

# CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of meeting:** 3 December 2024

**Title:** Corporate Parenting Charter

**Purpose of the report:** The purpose of this report is to obtain Cabinet's agreement to progress the adoption of the Corporate Parenting Charter by Ceredigion County Council through the governance journey.

**For:** Decision

**Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:**  
Councillor Alun Williams, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing

## **Introduction**

Corporate parenting describes the collective responsibility of all local authority officers, commissioners and Elected Members to safeguard and promote the rights and life chances of children and young people looked after.

However, supporting children looked after, sometimes referred to as care-experienced children and young people, through their childhoods and as they leave care should be the responsibility of all public sector bodies.

The Local Authority is always the lead corporate parent and is expected to wholeheartedly promote and champion the rights of these children and young people.

The Ceredigion Corporate Parenting Group has agreed to formally adopt the Corporate Parenting Charter at the last meeting which took place on 15 October 2024.

The Charter has eleven key principles that set out the principles that promote the following for children looked after to receive. In summary these include:

- Equality
- Stable lives and placements
- Lives free from stigma
- Support good education, employment and training
- Promote ambition to achieve
- Lifelong wellbeing
- Develop effective services to meet the needs of this group of children and young people with their participation wherever possible
- Contribute to society in a meaningful way

## **Current Situation**

Ceredigion County Council is not currently signed up to the Corporate Parenting Charter.

The full details of the Corporate Parenting Charter are set out in the accompanying documents:

Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales (Appendix 1)  
The Principles of Corporate Parenting (Appendix 2)

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.**

Yes – see appendix 3.

## **Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

**Long term:** No policy change  
**Collaboration:** No policy change  
**Involvement:** No policy change  
**Prevention:** No policy change  
**Integration:** No policy change

## **Recommendation(s):**

**That Cabinet recommends that Council adopt the Corporate Parenting Charter.**

## **Reasons for decision:**

**To ensure that all officers, commissioners, Elected Members and partners of the local authority understand their corporate parenting responsibilities. We want to deliver sensitive, high-quality services that promote fairness and equity for looked after children and care leavers. We want these children to have all the life opportunities we would have for our own children. This group of people need to grow up without stigma.**

## **Overview and Scrutiny:**

Healthier Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 06.11.24

## **Policy Framework:**

Care Planning, Placement and Care Review (Wales) Regulations 2015 (Children looked after)

## **Corporate Well-being Objectives:**

Creating caring and healthy communities

## **Finance and Procurement implications:**

N/A

## **Legal Implications:**

Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

**Staffing implications:**

Raising awareness across the workforce

**Property / asset implications:**

N/A

**Risk(s):**

None identified

**Statutory Powers:**

Duty to be responsible corporate parents and raise awareness on this issue.

**Background Papers:**

First report on this matter.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1- Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales

Appendix 2- The Principles of Corporate Parenting

Appendix 3- Integrated Impact Assessment

**Corporate Lead Officer:**

Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal

**Reporting Officer:**

Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal

**Date:**

14.11.24



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# Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales

“A SHARED PARENTING PLEDGE”

## What is Corporate Parenting?

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- Corporate parenting promotes the collective responsibility of local authorities to safeguard and promote the rights and life chances of care-experienced children and young people. Children can find more information about their rights here: [Children’s Commissioner for Wales – UNCRC Childrens Rights](#).
- Supporting care-experienced children and young people through their childhoods and as they leave care should be the responsibility of all public sector bodies.
- We want these bodies to understand and develop their responsibilities towards care-experienced children and young people, and to ensure they have the same life chances as all children living in Wales.



## Why a Charter? What’s it for?

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- A Charter is a set of principles and promises. This Charter has been developed in collaboration with care-experienced young people.
- This Charter is a set of promises that can be adopted by any public sector body when engaging with care-experienced children and young people.
- It also sets out shared principles that all bodies and their leaders should follow when providing services to care-experienced children and young people.
- We want all public sector bodies and senior leaders to sign up to this Charter as a good Corporate Parent. This Charter is not exclusive to local authorities and public bodies, and we would welcome any members of the third sector and private sector to sign up and become a Corporate Parent.
- The development of this Charter takes into account the overarching duties laid out in Part 2, General Functions of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Specifically, that a person exercising functions in relation to an individual for example a looked after child must have regard to the characteristics, culture and beliefs of the individual (including, for example, language). [www.law.gov.wales/social-services-and-well-being-wales-act-2014-further-legislation-codes-and-guidance-made-under-act](http://www.law.gov.wales/social-services-and-well-being-wales-act-2014-further-legislation-codes-and-guidance-made-under-act)
- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Part 6 Code of Practice (Looked After and Accommodated Children) will be revised to include additional guidance on the Charter. The updated Code of Practice will be published in 2024 and Charter will be reviewed as part of this process.

# Which kind of public sector body, public service or professionals do we mean?

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This charter is for any public sector body or individual who engages with or is responsible for care-experienced children and young people to adopt. For example:

- Politicians – Welsh Ministers, Members of the Senedd, (**United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 4**).
- Independent Bodies – The Children’s Commissioner, The Future Generations Commissioner and The Welsh Language Commissioner.
- Local Authorities – councillors, chief executives, directors of social services, local authority commissioners and procurement teams, housing and education, Foster Wales and National Adoption Service.
- Local Health Boards.
- NHS Trusts.
- Regional Partnership Boards.
- Social Care Providers – Local authorities, residential children’s homes and independent foster agencies.
- Social Care Professionals and practitioners – social workers, Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs), personal advisers, youth and support workers, residential children’s home staff, foster carers, kinship carers and adoptive parents.
- Housing Providers – housing associations.
- Education – schools, governors, universities, colleges and Qualifications Wales.
- Transport for Wales.
- Third Sector Organisations and voluntary adoption agencies or services.
- Inspectorates – Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), Estyn and Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW).
- Cafcass Cymru.
- Department for Work and Pensions.
- Police – youth justice teams and those supporting individuals in custody.
- Employers/Apprenticeship/Traineeship providers.
- Other public bodies: National Resources Wales, National Park Authorities, The Arts Council of Wales, Sport Wales, National Library of Wales and National Museum of Wales. (**As listed in Section 6 of the Wales Future Generations Act 2015**).

## Shared Principles for Corporate Parents

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- **Equality** – We will support care-experienced children and young people to have the same life chances as every other young person in Wales. This is because all children have rights, no matter who they are (Article 1. UNCRC)
- **Eradicate Stigma** – We will recognise care-experienced children and young people for who they are, not just by their experience of being in care. This is because all children have a right not to be discriminated against (Article 2)
- **Togetherness** – We will work alongside care-experienced children and young people to ensure their views, feelings and ideas are integral to, influence and inform the services they receive and the way they receive those services. This is because all children have a right to be listened to and taken seriously (Article 12).
- **Support** – We will ensure professionals working with care-experienced young people understand their care experiences children and young people’s needs and/or have access to information an training.
- **Ambition** – We will ensure every care-experienced child and young person reaches their potential and can enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sport and social activities. This is because all children have a right to be the best they can be (Article 3 and 29) and have the right to relax and play (Article 31).
- **Nurture** – We will make all care-experienced children and young people feel valued, respected, cared for and loved. This is because all children have a right to be safe and protected from harm (Article 19) and because all children who are not living with their families should be checked on regularly to make sure they are okay (Article 25).
- **Good Health** – We will provide support to access the right health care and advice needed to support the best physical, mental health and general well-being for all care-experienced children and young people. This is because all children have the right to the best possible health and support (Article 24 and 39).
- **A Stable Home** – We will seek out and provide stable places to live that are right for all care-experienced children and young people. This is because all children have a right to special protection if they don’t live with their family (Article 20). This is because any adoption must be overseen by Government to make it supports the young person in their growth and development, is lawful and that it prioritises children’s best interests (Article 21).





- **A Good Education** – We will provide opportunities and support for all care-experienced children and young people to learn/develop and help them become who they want to be. This is because all children have a right to an education (Article 28 and 29).
- **Thrive** – We will ensure all care-experienced children and young people are prepared for the future and are able to make positive choices for independent living and adulthood. This is because all children have a right to reach their potential (Article 3 and 29).
- **Lifelong** – We will work to provide access to and raise awareness of the support and information available after leaving care. This is because adults have a duty to act in children's best interests (Article 3).

## Our Promises as Corporate Parents

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Set out below are the promises all Corporate Parents should fulfil when working with care-experienced children and young people:

- We will take time to listen to all care-experienced children and young people and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard and actively considered in all decisions made about them.
- We will treat all care-experienced children and young people with respect.
- We will involve all care-experienced children and young people in decisions that are made about them.
- We will keep all care-experienced children and young people informed about our involvement with them and explain our actions to them.
- We will use straightforward language when we communicate with all care-experienced children and young people.
- We will show compassion when considering the needs of all care-experienced children and young people.
- We will work with all care-experienced children and young people to help them achieve their goals.
- We will advise all care-experienced children and young people of the process to make a complaint should they feel we are not adhering to this charter.
- We will advise all care-experienced children and young people that they have a right to access independent advocacy to make sure their views, wishes and feelings are heard during decisions being made or when they are unhappy and want something stopped, started or changed.





## References

Reference	Description
UNCRC Article 2	The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.
UNCRC Article 4	Governments should make these rights available to children.
UNCRC Article 12	Respect for children's views. Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.
UNCRC Article 19	Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.
UNCRC Article 20	Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.
UNCRC Article 21	Adoption. Government must oversee the process of adoption to make sure it is safe, lawful and that it prioritises children's best interests.
UNCRC Article 24	Children have the right to good quality health care and to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.
UNCRC Article 25	(Review of treatment in care). If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example with a foster family or in a hospital they have a right to a regular review of their treatment, the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.
UNCRC Article 28	Children have a right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.
UNCRC Article 29	Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.
UNCRC Article 31	All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.
UNCRC Article 39	Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self-respect.

# UNCRC

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The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international agreement that protects the human rights of children up to the age of 18. It recognises not only their basic human rights but gives them additional rights to protect them from harm as one of the most vulnerable groups in society. In 2011 the Welsh Government made the UNCRC law in Wales, with the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011. The Measure places a duty on Welsh Ministers to have a due regard to the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols when making their decisions. Altogether there are 54 articles in the convention. Articles 1-42 set out how children should be treated.

For further information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child please visit: The Welsh Government's UNCRC website [Children's rights | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#).



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# Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales

## Becoming a Corporate Parent – What does that mean for you?

**Corporate Parenting is about supporting care experienced children and young people to have the same opportunities in life as all children and young people in Wales.**

By signing up to be a corporate parent, you are agreeing to consider the following principles when delivering your existing services and support, planning new services and/or engaging with care-experienced children and young people:

## The Principles

### Principle 1

**Support care-experienced children and young people to have the same life chances as every other young person in Wales.**

**Example:** Support a care experienced child or young person to find a stable home with provides them with the opportunity to access education and fulfil their potential.

### Principle 2

**Recognise care-experienced children and young people for who they are, not just by their experience of being in care.**

**Example:** Treat all children and young people the same no matter their background.

### Principle 3

**Work alongside care-experienced children and young people to ensure their views, feelings and ideas are integral to, influence and inform the services they receive and the way they receive those services.**

**Example:** Ensure forums or stakeholder groups are in place or established to develop new services includes care-experienced representatives.



### Principle 4

**Ensure those working in your organisations working with care-experienced young people understand their care experiences children and young people's needs and/or have access to information and training.**

**Example:** The needs of care-experienced children and young people are referred to in induction training of new staff.

### Principle 5

**Ensure that every care-experienced child and young person reaches their potential and is able to enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sport and social activities.**

**Example:** Can concessionary and/or discounted access be made available for sport, leisure and cultural activities to care-experienced children and young people.



## Principle 6

**By making all care-experienced children and young people feel valued, respected, cared for and loved.**

**Example:** By actively listening to all care-experienced children and young people you engage with.

## Principle 7

**By providing support to access the right health care and advice needed to support the best physical, mental health and general well-being for all care-experienced children and young people.**

**Example:** Ensuring care-experienced children and young people are supported to attend appointments and are directed to the right service to meet their needs.

## Principle 8

**By seeking out and providing stable places to live that are right for all care-experienced children and young people.**

**Example:** By ensuring that the needs and wishes of the child and young person is central to any foster or adoption placement being considered.

## Principle 9

**By providing opportunities and support for all care-experienced children and young people to learn/develop and help them become who they want to be.**

**Example:** Offering care experienced children and young people work experience placements, work shadowing opportunities, internships, traineeships and apprenticeships.

## Principle 10

**By ensuring all care-experienced children and young people are prepared for the future and are able make positive choices for independent living and adulthood.**

**Example:** Can you provide one-to-one mentoring on how to manage their finances, their career/employment guidance and further education opportunities.

## Principle 11

**By working to provide access to and raise awareness of the support and information available to care experienced young people after leaving care.**

**Example:** Providing access to support and information through a variety of channels – websites, apps, social media and meetings.

# INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IIA) TOOL

## Proposal Details

<b>Title of Policy / Proposal / Initiative</b>	
Proposal to adoption the Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales	
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Officer completing IIA</b>
Porth Cynnal	Audrey Somerton-Edwards
<b>Corporate Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Director</b>
Audrey Somerton Edwards	Barry Rees
<b>Please give a brief description of the purpose of the proposal</b>	
The purpose of the proposal is to ensure that all officers, commissioners, Elected Members and partners of the local authority understand their corporate parenting responsibilities. We want to deliver sensitive, high-quality services that promote fairness and equity for looked after children and care leavers. We want these children to have all the life opportunities we would have for our own children. This group of people need to grow up without stigma or disadvantage as children looked after.	
<b>Who will be directly affected by this proposal? <a href="#">HINT</a></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children looked after</li> <li>• Care leavers</li> <li>• Children cared for under Special Guardianship Orders</li> <li>• Adopted children</li> </ul>	
<b>Have those who will be affected by the proposal had the opportunity to comment on it?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Corporate Parenting Charter has been compiled in consultation with local and national children looked after and care leaver for a</li> <li>• The Corporate Parenting Charter has been adopted by the Ceredigion Corporate Parenting Group on 15 October 2024.</li> <li>• The Corporate Parenting Charter has been agreed at Ceredigion Leadership Group</li> <li>• The proposal will be taken through the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for input and sign off.</li> </ul>	

## Version Control

The IIA should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and included sustainable development, Welsh language and equality considerations wherever possible.

Version Number	Author	Decision making stage <a href="#">HINT</a>	Date Considered	Description of any amendments made <a href="#">HINT</a>
1.0	Audrey Somerton-Edwards	Cabinet	03/12/2024	None

### Council Corporate Well-being Objectives

Which of the Council's Corporate Well-being Objectives does this proposal address and how? Click here to read a summary of our [Corporate Strategy 2022-27](#)

<b>Boosting the economy, supporting business, and enabling employment.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helping care experienced people to fully participate and contribute to the economy.</li> </ul>
<b>Creating caring and healthy communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide for the children looked after and care leaver needs of our population</li> <li>Develop and increase the understanding of needs of these groups</li> </ul>
<b>Providing the best start in life and enabling learning at all ages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the range of care and support options for looked after children and young people</li> </ul>
<b>Creating sustainable, greener, and well-connected communities</b>	

### National Well-being Goal: A Prosperous Wales

**An innovative, productive, and low carbon society where everyone has decent work and there is no poverty.**

Click [here](#) for information about a prosperous Wales.

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)**



**Positive**

Supporting children looked after and care leavers to remain in their communities and school settings

Maintaining relationships with families and friends through strong corporate parenting mechanisms.

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

The views and wishes of young people are expressed and recorded through the Statutory Review process. These views and wishes when to be acted ensure the ambitions of this group of children and young people are achieved.

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?**

## National Well-being Goal: A Resilient Wales

**A society where biodiversity is maintained and enhanced and where ecosystems are healthy and functioning.**

Click [here](#) for information about a resilient Wales.

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [ere](#) for information)**

**Stable and purposeful lives for children looked after and care leavers promote a resilient community.**

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

The nurturing environments and support currently provided through our planning, case management and placement provision across the UK,

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?**

Close case management and responsive services developed with the input of children looked after and care leavers.

Working with partner agencies to deliver the best possible services to children and young people in our care.

## National Well-being Goal: A Healthier Wales

**A society where people make healthy choices and enjoy good physical and mental health.**

Click [here](#) for information about a healthier Wales.

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)**

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

Children looked after and care leavers benefit from stable placements, loving family environments and good education provision.

There are low placement breakdown levels in Ceredigion demonstrating sound matching and the right support in place for children looked after and care leavers.

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?**

Children and young people placed at distance from their home authority are at disadvantage. There are extensive efforts being made to recruit more foster carers, develop residential provision and support lodgings options to widen in county options.

By recognising the additional vulnerability of children looked after and care leavers we can robustly safeguard their physical, emotional, mental wellbeing and financial needs.

## National Well-being Goal: A More Equal Wales

**A society where everyone has an equal chance whatever their background or circumstances.**

This section is longer because you are asked to assess the impact of your proposal on each group that is protected by the **Equality Act 2010**.

Click [here](#) for information about equality in Wales.

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their age? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Children and Young People up to 18</b>	Positive
<b>People 18-50</b>	Positive
<b>Older people 50+</b>	Positive

**Describe the positive or negative impacts.**

Developing services and provision that does not fully recognise children looked after and care leavers creates inequality

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

**What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

Ensuring that looked after children and care leavers have the required support they require to maintain stable relationships with extended family. Good case management and listening to the child to meet their needs fully avoids the inequality that this group can encounter.

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their disability? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Hearing Impairment</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Physical Impairment</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Visual Impairment</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Learning Disability</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Long Standing Illness</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Mental Health</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Other</b>	None / Negligible

**Describe the positive or negative impacts.**

None – the individual care plan and Statutory Review should address all needs and define individual characteristics can be supported.

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

The compilation of individual care plans and review processes in place in line with legislative requirements.

**What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are transgender? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Trans Women</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Trans Men</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Non-binary people</b>	None / Negligible

**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

**Positive**

Providing a nurturing and supportive environment meeting the individualised identity of the children and young people and where required utilising the support of the service to access information, advice and assistance.

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

Demographics of children and young people and their individualised identity.

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different sexual orientation? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Bisexual</b>	Positive
<b>Gay Men</b>	Positive
<b>Gay Women/Lesbian</b>	Positive
<b>Heterosexual/Straight</b>	Positive

**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

**Positive**

Providing a nurturing and supportive environment meeting the individualised identity of the children and young people and where required utilising the support of the service to access information, advice and assistance.

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

Demographics of children and young people and their individualised identity.

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are married or in a civil partnership? (Click [here](#) for information)**

**People who are married**

None / Negligible

**People in a civil partnership**

None / Negligible

**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are pregnant or on maternity leave? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Pregnancy</b>	None / Negligible
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<b>Maternity</b>	None / Negligible
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**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?**

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their ethnic origin? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Asian / Asian British</b>	Positive
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<b>Black / African / Caribbean / Black British</b>	Positive
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<b>Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups</b>	Positive
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<b>White</b>	Positive
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<b>Other Ethnic Groups</b>	None / Negligible
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**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

**Positive**

By providing opportunities for our children / young people to remain in county and maintaining their ethnic origin and their cultural identity.

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

The demographics of our children / young people being supported locally or in line with their cultural background.

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?**



**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different religions, beliefs, or non-beliefs? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Buddhist</b>	Positive
<b>Christian</b>	Positive
<b>Hindu</b>	Positive
<b>Humanist</b>	Positive
<b>Jewish</b>	Positive
<b>Muslim</b>	Positive
<b>Sikh</b>	Positive
<b>Non-belief</b>	Positive
<b>Other</b>	Positive

**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

**Positive**

By providing opportunities for our children / young people by maintaining their individual religions, beliefs or non-beliefs.

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

The demographics of our children / young people being supported through the looked after services.

**What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

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<b>Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on men or women?</b> (Click <a href="#">here</a> for information)	
<b>Men</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Women</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Describe the positive or negative impacts</b>	
<b>What evidence do you have to support this?</b>	
<b>What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?</b>	
<b>Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between men and women?</b>	

<b>Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people from the Armed Forces Community?</b> (Click <a href="#">here</a> for information)	
<b>Members of the Armed Forces</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Veterans</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Spouses</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Children</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Describe the positive or negative impacts</b>	
<b>What evidence do you have to support this?</b>	

**What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

### Socio-economic Duty

Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, making it more difficult to access basic goods and services.

Family background or where a person is born still affects their life. For example, a child from a wealthy family often does better at school than a child from a poor family, even if the poorer child is more naturally academic. This is sometimes called socio-economic inequality.

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?**

Positive

**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

The annual review will take into consideration the household income.  
The named support worker will be accessible to support where required to explore additional support available for the SGO in their local area.

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

The annual review is means tested ensuring that SGOs who are experiencing socio-economic disadvantaged are supported as required.

**What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

Having Corporate Parenting Charter in place will ensure that all children and young people are treated equally and fairly in accordance with the outlined criteria.

### National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Cohesive Communities

**A society with attractive, viable, safe, and well-connected communities.**

Click [here](#) for information about cohesive communities.

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. [HINT](#)**

This proposal will support the children and young people to access their community for additional support in line with their needs and rights.

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

Ceredigion children and young people live across the UK and have clear links with their local communities through education and social groups.

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?**

As part of the Statutory Review to ensure that there is an understanding of how they can fully engage with their community.

## National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

**A society that that promotes and protects culture, heritage, and the Welsh language and which encourages people to take part in the arts, sports, and recreation.**

Click [here](#) for information about culture and the Welsh language

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts.**

Through having staff that can support children looked after and care leavers through their language of choice, completing the annual review and providing access to support that meets their language of choice.

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

The Active Offer provided by Ceredigion County Council

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?**

Ensure that we ask each individual regarding their language of choice.

**With reference to the following, do you think this proposal will have a positive or negative effect on the Welsh language?**

Click [here](#) for information

**Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language**

Positive

**Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language**

Positive

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

As noted above.

**What action(s) can you take to increase the positive impact or mitigate any negative impact on the Welsh language?**

Views and wishes will be reviewed as part of the Statutory Review, ensuring that we listen to the voice of the individuals.

## National Well-being Goal: A Globally Responsible Wales

**A society that considers how our actions might impact on other countries and people around the world.**

Click [here](#) for information about global responsibility.

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. [HINT](#)**

Not applicable

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?**

## Strengthening the Proposal

If you have identified any negative impacts in the above sections, please provide details of any practical changes and actions that could help remove or reduce the negative impacts.

<b>What will you do?</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>The proposal needs to be considered alongside the individual needs of a child or young person.</b>	Statutory Review for the individual, Corporate Parenting	All officers and members who identify inequality or disadvantage need to report	Progress will be achieved as and when issues arise.

	Group, Corporate Safeguarding Group for organisational issues.	such to the Statutory Director of Social Services	
<p><b>If no action is to be taken to remove or mitigate negative impacts, please justify why. (If you have identified any unlawful discrimination then the proposal must be changed or revised.)</b></p>			
<p>Negative impacts will be addressed as they arise or are identified.</p>			
<p><b>How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?</b></p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual monitoring will take place through the Corporate Parenting Group.</li> </ul>			

### Sustainable Development Principle: 5 Ways of Working

Describe below how you have implemented the five ways of working in accordance with the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

<p><b>Long term</b> Balancing short-term needs with long-term need and planning for the future.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>Over the next 10 years we would hope to reduce the number of children in our care by developing further our early intervention strategies and good quality provision.</p>
<p><b>Collaboration</b> Working together with other partners to deliver.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>Children and young people will require an holistic approach based on their needs. These will require collaboration with across the local authority and partner agencies. Including health boards, third sector support groups and specialist support as identified and outlined in the court order.</p>



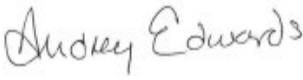


<p><b>Involvement</b> Involving those with an interest and seeking their views.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>A key part of the proposal is to promote the Corporate Parenting Charter across the local authority and will all external partners.</p>
<p><b>Prevention</b> Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>Early intervention strategies are the key to avoiding children becoming looked after.</p>
<p><b>Integration</b> Considering the impact of your proposal on the four pillars of well-being (social, economic, cultural and environment) the objectives of other public bodies and across service areas in the Council.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>Children looked after and care leavers will be well integrated with their wellbeing promoted by all understanding their duties and responsibilities as corporate parents.</p>

## Risk

Summarise the risk associated with the proposal.

	1	2	3	4	5
Impact Criteria	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Likelihood Criteria	Unlikely to occur	Lower than average chance of occurring	Even chance of occurring	Higher than average chance of occurring	Expected to occur
<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Probability</b>	<b>Score (Impact x Likelihood)</b>		
Increased inequality for this group with the Charter adopted	1	1	2		

## Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Corporate Manager		x _____	Click or tap to enter a date.
Corporate Lead Officer	Audrey Somerton-Edwards		25/10/2024
Corporate Director	Barry Rees		29/10/2024
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Alun Williams		29/10/2024

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<sup>1</sup> Last updated 20/10/2023

# CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024

**Title:** Corporate Parenting Charter

**Purpose of the report:** To provide feedback following the meeting of the Healthier Communities O&S Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.

## **Background:**

Corporate parenting describes the collective responsibility of all local authority officers, commissioners and Elected Members to safeguard and promote the rights and life chances of children and young people looked after.

However, supporting children looked after, sometimes referred to as care-experienced children and young people, through their childhoods and as they leave care should be the responsibility of all public sector bodies.

The Local Authority is always the lead corporate parent and is expected to wholeheartedly promote and champion the rights of these children and young people.

The Ceredigion Corporate Parenting Group agreed to formally adopt the Corporate Parenting Charter on the 15 October 2024.

The Charter has eleven key principles that set out the principles.

Following a discussion, Committee Members were asked to consider the following recommendation:

## **Recommendation(s):**

I respectfully request that the Healthier Scrutiny Committee agree to support the progression of the Corporate Parenting Charter through the governance journey for full adoption by Ceredigion County Council.

## **Reasons for decision:**

To ensure that all officers, commissioners, Elected Members and partners of the local authority understand their corporate parenting responsibilities. We want to deliver sensitive, high-quality services that promote fairness and equity for looked after children and care leavers. We want these children to have all the life opportunities we would have for our own children. This group of people need to grow up without stigma.

Committee Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet:

1. agree to support the progression of the Corporate Parenting Charter through the governance journey for full adoption by Ceredigion County Council.

**Councillor Amanda Edwards**  
***Vice-Chair of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee***