition programmes to ensure progression and support as looked after young people move on in their education, learning or development. This will include mentoring programmes and activity agreements	Children and Families Social Work and Education
Skills Development Scotland will implement a partnership arrangement with the Through Care After Care Service that assists care experienced young people to directly access a Job Coach and Careers Advisor	Skills Development Scotland and Through Care After Care Service
Continue to work with Further Education and Higher and employers to improve opportunities our looked after and care experienced young people	Education and Children and Families Social Work
Continue to work with the Developing Young Workforce Regional Group to expand opportunities for work placements and skills development across all agencies and in partnership with local businesses. Develop and enhance supportive environments for the most vulnerable care leavers as a first step into the world of work.	Education and Children and Families Social Work and Senior Managers across all organisations with corporate parenting responsibilities
Enhance support and opportunities provided by Clacks Works for looked after and care experienced young people for training and employment.	Clackmannanshire Council Strategy and Performance and Clacks Works
Reduce any real or perceived barriers to accessing Modern Apprenticeships to ensure opportunities are aligned to care leavers' needs.	Senior Managers across all organisations with corporate parenting responsibilities
How we will measure success	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 50% of looked after children and young people achieving expected Curriculum for Excellence and levels in line with their age, stage and needs (Education) ➤ 50% increase in looked after young people achieving SCQF levels and award in Senior Phase in Education in line with their needs and circumstances (Education) ➤ 50% increase in attendance for looked after pupils in primary and secondary, where appropriate depending on need and circumstances (Education) 	

- 100% decrease in number of Looked After Pupils being excluded from school (Education)
- 100% decrease in number of Looked After pupils being excluded from school (Education)
- 50% increase in the participation rate for 16-19 year old care experienced young people (Skills Development Scotland)
- 100% increase in the number of Looked After young people in a positive destination (Education)

Being Safe and Belonging

Outcome: All transitions from birth to young adulthood will be well planned Looked after children and young people will be safe and secure and will experience as few moves as possible	
Activity	Who will make this happen?
<p>We will demonstrate that priority is given to relationship-based practice, based on understanding, empathy, respect, and 'stickability'.</p> <p>We will do this by minimising staffing changes and promoting consistency in workers, considering changes to services based on individual need rather than age. We will support young people to maintain positive relationships and attachments with previous carers and professionals throughout their care experience and beyond.</p>	Children and Families Social Work
Revised approach to GIRFEC assessments will deliver better quality outcomes focused assessments and plans	Children and Families Social Work with partners
Deliver the Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) Programme and agree an action plan around local needs to improve decision-making about future care for looked after children and young people	Children and Families Social Work
Provide parents with high quality intensive parenting support services.	Children and Families Social Work
Family Group Decision making is offered to families to ensure alternatives are considered at an early stage and in every case where a child or young person is at risk of becoming accommodated	Children and Families Social Work
Introduce Life Long Links in Clackmannanshire, a programme that uses on-line tools and other methods to find family members and other adults, who are connected to a child who is in care, and are willing to make a life long commitment to them	Children and Families Social Work
Continue to deliver a high profile foster carer recruitment campaign to increase number of local authority carers and involved care experienced young people in recruitment campaigns	Children and Families Social Work
Design and deliver post adoption support services and develop work to support continuing care provision with carers	Family Placement Team, Children and Families Social Work

How we will measure success

- Positive performance and trends in the balance of care (increase in the percentage of looked after children and young people who live with their own family and the percentage who are cared for in a community setting) (Children and Families Social Work)
- Reduce by 20% looked after children and young people living outside of Clackmannanshire (Children and Families Social Work)
- Increasing numbers by 10% children and young people secured through Kinship Care Orders (Children and Families Social Work)
- 30% of Clackmannanshire Council Foster Care Placements v External Care Placements (Children and Families Social Work)

Health and Wellbeing

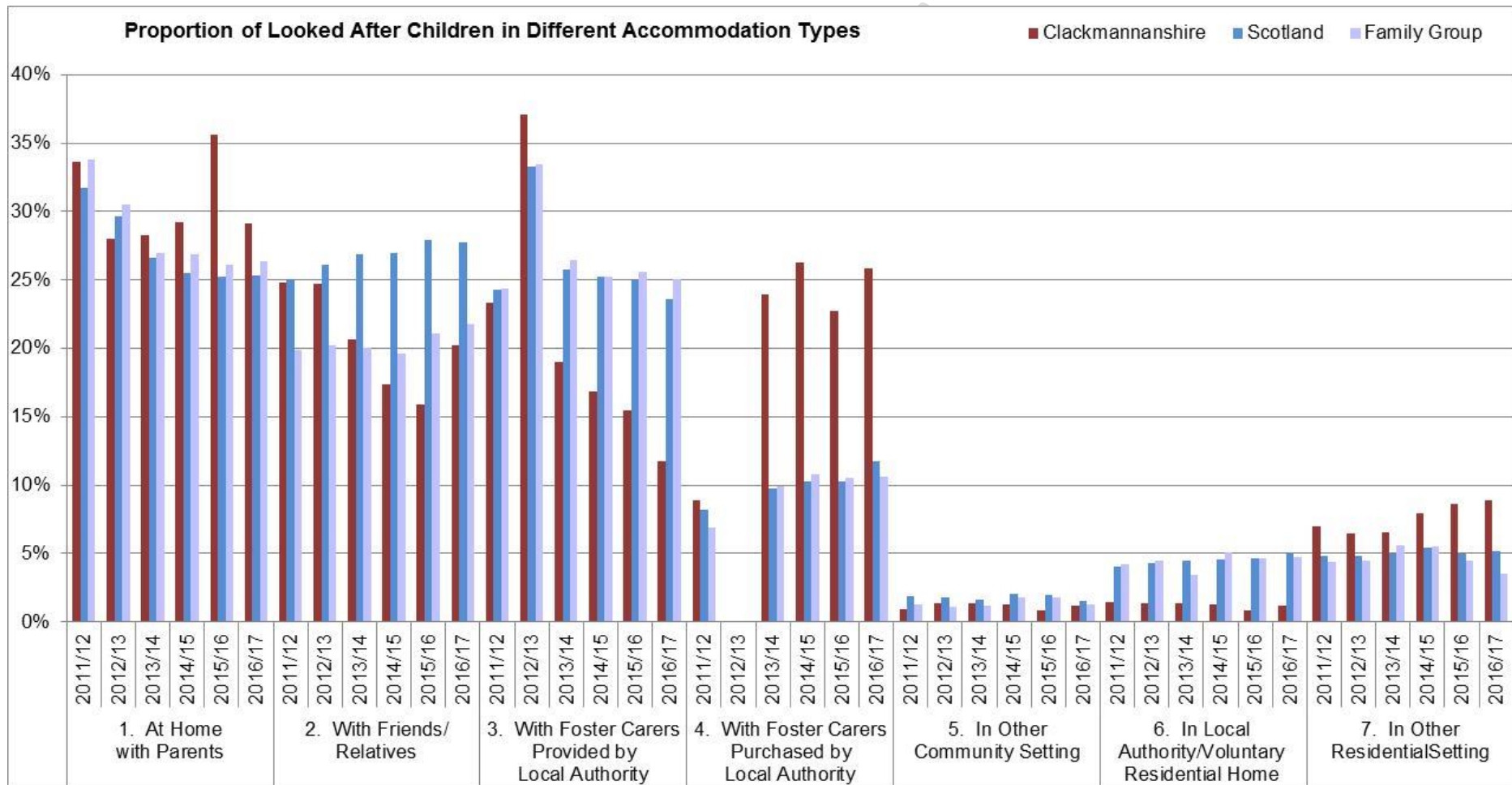
Outcome: Looked after children and young people are supported to improve their physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing Health outcomes for looked after children will improve	
Activity	Who will make this happen?
Ensure that notifications for looked after children and young people are sent to NHS Forth Valley within 5 days	Children and Families Social Work
All health assessments will be completed within 28 days of notification by the local authority	Looked After and Accommodation Children nursing team
Take action to reduce social exclusion and isolation, which impact on mental and physical health and emotional wellbeing by reviewing arrangements to support access to sport and leisure facilities for all looked after young people and care leavers. This will include considering discounts/free passes.	Clackmannanshire Council Leisure Services
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services will provide targeted training on risk assessment and support other colleagues across services to support looked after children and young people.	CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Adult Mental Health Services will provide access to advice and consultation with adult mental health professionals for those involved in supporting care leavers with complex and/or challenging mental health, emotional and behavioural needs.	NHS Forth Valley
Corporate parents will ensure that looked after children and care leavers are able to access mental health services and/or alternative support services to support their mental wellbeing.	All Corporate Parents
Review arrangements for providing medical advisor to the Fostering and Adoption Panel	NHS Forth Valley and Family Placement Team
The Readiness for Learning "R4L" approach will provide a model of support for education staff and other colleagues through targeted intervention to help support the social and emotional development and attainment of children and looked after children and young people. This includes looked after children and young people.	Education Service
Evaluate the current sports and activities programmes in school holidays aimed at increasing participation by our looked after children and young people	Sports Development Service and Children and Families Social Work
How we will measure success	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 100% of referrals for health assessments completed within timescale (Children and Families Social Work) ➤ 100% of health assessments completed within timescale (NHS Forth Valley) ➤ 50% increased participation in Sports and CLD activities by looked after children and young people (Education and Children and Families Social Work) ➤ Increased participation by looked after children in Education Community Learning and Development programmes (Community Learning and Development) 	

Continuing Care, Support and Stability

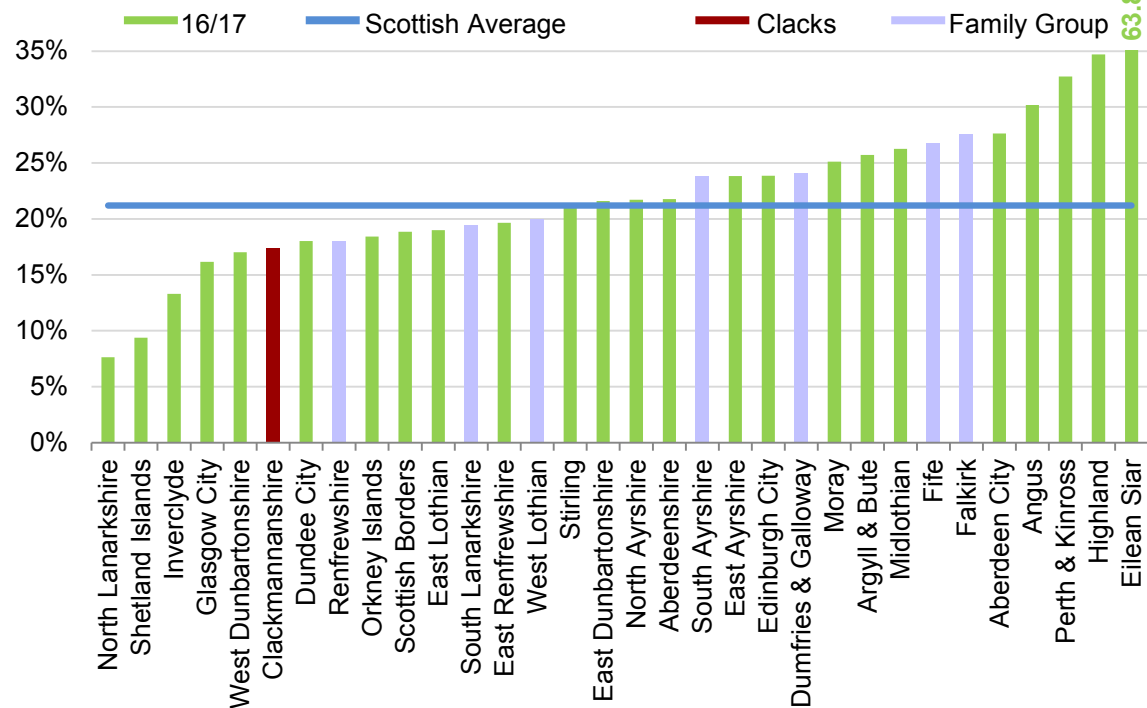
Outcome: More looked after young people access and sustain accommodation that meets their needs when they move on from being looked after More looked after young people choose continuing care as an option	
Activity	Who will make this happen?
Implement a Housing Options Policy for all care leavers. As part of this, we will take action to ensure that care leavers do not have to make a 'homeless application' in order to access suitable accommodation/housing.	Clackmannanshire Council Housing and Children and Families Services
Design and deliver a range of accommodation options with support packages for young care leavers	Clackmannanshire Council Housing and Children and Families Services
Target recruitment for supported carers for care experienced young people. Supported Carers: Converting foster care placements to supported carer placements becomes established practice where appropriate and supported carer placements are made available to those young people who are not yet ready to transition to greater independence.	Family Placement Team, Children and Families Social Work
Promote "Continuing Care" so that all eligible young people are aware that they can stay in their placements.	Through Care After Care, Children and Families Social Work
How we will measure success	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By April 2019 no looked after young people and care leavers will take homelessness route to access accommodation (Housing and Children and Families Social Work) ➤ 75% of eligible young people who are offered and choose to take up Continuing Care after the age of 16 (Children and Families Social Work) ➤ 75% of eligible young people who have a pathway plan (Children and Families Social Work) 	

Appendix 1

dd data and create infographics in the main body of the plan



CHC 04 - Looked After Children with More than 1 Placement in the Last Year



Appendix 2

Legal Definitions:

Corporate Parenting is defined in law in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, as ***“the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers”***

Corporate parenting exists to improve the outcomes for looked after children and young people and to increase the respect that people have for the rights of care experienced and looked after children and young people.

Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act states that corporate parents must:-

1. Be alert to matters which might adversely affect the wellbeing of looked after children and young people
2. Assess the needs of looked after children and young people for their services and support
3. Promote the interests of looked after children and young people
4. Provide looked after children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing
5. Take any action to help children and young people access opportunities to promote their wellbeing and to make use of services and access supports
6. Take action to improve as a corporate parenting

Corporate parenting applies to every child who is looked after by a local authority. This includes children and young people, who are:

- In residential care
- In foster care
- In kinship care, who live with a family member who is not their parent
- Looked after at home, including those who are cared for away from home for short periods.

The 2014 Act introduced new provisions for Continuing Care and Aftercare and placed new duties on local authorities. All young people in residential, foster or kinship care born after April 1999 will have a right to stay in foster, kinship or residential care until the age of 21. This is known as a “Continuing Care”. The right to aftercare support, and all corporate parenting duties, is available to all care leavers and extended to all until their 26th birthday.

We use the words: **looked after children and young people** to mean children and young people who are cared for in any of these settings. The right to aftercare support and to corporate parenting is also available for all care leavers up to the age of 26.

Who are your corporate parents?

1. The Scottish Ministers
2. A local authority
3. The National Convener of Children's Hearings Scotland
4. Children's Hearings Scotland
5. The Principal Reporter
6. The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
7. A health board
8. A board constituted under section 2(1)(b) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978
9. Healthcare Improvement Scotland
10. The Scottish Qualifications Authority
11. Skills Development Scotland
12. Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland
13. The Scottish Social Services Council
14. The Scottish Sports Council
15. The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland
16. The Scottish Police Authority
17. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
18. The Scottish Legal Aid Board
19. The Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland
20. The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland
21. The Scottish Housing Regulator
22. Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Bòrd na Gàidhlig works to promote the Gaelic language across Scotland.
23. Creative Scotland
24. A body which is a 'post-16 education body' for the purposes of the Further and Higher Education. This means colleges and universities.

Appendix 4

A Profile: Looked after Children Educated in Clackmannanshire Schools

Main Findings

62% of LAC achieved 1 or more SCQF Level 5 in 2018 (**higher** than LAC National Average in 2017 - 44%)

Pass rate for both National 5 and Higher in 2018 is **higher** than in 2017

Pass rate for National 5 for LAC is the **same** as the Clacks overall average

LAC average attendance rate **93%** - **higher** than LAC National Average in 2016/17 - 91%

LAC exclusion rate in 2017/18 **significantly lower** than in 2016/17 - only 4 exclusions

66% of LAC school leavers entered an initial positive destination in 2016/17

- * **29** young people presented for **111 Scottish Qualifications** in our authority in 2018 (82% overall pass rate)
- * 18 young people 'looked after' away from home; 11 'looked after' at home
- * **Slight fall** compared to 2017 where 32 young people presented for 148 Scottish Qualifications - 84% pass rate
- * **62%** of LAC achieved 1 or more SCQF Level 5 in 2018 (higher than National average in 2017 - 44%)
- * Qualifications ranged from SCQF Level 3 to Advanced Higher
- * Subjects ranged from Accounting to Science in the Environment

- * Pass Rate for Higher: **67%** - **higher than 2017** (Clacks average: 73%)
- * Pass Rate for National 5: **68%** - **higher than 2017** (Clacks average: 68%)
- * No. of National 4 awarded: 32 - *less than 2017*
- * No. of National 3 awarded: 16 - *less than 2017*
- * No. of National 2 awarded: 4 - *higher than 2017*
- * *Increase* in number of LAC achieving National 5 & Higher English 2018
- * *Increase* in number of LAC achieving Higher Maths in 2018 (no LAC achieved Higher Maths in 2017)

- * 38% of LAC are looked after 'at home'
- * 61% of LAC 'home' live in SIMD 1&2
- * Represents 32% of total number of SCQF presentations
- * LAC 'home' SCQF pass rate: **89%**
- * Achieved
 - National 2: 1
 - National 3: 5
 - National 4: 12
 - National 5: 90% pass rate
 - Higher: 63% pass rate

- * 62% of LAC are looked after 'Away' from home
- * Represents 68% of total number of SCQF presentations
- * LAC 'away' SCQF pass rate: **79%**
- * Achieved
 - National 2: 3
 - National 3: 11
 - National 4: 20
 - National 5: 60% pass rate
 - Higher: 70% pass rate

- * **Two thirds** of LAC school leavers entered a positive destination upon leaving school. This is a **decreasing trend** over the last 3 years
- * Almost 40% of LAC school leavers started College
- * No LAC school leavers left to go to University in 2017