



2024-2027





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1 Foreword

The State Hospital is proud to publish its third corporate parenting plan which sets out how we have performed in relation to our previous objectives and explains how we will deliver our statutory obligations as a Corporate Parent for the next three years.

On 1st April 2015, The State Hospital on behalf of the Scottish Ministers joined many other public bodies in Scotland to become a 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.

In 2020, Scotland made a promise that by 2030, all of Scotland's children and young people will grow up safe, loved and respected. Significant change has occurred in this time such as the passing of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 which has ended the imprisonment of children and the incorporation into Scots Law of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). However, there remains progress to be made and within The State Hospital we continue to monitor and review our contribution to those young people for whom we have corporate parenting responsibilities.

In developing the Plan valuable contributions were made by partner agencies including South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee and Who Cares? Scotland. We have also had the opportunity to review the Corporate Parenting Plans of many of the public bodies in Scotland. Most importantly, we have had the opportunity to listen to the voices of care experienced young people for whom we have corporate parenting responsibilities.

The State Hospital Corporate Parenting Plan describes our contribution to meeting the specific care needs of young people in our service, and in doing so, we hope to improve the overall health and wellbeing outcomes for this group.

Karen McCaffrey – Director of Nursing and Operations David Hamilton – Social Work Manager

2 About the State Hospital

The State Hospital is one of four high secure hospitals in the UK. Located in South Lanarkshire in central Scotland, it is a national service for Scotland and Northern Ireland and one part of the pathway of care that should be available for those with secure care needs. The principal aim is to rehabilitate patients, ensuring safe transfer to appropriate lower levels of security.

There are 140 high-secure beds (plus four beds for emergency use) for male patients requiring maximum secure care. Twelve beds are specifically for patients with an intellectual disability. A range of therapeutic, educational, diversional and recreational services including a Health Centre are provided. 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.

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. Each year, there are around 20 – 35 patient admissions and discharged.

As a Corporate Parent, we are proud of our Vision, Mission and Values. These are:

Vision

To be a leader in delivering relationally informed, person-centred, high secure mental health care that enables recovery whilst ensuring the safety and well-being of staff, patients and the public.

Mission

To assess and treat major mental disorders in a secure and person-centred care environment that manages risks, supports recovery, rehabilitation and onward progression.



Values

The State Hospital has adopted the core values of NHS Scotland:

- Care and Compassion
- Dignity and respect
- · Openness, honesty and responsibility
- Quality and Teamwork

3 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 twenty-four '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. The terns wellbeing within the Act is defined using SHANARRI indicators of being Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included.

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.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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 fulfil. 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).

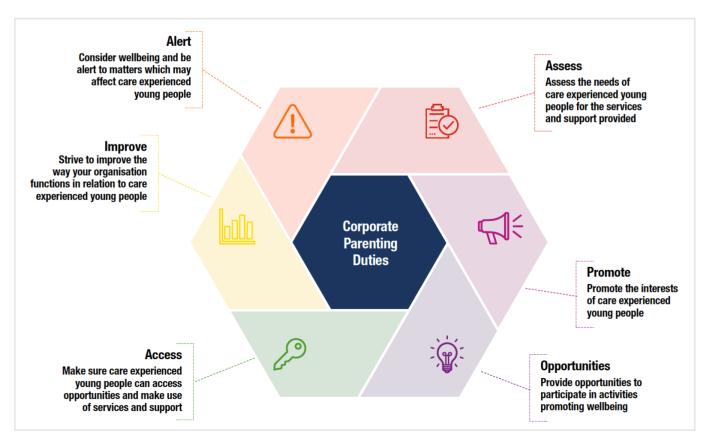
7 The State Hospital and Corporate Parenting

The State Hospital recognises that our Corporate Parenting duties align with a number of our ambitions and priorities, and are 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 that any care experienced young people who visit our patients are appropriately supported.

8 Development of 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

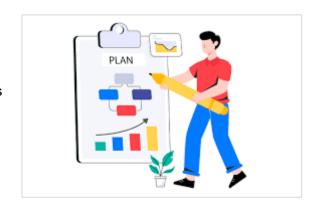
We have taken advice from Policy Officers at the Scottish Government Corporate Parenting Team, and utilized resources from the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS), Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) and Who Cares? Scotland. We have consulted on our plan both internally, 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.

9 Action Plan

The purpose of the action plan is to set out the actions The State Hospital will undertake up to April 2027 in order to fulfil 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 fulfil 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.

10 Governance and Reporting

The Executive Lead for Corporate Parenting is the Director of Nursing and Operations. While the Chief Executive, Chairperson, and Board of The State Hospital take roles 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 annually through the Clinical Governance Committee to the Board. The State Hospital is committed to supporting all of our staff in meeting our duties and improving the way we work with, and address 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.

11 Corporate Parenting Duties and Actions

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





12 Previous Objectives and Action Plan for 2024-2027

1. To be alert to matters which might adversely affect wellbeing

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2024 - 2027
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.	Director Of Nursing and Operations	Achieved	
Continue to deliver training and ensure that this is reflective of changes in legislation and practice.	Social Work Manager	Achieved Corporate Parenting training is embedded via online learning and included in Keeping Children Safe courses. Keeping Children Safe training has been reviewed and updated to reflect current practice and legislation.	Continue to monitor and review the delivery of training and the content of training materials.
Continue to monitor uptake and completion of training via Learning and Development Team in conjunction with the Child and Adult Protection Forum.	Social Work Manager	Achieved	Continue to monitor training data and liaise with Nursing Practice Development and Learning and Development Teams to ensure targets and standards are maintained.

Corporate Parenting training is a key part of our learning and development within The State Hospital and we strive to ensure that our staff have an awareness of our corporate parenting responsibilities. We monitor our learning and development this area within the Child and Adult Protection Forum with annual reporting to the Board.

A continued challenge to the organisation is maintaining our awareness of these responsibilities in the context of being a small, national board focussed on a specific group of patients within which a very small proportion are care experienced and for whom corporate parenting duties apply. Our connectedness with external partners is therefore critical in ensuring we adopt a best practice approach.

2. To assess the needs for the services and support we provide

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2024- 2027
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.	Health Records	Achieved The Health Records team, in collaboration with the Social Work Service, identify care experienced young people upon admission. The current plan reflects the experiences of our patients to whom our duties apply.	Continue to actively identify those patients for whom we have corporate parenting responsibilities. Ensure that each individual has a personcentred care plan which highlights their identified needs as a care experienced young person.
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.	Director of Nursing and Operations	Achieved 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.
	Social Work Manager		All patients will have their needs assessed using the Care Programme Approach (CPA) and relevant risk assessment tools. This encompasses their mental and physical health, social circumstances, relationships, equality and diversity issues and legal position.

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 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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

3. To promote the interests of children and young people

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2024 - 2027
Continue to ensure that Corporate Parenting issues are appropriately recorded and monitored.	Social Work Manager	Achieved Collaboration with Corporate Parenting partners is being achieved and is monitored via Social Work CPA reports.	Monitor CPA documentation to ensure recognition of corporate parenting issues.
2021 – 2023 to be published.	Director Of Nursing and Operations	Achieved The 2021 – 2023 Plan was published. Annual updates are prepared by the Child and Adult Protection Forum for scrutiny by the Board.	2024 – 2027 Corporate Parenting Plan to be published.

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.

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 build and maintain positive relationships with friends, family members and carers via our Social Work service and the Person Centred Improvement Team.

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.

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.

4. To provide opportunities to participate in activities to promote wellbeing

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2024-27
Monitor review documentation to ensure that Corporate Parenting issues are effectively addressed and recorded.	Social Work Manager	Achieved Review documentation has been fully reviewed and revised to reflect a more patient-centred approach. Corporate Parenting responsibilities are clearly identified within these.	Continue to monitor CPA documentation to ensure that, where necessary, corporate parenting aims, objectives and outcomes are clearly identified.
Review information on rights to ensure that it is provided in accessible formats	Social Work Manager	In progress Information regarding the rights of care experienced young people is provided by Social Work staff in conjunction with advocacy partners and Corporate Parenting partners. Information has been provided in alternative formats where necessary and supported by use of interpreting services as required.	Continue to monitor the content of relevant information and ensure access to all who require it is in an accessible format.

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2024-27
Continue to monitor information regarding best practice and ensure this is widely shared and incorporated into practice within The State Hospital.	Social Work Manager	Achieved Social Work Manager has engaged in local and national learning. Information in relation to best practice regarding care experienced young people is fed into the CAPF and further disseminated to the wider staff group.	Engage with external stakeholders and partners to ensure that our practice continues to be up to date and informed by current data, research and policy development.
Monitor the involvement of corporate parenting partners and take steps to ensure partnership working to achieve best outcomes for care experienced young people.	Social Work Manager	Achieved Review of health records and clinical documentation reflects the ongoing input of partner agencies when care experienced young people are admitted to The State Hospital.	Continue to monitor the input of partner agencies for our care experienced young people.

Within the first two weeks of admission, each of the young people admitted to our service will have been offered support in terms of their educational needs and 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.

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.

Within The State Hospital, education and learning are widely recognised as important elements in promoting individual health and well-being.

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 process and can make a significant contribution to care, treatment and longer-term recovery and rehabilitation. Educational opportunities are fully encouraged and supported and are consistent with our commitments in terms of corporate parenting.

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.

5. Take action to help access opportunities provided and make use of our services

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2024-2027
Monitor the experiences of care experienced young people to ensure equitable access to services.	Social Work Service	Achieved Our carer experienced young people are regularly accessing services to support their recovery and well-being.	Continue to monitor the involvement of care experienced young people to ensure that this is meaningful for them and contributing towards their identified outcomes.

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.

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.

All patients from the point of admission to their eventual discharge 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.

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.

6. To review, evaluate and improve our approach to corporate parenting.

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2024-27
Take steps to ensure that care experienced young people feel able to meaningfully contribute to service delivery and associated actions.	Social Work Manager	A Patient Outcome Project is underway which has involved conversations around individual goals and organisational matters. A number of initiatives are ongoing to support the involvement of care experienced young people in service improvement via the Patient Partnership Group, the What Matters to You initiative and the Person Centred Improvement Team.	Ensure that opportunities for involvement in service development are directly targeted to our care experienced young people.
Continue to work in partnership with relevant organisations to ensure our identified goals can be achieved.	Social Work Manager	Achieved Liaison with relevant bodies has contributed to development and delivery of the Corporate Parenting Plan.	Continue to engage with internal and external stakeholders to support the delivery of our responsibilities as a Corporate Parent.
Review the format for reporting to the Board to ensure SMART objectives and clear outcome monitoring.	Director of Nursing and Operations	Achieved The Child and Adult Protection Forum has provided annual reports to the Board and has clear key performance indicators and SMART objectives embedded.	

Action	Lead	Progress	Updated Action for 2024-27
	Social Work Manager		Continue to plan for our responsibilities arising from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and publish our UNCRC plan in 2026.

Our performance as a corporate parent has been monitored via the Child and Adult Protection Forum which meets on a 2 monthly basis and reviews the admission of care experienced young people.

On an annual basis, the Child and Adult Protection Forum provides a report to the board which addresses our corporate parenting responsibilities and any associated issues and areas for improvement.

It remains the case that our experience as a Corporate Parent has been limited due to the extremely low numbers of patients to whom the responsibilities apply. As such, identification of trends, performance and indicators and the development of expertise is limited as a consequence. However, we remain committed to ensuring that corporate parenting remains embedded within our service development and aim to further develop our practice as our patient demographics evolve.

