



Hampshire
County Council

Corporate Parenting

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Why are children taken into care?

- We have a duty under the Children's Act 1989 to ensure children are safeguarded from harm
- The term 'looked after' is used when a child lives away from their family
- Children become looked after when they are made subject to a legal order made by a court
 - **Care order**
 - **emergency protection order**
 - **police protection**
 - **accommodated** at the request of their parent(s) or any other adults with parental responsibility for the child.

What is Corporate Parenting ?

- *Corporate parenting is when the local authority takes on the role of a good parent to a child in its care*
- *We have a duty to act as a good parent*
- *Aspire for children to have the outcomes that every effective parent would want for their own children*
- *Sometimes we share parental responsibility with the child's parents*



What is Corporate Parenting ?

- "Corporate parenting cannot replace or replicate the selfless character of parental love; but it does imply a warmth and personal concern which goes beyond the traditional expectations of institutions." (The Utting report, 1991)
- Edward Timpson June 2013 'You have no greater responsibility than when you are acting as corporate parents.'

Corporate parenting responsibility across Hampshire

- **Lead Member for Children's Services:** This individual has political responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services.
- **Director of Children's Services:** This person has professional responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services.
- **Corporate parenting group:** A group of elected members to oversee the corporate parenting function of the local authority.
- <http://www.ncb.org.uk/corporate-parenting>
- http://www.ncb.org.uk/media/968812/being_a_good_corp_parent_flyer.pdf



We want our children and young people to be and feel well cared for and cared about

As a corporate parent we need to support young people through our actions and decisions so they are happy, healthy, confident and successful adults.

Effective corporate parents make decisions and behave in ways that:

- promote children and young people's material well-being
- provide appropriate education for looked after children
- provide appropriate health care for looked after children
- promote employment
- encourage leisure and continuing interests
- help the child develop personal skills and preferences
- provide a sense of security and belonging
- understand family life
- provide support after leaving care

What can you do?

- **Ask questions and talk to people!**
http://www.ncb.org.uk/media/757551/10_questions_to_ask_june_2012.pdf
- **Children in Care Councils**
- **Fostering services**
- The Fostering Network has estimated 9,000 more foster families are needed in 2013, with a particular need for families willing to foster teenagers, sibling groups and disabled children.
- you can access a range of resources and guides (<http://www.fostering.net/resources/subjects/recruitment-fostercarers>) on recruiting foster carers on the Fostering Network website
- Panels
- **Adoption services**
<http://www.baaf.org.uk/>
- Panels

Hampshire Residential Children's Homes

- Six children's homes -12-16yr olds
- Three homes for children with disabilities
- Residential strategy - Trail Blazing !
- Swanwick Secure Children's Home
 - 12 beds contracted by the YJB
 - 4 welfare beds

Visits to Children's homes

- Regulatory background
 - National Minimum Standards
 - Children's Homes Regulations 2001
 - Care Standards Act 2000
- Regulation 33 visitors
- Councillor visits as part of the corporate parent role
 - What to consider , what to ask, who to talk to, who to report back to?
 - Prompt form

Any Questions?