

CYNGOR GWYNEDD – Report for Cyngor Gwynedd’s Cabinet

Item title:	<i>Corporate Parenting Charter</i>
Cabinet member:	<i>Councillor Menna Trenholme</i>
Relevant Officer:	<i>Aled Gibbard, Assistant Head</i>
Meeting date:	08.04.25

1. Decision Sought:

Submitting a recommendation from the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel that the Cabinet approves the adoption of the Corporate Parenting Charter published by the Welsh Government.

2. What is the reason the Cabinet needs to make the decision:

The Welsh Government published principles for the Corporate Parenting Charter in September 2023. The Government is asking public sector bodies to sign the Charter to demonstrate their commitment to promoting the rights and life opportunities of children and young people who have experience of being in care.

3. Introduction and Rationale

3.1 Background/ Introduction

The charter is a set of principles and promises that align with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The principles should be followed when providing services for children and young people who have had experience of care.

As set out in the charter, the principles are:

Equality - We will support children and young people who have had experience of care to get the same life chances as every other young person in Wales.

Eliminate Stigma – We will recognize children and young people who have been in care for who they are, not just because of their experience of being in care.

Together - We will work alongside children and young people who have experience of care ensuring that their opinions, feelings and ideas are an integral part of the services, influencing and guiding the way they receive those services.

Support – We will ensure professionals who work with young people who have experience of care, understand their experiences and have access to information and training.

Ambition – We will ensure that all children and young people with experience of care arrive their potential and they can enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sporting and social activities

Encouragement – We will make every child and young person who has experience of care feel valued, respected, cared for and loved.

Good Health – We will provide support to access the right healthcare and advice

needed to support the best physical and mental health and overall well-being for all care experienced children and young people.

Stable Home - We will look for stable places to live and provide them for every child and young person who has had experience of care.

Good Education - We will provide opportunities and support for everyone who has had experience of care to learn/develop and help them become what they want to be.

Thriving - We will ensure that all children and young people who have had experience of care are ready for the future and can make positive choices for independent living and adulthood.

Lifelong – We will work to provide access to and raise awareness of help and support for all young people leaving care.

The Corporate Parenting Charter sets out 9 promises which are described as something that all Corporate Parents should fulfil when working with children and young people who have had experience of care.

The promises in the charter are:

- We will take time to listen to all children and young people who have experienced care and ensure that their views, wishes and feelings are heard and actively considered in all decisions made about them.
- We will treat all children and young people who have experienced care with respect.
- We will include all experienced children and young people in decisions that are made about them.
- We will inform all children and young people who have experience of care about what is happening and why.
- We will use simple language when we communicate with all children and young people who have experience of care.
- We will show sympathy when considering the needs of all children and young people who have had experience of care.
- We will work with all children and young people who have experienced care to help them achieve their goals.
- We will inform all children and young people who have experience of care about the process of making a complaint if they feel that we are not adhering to this charter.
- We would advise all children and young people who have experience of care that they have the right to an independent advocacy service to ensure that their views, wishes and feelings are heard when decisions are made or when they are unhappy and want something to end, start or change.

3.2 Rationale and presentation for recommending the decision

On the publication of the Charter, the priorities in the Council's Corporate Parenting strategy closely aligned with the principles and promises set out in the charter. The charter does not replace the Council's strategy, but it has been adapted to reflect the content of the Charter and reinforces and complements it. Signing up to the charter is a public

commitment by the Council to support children in care and young people leaving care.

3.3 Next Steps

The implementation of the strategy will be overseen by the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel.

4 Statutory Officers' Comments.

4.2 Chief Finance Officer

I am satisfied that approving the Corporate Parenting Charter will not create additional spending commitments. I support the report, and I do not have further comments from the perspective of financial propriety.

4.3 Monitoring Officer

I support the recommendation to adopt the Charter

List of Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Welsh Government Corporate Parenting Charter

Appendix 2 – Cyngor Gwynedd's Corporate Parenting Strategy

List of Background Documents: