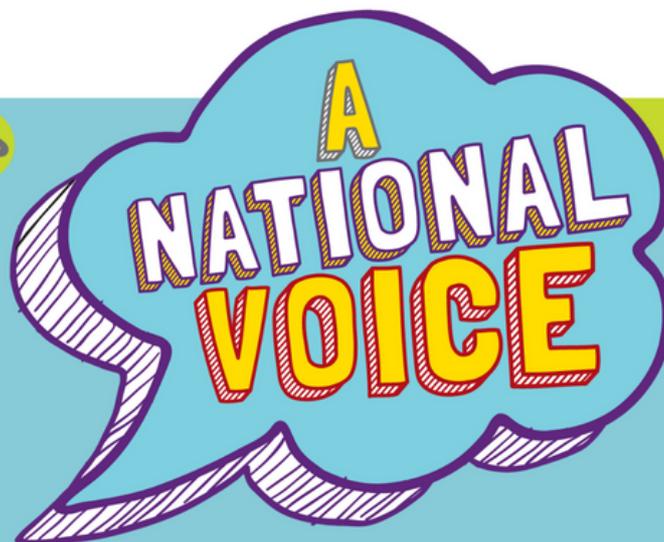


Coram Voice

‘Stable Homes, Built on Love’ Engagement Work - Feedback

Session 2 - Extending corporate parenting
responsibilities



Extending corporate parenting responsibilities

The online session for children and young people took place on Wednesday 16 August 6.00-7.30pm.

The session looked at extending corporate parenting responsibilities to public bodies – who should support children in care and care leavers and what they should do to support them. The policy team were also interested in how we can hold public bodies to account and how they can develop corporate parenting plans.

Who we heard from:

A total of 20 young people attended the session. They were aged 15-25+ and were from across England.



You had lots of questions about extending corporate parenting responsibilities:

“How will the government enforce the changes if they do not meet certain goals?”

“How will we know that actions are being taken?”



“The education sector is already struggling with funding from what has been said on the news and other pieces of information surly it cannot afford to open up more bodies to help young people that need it, so my question is, is there enough funding for all these plans that need to be put into place?”

“How will the government prioritize what is needed when you get a wider range of responses? And how will you deal with the uproar when people disagree with how you prioritise?”

“Can we call it something else other than 'corporate parenting'?- It almost sounds like a business not about caring relationships”

“How would you make the corporate parenting board friendly to suit all age groups?”

“Councillor’s need mandatory training on children in care and to do mandatory regular survey’s with their young people in their local authority to find out what young people need in their area”

“Let both care leavers and children in care help with training. I agree care and care leavers should be involved in most decisions and help with majority of training when they can.”



Put the corporate parenting responsibilities in order (from most to least important)



1. Provide additional support in as young people do not always have the family support networks to rely on
2. Design and deliver services to take account of care experience circumstances
3. Provide opportunities that support children in care and care leavers to reach their full potential
4. Provide clear and transparent information on services they provide and specific rights and entitlements
5. Seek out and act on the views and experiences, and use these to design policies and services in collaboration
6. Raise awareness and provide training to those who work with children in care and care leavers
7. Deliver services in ways that avoid stigma or discrimination
8. Collect data on children in care and care leavers, to better track outcomes and experiences

What kinds of things do you think people in charge (we call them 'public bodies') should do for children in care and care leavers?

- The right support - like you would your own children
- Provide opportunities
- Financial support
- More housing
- Be more flexible and understanding
- Be an advocate for children in care and care leavers
- Provide job opportunities
- Training to help and understand the views of children in care and care leavers
- Treat them as individuals and tailor support that takes into account their situation
- Reduced or free travel and driving lessons
- Mental health support
- Therapeutic services including youth work, sports and arts
- Support to foster carers
- Access to hobbies and interests



WHO

Who should support children in care and care leavers?

Education, employment and training

- Teachers
- Personal advisors (PA's)
- Designated teachers
- Banks - they make so much profit
- Local traded companies to offer specific apprenticeship
- Social workers
- Foster carers
- Colleges
- Universities



Interests and hobbies

- Local gym and leisure facilities (private not just council)
- A youth service (youth clubs)
- Clubs and local experiences
- Internet
- Museums
- Extra project worker in leaving care to run groups
- Sports England
- Specifically youth workers for children in care and care leavers

WHO

Who should support children in care and care leavers?

Health and wellbeing

- Social worker
- NHS
- GP's
- Mental health clinics
- All staff working with children and adults in a caring capacity
- School
- Gyms
- Therapy services



Everyday life

- Citizen advice
- Housing
- Local transport
- Police
- Fire service
- Gas and electric companies, turning over billions each month
- Jobcentres
- Big companies like Amazon etc.
- Local offer



WHAT

WHAT should they be doing to support children in care and care leavers?



Education, employment and training

- Job fairs for the local authorities
- Showing they have listened by providing services promised
- Education etc. could be funded along side interests and hobbies
- Less excluding children from school
- Support with communication
- Additional staff to support children in care and care leavers

Interests and hobbies

- Provide opportunities to try things you wouldn't usually be interested in
- Bus pass, gym pass, discount pass like students
- Local walking groups/ park runs to cater for and encourage care leavers to join their groups
- Centre for every county for children in care and care leavers
- Discounted memberships for local gyms, clubs etc.
- Making sure we have one or more hobby before 16. Found something we thoroughly enjoy
- Grants for when everything goes wrong
- Don't kick teenagers out of parks
- Driving lessons



WHAT

WHAT should they be doing to support children in care and care leavers?

Health and wellbeing

- GP ensuring regular check-ups
- Confidential Services/relationships for young people, young people to feel they can share thoughts & feelings without this always being recorded
- Mentor for care leavers
- Mental health work service specialist for children in care and care leavers
- Fast track to mental health services
- Trauma specific mental health team



Everyday life

- Life skills to be able to achieve everything we need to know to be able to safely live alone
- Gas and electric firms to provide discounts
- Funding to help with bills and rent (not just PIP or universal credit)
- Supermarkets to give all care leavers discounts at the till (similar to blue light card)
- Councils to run volunteer schemes for general public to offer time and support to care leavers, no cost and rewarding for all
- Bus pass, gym pass, discount pass like students
- Food banks for care leavers as a priority
- Being on the housing priority list

WHAT

What would a good corporate parenting plan look like and involve?



- Involve children and young people
- Co-produce it with children in care and care leavers from the beginning
- Listen to what children in care and care leavers need and want clarity
- Clear measurable objectives
- It should be assessable to children and young people and available on different platforms i.e. website, social media
- Reports on progress
- Have children and young people on boards who oversee the plan
- Jargon free and easy to understand
- Investment in staff and services
- Shouldn't be rushed - they need to get it right
- Clarify about rights and entitlements
- Progress reports should be assessable
- Surveys for children and young people to tell people if it's working



HOW

How can public bodies involve children and young people in their plans?

- Surveys
- Regular meetings with children and young people
- Having a care experience board or forum
- Through social media
- Ask them what would make a difference
- Involve them in recruitment
- Children and young people should be involved at every stage
- Involve or talk to participation groups



HOW

How can we hold public bodies accountable?

- Monthly reviews
- Measure the impact through OfSTED, corporate parenting board, send a report to local government and Department for Education of what they have achieved
- Having a timeline to plans so we know when to expect something or know the point it is at
- Ask them to show evidence on what they are planning to do and the progress as it is being put in place. Question it and see if there is anything they need help with to pursuit their goals
- A worker in each council to monitor the work and ensure the plan is achieved
- People that work for the organisation should sign something to say they will do everything they can to make what they have said to happen
- Regular meetings with young people



Key messages for policy teams:



Children want age appropriate, accessible, bite sized and child-friendly information about how they will be supporting children in care and care leavers



Public bodies should provide free or discounted services, understand the needs of children in care and care leavers, offer training and employment, prioritize children in care and care leavers and provide training to all staff



When developing plans, children and young people should be involved, be at the heart of plans and are willing to work with public bodies to support them to better understand them and their needs



Plans should be realistic, measurable, have clear outcomes and not rushed



Someone should be in charge of the plan in the form of a dedicated position or board like the current corporate parenting board that local authorities have



Children and young people believe that mental health and wellbeing is essential and should be prioritized in all plans



Children and young people would like support from big companies, such as support with utilities



Young people believe that corporate parenting plans should be regularly reviewed and that reviews should involve children and young people

Further information

Check out other [online session](#) dates for future sessions

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch at: ANV@coramvoice.org.uk

