

Sefton's Corporate Parenting Strategy



Produced by Sefton Council. November 2009.
Reviewed and updated: March 2013 / March 2017

Contents

Foreword: ‘Dear Corporate Parents’ 4

Ofsted inspection letter 5

Messages From Sefton’s Children In Care 6

Vision and Purpose Statement 7

Commitment And Responsibilities..... 8

Involving Children and Young People in Care..... 9-10

Corporate Parenting in Sefton..... 11-12

Leadership And Governance structure 13

Sefton Pledge to Children in Care..... 14-16

Closing Statement. 17

Appendix 1: Governance Structure And Terms of Reference 18-21

Appendix 2: Sefton Pledge For Children In Care..... 22-23

Foreword

Dear Corporate Parents,

Each and every person that works for Sefton Council is our corporate parent and we really do need you all to take this very seriously.

We only get one chance at life and we need you to help us to make the very best of it. We need our social workers to really get to know us and build up a trusting bond with us.

We want you to give us somewhere warm and safe to live with people who really care about us. Remember too, that although we can't live with our own families, we still love them very much and we worry about what is happening to them.

We might need help with concentrating at school and sometimes this might mean that we don't want to go but it's only because we have a lot more going on in our lives than other kids do. So we need you to understand that and help us to deal with it. We need you to look at things from our point of view and put yourself in our shoes because then you might understand why we act the way we do.

We also worry about what will happen to us when we have to leave care so we need you to help

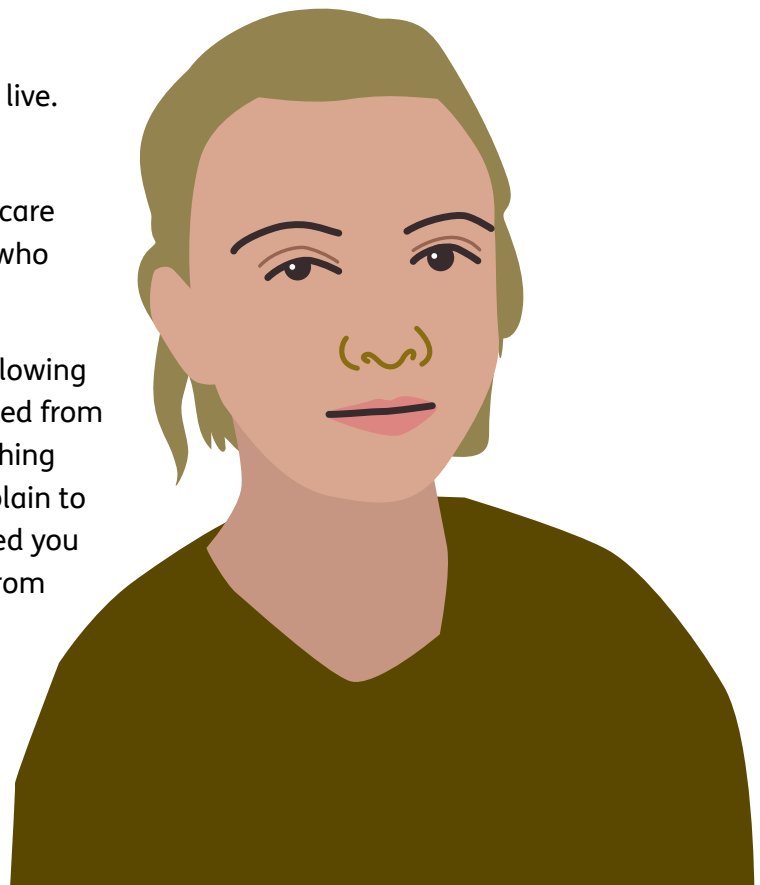
us get a job and find somewhere, decent, to live. We don't want you to forget about us.

More than anything though we need you to care about us no matter what. If you don't then who else will?

In the 'Pledge', and the messages on the following page, we put down all the things that we need from you. We know that you can't promise everything that we've asked for but we need you to explain to us what's not possible and why. We also need you to take our complaints seriously and learn from them.

Thank you,

Rebekah (age 20),
Sefton Care Leaver





Sefton Borough Council.

Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.

Report Published 27th June 2016

Inspection findings

Sefton Corporate Parenting Board

“The corporate parenting board has appropriate oversight of important issues and the work of the board contributes to the improvement of outcomes for children looked after in Sefton. Chaired by the lead member and with membership from across the council and wider partnerships, including care leavers, it has been instrumental in setting up effective systems for monitoring children and young people looked after placed in Sefton and those from other areas, ensuring that they are safe and receiving appropriate services. Strong challenge from board members and especially the MAD group is evident. The annual survey in relation to the pledge for children who are looked after is an example of good practice because it is clear that children and young people are listened to and that action is taken as a result. An example is the development of an action plan to promote advocacy to children and young people after increasing numbers reported that they did not know about the service.”

MAD Group, Participation and Involvement

“Participation and involvement of young people is a strength in Sefton and this is creating meaningful opportunities for young people to engage in strategic thinking and planning. The MAD group has strongly influenced actions in important areas and the group provides a range of training to foster carers and elected members. It exerts influence in most important strategic groups and planning forums. Moreover, its contribution is highly valued by senior leaders, staff and elected members”

Messages from Sefton's Children in Care

I love my foster home and my foster family. I love the support off social services. I love how they think of the child's needs. Well done!

"Thank you for the help whilst I have been in care. Only a few months left now."

"Pathways not yet sorted. Contact not sorted. Now on 5th social worker in 4yrs. Not great"

I really like my social worker Sue Wade and I trust her."

"I want the leisure pass cos I've requested for one not got one so can I get one!"

"I would like to tell you that social services are rubbish for removing me and my sisters from the care of our Mother without ruling out possible behaviour problems first which could have been controlled with the right HELP!"

I'm loving it at my new placement."

"I love it at my placement because we have more things to do and be more happy here"

"We all think our social worker steff is brilliant"

"I enjoy being with foster carers but want to go home to Mum and Dad."

"I am so happy at Cherry Rd Children's Home"

"Am very happy in my home. Sometimes I don't like the social worker coming to our home and talking to me. I love playing with all my friends in the street."

"Don't have a great deal of contact with my social worker. I don't know why?"

"I don't know how to get in touch with my social worker but my mum does"

Is it that she is comfortable with my current situation

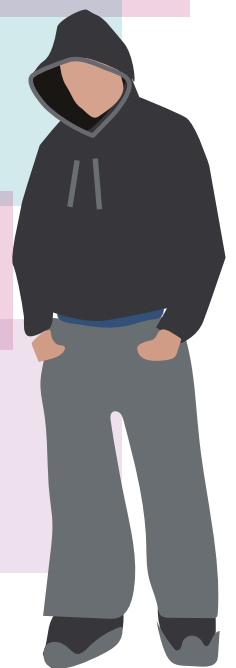
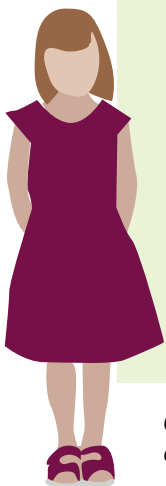
"I want to see my dad"

Or

Is it that she can't be bothered?"

"Thank you for helping me"

"I'm having a great time here."



Compiled from the Annual Pledge Survey of Children in Care 2016.

Poem

Reminiscence

By Danny

*Come help me deal with my anger,
Don't just say I am bad,
In my life there has only been anger
Most of the time I was sad.*

*Not a kiss or a hug off my mother,
Just a slap and a kick off my dad,
There were times I lashed out in anger,
But don't just say I am bad.*

*The money for food was at the boozer,
The clothes on my back never new,
I sat in the cold and the darkness,
At that age what else could I do?*

*Then one day you came to the rescue,
You took me away from that place,
You helped me deal with my anger,
You helped put a smile on my face.*

*They say time is a healer
And your love may ease the pain,
But my dreams will always be haunted,
And the scars will always remain.*

Reproduced by kind permission of the author

Sefton Corporate Parenting Board.

Vision & Purpose Statement

The following statement was developed with the support of the members of the Making A Difference Group and agreed by them on the 7th June 2016.

'The Sefton Corporate Parenting Board will strive to improve all outcomes for our looked after children and care leavers with a focus on them doing well because they are in care and not despite being in care. We will work hard to reduce the stigma and stereotyping that they experience and support them in achieving a good quality of life.

The Sefton Corporate Parenting Board will also seek to offer strong scrutiny and challenge working from a sound evidence base. The board strives to provide examples of best practice and become a leader in the field of Corporate Parenting working alongside our children and young people in order to achieve this.'

Agreed at the meeting of the Making A Difference (MAD) Group on 7th June 2016.

Dylan, Joanne, Sasha, Joel, Heather, Becci and Sam

Our Commitment and Responsibilities

This strategy sets out Sefton Council's vision and commitment and explains how we, as the Council, will be an effective and trustworthy corporate parent for any child or young person who is in our care irrespective of their age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, faith or disability.

Every good parent knows that children require a safe and secure environment in which to grow and thrive. Parents protect and support their children against the dangers and risks of life. Parents are ambitious for them and want them to reach their potential. Parents celebrate and share in their achievements.

A child who is cared for by the Council has the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a good parent.

This means as a Council we will:

- Know our children, their needs, talents and aspirations and promote their interests
- Hold high aspirations for their future and expect the best for and from them
- Take an interest in their successes and problems and show our pride in their achievements, and celebrate them
- Listen to their views and ensure they influence practice, service developments and policy.
- Ensure they are consulted about their own lives and plans
- Recognise, support and respect their identity in all aspects
- Promote and support high academic achievement.
- Support their health and emotional well-being and resilience
- Support transition to adult life and promote their economic prospects & prepare them to become responsible citizens.

and most importantly....

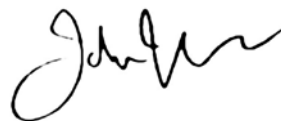
as Corporate Parents we will preface all our thinking, planning, actions and decisions with:

“If this were my child I would...”

We look forward to a shared responsibility across all Councillors, Council Departments and Partners, in our efforts to continuously improve outcomes for children and young people as outlined in ‘The Sefton Pledge for Children in Care’. The Corporate Parenting Board will work to a yearly work programme the detail of which will inform service priorities and delivery.

“Our aspirations for children being cared for reflect those aspirations we would have for them as if they were our own”

(Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care, DCSF 2008).



Councillor John. J. Kelly.

Lead Member Children, Schools and Safeguarding
Sefton Council

Involving Children and Young People in Care

An essential aspect of our Corporate Parenting vision is the commitment to listening to children and young people in our care. In October 2007 a new group was set up to help looked after children and care leavers to have their thoughts, feelings, views and ideas heard. M.A.D. – Making A Difference for Children in Care (Sefton Children in Care and Care Leavers Council) is open to any child or young person aged 14yrs + who is looked after or a care leaver. The group meet several

times a month and quarterly meetings are held with the Chief Executive and Director of Health and Social Care, Sefton Council.

In addition 3 care leavers are full members of the Sefton Corporate Parenting Board with 4 group members also represented on the board.

The Making A Difference (Sefton In Care and Care Leaver Council) contributions and achievements in 2016 included:

Dedicated Care Leavers Centre

- Members continue to support the centre as volunteers helping to facilitate sessions, as members of the steering group and participating in fundraising activities.

Early Intervention

- Members delivered session at Early Intervention Summit held in Sefton and attended by 80 practitioners
- Members delivered session at Liverpool City Region Conference, chaired by Margaret Carney – CEO Sefton Council, held in Huyton and attended by 240 delegates

Education & Pathway Planning Group

- Delivery of Sefton Superstars Programme in partnership with Virtual School Headteacher and Education Psychologist.
- Ongoing discussions re: earlier introduction of preparation for independent living skills to be contained within PEP's
- Group member is on governing body for Virtual School
- Training DVD produced for use with designated teachers and school staff

Health Sub Group

- Participated in interview panel for post of link nurse for Sefton Care Leavers.
- Design and development of assessment tool for health practitioners delivering health assessments for LAC.
- Meetings held with 'Camhelions' – YP Mental Health Group – to develop collaborative working re: mental health support for young people

Sefton Council

- Quarterly meetings with CEO and Director Health & Social Care
- Membership of Sefton Corporate Parenting Board
- Participation in CPB Development Session and creation of CPB 5 year vision.
- Involvement in development of '20/30' vision participation strategy.
- Member trained and introduced as a regulation 44 visitor.

Individual Achievements:

- Member sits on National Youth Justice Board.
- Member sits on regional Children In Need Funding Panel
- Member is a trustee of the YMCA in Southport
- Member graduated in Psychology from Edge Hill University

Fostering Service

- Group member on Fostering Panel – 2nd group member trained and now both members rotate membership

Foster Carer Training

- Group members deliver session on Preparation Programme
- Group members deliver Corporate Parenting training on foster carer training programme.

Staff Appointment Panels

- Service Manager. Children's Social Care
- Link Nurse. Liverpool Community Health

CAS Project

- Members involved in Operational Group and Website Editing Group

No Limits 2016.

- Group representative member on the No Limits planning group.
- All group members volunteered their services and worked alongside staff volunteers at the ceremony.
- Group member compered event.

Training Sub Group

- Delivery of Foster Carer training to include emphasis on preparation for independent living.
- Delivery of training to Independent Visitors and Advocates.
- Production of Education training DVD launched at No Limits 2016.
- Delivery of training to social work MA students at John Moores University.
- Development of DVD for use on IV&A training programme
- Partnership work with Sefton YA's to deliver consultation session with Sefton School Councils

OFSTED

- Participation in Ofsted inspection of Children's Social Care. Annexe 'O' awarded to group in recognition of excellent practice.

Corporate Parenting in Sefton

The Sefton Corporate Parenting vision for children and young people in care is underpinned by the views of Sefton's children and young people, the Sefton Pledge to Children in Care and five key outcome areas:

- Health and Well-being
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Staying Safe
- Making a Positive Contribution
- Economic Well-being and Transition to Adulthood

The central role of the Council as an effective Corporate Parent has been emphasised by government in the publications 'Care Matters: Time for Change' (DCSF 2007), 'Care Matters: Time to Deliver' (DCSF 2008), and consolidated in aspects of the Children and Young Persons Act (2008).

“Central government, local authorities and their partners in children's trusts, individual professionals and carers all share responsibility for ensuring the best for children and young people in care – as they would for their own children. Children in care should be cared about, not just cared for.”

(Care Matters: Time for Change, DFES, June 2007).

In spite of considerable attention over recent years, the gap between outcomes for looked after children and their peers nationally, has continued to widen. It is our aim, as a Council, to improve the life chances of the children and young people in our care and narrow the gap.

Corporate parents have a duty to actively safeguard and promote the welfare of the

children they look after and prepare them for adult life by :

- Listening to children in care and responding to them with honesty and clarity.
- Recognising the complexity of caring for looked after children, and finding appropriate solutions.
- Creating the right conditions so that individual children's needs are identified for services to be responsive to those needs.
- Questioning and, if necessary, challenging aspects of the quality of services provided to children and young people in care.
- Ensuring that children in care are appropriately educated and achieve, at least, in line with their ability.

Key Responsibilities

The Council, through the Lead Member, Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services, has a key role in ensuring that its role as a Corporate Parent is fulfilled in a way that builds the trust and confidence of the children and young people in its care.

Lead Member and Director of Children's Services

The particular responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead member in ensuring that the Council fulfils its role as an effective Corporate Parent was highlighted by the publication of 'Statutory Guidance: Revised Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member of Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services' (DCSF 2009).

“The DCS must act as the corporate parent for looked after children to help them lead a happy, healthy life and receive a good education. In this the DCS will need to work particularly closely with

the LM who shares this corporate parenting role on behalf of the local authority. In particular the DCS should ensure that services:

- Support good parenting from every person involved in the child's life;
- Are planned and provided to take account of children and young people's views so that they have a real say in the decisions that affect their future;
- Provide children and young people with stability in their lives; and
- Raise the aspirations of looked after children, by expecting the same from them as any parent would expect from their own children.

Other local agencies share this corporate parenting responsibility, including schools, health and youth justice organisations. The DCS is responsible for engaging these agencies through the Children's Trust to ensure that looked after children are given the support they need from mainstream and targeted services. The Children and Young People's Plan will be important in securing the necessary corporate commitment from Children's Trust partners".

(Statutory Guidance, 'Revised Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member of Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services', DCSF, 2009).

Council Senior Officers and Elected Members

Whilst the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member have specific roles and responsibilities as previously outlined, every council senior officer and every elected member has Corporate Parenting responsibilities and it is therefore incumbent upon them all:

- To listen to children and young people in care.
- To work in partnership with M.A.D. (Making a Difference 4 Children in Care) Forum to improve services and support for all children and young people in care.
- To ensure that the commitments outlined in the Sefton Pledge for Children in Care are delivered.
- To provide leadership across the authority in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in care.
- To understand the impact on children and young people in care of all council decisions.
- To ensure that governance arrangements are in place to implement any decisions regarding children and young people across the authority and partner agencies.
- To have access to both qualitative and quantitative information on the service, and have enough knowledge to understand and evaluate this information
- To undertake an in-depth analysis of the needs of the council's care population and all aspects of the service required to meet those needs so that there is clear evidence to inform future action. There will need to be a review process to reflect changing needs.
- To ensure that the strategic plans of the local authority and joint plans with partner agencies address the needs of children and young people in care
- To keep up to date with emerging research findings and new initiatives that should inform the direction of services.

Leadership and Governance Structure

The Corporate Parenting Board

(Governance Structure and Terms of Reference attached: see Appendix. 1)

Role and Responsibilities:

It is the role of the Corporate Parenting Board to set the priorities for children in care and to monitor and scrutinise service delivery. It will also:

- Ensure that the commitments outlined in the Sefton Pledge for Children in Care are delivered.
- Oversee the implementation of this Strategy with delegated responsibilities to Heads of Service or Senior Managers within all Departments and partner agencies.
- Monitor the delivery of good, safe, high quality services through quality assurance and performance management frameworks in relation to all five key outcomes.

Requirements

- The leadership and governance of the Corporate Parenting Board must be clear in relation to the Board's power to deploy resources and hold officers to account.
- Individual board members must be trained and prepared for their task, and be clear about the authority they carry.
- The relationship of the Corporate Parenting Board to other Boards, partnership arrangements and scrutiny committees must be clear.
- The Corporate Parenting Board must have access to robust qualitative and

quantitative management information in order to effectively monitor performance against outcomes and track delivery of Pledge commitments.

- The Board will, therefore, receive quarterly reports on a range of local and national performance indicators in relation to children in care e.g. health, education, participation and inspection outcomes.

Board Membership

The Corporate Parenting Board will be chaired by the Lead Member for Children, Schools and Safeguarding, and will meet bi-monthly. Membership will consist of Councillors, Senior Officers, Foster Carers, Children and Young People in and leaving care, Housing (One Vision), Education, Health and Connexions.

The involvement of young people on the Board will be essential to inform current and future priorities and decisions relating to children in care.

We, the Council, require a whole authority and partner agency commitment to our children and young people in care, which is reflected in a holistic, integrated and cross-cutting service delivery approach. This is essential if our children in care are to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives.

Sefton's Pledge to Children in Care

As a Council we have a good track record of consulting with our children and young people in care. They have been instrumental in developing the 'Sefton Pledge For Children in Care' (See Appendix 2). The Pledge reflects our commitment to raising their life chances. It sets out ten standards that Children in Care expect from the Council and partner agencies in fulfilling their

role as Corporate Parents with each standard underpinned by a set of commitments. These are illustrated below grouped under the 5 key outcomes areas.

Health and Wellbeing

Sefton Council aims to enable children and young people to gain maximum life chance benefits from the enjoyment of good health. The Council and partner agencies will develop holistic approaches, to ensure that all children and young people in care have access to good health care and education in a timely and responsive way.

Pledge Standard:

We promise to take an interest in your health and encourage you to be healthy.

Pledge Commitments:

The Council, in partnership with health, will ensure that children in care:

- Receive the same quality of service as ordinarily would be available to children living with their parents.
- Receive a thorough health needs assessment once a year, or twice a year if under 5 year olds.
- Are registered with a GP, and a dentist and have access to eye care.
- Receive information on promoting a healthy lifestyle and information on sexual health, drugs and alcohol as required, and as appropriate to their age and maturity.
- Have a written health record which is updated during the placement and moves with the child.
- Have access to mental health services in a timely way.
- Are supported by a range of specialist services and expertise if they become pregnant, or a young father.

Sefton's Pledge to Children in Care

Staying Safe

Sefton Council will promote and protect the well-being of children in care by providing needs-led, high quality, specialist services.

Pledge Standards:

- We promise, where possible, to help you stay in touch with your family and any other people who are important to you.
- We promise you will have a named social worker that you know how to contact and who keeps in touch with you.
- We promise that we will do our best to find a home that suits your needs.
- We promise that you will have a care plan that is up-to-date and meets your needs.
- We promise we will work hard to sort out any problems or worries that you have.

Pledge Commitments:

The Council will ensure that children in care:

- Receive timely, child centred, high quality assessments, care and pathway planning which takes account of their views.
- Have a designated and suitably skilled social worker who will promote the child's welfare and development in line with statutory requirements.
- Are in regular contact with their Social Worker and are given their Social Workers contact details.
- Have an allocated Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) who chairs their review meetings and monitors the appropriateness of their care plan.

- Are accommodated in placements (foster care and residential homes) that meet the required national minimum standards in providing a safe, nurturing and healthy environment for children and young people.
- Are supported to maintain contact with their family and friends provided this is in their best interests.
- Are appropriately matched with a suitable placement (short term, long term or adoptive) and that their views will be taken into account when doing so.
- Are provided with as much stability as possible with every effort made to minimise changes of placement.
- Are provided with access to an advocate, independent visitor and the complaints service should they need help.
- Receive written copies of assessments and plans appropriate to their age and understanding.

Sefton's Pledge to Children in Care

Enjoy and Achieve

A good education is integral to a successful future. We, as corporate parents, have a responsibility for ensuring the promotion of the highest educational achievement and supporting children in care to do the best that they possibly can. This is essential in preparing them to, successfully, meet the challenges of adult life and become responsible citizens.

Pledge Standard:

- We promise to help you to do the best you possibly can at school.

Pledge Commitments:

The Council will ensure that children in care:

- Receive continuous education throughout all placement arrangements and that they will not move school during years 10 and 11 unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Have the continuity of their education prioritised in all placement decisions and arrangements.
- Have a suitable full-time school place and, when necessary, additional support through personal advisors, Connexions, the Virtual School and additional tuition.
- Are supported when there is a risk of exclusion or where exclusion occurs ensure that procedures are followed rigorously.
- Have their learning and educational needs met and are supported in regularly attending school.
- Have a designated teacher who supports and advocates for them in school.
- Have a Personal Education Plan, known as a PEP, which sets out clear targets, how these will be achieved and is routinely reviewed.
- Are formally assessed, if they have any special educational needs or are disabled, to ensure that their needs are appropriately met.
- Have their educational progress tracked and receive appropriate intervention if falling behind.
- Receive, good quality, early years and post 16 support in relation to learning.

Make a Positive Contribution

Participation, involvement and responsible citizenship

It is widely accepted that the views of service users group can help to shape services to meet their needs.

Pledge Standards:

- We promise to encourage you to develop your talents, interests and hobbies and to support you to do things you enjoy.
- We promise we will involve you in all decisions that affect your life.

Pledge Commitments:

The Council will ensure that children in care:

- Are actively consulted in decisions made about their lives, and are able to influence new policy and service developments.
- Are offered training opportunities that equip them with the skills and confidence to regularly participate in training for social workers, foster carers and partner agencies.
- Are provided with opportunities to develop into responsible citizens through involvement in volunteering, youth work and informal education.

Achieve Economic Well-being

The greatest challenge for corporate parents is meeting the diverse and unique needs of individual children and young people in care, and ensuring that they are prepared for independence.

Pledge Standard:

- We promise to work hard with you to give you all the help and support you need to make a success of moving on from care to adult life.

Pledge Commitments:

The Council will ensure that children in care:

- Are helped and supported when they leave school, irrespective of what they want to do (whether they want to find a job, go to college or university or do something else).
- Are given opportunities to engage in paid employment, apprenticeships, and work experience.
- Are provided with adequate, temporary, accommodation when returning to the Borough during college and university holidays and are supported in finding suitable permanent accommodation when appropriate.
- Receive effective support when approaching semi-independent and independent living in order to better prepare for adult life.
- Will not be expected to move on from care before they are 18yrs of age. We will also stay in touch with them until they are 21 (or 25 if they are still in education).

Closing Statement

Our Children and Young People in Public Care must be given the kind of support that responsible parents would give to their children and therefore the Council and all the key agencies must work together and own their responsibilities and accountability in providing this support.

The Corporate Parenting Board will take both a strategic and operational approach in ensuring that life chances of our Children in Care and Care Leavers are maximised to achieve their full potential and most importantly become active and participatory adult citizens. The Board will ensure that the Children and Young People, including care leavers have seamless access to all Council and relevant partner agencies services.



Councillor John J. Kelly
Lead Member Children, Schools and Safeguarding

This strategy is really important for children and young people in care. We really do need you to help us to make the very best of our lives.

Kids have a voice and need to be heard but more than anything kids need to feel wanted and loved.

As you can see, in the poem to follow, a child in care can have a positive, long lasting experience if she or he is supported in a meaningful way.

Rebekah
Sefton Care Leaver

Poem

My Life
By Lizzie aged 12

*Being in care is not all bad;
Something good comes from something sad!*

*Tracey Beaker makes people see,
What it can be like for me.*

*When we go on holiday
I enjoy it every day*

*For birthdays and Christmases,
We get really good presents,*

*And I still see my family
As they mean a lot to me.*

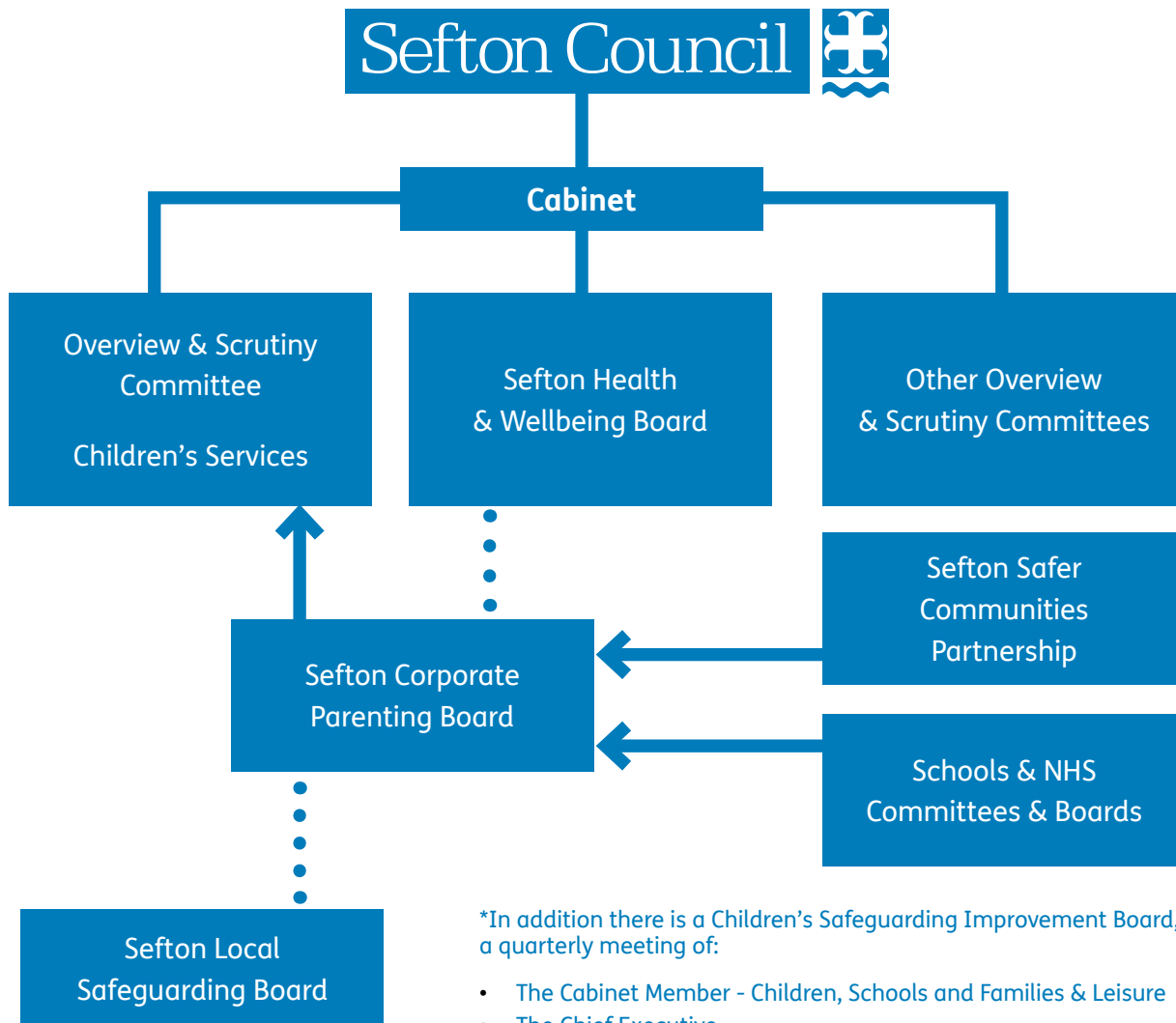
*So if you read this,
I told you, it's not bad,*

*Don't be scared
Just be glad.*

*Just be yourself
And things are ok,*

*Have a good life
And he happy each day!*

Appendix 1: Governance Structure and terms of reference



*In addition there is a Children’s Safeguarding Improvement Board, which is a quarterly meeting of:

- The Cabinet Member - Children, Schools and Families & Leisure
- The Chief Executive
- The Director of Children’s Services (DCS)
- The Chair of Sefton LSCB
- The Chair of the NW Sector Led Improvement for Childrens Services Board



Sefton Corporate Parenting Board

Purpose of the Board: To oversee the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy with delegated responsibilities to heads of service or senior managers within all departments and partner agencies.

Elected Members Membership:

Chair: Lead Member Children, Schools and Safeguarding.

Vice Chair: Elected Member

Elected Members: (Membership will be drawn from those most likely to have direct responsibilities for providing services and supporting children in care. Elected members should be drawn from all parties.)

Service User Membership: Looked After Children, Young People and Care Leavers.

Membership:

- 4 Representatives of the Making A Difference Group – 2 yearly rotation
- 3 Care Leavers – full board members.
- Sefton LA Foster Carer.
- Sefton LA Adopter.
- Service Manager. Corporate Parenting Services. Sefton Council
- Named Nurse for LAC/YOT. Liverpool Community Health.
- Merseyside Police
- Sefton Governor's Association.
- Director of Social Care and Health. Sefton Council
- Head of Service. Vulnerable Children and Young People. Sefton Council
- Senior Representative Careerconnect (Connexions)
- Deputy CEO – Community, Voluntary and Faith Sectors – Sefton CVS.
- Named/Lead Doctor. Alder Hey. Royal Liverpool Children's Trust.
- Elected Members. Sefton Council
- Independent Living Manager. One Vision Housing

- Chief Nurse. South Sefton & Southport/ Formby Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- Corporate Parenting Officer. Sefton Council
- Assistant CEO. Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company.
- Senior Officer. Department for Work and Pensions
- Designated Nurse LAC. CCG Safeguarding Service.

Reporting Officers: Attendance as requested

- Head Teacher. Sefton L.A.C.E.S. Virtual School. Sefton Council
- 14-19 Manager. Sefton Council.
- Centre Manager. Our Place. Sefton Care Leavers Centre
- Children's Complaints Officer. Sefton Council.
- Independent Visiting and Advocacy Officer. Sefton Council.
- Service Manager. Safeguarding. Sefton Council.
- Clinical Lead. Sefton CAMHS. Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust.
- Service Manager. Sefton Youth Offending Team.

Terms of Reference:

The Corporate Parenting Board will hear the voices of children and young people and will work to a yearly work programme within its terms of reference which are as follows:

- Provide a forum for Children in Care and Care Leavers to influence policy, service developments and practice and provide both scrutiny and challenge so that there is continuous improvement.

- To consider activities of Making A Difference Group (M.A.D.) as a standing agenda item at each meeting.
- Take a strategic overview of Sefton Council's and partner agencies responsibilities towards Children in Care and Care Leavers and to offer both challenge and scrutiny.
- Ensure there are good joint working arrangements between Council Departments and with Partner Agencies and hold them to account for good high quality service delivery.
- Ensure that relevant new initiatives, plans, policies and service developments are presented to the Board for consultation.
- Monitor the performance of all the key stakeholders by receiving quarterly progress reports in relation to the key outcomes areas for children in care and care leavers.
- Consider any outcomes and issues identified in bi-annual reports from the Adoption and Fostering Services.
- Receive bi-annual reports in relation to regulation 44 visits.
- To consider any outcomes from reports submitted to Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding services for looked after children and care leavers.

Frequency of meetings: Every 2 months

Work Programme: Yearly

Support to the Board: will be provided by the Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer for LAC and Care Leavers.

Accountability: Chair to report to the Leader of the Council

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee: will be represented on the board by elected members. Board will receive relevant reports and recommendations for information, planning and monitoring purposes.

The Corporate Parenting Board will provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a copy of the Annual Board Evaluation.

Relationship with the Local Safeguarding Board and Health and Wellbeing Board: A reciprocal arrangement will exist whereby the Corporate Parenting Board, the LSCB and the Health and Wellbeing Board will exchange the minutes of their meetings for information purposes only.

Terms of Reference:

The Corporate Parenting Board will hear the voices of children and young people and will work to a yearly work programme within its terms of reference which are as follows:

- Provide a forum for Children in Care and Care Leavers to influence policy, service developments and practice and provide both scrutiny and challenge so that there is continuous improvement.
- To consider activities of Making A Difference Group (M.A.D.) as a standing agenda item at each meeting.
- Take a strategic overview of Sefton Council's and partner agencies responsibilities towards Children in Care and Care Leavers and to offer both challenge and scrutiny.
- Ensure there are good joint working arrangements between Council Departments and with Partner Agencies and hold them to account for good high quality service delivery.
- Ensure that relevant new initiatives, plans, policies and service developments are presented to the Board for consultation.
- Monitor the performance of all the key stakeholders by receiving quarterly progress reports in relation to the key outcomes areas for children in care and care leavers.
- Consider any outcomes and issues identified in bi-annual reports from the Adoption and Fostering Services.
- Receive bi-annual reports in relation to regulation 44 visits.
- To consider any outcomes from reports submitted to Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding services for looked after children and care leavers.

Frequency of meetings: Every 2 months

Work Programme: Yearly

Support to the Board: will be provided by the Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer for LAC and Care Leavers.

Accountability: Chair to report to the Leader of the Council

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee: will be represented on the board by elected members. Board will receive relevant reports and recommendations for information, planning and monitoring purposes.

The Corporate Parenting Board will provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a copy of the Annual Board Evaluation.

Relationship with the Local Safeguarding Board and Health and Wellbeing Board:

A reciprocal arrangement will exist whereby the Corporate Parenting Board, the LSCB and the Health and Wellbeing Board will exchange the minutes of their meetings for information purposes only.

Appendix 2: Sefton Pledge for Children in Care

Get Involved! Get Informed!

Sefton pledge for children in care

This is a list of our promises to all children and young people in care and to young people moving on from care to adult life.

We promise you will have a named social worker who you know how to contact and who will keep in touch with you

This means:

- You will have your social worker's address, phone number and email so you can contact them when you need to
- When you leave a message for your social worker we will make sure someone returns your call as soon as they can. We will try to do this within 24hrs
- Your social worker will keep in touch with you regularly to check you are ok -this will be every 4 weeks for the first six months and then at least every 6 weeks
- Your social worker will only be changed when it is completely unavoidable

We promise we will involve you in all the decisions that affect your life

This means we will:

- ask you what you want
- listen to what you say
- act on what you have told us

We can't promise to do everything you ask, but when we can't, we will always explain why

We promise that you will have a care plan that is up-to-date and meets your needs

- This plan will include all the support you need, including any support to meet your religious, racial or cultural needs
- It will be written down and you will be given a copy of this
- It will be regularly reviewed - at least every 6 months
- The meetings to review the plan will be run by an independent person called an Independent Reviewing Officer
- You will know the name of your Independent Reviewing Officer and how to contact them
- You will be given copies of the notes from your review meetings
- We will make sure that your care plan contains all the positive things about you

We promise we will do our best to find a home that suits you

- This will be a home where you are cared for, feel safe and are supported
- We will take our time to find you a home that supports your needs

We promise we will help you stay in touch with your family and any other people who are important to you

- If you are not allowed to see someone, your social worker will make sure you understand the reasons why
- We will listen to your opinions when we are arranging contact with family and friends.

- We will try to place you somewhere that is not too far away from family and friends if it is safe to do so

We promise to help you to do the best you possibly can at school

- We will give your school all the information they need to look after you properly
- If you do not make as much progress as you can we will give you extra help to catch up, both at and outside school
- We will make sure that you are involved in drawing up your personal education plan to support you at school and you will get a copy of this
- We will make sure you get a place at the best possible school for you.
- If you have to move placement wherever possible we will try to keep you at the same school.
- We will support you if you have problems at school.

We promise to encourage you to develop your talents, interests and hobbies and to support you to do things you enjoy

- We will make sure that you have a leisure pass
- We will celebrate your successes and achievements
- We will support you to take part in hobbies and interests

We promise to take an interest in your health and encourage you to be healthy

- We will make sure you get regular health and dental checkups
- You will be given the and contact details for the nurse for children and young people in care who can give you confidential advice and help you to be as healthy as you can
- We will support you with any appointments

you have or treatment you need

- We will give you information to help you keep yourself safe and healthy

We promise to work with you to give you all the help and support you need to make a success of moving on from care to adult life

- You won't be expected to move on from care before you are 18
- Whatever you decide to do when you leave school (whether you want to find a job, go to college or university or do something else) we will give you help and support to achieve this
- We will make sure that you have support to find suitable accommodation
- We will not move you on from care until you have found suitable accommodation
- We will stay in touch with you until you are age 25yrs
- We will make sure you are involved in developing your pathway plan and you will be given a copy
- Your pathway plan will be regularly reviewed – at least every 6 months
- We will make sure you get information about leaving care well before it happens
- We will link you up with the Leaving Care Team who will offer you ongoing support when you do, eventually, leave care

We promise we will work hard to sort out any problems or worries you have

- We will make sure you know how to get an independent advocate. That's someone who will listen to you and work with you to get things stopped, started or changed
- We will make sure you have all the information you need to make a complaint, including the name and contact details of the Children's Complaints Officer

- We promise to take all complaints seriously and deal with them fairly and as quickly as possible
- We can't always promise to do what you ask, but we will explain the reasons why
- We will make sure that your social worker has the time to see you regularly

Sefton's Corporate Parenting Strategy

March 2017