

REPORT TO:	Corporate Parenting Panel 19th July 2018
SUBJECT:	Children and Social Work Act 2017
LEAD OFFICER:	Philip Segurola Interim Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Flemming Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:	
FINANCIAL IMPACT Not applicable as this report is for information only	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable as this report is for information only

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Seven corporate parenting principles to have due regard for when working with looked after children and care leavers.

- Publish a Local Offer of services to care leavers.
- Support care leavers until they are 25, as opposed to 21.
- Promote the educational achievement of looked after and formerly looked after children.
- More attention to the impact on the child when the court is considering making a Care Order under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989, thus placing a child under the care of a local authority.

3. Extended Summary of the Act and Implications for Corporate Parenting

3.1 Looked After Children and Care Leavers

3.1.1 Corporate Parenting Principles

Local authorities must have due regard for seven corporate parenting principles, as follows:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings

- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living

For information on implementing these principles, read [Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers: Statutory guidance for local authorities \(February 2018\)](#).

3.1.2 Care Leavers

Local authorities must publish a ‘Local Offer for Care Leavers’, detailing all services it provides to care leavers, including services related to:

- health and well-being
- relationships
- education and training
- employment
- accommodation
- participation in society

Care leavers are to be supported until the age of 25 with the provision of a Personal Adviser, a needs assessment, a Pathway Plan and general advice and support (previously, support ended at 21, unless the care leaver was in education).

3.1.3 Educational Achievement

- Advice and information must be made available to promote the educational achievement of [relevant children](#). (A relevant child is a 16 or 17-year-old who has been looked after by the local authority for a total period of 13 weeks or more after turning 14, but is **no longer** looked after and **has not** returned home and settled.)
- At least one individual should be hired by the local authority with responsibility for the above.
- Maintained schools must designate a member of staff as being responsible for promoting the education of formerly looked after children.
- Academies must designate a member of staff as being responsible for promoting the education of relevant **and** formerly looked after children.

3.1.4 Care and Adoption Proceedings

- When a court is deciding whether to make a Care Order, it should consider: the impact on the child of any harm suffered or was likely to suffer; current and future needs of the child; and how the long-term plan for the child’s permanence would meet current and future needs.

- During adoption, the court must have due regard for the relationship a child has with any prospective adopter with whom they are placed.

5. CONSULTATION

Not applicable.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

7. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Not applicable.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

Not applicable.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

Not applicable.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not applicable.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

Not applicable.

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