

The State Hospitals Board for Scotland Corporate Parenting Plan

2021–2023

October 2021

Introduction

On 1st April 2015, The State Hospital on behalf of the Scottish Ministers joined many other public bodies in Scotland to become a national corporate parent under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Part 9 (Corporate Parenting) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places responsibilities on The State Hospital to improve the lives and futures of Scotland's looked after children, young people and care leavers. In practice, this means we must listen to the needs, fears, challenges and wishes of these groups and be proactive in our approach to improve outcomes and wellbeing.

This is the second Corporate Parenting Plan for The State Hospital and illustrates how the organisation has performed in relation to the objectives of the previous plan and sets out how the organisation will deliver its statutory obligations as Corporate Parent for the next three year period. In developing the Plan valuable contributions were made by partner agencies including Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee and the Centre Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland (CELCIS). CELCIS have been specifically commissioned by Scottish Government to support Corporate Parents. We have engaged with the Scottish Government Corporate Parenting Team and participated in their 2021 survey which provided an opportunity to reflect on our journey, performance and learning as a Corporate Parent between 2018 and 2020. We have also had the opportunity to review the Corporate Parenting Plans of many of the public bodies in Scotland.

Our ambition is that this Corporate Parenting Plan clearly describes our contribution to meeting the specific care needs of young people in our service, and in doing so, helps improve the overall health and wellbeing outcomes for this group.

Mark Richards – Director of Nursing and AHPs

David Hamilton – Social Work Manager

Part 1 – Context

A national service

The State Hospital is the national high secure mental health resource for Scotland and Northern Ireland. The principle aim of the Hospital is to provide high quality forensic mental health assessment, care, treatment and rehabilitation for male patients who require a high secure environment.

The Hospital has up to 140 beds available, and provides a service to people with mental illness and intellectual disabilities. Our model of care is based on human rights principles and adopts a holistic, person centred approach. Each patient is cared for by a multi-disciplinary clinical team comprising highly skilled professional staff in the fields of psychiatry, nursing, social work, allied health professionals, pharmacy, psychology, activity and recreation, and security.

The NHS Scotland Healthcare Quality ambitions are at the core of service delivery, with a focus on delivery of safe, effective and person centred care.

Patients are admitted to the Hospital under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act 2003 and other related legislation because of their dangerous, violent or criminal propensities. Patients without convictions will have displayed significantly aggressive behaviour, normally including violence. Most of the patients in the Hospital are 'restricted' patients who fall under the jurisdiction of Scottish Ministers. These are patients who are subject to special restrictions without limit of time in order to protect the public from serious harm.

Corporate Parenting

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 was passed in March 2014 and is a major piece of legislation which introduces significant changes to the planning, operation and delivery of children's services in Scotland. The Act largely adds to or amends previous statutes which have set out the legal framework for children's services.

Section 56 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 identifies The State Hospitals Board for Scotland as one of 24 'Corporate Parents', which also includes all NHS boards, all local authorities, and our colleagues at the Care Inspectorate and Mental Welfare Commission, amongst others. Our duties as a Corporate Parent are set out in Part 9 of the Act, and we have a number of other responsibilities under additional Parts of the legislation.

These duties are not the responsibility of a single named individual, post holder or part of our service. They should be delivered jointly as an organisation, and embedded into the way we work. Evidence shows that care experienced young people have poorer health and wellbeing outcomes than other children and young people. Part of our responsibility as a Corporate Parent involves working to ensure these outcomes improve.

As a Corporate Parent, The State Hospital has a responsibility to set out how we will satisfy our resulting duties and functions. This Plan will outline these duties and explain what actions we will take and how we will monitor our performance.

Definition of a looked after child or young person

A child or young person is looked after when a Local Authority takes on some legal responsibility for their care and wellbeing. There are many legal routes through which a child can become looked after, including assistance in the provision of care for those with physical or mental disabilities. Corporate Parenting duties apply to children and young people who are looked after, regardless of the route by which they have found themselves in this position.

Children can be looked after in a number of settings, including foster care, kinship care, at home (by one or both parents) or in residential care homes. The Act applies to children and young people in all settings, including The State Hospital.

The Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland (CELCIS) sets out the extent of Corporate Parenting duties as:

“Corporate parenting responsibilities’ extend to all looked after children aged from birth to when they cease to be looked after. This includes children in foster care, residential care, secure care, ‘looked after at home’ (on Home Supervision Requirements) and those in formal kinship care. It also includes disabled children who are ‘looked after’ during a short break provision.

For State Hospital patients our corporate parenting responsibilities apply to care leavers who were looked after on their 16th birthday (or subsequently) up to and including the age of 25.

For the purposes of this strategy, the term ‘**care experienced young people**’ will be used to describe Looked after Children and Young People and care leavers who are covered by this legislation.

Definition of a Corporate Parent

While there is a comprehensive definition of a 'Corporate Parent' provided in section 56 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, for the purposes of this Plan, the following definition, taken from the statutory guidance for part 9 of the Act, will be used. Corporate Parenting is:

“An organisation’s performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted.”

The guidance sets out that the whole organisation is responsible for fulfilling the duties of a Corporate Parent, with implementation being led by senior management across all departments. It requires that staff at all levels in The State Hospital should be aware of the organisation’s Corporate Parenting duties and recommends organisations review their induction and staff development processes in this light.

What are the duties of a Corporate Parent?

The duties of a Corporate Parent must be fulfilled for all looked after children and young people and care leavers. The Act sets out a series of six specific duties which Corporate Parents must fulfill. They are:

1. To be **alert** to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this part (i.e., part 9 of the Act) applies.
2. To **assess** the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides.
3. To **promote** the interests of those children and young people.
4. To seek to provide those children and young people with **opportunities** to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing.
5. To take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people to **access opportunities** it provides, and to make use of services, and **access support**, which it provides.
6. To take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of **improving** the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.
(Section 58, Children and Young People (Scotland) Act, 2014).

The State Hospital and Corporate Parenting

The State Hospital acknowledges that Corporate Parenting duties align with a number of our ambitions and priorities, and is strongly aligned with the Person Centred strand of the Healthcare Quality Ambitions of the NHS in Scotland.

Corporate Parenting seeks to enhance the wellbeing of care experienced young people and care leavers by removing barriers to opportunities which these demographics often face. Through this plan, we will seek to better understand the opportunities available to care experienced young people in our service, the barriers they may face in accessing them, and how we can work to improve their health and wellbeing.

We will seek to enhance the profile of care experienced young people, better understand how we are already working with this group, and develop a mechanism to record where people who use or come into contact with our service fall into this group.

We will seek to support our staff who are caring for our patients who are care experienced young people, to better understand the barriers facing them and develop models of practice that can best be employed to remove these barriers. We will also work in this area directly with our patients who have been care leavers themselves.

We will use our Person Centred Improvement Team and our Social Work partners to raise awareness of care experienced young people and care leavers, and what our responsibilities are as a national service.

Our aim is to support care experienced young people and care leavers to feel healthy and safe, and to support them to have the confidence needed to successfully navigate systems in place so they can take responsibility for their future wellbeing. We will do this by working in partnership with care experienced young people and care leavers, appropriate Corporate Parents, and other agencies who are able to support us in this aim. We will continue to work towards achieving this aim by ensuring that all State Hospital employees are aware of, and consider, the needs of care experienced young people and care leavers when delivering and developing services, and when working with the families and carers of our patients.

Although we are an adult service, we will discharge our corporate parenting responsibilities as they relate to care experienced young people in our care. We will also partner with other corporate parents to ensure that any care experienced young people who visit our patients are appropriately supported.

How have we developed our Corporate Parenting Plan?

Through our local Child and Adult Protection Forum, we have looked at the duties set out by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, beginning with the requirements set out under Part 9 on Corporate Parenting. These groups have executive, senior management and operational staff membership and report through our organisational governance structures.

We have taken advice from Policy Officers at the Scottish Government Corporate Parenting Team, and utilized resources from the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS), Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) and Who Cares? Scotland. We have consulted on our plan both internally, including staff, volunteers and those in leadership roles, and externally, with relevant interest groups supporting care experienced children and young people, people with an experience of care, third sector organisations such as Who Cares? Scotland, and fellow Corporate Parents, including our colleagues in NHSScotland, in social care and local authorities, and the statutory/regulation sector.

Part 2 – Action Plan

Purpose and aims of the action plan

The purpose of the action plan is to set out the actions The State Hospital will undertake up to April 2023 in order to fulfill our statutory duties as a Corporate Parent. For the purposes of this plan, looked after and accommodated children and young people and care leavers will be referred to as young people.

The aims of the plan are:

- To ensure The State Hospital fulfils its duties in a way which is consistent with its functions as a National Health Board.
- To make all State Hospital staff aware that the organisation is a Corporate Parent with resultant duties to fulfill to present a set of proposed actions which The State Hospital will undertake and report on to Scottish Government.
- To ensure that we uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of young people in our care.
- To promote the physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational wellbeing of young people in our care.

Governance and reporting

The Executive Lead for Corporate Parenting is the Director of Nursing and AHPs. While the Chief Executive, Chairman, and Board of The State Hospital will take leadership in this important area of our work, delivery of the plan will be supported by our Child and Adult Protection Forum, and progress reported through the Corporate Management Team. The State Hospital is committed to supporting all of our staff in meeting our duties and improving the way we work with, and anticipate the needs of, care experienced young people.

The State Hospitals Board for Scotland will update the Corporate Parenting Plan every three years in accordance with government guidance and will prepare an annual report of our progress in relation to our duties and actions.

Corporate parenting duties and actions

This plan will focus on our progress as a Corporate Parent over the past three years and will set out our aspirations as we continue to develop our knowledge and practice as a Corporate Parent.

Previous Objectives and Action Plan for 2021 - 2023:

1. To be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2021 - 2023
A Designated Person for Corporate Parenting will be appointed. The Designated Person will have a responsibility to ensure that any changes in legislation are implemented and to promote the interests of care experienced young people and care leavers, primarily through the delivery of this plan.	Director Of Nursing and AHPs	Achieved	Director of Nursing and AHPs has overall responsibility for Corporate Parenting and will continue to ensure that The State Hospital operates in accordance with legislative requirement. Ongoing monitoring of Corporate Parenting will take place via the Child and Adult Protection Forum.
Training will commence for staff across the organisation on March 2018. This will include the Senior Leadership Team and Board, to enable all staff to better understand our care experienced young people and care leaver population and their needs.	Social Work Manager	Achieved Corporate Parenting training is embedded via online learning and included in Keeping Children Safe courses.	Continue to deliver training and ensure that this is reflective of changes in legislation and practice.
We will ensure that all newly employed staff are aware of their specific responsibilities with regard to carrying out Corporate Parenting duties through our organisational induction programme.	Social Work Manager	Achieved Corporate Parenting forms part of the induction program for all new staff and is delivered as part of the Keeping Children Safe course to all new staff.	Continue to monitor uptake and completion of training via Learning and Development Team in conjunction with the Child and Adult Protection Forum.

In order to ensure that the organisation is alert to matters which have, or which might have, an adverse impact on the wellbeing of our young people, we have introduced Corporate Parenting training to all current and new staff, as part of their inductions, to ensure that everyone within the organisation has an awareness of our corporate parenting responsibilities and of the particular needs and challenges experienced by those who have been looked after. Corporate parenting is now incorporated into our Keeping Children Safe training delivery and associated online modules and participation in these learning events and modules is regularly monitored via the Learning Development Team and reported to the Child and Adult Protection Forum to ensure positive uptake.

Since 2018, the organisation has taken a number of steps to ensure we are alert to matters which might have an adverse impact on the wellbeing of children and young people. We have implemented measures to ensure that all those young people to whom corporate parenting responsibilities apply are identified upon admission with this being communicated via Medical Records department to the relevant Clinical Team. This information is now clearly recorded within the Care Program Approach (CPA) documentation and the Social Work team have specific regard to the corporate parenting status and associated needs within their reports which form part of the multi-disciplinary care and treatment plan. As such, the young person’s care team is aware from an early stage that responsibilities apply and multi-disciplinary assessment is carried out within this context.

Corporate Parenting is now a feature of the Child and Adult Protection Forum and is monitored by this group on a regular basis with an annual report to the Board as part of our corporate governance. Given the particular nature of the hospital, the number of patients and the small proportion of these to whom corporate parenting responsibilities apply, we benefit from membership of the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee and liaison with partner agencies to help inform and develop our practice in this area.

The impact on our service in terms of staff participation in learning and development has improved the general level of awareness of our responsibilities as a corporate parent. We are now more alert to our role and aware of the importance of recognising the needs of the patients who are care experienced. These changes have been incorporated into existing structures with little disruption to our care model. As an organisation, we have had very low numbers of patients to whom the responsibilities apply and, therefore, the impact has been manageable thus far.

In terms of our young people, the changes we have implemented have ensured that their particular needs, as a consequence of their status as care experienced, are recognised at an early stage and incorporated fully into their assessment and care within the hospital.

2. To assess the needs of those children and young people for services and the support it provides

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2021-2023
The State Hospital will undertake an analysis of its patient population in the context of care experienced young people and care leavers, to build a picture of need. This will inform the ongoing development Corporate Parenting Plan.	Medical Records	Patient population was analysed and relevant patients identified. Information was used to inform the Corporate Parenting Plan.	The Medical Records team will continue to undertake periodic review of the patient population and highlight any patients to whom these provisions apply. Experiences and identified needs will be incorporated into the new Corporate Parenting Plan.

Review our assessment processes to ensure we are able to consistently identify care experienced young people at the point of initial assessment.	Director of Nursing and AHPs	Patients are routinely screened on admission to identify any persons to whom Corporate Parenting responsibilities apply.	In addition to screening on admission, Medical Records and allocated Social Worker will review Corporate Parenting status for each patient by point of Admission CPA meeting to allow time for additional inquiries to be made. This will ensure a more robust approach going forward.
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As a result of our changes to promote early identification of care experienced patients, the young person’s care team is made aware from an early stage that corporate parenting responsibilities apply and multi-disciplinary assessment is carried out within this context. These assessments will encompass a holistic view of the young person including their mental well-being, their physical health, their social background including experience of poverty, educational attainment and exposure to traumatic events. Within the hospital, we are supported by the Trauma Informed Care Group who work to ensure that an understanding of trauma is embedded in our care model. In recognition of the increased risk of suicide and self-harm among looked after children and care leavers, each patient’s risk in this respect is assessed with tailored measures of care and support provided accordingly. For those patients to whom corporate parenting responsibilities apply, contact is established with partner agencies to identify and access any existing corporate parenting plans to ensure partnership working, consistency with previously identified needs and to support transitional planning arrangements for those persons moving on from our service. There is now regular contact with partner agencies who have held corporate parenting responsibilities prior to the young person’s admission to The State Hospital and ongoing engagement throughout their detention herein.

In recognition of the low levels of educational engagement and achievement which are prevalent among care leavers, all patients admitted to the hospital are offered support in relation to their educational needs. Information in relation to past educational attainment is gathered during the admission phase and concerns in relation to specific learning difficulties or intellectual disability are taken account of when developing rehabilitative plans. All patients are supported to take advantage of educational opportunities within the hospital, recognising that many have never completed any formal qualifications and some have specific literacy and numeracy needs. A tailored learning plan and relevant support is provided within the hospital with external educators supplementing the learning centre team to ensure that patients can pursue the level of learning commensurate with their abilities and aspirations – from basic literacy to degree level studies.

As an organisation, we are fortunate to have on-site access to a range of professional disciplines and rehabilitative opportunities which can be readily accessed in order to meet the needs of the young people in our care. All of our patients have an identified clinical team comprising Psychiatry, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work, Pharmacy, Dieticians, Security and Occupational Therapists. All patients have access to onsite physical health provision via GP and dentist services and promotion of physical health is a key aspect of our work in the hospital. Patients who require specialist health interventions are routinely referred to external health services and supported to engage with health professionals as required. We engage with partner agencies, local authorities, Police Scotland, the Scottish Prison Service and MAPPA as part of our admission, continuing care and discharge processes. This joined up approach ensures that identified needs are

routinely shared and should follow the young person as their recovery progresses and they prepare to move on from our service. Patients have routine access to independent advocacy services to help promote their rights and to ensure that they are meaningfully engaged in their care and treatment.

As an organisation we strive to deliver care in a safe and person centred way focusing on the specific needs of our individual patients. This approach is consistent with the aims of our corporate parenting plan and associated responsibilities. The key changes have been in ensuring that the specific needs of our care experienced young people are fully recognised and acted upon accordingly by our staff to ensure that they are in receipt of care, treatment and opportunities which are of benefit to them as individuals.

Young people are supported to engage in their recovery, to develop insight in respect of their needs and to participate in rehabilitative opportunities to maximise their potential during their time as patients within The State Hospital and as they progress to other services.

3. *To promote the interests of those children and young people*

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2021 - 2023
Support staff to make changes to their own working practices and areas of work with the aim of improving outcomes for care experienced young people and care leavers, collaborating with corporate parenting partners to enable same.	Social Work Manager	Staff are in receipt of training and aware of Corporate Parenting responsibilities. Collaboration with Corporate Parenting partners is being achieved and is monitored via Social Work CPA reports.	Continue to ensure that Corporate Parenting issues are appropriately recorded and monitored.
Publish our Corporate Parenting Plan and associated updates.	Director Of Nursing and AHPs	The 2018 – 2020 Plan was published. Annual updates are prepared by the Child and Adult Protection Forum for scrutiny by the board.	2021 – 2023 Plan will be published following established governance protocols.

A key element of promoting the interests of young people in our care has been via the delivery of learning and developmental opportunities to staff in order to ensure that they are aware of our corporate parenting responsibilities in respect of the patients to whom these apply. We continue to monitor and review the identified needs and outcomes for the young people in our care via the CPA processes and our governance arrangements. Given the nature of our primary functions we are able to address and attempt to achieve positive outcomes for our patients in line with our corporate parenting goals. We actively promote a safe and stable environment for our care experienced young people, recognising the impact of their compulsory detention on their existing relationships and

offer support to maintain positive relationships with friends and family members via our Social Work service and the Person Centred Improvement Team. We strive to ensure consistency of care and recognise that experience of trauma can negatively impact the development of trusting relationships. Through the nomination of a nursing key worker and a consistent and transparent approach to developing care and treatment goals involving the patient, we seek to develop positive relationships with professionals based on trust. By ensuring access to independent advocacy services, legal representation and the Mental Welfare Commission, we seek to ensure that the rights of our care experienced young people are promoted and upheld. As previously stated, an emphasis on educational opportunities and development of life skills is a key component of our work within the hospital and aims to provide transferable life skills as young people progress from our care. By providing early assessment of physical and mental health, these issues are identified promptly and appropriate care options explored with the patient and health professionals. Where treatment is compulsorily given, governance arrangements ensure that this is carried out within the parameters of the relevant legislative frameworks.

The changes introduced since 2018 have enhanced our organisational understanding of, and approach to, our corporate parenting responsibilities and supported us to better identify, assess and promote the needs of those care experienced young people who come into our service. Given the nature of our primary functions and our resources in delivering these, the organisation has been able to adapt to the demands of corporate parenting and integrate these within our existing care and treatment framework.

4. To seek to provide looked after children and care leavers with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action
Assess and respond to the needs of our care experienced young people.	Social Work Manager	Care experienced young people receive a holistic assessment of need as part of the CPA process. Identified needs, objectives and outcomes are reviewed on a 6 monthly basis.	Monitor review documentation to ensure that Corporate Parenting issues are effectively addressed and recorded.

Provide care experienced young people with information on their rights.	Social Work Manager	Information regarding the rights of care experienced young people is provided by Social Work staff in conjunction with advocacy partners and Corporate Parenting partners.	Review information to ensure that it is provided in accessible formats.
Communicate and share best practice in relation to care experienced young people.	Social Work Manager	Information in relation to best practice regarding care experienced young people is fed into the CAPF and further disseminated to the wider staff group.	Continue to monitor information regarding best practice and ensure this is widely shared and incorporated into practice within The State Hospital.
Promote the needs of our care experienced young people with our corporate parenting partners.	Social Work Manager	Once identified, details of care experienced young people are shared with the relevant corporate parenting partner and a collaborative approach is sought to ensuring that their identified needs are met.	Monitor the involvement of corporate parenting partners and take steps to ensure partnership working to achieve best outcomes for care experienced young people.

As previously noted, the organisation has taken steps to identify the young people in our service to whom corporate parenting responsibilities at an early stage in their admission. Within the first 8 weeks of their admission, the young person will have been engaged in multi-disciplinary assessment of their needs and a care and treatment plan developed accordingly. Within the first two weeks of admission, each of the young people will have been offered support in terms of their educational needs and opportunities to promote well-being. Within The State Hospital, education and learning are widely recognised as important elements in promoting individual health and well-being. Key benefits associated with education and learning include improvements in self-confidence and self-esteem, personal development and self-fulfilment, enhanced life and social skills, social inclusion and behavioural change. The contribution of education in helping to address health inequalities is also well documented.

The following activities fall within the scope of patient learning within the State Hospital:

- Core skills development (i.e. literacy, language and numeracy)
- Open and distance learning (including further and higher education)
- Vocational training (e.g. horticulture, animal care, library and sports)
- ICT skill development
- Arts and crafts
- Personal and social development skills.

Patient learning services within the State Hospital are aimed at:

- Widening access and participation in learning and education
- Raising basic standards of literacy and numeracy
- Increasing skill levels and qualification attainment rates
- Improving the quality and range of learning opportunities available
- Reducing barriers to engagement in education and learning
- Enhancing integration of patient learning and the care and treatment planning process

For patients within the State Hospital, participation in education and learning can be an empowering and socialising process and can make a significant contribution to care, treatment and longer-term recovery and rehabilitation.

Patient learning programmes are mainly delivered within a range of activity centres. This includes: Patient Learning Centre (PLC); Patient Library; Gardens & Animal Assisted Therapy Centre; Sports & Fitness Centre and the Craft Centre. Outreach learning is also available as required.

Learning provision includes both accredited and non-certificated programmes and the hospital has 'approved centre' status with a number of qualification awarding bodies. This includes the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA), the British Computer Society (BCS), the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS), and Sports Leaders UK.

Educational opportunities are fully encouraged and supported and are consistent with our commitments in terms of corporate parenting.

In relation to broader well-being issues, Nutritional Care Plans (NCP) are required for all patients as part of the Food, Fluid and Nutritional Care Standards (2014). Health and Wellbeing Plans (HWP) are developed for each of our young people in order to support their physical health and nutritional needs. We further undertake work to support the prevention and reduction of obesity within our patient group. These multidisciplinary plans are to support a patient's physical health, around their dietary intake, activity, personal care, psychological wellbeing and sleep. We aim to have a Health and Well-being Plan in place for all of our patients within 14 days of admission. These interventions should promote the well-being of our young people and provide them with transferable knowledge and skills as they progress in their recovery.

These initiatives aim to promote and support the recovery of all patients within our service. Staff are cognisant of their responsibilities to young people within our care and strive to ensure equality of access to opportunities from an early stage following admission. Regular communication with external corporate parenting partners ensures that they are aware of the opportunities available to our care experienced young people and they are provided with regular updates as to progress and future planning. This helps to support transitional plans and to ensure a degree of continuity when young people move on from our service.

The commitment to providing early intervention seeks to ensure that young people are not disadvantaged by their admission to The State Hospital and are involved from an early stage in assessment of their needs and the development of their care plans. Young people are encouraged to participate fully in their recovery and to access the opportunities available to them within the organisation.

5. To take action to help looked after children and care leavers:

Access the opportunities provided, make use of our services, and access the support they provide

Action	Lead	Date	Updated Action
To support staff who work with care experienced young people to be aware of the rights and entitlements of this group, and to act as their advocates in accessing services.	Social Work Manager	Training has been delivered to increase staff awareness of their roles and responsibilities towards care experienced young people. Access to services and opportunities is provided within The State Hospital and in collaboration with partner agencies.	Monitor the experiences of care experienced young people to ensure equitable access to services.

As previously indicated, all patients from the point of admission to their eventual discharged are supported to be involved in their care, treatment and recovery. Support is offered in a person-centred manner with individual care and treatment plans being developed from an early stage in the admission process. Young people have identified key-workers who offer one to one support and monitor care plan outcomes which are routinely shared with the wider

clinical team on a weekly basis. Clinical teams are provided with weekly reports on patient engagement in physical activity and their access to rehabilitative and developmental opportunities. Where deficits are identified, opportunities and activities are identified and made available in a format best suited to meeting the needs of the individual. The provision of advocacy services further serves to ensure that the voices of our young people are heard and that their concerns and needs are responded to in a meaningful way. Governance arrangements monitor both the uptake and effectiveness of interventions and seek to promote the inclusion of all our patients in meaningful activity which will be of benefit to them.

As an organisation we strive to deliver care in a safe and person centred way focusing on the specific needs of our individual patients. This approach is consistent with the aims of our corporate parenting plan and associated responsibilities. The key changes have been in ensuring that the specific needs of our care experienced young people are fully recognised and acted upon accordingly by our staff to ensure that they are in receipt of care, treatment and opportunities which are of benefit to them as individuals.

Young people within our care are supported to be partners in their recovery and to have meaningful engagement with opportunities designed to promote their well-being and future development. Young people are encouraged to engage in learning and rehabilitative opportunities, in tandem with therapeutic interventions, to develop resilience and the life skills necessary to them as they progress from our service and work towards a return to the community.

6. To take any other action it considers appropriate for the purpose of improving the way it exercises its function in relation to looked after children and care leavers

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action
Engage with our care experienced young people to ensure that they have voice in shaping the actions that will be delivered.	Director of Nursing and AHPs	Opportunities exist to shape delivery of care and support via individual (Care Program Approach) and organizational (What Matters To You, Person Centred Improvement Team, Patient Partnership Group means.	Take steps to ensure that care experienced young people feel able to meaningfully contribute to service delivery and associated actions.
Provide a Corporate Parenting awareness raising session and supporting materials for Board Members.	Director of Nursing and AHPs	Information session and material provided to the board.	Further sessions to be provided following changes to Board membership.

Work in partnership with organizations focused on working with looked after children and young people and care leavers, to support the delivery of our action plan and associated work.	Social Work Manager	Liaison with relevant bodies contributed to development and delivery of the Corporate Parenting Plan and associated work.	Continue to work in partnership with relevant organisations to ensure our identified goals can be achieved.
Routinely monitor and report the outcomes of our corporate parenting plans on our care experienced young people, reporting this to the State Hospitals Board.	Director of Nursing and AHPs	The Child and Adult Protection Forum monitors outcomes and has provided annual progress reports to the Board.	Review the format for reporting to the Board to ensure SMART objectives and clear outcome monitoring.
Collaborate with other Corporate Parents to increase the value and impact of our corporate parenting activities.	Social Work Manager Director of Nursing and AHPs	Collaboration has taken place with other Corporate Parents to support the development of policy and practice.	Continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure best practice and positive outcomes for care experienced young people.

Our performance as a corporate parent has been monitored via the Child and Adult Protection Forum which meets on a 6 weekly basis and reviews the admission of care experienced young people to ensure that this information is appropriately recorded and shared with the relevant clinical teams. On an annual basis, the Child and Adult Protection Forum provides a report to the board which incorporates our corporate parenting responsibilities and any associated issues and areas for improvement. Whilst these mechanisms are in place, it is the case that our experience in this area has been limited due to the extremely low numbers of patients to whom the responsibilities apply. In the first two years of our current plan we had one patient to whom the provisions applied. As such, identification of trends, performance and indicators is somewhat limited as a consequence. However, we remain committed to ensuring that corporate parenting remains embedded within our performance reviews and hope to further develop our practice as our patient demographics evolve.

Useful sources of further information

Useful sources of further information

CELCIS (Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland) <http://www.celcis.org/>, [CELCIS | Support to implement corporate parenting duties](#)

WhoCares? Scotland <http://www.whocaresscotland.org/>

South Lanarkshire Council's Corporate Parenting Sub Group - part of Integrating Children's Services

Skills Development Scotland <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/>

West of Scotland Care Leavers Forum

Scottish Government statistics <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/contents/enacted>

Wellbeing Indicators of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC): <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright/background/wellbeing>

Scottish Government Corporate Parenting Team, Children and Families Directorate