



Department
for Education

Corporate Parenting Principles; Local Offer; and extending Personal Adviser support to all care leavers to age 25

Government consultation

Launch date 16 October 2017

Respond by 5pm 27 November 2017

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Introduction

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. During passage of the Bill and as part of legislation, the government committed to consulting on and providing guidance to support the delivery of the new legislative requirements.

This includes the provisions in Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3 regarding the corporate parenting principles, the local offer to care leavers, and extending support from local authority personal advisers to all care leavers up to age 25.

This consultation document seeks views on:

- Draft statutory guidance for local authorities on applying the corporate parenting principles to care and pathway planning;
- An illustrative local offer for care leavers and accompanying guidance on the local offer for local authorities; and
- Draft statutory guidance on extending the personal adviser duty, aimed at local authorities, commissioners of services for care leavers and looked after children, and partner agencies and providers of services for care leavers and looked after children.

The consultation will run for 6 weeks.

Who this is for

- Local authorities including District Councils, the Chief Executive, Director of Children's Services, Director of Public Health, Director of Housing.
- Organisations providing support and services for children and young people.

A version of this consultation has been designed for [children and young people](#).

Issue date

The consultation was issued on 16 October 2017.

Enquiries

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the team by email at:

CSWACT.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the DfE Ministerial and Public Communications Division by email: Consultations.Coordinator@education.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the [DfE Contact us page](#).

Additional copies

Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from [GOV.UK DfE consultations](#).

The response

The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be [published on GOV.UK](#) in Winter 2018.

How to respond

You can reply to this consultation online at:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/corporate-parenting-the-local-offer-and-personal-a>

Consultation opens: 16 October 2017

Deadline for responses: 5pm 27 November 2017

To help us analyse the responses, please use the online system wherever possible. If, for accessibility reasons, you are unable to use the online system because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may download a word document version of the form and email it or post it.

- Email: CSWACT.CONSULTATION@education.gov.uk
- Post: Emily Roling
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Guidance on Corporate Parenting Principles

As set out in section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, local authorities must have regard to a set of corporate parenting principles when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and care leavers (former relevant children). This requirement is anticipated to come into force on 1 April 2018.

The corporate parenting principles set out seven fundamental needs for looked after children and care leavers, 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 of 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.

We are consulting on draft guidance about the role of local authorities and the application of these corporate parenting principles. Draft guidance on applying the corporate parenting principles to care and pathway planning can be found at Annex A.

The guidance is designed to help local authorities consider the kinds of services that may be offered. It is not intended to be prescriptive, but rather to describe the behaviours and attitudes expected of councils when they are acting as any reasonable parent may do by supporting, encouraging and guiding their children to achieve positive outcomes.

This guidance should be read and applied alongside the [Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: care planning, placement and case review](#) and [The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: planning transition to adulthood for care leavers](#).

Consultation Questions

1. Does the draft guidance provide a clear narrative for local authorities about what the corporate parenting principles mean for local authorities in practice?
 - Please comment on structure and whether the detail on implementation and the case studies are helpful. What would improve the guidance to make it even more useful?
2. The corporate parenting principles apply to looked after children and care leavers. Is there enough content about how the principles apply to both groups?
3. Is there anything in the guidance that should be amended? If so, what?
4. Is there anything that is missing from the guidance? If so, what?
5. Do you have any other comments about the guidance?
6. We would like to hear about the good practice that local authorities are already doing to demonstrate their role as good corporate parents in relation to both looked-after children and care leavers. We would welcome examples that demonstrate how you are having regard to each of the seven needs and which show different parts of the authority working together and how first and second tier authorities are cooperating.
 - a. Do you have any case studies or examples you would like to share with us for inclusion in the final version of this statutory guidance?
 - b. Do you give permission for your example to be included in the guidance?
 - c. Please confirm whether you would like your example to remain anonymous.

The Local Offer

Clause two of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires local authorities to consult on and publish a local offer for their care leavers. The local offer should provide information about all the services and support that is available to care leavers in the local area where they live. It should include information about their statutory entitlements, as well as any discretionary support that a local authority might choose to provide.

We are seeking feedback on the accompanying guidance to local authorities in relation to implementing their duty to produce a local offer. The guidance is set out at Annex B.

This guidance should be read and applied in conjunction with the Children Act 1989 Volume 3 planning transition to adulthood for care leavers guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397649/CA1989_Transitions_guidance.pdf

We are also consulting on an illustrative local offer which sets out the kind of support that local authorities may include in their offer to care leavers. The illustrative local offer is set out in Annex C.

The illustrative local offer will be published alongside the corporate parenting guidance. It is anticipated that the duty for local authorities to publish a local offer will commence on 1 April 2018.

Consultation Questions

Guidance:

1. Does the guidance at Annex B sufficiently explain the role and responsibilities of local authorities to develop their own local offer?
2. Is the relationship between the seven corporate parenting principles and the local offer sufficiently clear?
3. Do you have any further comments on the local offer guidance?

Illustrative local offer:

4. Is the structure and content of the illustrative local offer helpful to local authorities in designing their own offer to care leavers?
5. Is there any other information that you think should be included in the illustrative local offer?
6. Do you have any further comments on the illustrative local offer?

Extending support from Personal Advisers to all care leavers age 25

Section 3 of the Children & Social Work Act 2017 has introduced a new duty on local authorities, which requires them to offer Personal Adviser support to all care leavers up to age 25.

This includes care leavers who return to the local authority at any point between the ages of 21 up to 25 and request Personal Adviser support, even if they had previously indicated that they did not want it.

Local authorities are required to proactively offer the support on at least an annual basis to their care leavers. The offer of Personal Adviser support should also be listed in the local authority's published 'Local Offer' for care leavers.

This guidance, set out in Annex D, provides information for local authorities to assist them in implementing this new duty, which it is currently anticipated will commence on 1 April 2018.

The guidance should be read and applied in conjunction with the Children Act 1989 Volume 3 transition to adulthood for care leavers guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397649/CA1989_Transitions_guidance.pdf

Consultation Questions

1. Does the draft guidance provide a clear narrative that will help local authorities to implement the new duty locally?
2. Does it clearly explain what the new duty means in practice for local authorities?
3. Is there anything further that might be included that would make the guidance more helpful; or is anything missing, and if so, what?
4. Is there anything that is missing from the guidance? If so, what?
5. Do you have any other wider comments about the guidance and its content?



Department
for Education

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