

# Corporate Parenting



## What is it?

When a child comes into care, the council effectively becomes the Corporate Parent. Put simply, the term 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us. This will include any employee of SC&EH whether or not they work with looked after children, teaching and school support staff and any employee of Bolton Council.

For the purposes of the legislation related to Corporate Parenting the term 'child' refers to any child or young person in the care of Bolton Council and Relevant and Former Relevant young people up to the age of 25.

It is the duty of a Corporate Parent to support Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers in preparing for adulthood and independent living including services relating to:

- Achieving good health and wellbeing
- Maintaining positive relationships
- Providing education and training opportunities
- Supporting into employment
- Providing appropriate accommodation suitable to their needs
- Supporting them to full engagement and participation in society

(nb – when consulted the young people stated that it was their preference to be referred to as Looked After Children).

The effective implementation of these duties is governed by the Corporate Parenting Board which is chaired by the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services. The Board is also constituted of senior officers, elected members, foster carers, representatives from the CCG, GMP, Bolton at Home, Bolton Lads and Girls Club, Bolton College and Voice4U.

Board members are expected to champion the rights of looked after child and care leavers in Bolton, have high aspirations for their achievement and develop a good understanding of their characteristics and core needs.

Board members should adopt the principle of **'if this were my child...'** and are expected to work alongside looked after children and care leavers to ensure that their views, wishes and feelings are central to decision making and the setting of the board's agenda.

Board members are expected to question and, when necessary, challenge aspects of services to looked after children and care leavers. This role should be active, not passive, as corporate parents are ultimately responsible for the quality of care provided.

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Board members are expected to actively raise awareness to ensure that all elected members and colleagues understand and fulfil their responsibilities as corporate parents and in order to achieve these objectives the Corporate Parenting Board has pledged to:

- Protect you, keep you safe and ensure you are settled.
- Make sure you are involved in decisions that affect you and ensure confidentiality.
- Help you keep in contact with your friends and family.
- Where possible involve you in any discussions about your future care plan and housing.
- Help you achieve your full potential in education and your dreams.
- Make sure you have a trusted key worker who will stay with you as you grow up whenever possible.
- Support you to have different experiences and celebrate the things you have done.
- Help you to become independent and support you with your future.
- Help and support out any problems or worries you have.
- To help you achieve a balanced and emotional health and wellbeing.

## Key contacts

Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership  
[www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk](http://www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk)

email:  
[boltonsafeguardingchildren@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:boltonsafeguardingchildren@bolton.gov.uk)

**All the local info I need  
is just a **click away!**** 

[www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk](http://www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk)

**Bolton  
Council**