



Blackburn with Darwen's

Corporate Parenting Strategy

2021-24

*Version for BwD's
Corporate Parents*

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Foreword

Councillor Julie Gunn

When I am asked 'what does it mean to be a corporate parent?' I reply that it is the most important part of any councillor's role. Sometimes, councillors don't even know that until they are in the job. In my mind, being a corporate parent is about:

- Being a positive role model and showing children and young people how to take on the challenges that life brings, even if we are not sure how ourselves
- Making sure we help children and young people to aim high and don't just settle for 'good enough' when we could achieve much more
- Supporting children and young people to become confident to speak out and to be confident that their voice will be heard
- Seeking out children and young people's views and feelings, celebrating their successes, and helping them work through the things that maybe didn't go so well
- Proudly standing up for children and young people with experience of care

We will do all of this so that, together, we learn how to deal with whatever life brings. In short, being a good corporate parent is about being a decent parent, and that is the promise that we have made to children and young people in our borough.



Foreword

Jayne Ivory, Director

Being a good parent is the most important role that those of us who are fortunate enough to have children undertake. At the time of writing this introduction, we are corporate parents to you and 372 other children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen.

Parenting doesn't come with a job description and we know the well-known saying 'it takes a village to raise a child'. In Blackburn with Darwen, we have a real clear vision of what we would like as outcomes for our care-experienced children and young people.

Our vision is that they will grow up to have a happy and healthy life, experience success and overcome challenges. To make sure this happens we will work with them, the people that love and care for them, and their corporate parents to get them the right help at the right time so that they can each benefit from effective support.

We have worked with care-experienced children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen to develop this strategy for how we plan to improve things for our cared-for children and care leavers.

This strategy sets out what they want and need from us, our partners and communities. This is because it's important that we demonstrate that we are fulfilling one of the most important responsibilities we have as a local council - that we are ambitious Corporate Parents and Corporate Grandparents.

Over the next few pages of this document you can see how the council will plan to do this.

Introduction

This strategy sets out how corporate parents in Blackburn with Darwen will work together to ensure that children and young people in care, and those who have left our care, can grow up to lead happy, healthy lives and experience success.

When a child or young person comes into care, the council and our partners become their corporate parent. This means our elected members, officers and partner agencies have a collective responsibility for ensuring that every looked after child is given the best possible start in life so they can grow up to lead happy, healthy lives and achieve their full potential.

Our approach to corporate parenting is founded on the principle that looked-after children deserve the same standard of care, love and support that any good parent would want for their child. We ask that all corporate parents consider the following questions: “Would this be good enough for my child? If I were that child, would it have been good enough for me?”

Asking yourself these critical questions will help you ensure that the needs of looked-after children and care leavers are at the forefront of everything you do. Whilst being in care can pose additional challenges for children and young people, it is important to remember that they want what every other child wants - to be listened to, to be loved, and to be kept safe.

This strategy is informed by the corporate parenting principles set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and has been developed in collaboration with looked-after children and young people in the borough to ensure that it reflects the diverse needs of those who come into care. Together, we have co-produced six key priority areas for us all to focus on.

We believe that this strategy will support our joint work on the most important issues, so we can achieve the best possible outcomes for our looked-after children and care leavers here in Blackburn with Darwen. We will also work with the borough’s Voice groups to review the strategy on a regular basis to ensure that it is being used to drive progress and change.

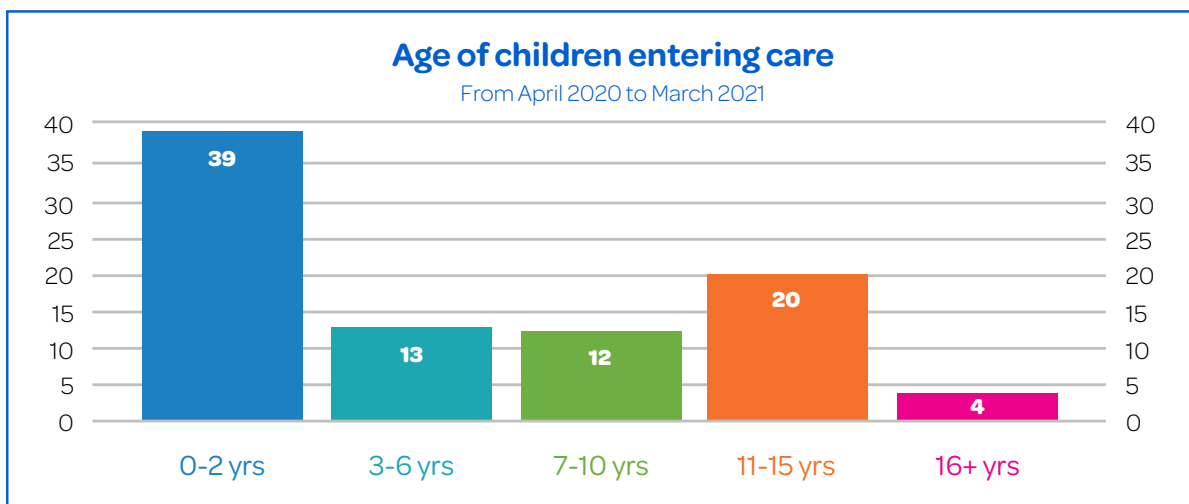
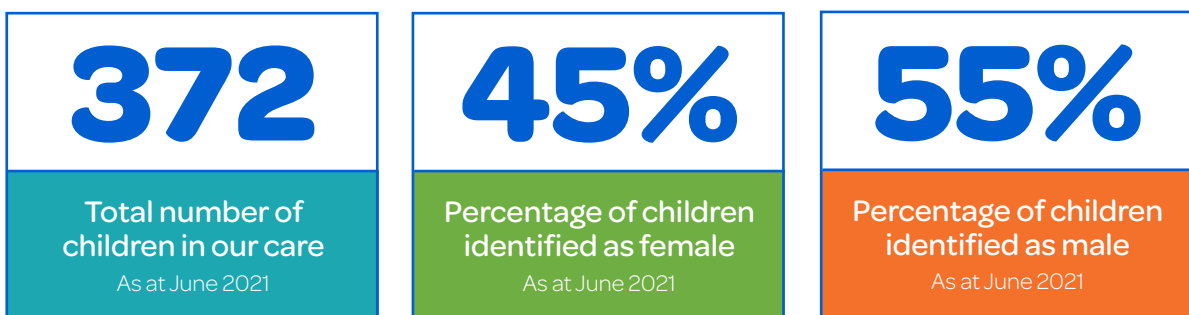
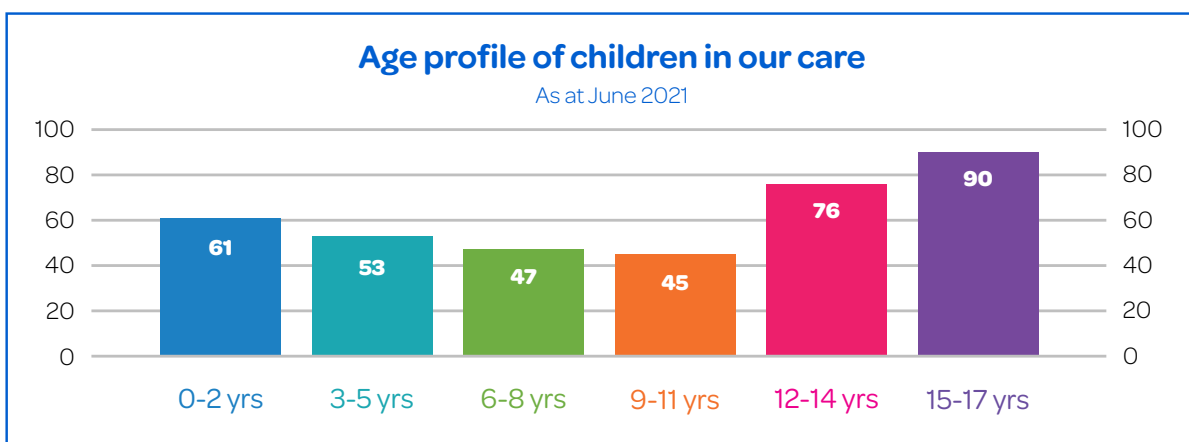


Additional Resources

Statutory guidance on applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers is [available at Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/622222/Statutory-guidance-on-applying-corporate-parenting-principles-to-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers.pdf)

The Local Picture

Key statistics and indicators from the Corporate Parenting Dashboard and other sources. Data correct as at June 2021.



41%

Percentage of Care Leavers aged 19 to 21
in education, employment or training
Comparator average - 51% in March 2020

97%

Percentage of Care Leavers aged
19 to 21 in touch with the council
No comparator data available

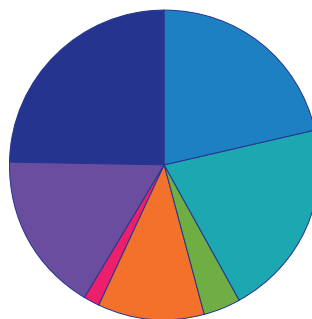
Where are children in care placed?

As at June 2021

Foster Placements (in-house)	121
Friends & Family	64
Foster Placements (in-house)	61
Placed with Parents	60
Children's Homes (agency)	24
Adoptive Placements	14
Res Accom Not Subject to CH Regs	13
Other	8
Children's Homes (in-house)	3
Prison/HMYOI	1
NHS	1
Secure	1
Family Centre/Mother & Baby Unit	1
Residential School	0
Independent Living	0

Destination of care leavers

From April 2020 to March 2021



Reached 18	27	21%
Returned to parents	26	21%
Moved in with relatives	5	4%
Other reason	14	11%
Child Arrangement Order	2	2%
Adopted	21	17%
Special Guardianship	31	25%

96 per 10,000

Number of children in our care per
10,000 of the 0-18 year old population
Comparator average - 107 per 10,000 in March 2020

97%

Percentage of Care Leavers aged
19 to 21 in suitable accommodation
Comparator average - 88% in March 2020

Percentage of children in
our care with a disability
From a total cohort of 372

5%

Percentage in
adoption placements
From a total cohort of 372

4%

Our Promise to Children in Care

What is our promise?

We have promised children and young people that they will be:

- ✓ able to know and trust their social worker or Personal Adviser
- ✓ listened to and told what to expect throughout their care journey
- ✓ able to tell us what is working well and what we could do better

How will we work with children and young people?

Children and young people will be:

- ✓ treated as an individual and not just a case number
- ✓ listened to and encouraged to contribute to the support they need
- ✓ given enough time to get to know their social worker or Personal Adviser

How will we achieve this promise?

We will make sure that children and young people:

- ✓ are able to talk freely and openly to their social worker or Personal Adviser
- ✓ are listened to about what they like and want, as well as any worries they have
- ✓ are listened to about what they enjoy doing at home and at school, such as hobbies
- ✓ play a role in deciding together about what help is needed for them and their family
- ✓ receive the right help at the right time - this includes from the council's services as well as other key services such as local health providers and their school or college
- ✓ feel comfortable telling us what is working well and what we could do differently

Our Priorities

01

Participation

This priority is about empowering children and young people to express their voices and influence the decisions we make

02

Placements

This priority is about making sure we provide children and young people with a safe, comfortable and caring home

03

Education

This priority is about making sure that children and young people can be happy and successful in their learning

04

Health

This priority is about looking after the health of children and young people including their physical and emotional needs

05

Identity

This priority is about supporting children and young people to build a sense of identity so that they know their own histories

06

Preparation for Adulthood

This priority is about supporting young people to develop the life skills they need to live independently when they grow older





Priority 01

Participation

Our Priority for 2021-2024

Care-experienced children and young people will be supported to make their voices heard so that they can influence the decisions and services that affect them. We will also ensure they are treated with respect and dignity at all times.

What Children and Young People said

Whilst developing this strategy, we asked some of the children and young people who take part in the Junior and Senior Voice groups what they thought of our priority for 2021-2024:



Senior Voice member

"Without our contributions, decisions may not hold the young person in mind"



Junior Voice member

"I like people to listen to what I am saying. This makes me feel happy, because I know I am being listened to"

Recent Achievements

Since the last version of this strategy, we have had the following successes:

- ✓ Continued to seek the views of children and young people to improve our services
- ✓ Appointed two care leavers to represent the voice of children and young people at important council meetings such as the Corporate Parenting Executive Board
- ✓ Used digital platforms to ensure access to the Voice groups during Covid-19
- ✓ Involved young people in the recruitment of key Children's Services personnel
- ✓ Involved children and young people in Investing in Children Membership Award™ assessments for a range of services so they could have their say on the quality of these services, including what has been working well and what needs to improve



Priority 02

Placements

Our Priority for 2021-2024

Children in our care will have a safe, comfortable and caring place to live and grow up. We will ensure their carers have the right skills to look after them and try to make sure that they are able to live close to the place they were born so that they can maintain important relationships with members of their family.

What Children and Young People said

Whilst developing this strategy, we asked some of the children and young people who take part in the Junior and Senior Voice groups what they thought of our priority for 2021-2024:



Senior Voice member

"This priority is good and everyone needs a comfortable and safe place to live. This is something I have"



Junior Voice member

"I am confident that young people will feel supported in placements"

Recent Achievements

Since the last version of this strategy, we have had the following successes:

- ✓ Increase in the number of long-term foster placements
- ✓ Set up two new supported accommodation provisions in the borough, so that young people have an improved choice in placement options when they turn 16
- ✓ Increase in the number of foster carers who developed their skills through training
- ✓ Committed to the 'Staying Put' offer for young people aged 18 years or older who wish to remain with their foster carers into adulthood
- ✓ Made sure that transition planning starts earlier to ensure there are no gaps in the services and placement options available once young people are 18 years old



Priority 03

Education

Our Priority for 2021-2024

We will do everything that we can to meet the education needs of children in our care and care leavers by championing their attendance, attainment and progress so they can be successful in their learning and achieve their goals.

What Children and Young People said

Whilst developing this strategy, we asked some of the children and young people who take part in the Junior and Senior Voice groups what they thought of our priority for 2021-2024:

Senior Voice member

"This priority ensures that young people are supported to access education in any circumstance i.e. during Covid-19 or normal day-to-day living"

Junior Voice member

"I think that this priority is fantastic because I have everything that I need to have my dream job as a teacher"

Recent Achievements

Since the last version of this strategy, we have had the following successes:

- ✓ Everyone has a school place that can meet their needs
- ✓ In our most recent set of exams (2019) our Year 6 and Year 11 students performed above nationally expected levels when compared with other children and young people in care
- ✓ School attendance is very good with an average of 94%
- ✓ Setting up the New Directions service from the Virtual School to support young people as they leave school to go to college, training or work
- ✓ Only one permanent exclusion between 2017 and 2020



Priority 04

Health

Our Priority for 2021-2024

We will support improvements in the physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers by promoting access to local health services. This will support children and young people to make healthy choices and develop skills so that they can manage their own health.

This priority involves...

- ✓ Providing regular health assessments with a doctor, dentist and nurse
- ✓ Supporting children and young people to make positive health choices and providing them with opportunities to develop skills so that they can look after their own health
- ✓ Offering children and young people support and timely access to health services
- ✓ Making sure that health professionals know and understand the children and young people they work with, to improve the provision of support and reduce frustrations
- ✓ Using children and young people's views and experiences to shape health services
- ✓ Providing advice and support to help children and young people live healthier lives
- ✓ Supporting timely and effective transitions from Child to Adult health services

What Children and Young People said

Whilst developing this strategy, we asked some of the children and young people who take part in the Junior and Senior Voice groups what they thought of our priority for 2021-2024:



Senior Voice member

"This [is] everything that we can hope for from a Health priority. It covers all areas"



Junior Voice member

"People need to know that we need supporting with our health and wellbeing. I think this is a good priority because our health is important"



Priority 05

Identity

Our Priority for 2021-2024

We will ensure that children and young people know who they are, and why they came to be looked after. We will celebrate the differences that make each and every one of them unique and help them to develop their self-esteem.

What Children and Young People said

Whilst developing this strategy, we asked some of the children and young people who take part in the Junior and Senior Voice groups what they thought of our priority for 2021-2024:



Senior Voice member

"This is something that I agree with, we are supported with our identity and what we can achieve"



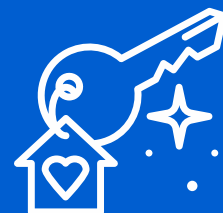
Junior Voice member

"This is a good idea to know who you are, because if you do not know who you are then you may be lost in life"

Recent Achievements

Since the last version of this strategy, we have had the following successes:

- ✓ Ensured that children and young people in long-term foster care were provided with information about their life story
- ✓ Provided training for social workers to improve their skills in helping children and young people to better understand their life history and experiences
- ✓ Recruited a diverse group of foster carers to make sure that, wherever possible, children and young people are able to live with carers who reflect their cultural and religious background



Priority 06

Preparation for Adulthood

Our Priority for 2021-2024

We will help young people develop life skills by the time they leave care so they are able to care for themselves and live independently when they become an adult. We will also help support access to education, training or employment.

What Children and Young People said

Whilst developing this strategy, we asked some of the children and young people who take part in the Junior and Senior Voice groups what they thought of our priority for 2021-2024:



Senior Voice member

"This leaves me feeling confident, when moving into that stage in my life"



Junior Voice member

"This is really important - as adults we need to be able to look after ourselves"

Recent Achievements

Since the last version of this strategy, we have had the following successes:

- ✓ Increased the number of young people 'staying put' with their foster carers
- ✓ A number of care leavers have attended university and achieved great results
- ✓ We have worked with New Directions and education staff at colleges to make sure young people are able to access advice and guidance about their next steps in life
- ✓ Developed a range of courses to support young people back into education
- ✓ Ensured that the voices of young people are heard in their Personal Education Plans
- ✓ Supported young people to find a safe and comfortable place to live

Corporate Parenting Priorities

Key Actions & Indicators of Success



Priority 1 - Participation

We have committed to...

- ✓ Increasing the range of children's rights and participation training available for people who work with children and for children and young people themselves, including the development of a Young Inspectors model. Where possible, we will accredit that training
- ✓ Offering a range of voice groups and opportunities to make sure we increase the number of children and young people engaging in participation, youth voice and social action activity (meaning being involved in doing something positive in their community)
- ✓ Sharing best practice and promote the achievements of children and young people with staff and partners, the public and other children and young people using all available forums – including social media (when appropriate)
- ✓ Ensuring that participation is as diverse as possible and that activities/programmes are developed and delivered for all young people
- ✓ Increase the range of opportunities for vulnerable children and young people to share their voice and to be able to challenge, question and offer their views locally, regionally and nationally
- ✓ The timely and quality recording and reporting of the impact of participation, youth voice and social action activity
- ✓ Increasing the group of children and young people who have been trained and supported to contribute to recruitment processes
- ✓ Investigating and developing a Young Inspectors programme that has commitment from all partners. This will empower children and young people to inspect the services they receive in Blackburn with Darwen



Priority 1 - Participation

What will success look like?

- ✓ Quarterly reporting based on feedback from the individual Champions across all service areas - including what has worked well and what we need to do better, and how services are implementing changes following the feedback from children and young people
- ✓ Good practice that evidences the work of children and young people will be shared, showcased and celebrated
- ✓ Regular reporting on the outcomes and learning from consultation activity with children and young people will be carried out, ensuring their voices are heard and that the impact they make on the improvements in service delivery is recorded and recognised
- ✓ An increase in participation activity with a clear impact on learning and development for children and young people
- ✓ An increase in the number of services achieving the Investing in Children membership award and/or who have committed to participation in the Young Inspectors Model



Priority 2 - Placements

We have committed to...

- ✓ Making sure that children and young people are living in a placement with carers who understand their needs and are able to ensure that these needs are well met to promote their emotional well-being
- ✓ Ensuring that children and young people have regular family time with those who are closest to them, including quality time with the professionals who form their support network
- ✓ Making the recruitment of more foster carers in the borough our focus and priority so that more children and young people can benefit from local placements in Blackburn with Darwen

✓	The training and development of our foster carers so that more children and young people, whatever their needs, can be placed within a family in situations where this is possible and appropriate
✓	Ensuring that children and young people have positive and supportive relationships to support them as they grow up and approach adulthood, with greater consistency of key professionals in their lives
✓	Making sure that children and young people are living with people who understand them, and can provide a nurturing and warm placement where they can feel secure
✓	Supporting children and young people to develop your independence skills early in their lives, not just when they are approaching adulthood and preparing to move out

Priority 2 - Placements	
What will success look like?	
✓	We have will have higher number of children and young people in placements with in-house foster carers
✓	We will have a growing number of young people who are matched long term with their foster carers to promote their emotional stability and support their permanence plan
✓	For those young people who wish to stay with their foster carers post 18, they will be supported to do so with an increased number of 'Staying Put' placements
✓	The number of children and young people who have had 3 or more placements over a 2 year period will greatly reduce, achieving greater stability
✓	We have fewer out of borough placements overall, keeping our local children in local placements





Priority 3 - Education

We have committed to...

- ✓ Helping children and young people to have a positive return to their education setting after the disruption in 2020/21 and to support them with any issues they might have
- ✓ Checking on children and young people's academic attainment and progress ensuring they are getting the right support at the right time to help them achieve
- ✓ Listening to and responding to children and young people's views on their education and celebrating their successes
- ✓ Training school staff and other professionals to help them better understand the needs of care-experienced pupils
- ✓ Providing help from specialist staff at the times when children and young people most need it

Priority 3 - Education

What will success look like?

- ✓ Everyone will have a school place that meets their needs so they can be happy and successful
- ✓ We will have better academic outcomes at the end of primary and secondary school than other children and young people in care across the country
- ✓ Attendance will continue to be good and increase to at least 95%, and we will have better attendance than other areas across the country
- ✓ After secondary school everyone will have a place to go to in either education, training or employment
- ✓ We will hold a celebration of achievement event every year





Priority 4 - Health

We have committed to...

- ✓ Providing ongoing health support for looked after children and care leavers up to the age of 25
- ✓ Co-ordinating and supporting health professionals and other agencies in all issues in relation to the health needs of looked after children and care leavers
- ✓ Providing training to foster carers and the wider health and social care economy to raise awareness of looked after children/care leavers' health needs and the role of a corporate parent
- ✓ Facilitating the completion of a high quality six monthly/annual health assessment for all looked after children up the age of 18 years
- ✓ Ensuring that all young people leaving care will receive a letter summarising their health details, immunisation status, ongoing health needs and key health contacts, for example, GP and dental details
- ✓ Supporting transitions from child services to adult services - for example, CAMHS/ELCAS to Adult mental health services

Priority 4 - Health

What will success look like?

- ✓ Data will evidence good performance in terms of children who are up to date with dental assessments and their immunisations
- ✓ All children and young people have been offered a health assessment which is subsequently completed within time scales and meets the required quality standard
- ✓ Health summary letters for young people leaving care - a copy to be kept within the young person's health records as evidence. Audits to be undertaken to monitor this



- ✓ Evaluation forms received from delegates who attend training sessions will evidence their effectiveness
- ✓ Evidence of contacts recorded with the Enhanced LAC Nurse team from Personal Advisor, young people and Social Worker
- ✓ Evidence of support for transitions from child to adult services will be recorded on the Health contact spreadsheet
- ✓ Feedback from looked after children, care leavers and the professionals and carers who provide support will be positive



Priority 5 - Identity

We have committed to...

- ✓ Helping children and young people to keep a record of important events, achievements and people in their lives
- ✓ Positively encourage children and young people and celebrate their successes
- ✓ Supporting and helping to strengthen the relationships that are important to children and young people and helping them stay connected to those that they love throughout their childhood and into adulthood
- ✓ Promoting agreed terminology across the partnership to avoid jargon or language that makes young people feel uncomfortable

Priority 5 - Identity

What will success look like?

- ✓ Life stories and other direct work tools will be consistently used to make sure that children and young people can access information about their life stories to understand what happened in their past and provide them with a better sense of their identity



- ✓ Where possible, the professionals in the lives of children and young people (including their social worker) will stay the same
- ✓ Consultations with care-experienced children and young people about their views of life in care will take place and these will inform the work of Children's Services, our partners and other corporate parents



Priority 6 – Preparation for Adulthood

We have committed to...

- ✓ Developing opportunities for care-experienced young people to access local apprenticeship schemes
- ✓ Developing links with local training and employment providers in the borough
- ✓ Ensuring that care-experienced young people have support in all areas, to help them reach their goals and potential
- ✓ Providing young people with a careers advisor to help them access education, employment or training
- ✓ Improving access to the council's mental health services via the REVIVE team
- ✓ Improving access to community leisure facilities in the community
- ✓ Treating every care-experienced young person as an individual with their own unique needs - no 'one size fits all'
- ✓ Doing what we can to make sure that children and young people have stability in their lives and the skills they need to grow into independent adults - this includes a focus on 'Staying Put'
- ✓ Developing training for foster carers on independence and the role of Leaving Care



Priority 6 - Preparation for Adulthood

What will success look like?

- ✓ Increase in care-experienced young people having a safe and suitable place to call home
- ✓ Increase in young people accessing relevant education, employment or training
- ✓ Increase in young people attending, and being successful, at university - if this aligns with their ambitions and goals
- ✓ Care-experienced young people will have a good quality Pathway Plan that is reviewed every six months
- ✓ Young people will have the skills and knowledge they need to become independent
- ✓ Care-experienced young people will receive ongoing support during their remaining time in education
- ✓ Increase in young people accessing community services

Making It Happen

The responsibility for achieving the commitments we have made to looked after children and care leavers is shared by the whole authority in partnership with relevant agencies, such as education establishments and local health services.

Elected Members

Elected members will provide the political and professional leadership of our corporate parenting commitment and will advocate for looked after children and care leavers by prioritising their needs in council decision-making, considering how plans and policies might affect them, and ensuring that the council is honouring the pledges it has made.

Related priorities:

01

02

03

04

05

06

Children's Services

Children's Services staff are likely to have the most direct contact with our children in care and care leavers and are expected to reflect corporate parenting principles when carrying out their duties. This includes a commitment to effective participation and a continued focus on improving the outcomes of each and every child or young person.

Related priorities:

01

02

03

04

05

06

Public Health

The council's Public Health function will support improved health outcomes for looked after children and care leavers through the consideration of their physical, emotional and mental health needs when developing strategies and commissioning services.

Related priorities:

01

04

Health services

Health service providers will play an important role in improving the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of all looked after children and care leavers. This includes the provision of regular health assessments and ensuring timely access to health services.

Related priorities:

01

04

Schools and colleges

Schools, colleges and other education establishments have a range of responsibilities including monitoring the progress of looked after children, making sure that children in care and care leavers are in school and supporting them to achieve academic success.

Related priorities:

01

03

06

Virtual School

The Virtual School will provide leadership, strategic direction and foster partnership working with schools to secure successful educational outcomes for children in care and care leavers, and narrow the attainment gap so everyone can reach their potential.

Related priorities:

01

03

06

Housing Needs

The council's housing team will play an important role in supporting the provision of suitable and safe accommodation options for care leavers who are ready to live more independently. This also includes a duty towards mitigating the risk of homelessness.

Related priorities:

01

06

The Police and Other Services

The police, community organisations and others will provide important services and support for our looked after children and care leavers to keep them safe and meet their individual needs. This includes the provision of advice and guidance, mentoring, victim support, drug and alcohol services, community leisure facilities and transport links etc.

Being Accountable

Children and young people have told us that they would like to receive feedback on a regular basis to see how well we are using the strategy to improve outcomes. To enable this, we have identified leads for each of the six strategic priorities.

Priority	Lead
Participation	Imran Akuji Head of Adolescents, Partnerships & Performance Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Placements	Judith Fennell Head of Permanence and Corporate Parenting Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Education	Charlotte Hesketh LAC Virtual Head & Assessment Officer Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Health	Caroline Waldron Deputy Designated Nurse - Safeguarding Children and LAC Blackburn with Darwen CCG and East Lancashire CCG
Identity	Elizabeth Mannion Service Lead - Children in Our Care, Children with Disabilities and Leaving Care Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Preparation for Adulthood	Elizabeth Mannion Service Lead - Children in Our Care, Children with Disabilities and Leaving Care Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Messages From Children in Care

When producing this strategy, we asked children and young people who take part in the Junior and Senior Voice groups to share their views and experiences of being in care to help corporate parents, like yourself, get to know them better.

I am 10 years old + have been in foster care since I was 7. My foster carer has helped me when I was home schooling. I have been to lots of fun places in the last 3 years that I have never been. I now attend the Junior Voice group and have made new friends. I have also done archery, canoeing, arts and crafts, sport and baking. My old social worker really helped me with things that I needed like arranged contact with my mum. I feel happy and looked after :)

Maisie, 10 years old

"I am 10 years old. I have been in foster care since I was 7. My foster carer has helped me when I was home schooling. I have been to lots of fun places in the last 3 years that I have never been. I now attend the Junior Voice group and have made new friends. I have also done archery, canoeing, arts and crafts, sports and baking. My old social worker really helped me with things that I needed like arranged contact with my mum. I feel happy and looked after :)"

I am Taome and I'm 9/10 on the 5th of december
 I joined my auntie and uncle (foster carer)
 when I was 5 nearly 6 so I've been with them
 for 4 years they have helped me through
 everything I am really enjoying living with
 them. I go to the Junior voice and
 find it really fun my social worker is
 currently helping us get the SGO

Taome, 9 years old

"I am Taome and I'm 9/10 on the 5th of December. I joined my aunty and uncle (foster carer) when I was 5, nearly 6, so I've been with them for 4 years. They have helped me through everything. I am really enjoying living with them. I go to the Junior Voice and find it really fun. My social worker is currently helping us get the SGO".

My name is Amber & I am 15 years
 old. I was placed in foster care on the
 6th April so roughly about 4 & a half
 years. I couldn't ask for anyone else
 as my foster carer supports me so
 much. I am also very lucky to be
 able to live with my brother too!

I have learnt lots of new skills
 and has been introduced to lots of
 new things like the voice & majorettes.

Amber, 15 years old

"My name is Amber and I am 15 years old. I was placed in foster carer on the 6th [of] April, so roughly about 4 and a half years [ago]. I couldn't ask for anyone else as my foster carer supports me so much. I am also very lucky to be able to live with my brother too! I have learned lots of new skills and have been introduced to lots of new things like the Voice and Majorettes".

Your Pledges To Our Children & Young People



Tracy Lysons

Early Help & Support Service Manager

The Early Help service will mentor and seek to offer opportunities for children and young people, helping to raise aspirations.



Janette Clarke

Head of Social Care - Children's

I promise to strive towards all children achieving a sense of belonging in a permanent family setting where they feel safe, happy and can reach their full potential.



Paul Fleming

Strategic Director, Resources

I will ensure we listen and then apply innovative approaches to support the delivery of improved outcomes for our children.



Jo Siddle

Deputy Director - Education & Schools

I pledge to ensure our children receive the highest quality of Education, listening to need and ensuring our children are at the heart of decisions made.



Denise Park

Chief Executive

I will continue to meet and listen to all of our children and young people.



Shirley Goodhew

Consultant in Public Health

I promise to seek the views of young people to inform local policy and programmes to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

Your Pledges To Our Children & Young People



Andrea Sturgess

Head of Communications & Engagement

I pledge to listen to young people and improve how we target our main communications messages to reach them and meet their needs.



Imran Akuji

Head of Adolescents, Partnerships & Performance

I pledge to ensure we work alongside children and young people to build confidence and develop new skills, ensuring that you are empowered and your views are heard to help influence decisions and shape services you receive.



Dwayne Lowe

Head of Highways & Network Operations

I pledge to work with local learning providers to develop more opportunities for supported internships and work experience providing an exit route for young people with additional learning needs and/or disabilities from education into the workplace.



Anna Haworth

Named Nurse for Looked After Children (NHS)

We promise to engage with children and young people, listening to their health concerns and to support meeting those health needs as quickly as possible



Thank you to the children and young people of the the Voice Forums who have produced this strategy in collaboration with us.

