

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Operations
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	7/10/2020
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Update by Care Experienced Young People on Delivery of Corporate Parenting Action Plan.
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### **UPDATE:**

- 1.1 At a meeting of the Public Protection Committee in December 2019, the committee requested that Care Experienced Young People (CEYP) present an update to them on Aberdeen City Council Corporate Parenting Plan by July 2020. Due to the disruptive impact of Covid19 this has been delayed to the April 2021 Committee.
- 1.2 As an interim position, the update provided here makes reference to the Aberdeen Care Experienced (ACE) annual report 2019/20 (Appendix 1) and summarises key Corporate Parenting and Champions Board stakeholder activities as they have been delivered to and with CEYP through their inclusion and involvement with Aberdeen Care Experienced (ACE) group in 2019/20. Direct presentation by CEYP will be arranged for the Committee within the above timeframe.
- 1.3 Aberdeen City Council Local Outcome Improvement Plan has children, young people and families 'front and centre' in terms of its priorities and overarching vision, this aligns to the aims of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan and Champions Board Action Plan (Appendix 2)

*"All care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, emotional wellbeing and positive destinations as their peers by 2026"* (Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-21) *'our care experienced children, young people and care leavers have a right to participate in decision-making about their own lives and have their voices heard'* (Champions Board Action Plan 2018-2021).

- 1.4 This vision intends to support improved outcomes for individual children, young people and care leavers alongside improved services for them, now and into the future. Going forward, the development of our Corporate Parenting and Champions Board plans will continue to be shaped by the voice of lived experience. In February 2020, the recommendations of the Independent Care Review were published, part of these recommendations addressed the theme of 'Corporate Parenting' and made recommendations for change in this area.

These recommendations were informed by the 1000 voices, of young people looked after by Local Authorities. As the ACE annual report indicates, a number of Aberdeen City CEYP contributed to this consultation process and their views have shaped the final recommendations in respect of what makes effective Corporate Parents and the principle that:

*"What matters is that children and young adults feel the benefit of Scotland's good parenting. It is for those in receipt of care to define their experiences". (ICR, 2020, The Promise).*

The Care Review reported that the term 'Corporate Parent' was perceived by CEYP as 'cold and impersonal' and, as such, at odds with an approach that sought to uphold relationships that make children feel loved, safe and respected. The ACE annual report demonstrates and provides local examples of how a relational approach is being developed and invested in, in the engagement of Corporate Parents with CEYP in Aberdeen City. The examples of cooking and walking sessions as well as co-facilitation roles, with Champions, are examples of this form of relational co-production.

- 1.5 The information contained in Aberdeen Care Experienced (ACE) annual report, offers an overview of the collaborative activities and achievements of Care Experienced Young People (CEYP). These have been presented under the headings of 'Change', 'Influence', 'Engagement' and 'Belonging'. Matching these against the Corporate Parenting Plan outcomes of 'Young People Development', 'Partnership Working', 'Information Awareness Raising and Promotion' and 'Monitoring and Evaluation'.
- 1.6 The annual report provides a strong indication of both the thematic issues addressed with and for CEYP via the ACE group and their associated banner activities. The report showcases the engagement with a significant number of CEYP, the methods used to engage CEYP to address themes and an overview of how successful these approaches have been. The ACE annual report demonstrates the increased numbers of young people participating from 54 in the previous reporting period to 71 in 2019/20 as well as activities growing from 196 sessions to 243 during this period. The Development Officer describes these as follows:

*Belonging meetings are an opportunity for young people to arrange activities themselves, invite and engage participants, decide on actions etc. Advisor meetings are held with members of a core group of young people who act as Advisors to ACE, the Development Officer, and the Champions Board. These meetings are where discussions, feedback etc are conducted. Advisors represent the voice of Care Experienced young people looked after by Aberdeen City, and with the Development Officer meeting just over 42% of the Care Experienced young people living in Aberdeen (see data below), not to mention to many other young people Advisors know, Champions Board, the local Authority and Corporate Parents can be confident that the voice they hear, IS the voice of Care Experienced young people in Aberdeen.*

This model fits with the focus on participation and capacity building opportunities for young people to lead voice, direction and decision making.

- 1.7 The views expressed by CEYP of their experiences of participating as part of the Champions Board are indicative of a high level of participatory activity supported by Corporate Parents. This ranges from supporting access to mobile phones and connective technology, to celebratory activity events e.g. Christmas Day, where young people and Champions have worked together to beneficial effect. The development of an infrastructure of trust, with CEYP has been further enhanced with the recent challenges experienced by Covid19 lockdown measures. Where many CEYP experienced the impact of isolation, triggering for them mental health and emotional distress. The Youth Team (Children & Family Services, Care Leavers Specialist Service) along with the Development Officer, quickly expanded their welfare provision and digital connection to young people with 300 Stay at Home welfare packages delivered over a 10 week period, with an expansion of the Youth Team face book page users by over 300% during this period.
- 1.8 Following 4 years of funding by the Life Changes Trust, (LCT) 2020/21 is the final year that ACC will receive financial resource targeting the development of the Champions Board. As stated in previous reports to Committee, the LCT funding has been match funded by Children & Family Services and enabled the commissioning of a Development Officer role from Who Cares? Scotland. In addition to, provision of a Small Grants Fund and the creation of fixed term posts for CEYP to enter roles within Aberdeen Young Person's Rights Service.

Exit planning has been advanced on a number of levels, including seeking to secure replacement funding and options for sustaining the current participation model.

- 1.9 In addition to the examples illustrated in the ACE annual report, CEYP have benefitted from ACC administration of the Council Tax Exemption Scheme, for Care Leavers, which currently supports 95 Care Leavers to apply for exemption for liability for Council Tax. In addition to this, it can be reported that the Champions Board has successfully advocated for the scheme to be extended by local agreement, to include those CEYP placed in Kinship arrangements whose status did not allow them to qualify for an exemption under the national scheme. Our local scheme will allow this group to be included in the exempt group.
- 1.10 In response to issues identified by CEYP in receipt of the Care Experienced Bursary, the Champions Board recognised the impact on them of financial hardship and distress surrounding sustaining the costs of accommodation. This has led to the creation of a Rent Support Scheme. Promoted by the Champions Board, and accessible where CEYP, who are Aberdeen City Council tenants and are students, are enrolled in higher or further education, they are able to have their rent costs met through this Rent Support Scheme. The Scheme became operational in April 2020 and is benefitting 8 (of the 19) CEYP, who are supported by the Youth Team, undertaking further or higher education studies. Of the CEYP receiving support from the Scheme, 87% of the group attend further education provision. The majority of these young people aspire to progress to a higher-level course, with 13% of this cohort already undertaking University level studies.
- 1.11 The provision of this Rent Support Scheme for CEYP in Aberdeen City should contribute to an increase in the numbers completing studies, by removing an element of financial pressure from them. The Scheme will also be beneficial in alleviating uncertainty created both by the reliance on a student bursary being the main source of income and ameliorating the absence for some, who unlike their non care experienced peers, do not have the safety net of a network of family or alternatively supportive relationships.
- 1.12 Accommodation and Housing, as the ACE annual report identifies, are significant issues for CEYP who attend the Champions Board. A CEYP housing guide is in development and being produced by a Children's Rights Development Officer, written from a CEYP perspective. As an improvement response, Children & Family Services and Housing Services will develop a joint Housing Support post which will be co located in the Youth Team and allow for improved communication and jointly delivered preventative approaches. This should be in place by late 2020.
- 1.13 The Aberdeen Young Person's Rights Service (formerly Children's Rights Service) are key supporters of CEYP in their engagement with the Champions Board and in improving dialogue with Corporate Parents. Care Experienced Young People have been key stakeholders in the Functional Review of Aberdeen Young Person's Rights Service, which concluded in January 2020. The functional review of the service was framed around the key issues of:
  - Participation, have your say and be listened to
  - Protection, to be safe
  - Provision, to be well looked after

The service has been rebranded, extended its remit, to include children and young people involved in child protection processes as well as expanding the scope of the service and the age range of those who can be referred <https://www.aberdeengettingitright.org.uk/youngpeoples-rights/> (Appendix 3). The Aberdeen Young Person's Rights Service is effectively utilised, with a 43% increase in referrals in 2019/20 from the previous year.

Planned developments include improving responses and involvement with children and young people in conflict with the law, as well as joint work with the Development Officer in supporting the capacity of the ACE group to share their views with the Champions Board.

1.14 In March 2019 Children's Social Work, purchased Mind of My Own (<https://mindofmyown.org.uk/>) which is a digital tool created to support CEYP to have their voice heard in a way which suits many of their stated preferences for communication. The software has been widely utilised and favourably evaluated by a number of comparator local authorities. Both, as an effective safeguarding tool and a real time opportunity to respond to looked after young people's views about e.g. their care plan, contact arrangements, sense of safety, wellbeing and their placement. The app is the only digital tool that supports Article 12 of UNCRC.

1.15 Information presented (Appendix 4) was recently presented to the Champions Board and provides a comprehensive overview of how the app has been developed and utilised locally. CEYP have a key role within the Mind of My Own Champions group as app trainers and facilitators, in the use and application of the app. Since the production of the presentation attached (Appendix 3) there has been further growth and application of the device. It can be reported that as of August 2020 ACC has supported:

- 174 CEYP to have their own Mind of My Own Accounts, compared to 122 in 2019
- Worker accounts have grown from 352 to 377 in the same period, and,
- 608 total statements from young people have been sent from the app.

1.16 As stated in the introduction to this Service Update, CEYP active with ACE will directly present to Committee in April 2021, in parallel to this, the Corporate Parenting and Champions Board plans will be updated and refreshed with goals for the period 2021/24 developed, and similarly presented to Committee.

Andrea McGill  
Service Manager

Appendix 1 – ACE Annual Report  
Appendix 2 – Corporate Parenting Plan 2019-2021  
Appendix 3 – Aberdeen Young Person's Rights Leaflet  
Appendix 4 – Mind of My Own Presentation



## APPENDIX 1

# Aberdeen Care Experienced ACE Annual report: March 2019 to April 2020

## At a glance

This report is for the period April 2019 to March 2020. This is to align it with new reporting timeframes and also to make it fit the timeframe of the current role more neatly.

The report has been written so that it captures the planned tracking of the ACE group, our activities, and the role of the Development Officer up to the immediate disruption and changes required to deal with the sudden impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. This crisis meant that the Development Officer had to change rapidly to respond to immediate and overwhelmingly urgent needs of young people and to manage the disruption to planned activities and meeting for young people, while also supporting their emotional distress.

Nevertheless, this crisis has created opportunities as well, even in the early stages. Positive impacts include a significant rise in online activities, connections and wellbeing check-ins, preparing a special edition COVID-19 newsletter (due April, 2020) with far more input from young people, young people demonstrating a greater level of support for each other and taking leadership roles where necessary with each other. Direct input from young people on new use of technology, meeting planning, and organisation.

Asks of Champions has not changed, and ACE has met to discuss strategies to advance these issues so that despite the interruptions of COVID-19, these issues are not delayed unnecessarily or forgotten. Feedback to Advisors continues and despite young people dealing with many new issues they have never faced previously; they continue to engage well.

## April 2019 to February 2020

The past 10 months has seen significant growth and effect for the voice of young people in Aberdeen. Many of the activities we have undertaken have had direct effects.

New partnerships have been formed with local organisations beyond the traditional Corporate Parents including Snap fitness and Performing Arts Aberdeen.

Young people increased their clarity of issues that they want to take forward and these have been raised and are being dealt with seriously by the Champions Board.

Aberdeen has now hosted several major care related events: Care Experience Week, a Christmas Day Christmas Party and Care Day. All have been very successful, well attended and each event gives the young people, Aberdeen city and all those involved, a strong sense of capacity and ability in this regard, not to mention involvement and enjoyment.

In short, it has been a very busy 12 months of development. The following report covers April 2019 to March 2020. While all activities are noted below in more detail, some headline activities that had direct effects are included here as 'headline' activities under the headings 'Change', 'Influence', 'Engagement' and 'Belonging'.

## COVID-19 Impact March 2020

The final month of this reporting period has been significantly overshadowed by COVID-19, which has had a major impact on ACE and the activities we had planned. Nevertheless, it also provided an opportunity to redirect and create new way to engage.

From early March, planned activities and meetings began to be cancelled.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, in response to the escalating COVID-19 emergency, Who Cares? Scotland directed all staff nationally to commence working from home. Other organisations, including partners, followed suite within days. Activities and planning meetings continued to be cancelled or postponed indefinitely, with no capacity in any services to plan new dates with any certainty.

The Development Officer moved quickly to ensure that young people were connected online through the messenger app (this was how young people had previously communicated as a group), and to schedule regular video calls and chats with young people. A new group was started to include all Advisors in an online platform and discussions were held with some Advisors to identify individual and broader needs or concerns they may have about Care Experienced peers in the community.

At around the same time Who Cares? Scotland commenced a new national helpline which included the ability to distribute small cash grants to those needing emergency funds or food, utilities etc. The development Officer became very activity involved in meeting emergent needs of young people in Aberdeen and beyond though direct contact with young people in Aberdeen and also through involvement in the national helpline.

**Phone Bank:** Young people noted that some Care Experienced people have no access to phones, and this impacts their ability to arrange housing, medical appointments, contact with social work and organising benefits.

## Change

This was raised at a Champions Board and Aberdeen Council provided 26 pre-used mobile phones which have been distributed to care experienced people.

Young people attended the first ever **Champs Camp**, held in Forres and were able to decide what direction and issues Champions Boards should be focussing on.

## Engagement

There has been an increased involvement with children and young people in foster care, kinship care and looked after at home, resulting in planning for the first ever '**Mini Champs**' group in Aberdeen.

**Housing:** Meeting commenced with housing and included direct quotes from young people describing their difficulties and, at times, emotional distress with a number of housing issues. This has progressed to Champions Board and offers of direct contact with young people have been made in a bid to deal with these and other issues and make the necessary changes.

## Influence

**Mental health:** A persistent approach to this issues and the ongoing request of young people to be more engaged by the NHS and CAMHS has lead to further involvement Although slow, some progress is being made and influence of young people is beginning to move into this important area.

**Bursary:** Raised at Champions Board, an ongoing issues of clarity but it is in raising this and other issues that progress is being made where there was none previously.

Young people have requested an increase in activities that assist other young people to become involved and to develop a sense of belonging.

## Belonging

These activities are simple for fun and engagement and are separate from the more business focussed meeting related to Champions boards, although they do feed into these issue at times. This includes fortnightly ACE meetings, walking group, cooking together and video and movie nights.

## ACE update

Outcomes: 1,2,3,4,5  
 The focus for the next 12 months (the final 12 months of the funding for the Development Officer role) is on participation, genuine co-production opportunities and increased belonging activities. It is envisaged that through this focus, capacity of young people will continue to build, and this may

Our core activities and outcomes		
	Activity	Outcome
1	Youth engagement and participation	Care experienced young people will have opportunities to share their views across a range of media.
2	Young people development	There will be examples of young people making contributions to Aberdeen City Champions Board.
3	Partnership working	Core partners will engage in Champions Board and each will demonstrate and impact.
4	Information, awareness-raising, and promotion	Co-produce events which highlight corporate parenting role.
5	Monitoring and evaluation	Gather, hold evaluate information concerning core activities impact on young people and investment in exit planning strategies.

increase the likelihood of sustainability of the work moving beyond March 2021.

Young people said that they wanted a return to fortnightly ACE meetings, with alternate meetings being for belonging activities and the others for Champions Board and issues discussion and progression. These meetings are called **Belonging** and **Advisor** meetings, respectively.

**Belonging** meetings are an opportunity for young people to arrange activities themselves, invite and engage participants, decide on actions etc. **Advisor** meetings are held with members of a core group of young people who act as Advisors to ACE, the Development Officer, and the Champions Board. These meetings are where discussions, feedback etc are conducted. Advisors represent the voice of Care Experienced young people looked after by Aberdeen City, and with the Development Officer meeting just over 42% of the Care Experienced young people living in Aberdeen (see data below), not to mention to many other young people Advisors know, Champions Board, the local Authority and Corporate Parents can be confident that the voice they hear, **IS** the voice of Care Experienced young people in Aberdeen.

This model fits with the focus on participation and capacity building opportunities for young people to lead voice, direction and decision making.

## Fundraising

ACE is currently fundraising for some of the planned activities. Who Cares? Scotland is the charity that will hold the funds, and this was also the case with the Christmas Party donations (see below). Young people asked for a 'Just Giving' pages to raise funds for hill walking (see below) and the Development Officer has applied for small grant funding for activities as well. Young people are fully engaged in this process and this also assists them to develop awareness of the challenges of participation, fund raising and engaging others.

## Newsletter

Outcomes: 1, 2, 4

The Development Officer has now established a consistent Editorial Committee of young people to produce a Newsletter that is published roughly in line with Champions Board meetings.

This newsletter is sent to over 2000 people throughout Aberdeen via a range of networks, and publication has been aligned to Champions Board meeting times and sent out at the same time as Champions Board minutes.

Currently this is shared as a pdf via email and social media. It is envisaged that this will form part of the ongoing content for a future website. In addition, NESCOL College has been asked to assist in developing skills in this regard.



# DATA

Below is the data for April 2019 to March 2020. It does not include the additional data related to the COVID-19 response as this will be included in the next report; April 2020 to March 2021, this is because this data will be new and we are not yet (at the time of writing) able to adequately record this. This past period (April 2019 to March 2020) has continued to see a significant upswing in terms of participation and engagement of young people across Aberdeen City. This data below includes **ALL young people counted at ALL events**. A number are not members of Who Cares? Scotland but the Development Officer has had contact with each young person counted below.

Activity	No. of times Activity has run	Total number of attendances
ACE meeting	17	93
ACE@Home	3	3
ACEsport	11	37
ACEtogether (wellbeing and relationships)	25	82
Focus Groups & Feedback sessions	32	78

Age	Total
0-5	0
5-12	1
12-16	9
16 - 19	12
19 +	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>

There was a total of 71 individual young people to the age of 26 years, who were engaged at some level for the past 12 months. This resulted in a total of 293 attendances across 84 separate events. Who Cares? Scotland data notes that there is a core group of 18 young people, these are made up of ACE Advisors and a few others.

## DATA – what the numbers mean

Male	Female	Non-binary	Total number of individuals
32	49	0	71

There are around 560 Care Experienced young people cared for by Aberdeen City. Through the Development Officer, ACE has spoken to 71 separate individual Care Experience young people over the period April 2019 to March 2020. This represents around 13% of the looked after population of Aberdeen. They include LGBTQ+, people with additional needs, homeless, foster care, kinship care, residential care, and living independently.

The next 12 months (April 2020 to March 2021 approximately) was expected to see an increase in under 16's and in particular under 14-year-old involvement with several planned activities, prior to COVID-19 impacts. However, work is progressing on rearranging meetings and activities to later in the year.

# Champions Board

Outcomes:1,2,3,4,5

***“I really feel like we are making progress now, big decisions and working with Corporate Parents better”*** says one of the young people about our Champions Board.

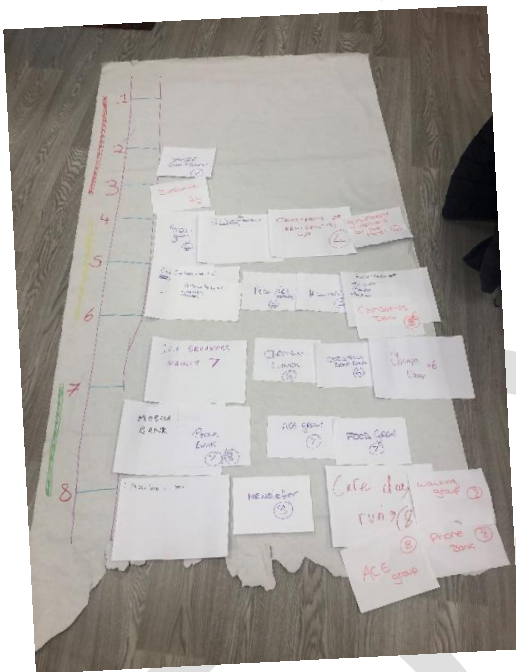
The Aberdeen Champions Board continues to be a well-attended meeting held once a quarter on average (although there are five scheduled meetings throughout 2020). The meetings have increased young people’s participation from 2 (December 2018) to an average of almost 8 young people at each Champions Board (The national average of young people attending the Champions Board across Scotland is 6, according to Who Cares? Scotland).



This has resulted in substantially increased participation of young people at all levels and their engagement and involvement in Champions Boards has also increased. Young people are taking a more direct role with each Champions Board meeting, with plans to increase this further.

Some achievements of the Champions Board recently include:

- Progress on clearing the numerous issues and confusion related to the Care Experience Bursary.
- NHS involvement has increased, and a long-requested reference group is about to commence.
- A Phone Bank (see below) was established where old mobile phones no longer in use are made available to Care Experienced young people with no other means of communication.
- Champions will commence cooking with young people at separate meetings.
- Increased involvement by Champions in young person lead games and activities.



## Ensuring Direct Participation

***“It’s going well but we will always need support from (the Development Officer) to make sure we get our voice heard and don’t become a ‘decoration”.***

This was what one young person said in reference to her voice and the use of the Participation ladder at a recent Champions board meeting. The reference to ‘decoration’ refers to the stage on the ladder and the risk she feels will always exist of young people ***“being seen and not heard”***.

## Saltire and ACE Awards

Outcomes: 1,2,3,4

The Development Officer has reviewed the participation hours of a number of young people, (Primarily the core group of 18 young people). This revealed that young people provide many voluntary hours and as a result they are eligible for Saltire Awards. In addition, ACE has developed awards for participation based on number of hours young people put in.

So far, four awards have been granted at a Champions Board (where the awards are presented) for individuals who have given over 250 hours for the past 12 months. The purpose of these awards not only recognises the work of young people, but also highlights to others how much work young people actually do to be able to participate. In this way, young people are setting an example for participation as well.

## Mental Health Reference Group and Pan-Grampians review

Outcomes: 1,2,4,5

ACE has been in discussions with NHS and CYMHS for the past 12 months in relation to increasing voice and representation of young people in relation to mental health issues in Aberdeen.

This has progressed - albeit slowly - to an offer (yet to be formalised) of young people participating in both a reference group of consumers and also participate in a Pan Grampian review of health services. As noted above, while progress is very slow, it is nevertheless progress. Young people stand ready to participate but there are a number of NHS centric logistical issues to work through. Nevertheless, the Development Officer continues to maintain the focus in this regard, and it remains a standing issue at Champions Board meetings.

## Phone bank

Outcomes: 1,2,3,4

***“We saw a need and decided that Corporate Parents could meet that need, so we asked (the Development Officer) to sort it... it was that easy in the end”.***

This is what a young person said about how the Phone Bank was developed.



At the September 2019 Champions Board meeting, we raised the issue of vulnerability and increased isolation experienced by Care Experienced people when they do not have access to a mobile phone. At the meeting, Aberdeen City Council offered to provide ACE with 26 surplus mobile phones for them to use and these are already being distributed.

Media reports of the initiative noted: *Graeme Simpson, Chief Officer: “As corporate parents, our aim is to reduce inequalities by closing the attainment and wellbeing gaps between our care experienced young people and their peers so they can all have the best possible start in life.*

*“We are proud to be able to provide around 20 phones through this imaginative initiative which helps our young people stay in touch with their support networks, be safer and enjoy the benefits that many other people take for granted. This initiative is a positive example of early intervention which is a key strategic priority for the Council as set out in the LOIP.”*

The project is supported by the multi-agency approach to corporate parenting across the city and Peter Melrose, Development Officer, Participation and Engagement, Who Cares? Scotland who works in tandem with the council said: “Care experienced people face many challenges, and when their phones break or are lost, they are easily isolated. They asked for old unused phones to use, and it’s great to see Corporate Parents work together so quickly to get that done”. Tiffany Burnett, Children’s Rights Development Officer, added

**“I’m really pleased to see our Corporate Parents understanding why this is important to us and the difficulties we can face. Knowing we have a mobile phone bank is a good way to tackle isolation and another way to continue to build trust and faith in each other”.**

## Cooking together

Outcomes: 1,2,3

One of the outcomes of the Champs Camp (see below), the Christmas Party and the food preparation of the ACE meetings was in increased interest by young people in food preparation, nutrition and learning more about food in general. ACE approached Corporate Parents and as a result of numerous discussions, a schedule for monthly cooking sessions with Corporate Parents has been developed to the end of 2020.

Young people told Corporate Parents what their preferences of food were and what they would be keen to explore further/. Corporate parents will shop with young people to purchase the ingredients and prepare the meal together. This also creates an opportunity for young people to directly approach some Corporate Parents about issues they face.



# Champs Camp

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

***“I don’t think we have fully understood just yet, what have learned and achieved this weekend”.***

That’s the quote from one young person about their participation in [#ChampsCamp2019](#).



In November 2019, five young of an initial 8 people from Aberdeen attended the first ever Champs Camp, a residential designed to bring young people from the Highland, Moray, Aberdeen, and Aberdeenshire Champions Boards together. Three young people were unable to attend, two of them noting housing issues as the reason, one due to anxiety. Nevertheless, this was an experience that young people were still talking about well after the event and there were a number of positive outcomes as a result. Young people developed a range of issues to work on in their areas, and collectively, we were able to work together to lend stronger voice to these issues of mental health support, Corporate Parent training and service provision more generally.



Another element of this experience was that this raised significant concerns regarding the food and nutrition awareness of young people.



The residential was a vegetarian facility (this was a requirements of the venue provider, which young people agreed to prior to the residential). However, some young people found this particularly challenging and they noted that they want to spend more time working on food and nutrition awareness together. As a result, ACE now prepares food, and this has lead to the Aberdeen Champions Board now cooks and prepares food for meetings rather than purchase it in. Champions have been asked to work with young people to cook food and this is now about to commence.

## Step Up

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4

Step Up was a leadership program developed by Who Cares? Scotland for Aberdeen young people who are actively engaged in a range of ACE related activities attended the program which looked at professional personal development, communication, and leadership in general with a view to enhancing the skills of Care Experienced young people in that regard.

The program took place over several sessions each with a different focus area. Young people were presented with a certificate and reference at the end of the program.

## Christmas Party

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Aberdeen hosted its first ever Christmas Party on Christmas day for Care Experienced people in 2019. ACE and staff from Aberdeen Council worked together to organise this event, which was inspired by Lem Siskey's work, the Who Cares? Scotland Christmas party (which is difficult for young people in Aberdeen to get to) and young people in Aberdeen.



***“This is the best Christmas I have had in years”***

says one of the 30 or so young people who came along through the day to join Aberdeen's first ever Care Family Christmas Party in Aberdeen on Christmas Day.

***“For the first time, I really felt like nothing would go wrong for me on Christmas”***

said another young people about how relaxed the atmosphere was. There were so many special moments during the day and the people who worked together to make it happen also really enjoyed a special Christmas. From mocktails, the selfie booth, karaoke, games, videos, gifts, and loads of beautiful food, laughter, and lots of love, it was a fantastic day together! A huge amount of support and love from so many people. “One of the most moving elements of the day was watching so many people from across Aberdeen, join together to make this happen” (Development Officer with Who Cares? Scotland).

Young people really enjoyed the day. But what about the all-important food? Young people chose the menu and said that the food was, ***“fantastic, and there was so much food all really tasty”***.

Gifts and cash donated by people and organisations across Aberdeen meant that young people all received many gifts on the day, and they all left with bags of goodies and food to take, as well as their gifts.

Some people were not able to make it to the event itself and would have spent the day alone. So, food and gifts were taken to them by some of those who chose to spend Christmas together.

***“This is the most relaxed and chilled Christmas I have had, I love it”***

said another young person on the day. With feedback like that it no wonder that everyone immediately started thinking about doing it all again this year!

One young person wrote in an article about it for the ACE newsletter:



***We had our first Christmas Day event on Christmas 2019 which consisted of a relaxed day with a 3 course meal, movies were on throughout the day, games were played, around 30 young people came along to spend the day together with a mixture of multi-agency professionals. Young people were provided with a wide range of gifts suited to their liking such as smelly sets, gift cards, make-up, gloves, chocolates etc. and were encouraged to ask Santa for a gift they would like from him.***

***The atmosphere was really relaxed, calm, transport was provided to and from Westburn, young people were encouraged to take home some of the mountains of yummy leftovers from lunch and a cosy blanket home with them. It was a good chance for young people to spend a meaningful day with professionals – some new, and some they had previously met! It gave them a Christmas to remember and something to look forward to next year which we have already started our planning for in an aim to make it better for this year, we would love to hear any views from young people regarding this!***

## **Celebrating Success awards**

Outcomes: 1,2,3

The Development Officer worked closely with the Aberdeen Council on this project. These awards had been run once before and while young people enjoyed it, many found it a challenge to organise. At the time, there was little buy-in from many people and it was essentially organised by the Virtual head teacher and the Development Officer. Nevertheless, a very positive award ceremony was hosted at the Townhouse, with the Lord Provost greeting young people, who received awards for their schoolwork as well as for meeting various challenges.

This award is now going to be run again in 2020, has much stronger buy in from others and appears to now be a feature of the schooling calendar for Aberdeen Care Experienced young people , as a way for them to be recognised for the many challenges they often face.

## BBC Sports Person of the Year Awards

Outcomes: 1,2,3

ACE works closely with many partners across Aberdeen and when the BBC decided to broadcast one of the biggest sporting awards in the world from Aberdeen, our amazing supporters at Sport Aberdeen managed to get 12 tickets for us!



***“It was a great chance to dress up and it was so exciting seeing all the celebrities”***

***“I have wanted to see Louis Capaldi for so long, and we got to see him [perform two songs... brilliant!”***

Twelve ACE young people attended along with Aberdeen City Council’s Virtual Head Teacher who volunteered to help out and the Development Officer who organised it. This was an amazing example of how everyone can all come together and create great experiences for Care Experienced people.

This happened thanks to BBC, BBC Scotland, Sport Aberdeen, and Aberdeen City Council, all being aware of ACE and the work we do and the importance of getting Care Experienced young people to have the same access as everyone else.



***“We had amazing seats, better than I thought we would”.***

***“I had the best time; we don’t get much chance to see great stuff and do really good things like this”***

## ‘Write About Me’, Records and Writing

Outcomes: 1,2,3,4

This particular project has been going for almost 12 months. ACE has been actively involved through the Development Officer in ensuring that the voice and views of young people are embedded in all aspects of this substantial piece of work.

Currently we are working on the final draft of a set of standards for record writing as well as practice areas to ensure the inclusion wherever possible of the views of young people. Young people have been heavily engaged in this piece of work, producing a video about what it is like to be written about which is included in the training that will go to all record writers as well as feedback and input at all opportunities.



## Corporate Parent Training

Outcomes: 1,2,3,4,5

The Development Officer is actively involved in developing new corporate parent training with corporate parents across Aberdeen. Corporate parent training was one of the asks that came out of the Champs Camp and has been noted by the Development Officer at Champions Board meetings among other opportunities.

As a result, there are now two groups dealing with the redevelopment of this training: one group looking at online training and one group developing face-to-face training. It is envisaged that the two will work together in terms of producing a new corporate parent training program that is Aberdeen specific. ACE is ensuring that the voice and views of young people are heavily imbedded in this training, including the need to give Corporate Parents an idea of what it 'feels like' to be Care Experienced. This will include audio and video recordings of young people for inclusion in this training. Young people are currently working with the Development Officer to produce these and other recorded resources.

## Housing

Outcomes: 1,2,3,4

Housing has been raised by young people as a significant issue for them in Aberdeen. This includes housing security, availability and access a many other things. Importantly, a number of young people have expressed concern at identifying themselves in relation to housing and not wanting to be seen to make a complaint.

The Development Officer has therefore taking their feedback, anonymized it and provided it to housing in a range of formats but most importantly at a recent meeting. Young people will participate in a focus group that they want to keep closed to external people and this focus group will continue while we are working on the issues they raise with housing. This is a project that will continue throughout 2020 and a number of issues have recently been raised at the champions board as well.

Young people have commenced work on an audio recording presentation about Housing and for sharing nationally as well. This will also incorporate photographs young people take of their idea of what housing means to them.

# National Involvement

## Meeting with the First Minister

***“There are still a lot of things to talk to the First Minister about”***

said one young person as we travelled to Edinburgh to meeting with the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon.

In January five ACE Advisors joined around 40 other young people mainly from the central belt, to meet with the First Minister in the final thousand voices consultation ahead of the launch of the Independent Care Review.

ACE Advisors met with the First Minister and raised a number of issues with her. One of the ACE Advisors said,



***“We discussed a lot of things... We had an opportunity to talk about things that are important to us, about our care experience. Our discussion with the First Minister including keeping siblings together, housing vulnerability, ongoing confusion about the Care Experienced Bursary and other issues”.***

ACE Advisors also presented the First Minister with an ACE T-shirt.

***“It was a long day, but a really important day as well”.***

## 1000 Voices visits x 2

Outcomes: 1,2,3,4,5

ACE was visited twice by staff from 1000 Voices in order to obtain their feedback and views about the care system for inclusion in the independent care review. Initially they were invited to Aberdeen by the Development Officer and then they requested to follow up that initial meeting and to meet with other young people. Around 12 young people met with them in total.

Different young people were given the opportunity to participate with thousand voices at these meetings. The Development Officer, while organising and arranging these meetings, was not included in the meetings so that young people could speak freely and openly about any issues they wish to rise. Young people said they enjoyed the experience and felt like they were making an actual contribution.

## Care Experience Week

Outcomes: 1,2,3,4

Aberdeen hosted its first Care Experience Week event on 24th October 2019 at Westburn hub. Over 100 people attended the event and we had a bake off, cakes (cakes are a real thing and have become a part of our events here) yoga, badge making, hand massages for young people, more food and art spaces. We made a finger tree mural (fingerprints of everyone who attended in the shape of a tree), did some crafts stalls etc and it was a just a nice day all round.



Young people asked for these things to be included. It was pretty much the first time Corporate parents, the Local Authority etc. had come together in a fun atmosphere.



## Love Rally

Outcomes: 1,2,3,4

Four young people and the Development officer attended the Love Rally in Glasgow as part of Care Experience Week (October 2019). This was the first time Aberdeen young people had attended the rally and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience of joining in the 'March for Love' through Glasgow and the rally at the end.



## #CareDay20

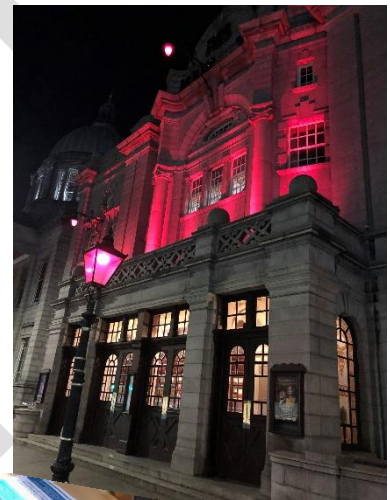
Outcomes: 1,2,3,4

Care Day was celebrated in Aberdeen for the second time in February 2020. Building on experience from 2019 with an event that was received very positively, a larger event was planned this year. This event focused on employment outcomes and services as well as other resources available to care experienced young people in Aberdeen and was held at the Westburn resource centre.

The event was attended by well over 100 people and involved a number of corporate parents, young people, and service providers. As has become something of a tradition in Aberdeen at such events a cake was specially prepared for the event as well.



For the first time, buildings were lit up in red in Aberdeen with Aberdeen performing arts agreeing to light His Majesties Theatre as well as other venues throughout the city for the day. Such commitment demonstrates widely to others how important it is to recognise care experience people at such occasions and was regarded as very meaningful to a number of care experience to people who saw the buildings. This event was also seen nationally through Who Cares? Scotland.



## ACE Walks to Nevis



The idea of a walking group was initially raised by young people and then grew out of a hill-walk we completed during which, young people noted that they have never been hill walking before.

This is now a larger more organised event, involving Corporate Parents, and the local community and partners Sport Aberdeen. ACE is also fundraising for equipment which has given young people the opportunity to learn about how this aspect of event planning works.

Young people have expressed a very keen interest in hillwalking since the Bennachie walk we did together in 2019. Young people expressed how happy they were to feel physically tired after this walk rather than being mentally and emotionally tired. As a result, they requested more walking events, and this has grown into a larger more planned series of walks eventually leading to climbing Ben Nevis in August 2020.

To date two initial walks have been completed, the first one along the beach in the evening and the second one in The Gramps hills at Kincorth in the evening. A planned walk at Stonehaven had to be cancelled due to weather.

Young people have noted that it is exciting that Corporate Parents are showing an interest in becoming involved in similar activities with them and this will lead to greater shared understanding and also coproduction of similar events in the future.

## What's next?

This is a difficult question to answer. LCT funding will be exhausted and the contract will end as it currently stands, in March 2021 and to date there is no plan for beyond March 2021. This means that the focus for the Development Officer for the next 6 to 10 months, must be on sustainability and development of relationships that will hopefully continue carry the participation of young people forward.

Despite the COVID-19 emergency and the multiple issues and disruption that this is causing, work was able to continue strongly on the relationship building, resource use and development in general. Activities that have not been maintained as scheduled are still being worked on and will not be dropped. The hillwalking program will be postponed and amended for 2020, and a grant application has been submitted for funding for this. Work continues with Champions Board members as well and ACE continues to encourage members to be more actively involved.

The first 'Mini Champs' group was scheduled to take place in April 2020, this will be rescheduled once the current emergency is resolved focus continues to be on developing more connections with looked after at home young people. Further, a range of connecting activities has all been cancelled as well. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on young people is not to be underestimated. Based on issues the Development Officer and Who Cares? Scotland more broadly has responded to, there will be significant impacts throughout the rest of 2020 and into 2021. While it is too early to tell what the impacts will be longer term, it is clear that there will be a significant amount of time to re-establish work., activities, confidence, and a sense of social safety for young people moving forward. This will impact ACE work into the rest of 2020 and 2021.

Appendix 2

# GETTING IT RIGHT FOR ABERDEEN'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

## Aberdeen City Corporate Parenting Plan

2019-2021



## **Striving to be the best Corporate Parents we can be**

The concept of Corporate Parent has been one of evolution in understanding, approach and behaviours. The concept is evolving, but essentially covers our duty as an organisation to work together with partners to meet the needs of our care experienced children, young people and young adults.

As members of Aberdeen City's Champions Board we take seriously our role as Corporate Parents and strive to promote positive change for our care experienced children, young people and young adults. Our Corporate Parenting role goes much further than the Champions Board and it is important we acknowledge the role that we all play as individual employees of a local authority with the work we do in Aberdeen City Council day in and day out.

As a Council, our aspirations for our care experienced children, young people and young adults should be no different from those of any good parent. We embrace the responsibility and make the needs of each individual a priority – and every single member of staff should be aware of that duty of care and see it as an opportunity to make a real difference to their lives.

February 2019

**Angela Scott**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



## Contents

- Who is this plan for?
- Why have a plan?
- What is the vision for realising the plan?
- What is Corporate Parenting?
- Our local context
- Our Champions Board
- What are we going to do...now?



## Foreword

Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services (ICS) has a clear vision, role and partner remit for the development and improvement of planning for children's services. Within our Local Outcome Improvement Plan (2019-2026) we have set the following objectives for Corporate Parenting;

***“All care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, emotional wellbeing and positive destinations as their peers by 2026”***

To achieve this, Aberdeen City Integrated Children and Family Services, principally Children's Social Work, will be responsible for evidencing improvement by progressing the following drivers relating to the Corporate Parenting stretch aim:

- Improving education outcomes for care experienced children and young people;
- Supporting care experienced children and young people who sustain care placements which meet their needs and sense of identity;
- Supporting children and young people to understand and access multiagency throughcare and aftercare services;
- Improving physical and emotional health outcomes for care experienced young people within the Integrated Children's Services Partnership Structure.

Our Vision for realising our Integrated Children Service plan is outlined below:

- Over the next ten years we want to make Aberdeen a place where all children and young people can prosper
- Support every child, irrespective of their circumstances, to grow, develop and reach their full potential. We want Aberdeen to be a city where there is equality of outcomes and opportunities for all our children and young people. We will support families to provide the best care they can for their children. For our care experienced young people, we will ensure that they gain the same opportunities as their peers.
- Support equity of access to education for all our children and young people. For our care experienced young people and our other children at risk we will put addressing inequality in education and positive destinations at the forefront of our aims.
- Invest in the health and wellbeing, including mental health, of our children and young people. We will invest our shared resources to target early intervention and prevention for children and young people which is central to tackling inequality and improving life chances.

- Work collaboratively with our children and young people to shape strategic decision making and direction across Aberdeen City. We aim to be the first UNICEF Child Friendly City in Scotland.
- We also want our children to be safe and protected from harm. This agenda will be driven forward by the Child Protection Committee. The Child Protection Committee works in parallel with the Integrated Children's Services Partnership Board and, through a reciprocal sharing of information, ensures improvement activity is aligned.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan (2019-2026)

Appendix 2 - Aberdeen City Care Experienced Children and Young People Corporate Parenting Champions Board Action Plan 2019-2021 to be finalised on back of feedback received.

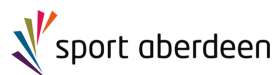


Representatives of ACE attending the Children and Young People Services award ceremony 2018

## Who is the plan for?

This Improvement Plan is both our commitment to children and young people who are care experienced and for our partners in Aberdeen City who along with ourselves, have corporate parenting responsibilities. Collaboration and participation both with care experienced young people and partners are at the core of our actions if our vision for Corporate Parenting is to be realised.

There are 24 organisations who can be identified in the [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014 Section 56](#) as having “Corporate Parent” status. In Aberdeen City, our representative members include the following organisations:



## Why do we have a Plan?

The [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) came into force on 1 April 2015. The duties in [Part 9](#) of the Act legally embed the concept of corporate parenting and collectively are ‘*designed to ensure that the attention and resources of various publicly funded organisations are explicitly focused on the task of safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers*’ ([CELCIS, Corporate Parenting Implementation Notes, 2016](#)).

The concept of Corporate Parenting is not new. These duties build upon previous commitments such as ‘[These Are Our Bairns: A Guide for Community Planning Partnerships on Being a Good Corporate Parent](#)’ (Scottish Government, 2008).

Aberdeen City Council first developed its Corporate Parenting Strategy in 2009. This was refreshed in 2012 through development of a Corporate Parenting Policy and Action Plan 2012 – 2015. In recognition at this time, of changing priorities, particularly in relation to co- production and participation, a bid was successfully submitted to the Life Changes Trust to help further develop our [Champions Board](#) and associated activities, as reflected in a 3-year Action Plan 2015-2018.

Our refreshed [Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2019-2026](#) has corporate parenting as one of its key priorities (*Figure 1*). Our Corporate Parenting Champions Board Action Plan 2019-2021 has been aligned and similarly refreshed, setting out priority areas for the next 2 years.

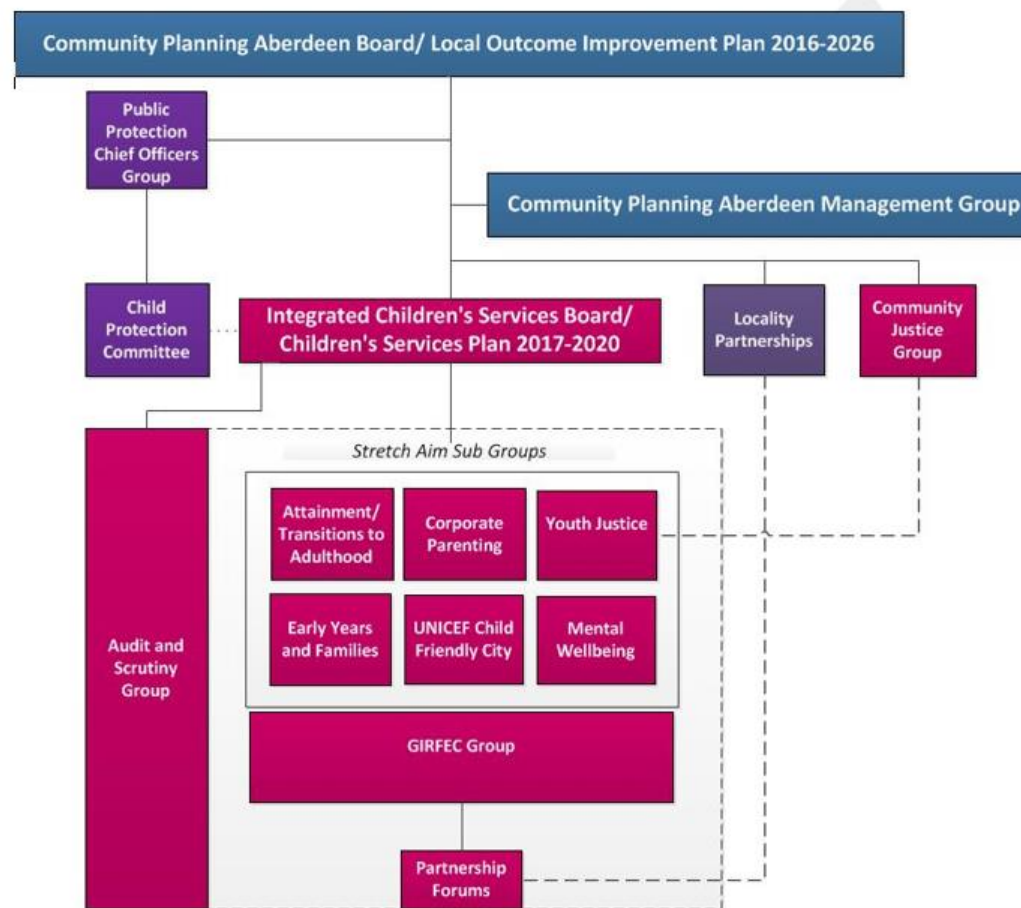
Figure 1



These serve to evidence the progress and developments we have made in this area in the last decade. These also illustrate the need to continually reflect and review in light of new information, duties and progressive understanding of the context that children and young people become looked after. We have had a Champion's Board since 2013 with Corporate Parent objectives lead within Integrated Children's Services planning well-embedded in the Governance structure (Figure 2).

Figure 2

**Integrated Children's Services Partnership Structure**

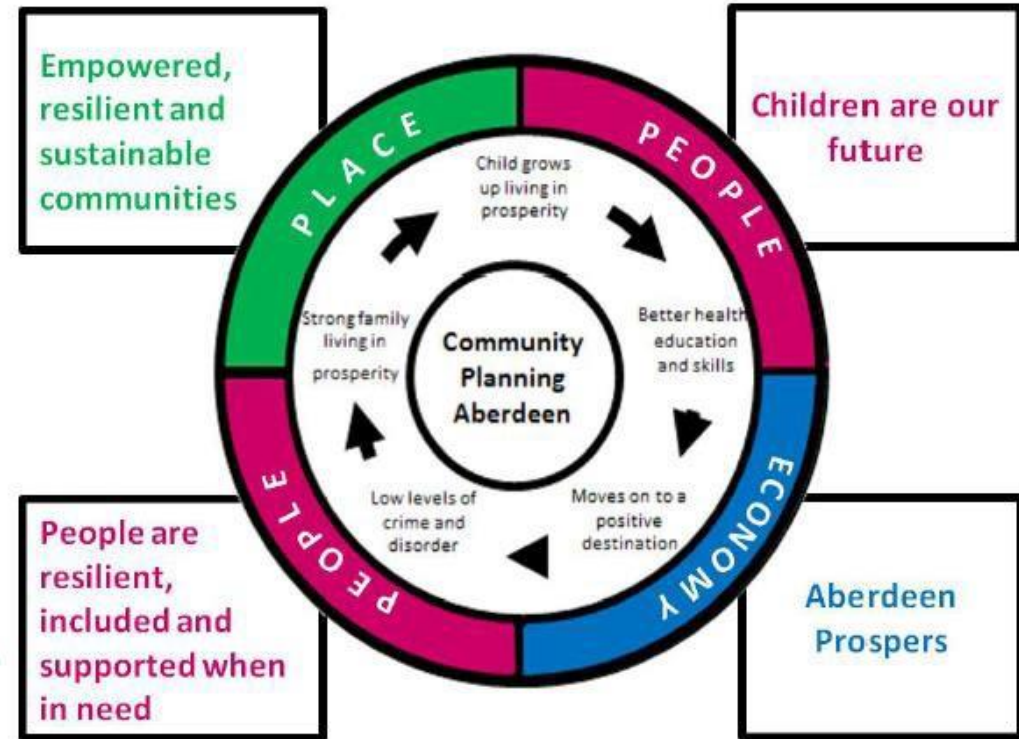


## What is the Vision for realising the plan?

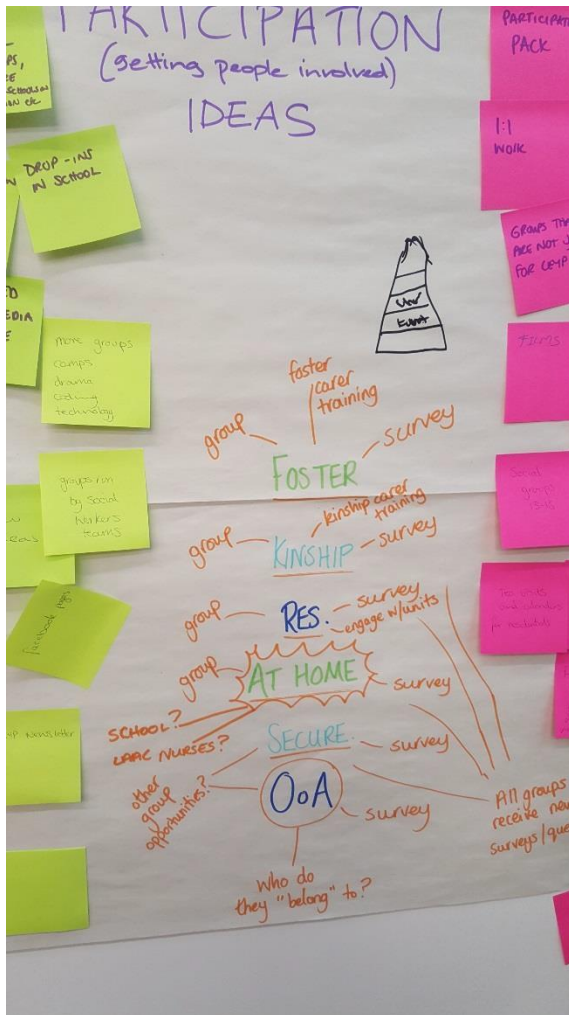
Our [Local Outcome Improvement Plan](#) has children, young people and families ‘front and centre’ in terms of its priorities (*Figure 3*). Its overarching vision is to ensure *‘that Aberdeen is a child friendly city where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policy, programmes and decisions’*.

Figure 3

The parallel vision of this Corporate Parenting Plan (*Appendix 1*) is that *‘our care experienced children, young people and care leavers have a right to participate in decision-making about their own lives and have their voices heard’* (Champions Board Action Plan 2018-2021). This vision intends to support improved outcomes for individual children, young people and care leavers alongside improved services for them, now and into the future.



## What is 'Corporate Parenting'?



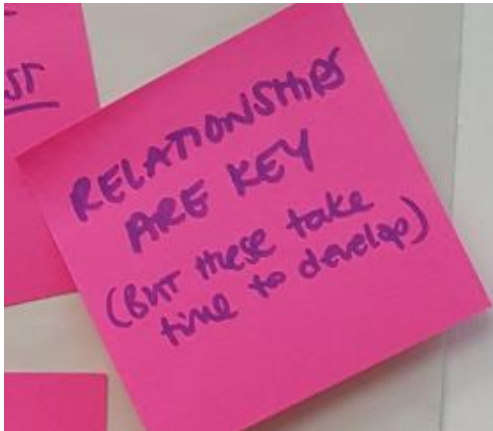
Our vision reflects a definition offered through the Scottish Government's first Report on Corporate Parenting Activity: ['Turning Legislation into Practice Together' \(2018\)](#); 'Corporate parenting is about listening to the needs, fears and wishes of children and young people, and being proactive and determined in our collective efforts to meet them'.

The [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) 2014 Act](#) defines corporate parenting as 'the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers.'





In looking at what a Corporate Parent is, the [Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland](#) states that 'in simple terms, a corporate parent is intended to carry out many of the roles a loving parent should. While they may not be able to provide everything a parent can, but they should still be able to provide the children and young people they're responsible for with the best possible support and care'.



## Corporate Parenting Duties

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland sets out that 'corporate parent responsibilities are intended to encourage people and organisations to do as much as they can towards improving the lives of care experienced and looked after children, so that they feel in control of their lives, and are able to overcome the barriers they face'.

[Section 58 of the 2014 Act](#) sets out these specific responsibilities as illustrated within the Scottish Government’s first report on Corporate Parenting Activity (*Figure 4*):

Figure 4

**Our Corporate Parenting Responsibilities for Looked After Children and Care Leavers**



This report underlines the need to see these duties as *part of a philosophy of care heavily reliant on building stable, supportive relationships. In this way, we encourage a much greater sense of belonging, help children and young people overcome adverse life experiences and encourage graduated transitions at a pace appropriate to individual needs.*

Part 9, Sections 59-65 outline a range of other responsibilities, including the requirement to publish and keep under review corporate parenting plans and reports and provide relevant information to Scottish Ministers.

Most of the larger organisations committed to this Policy and Plan also have their own plans for how they will fulfill their specific obligations.

## A Rights-based approach to Corporate Parenting

Corporate Parenting will reflect our national approach to children's rights, ([United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#)), [Getting it Right for Every Child \(GIRFEC\)](#)). *Figure 5*

[The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland](#) underlines the need to ensure that the rights of care experienced children and young people are respected through (*Figure 5*):

- *Considering their wellbeing, and being alert to anything which might affect this;*
- *Assessing their need for services and support;*
- *Promoting their interests;*
- *Making sure their voices and opinions are heard;*
- *Providing opportunities for them to promote their wellbeing, and taking action to help them access those opportunities;*
- *Providing advice and assistance when they're needed;*
- *Making sure services are easy to access for them.*



[UNICEF Campaign for non-violent parenting](#)

## The Key Outcomes for Corporate Parents to work towards

Throughout, it is important that focus is kept on what corporate parents are working towards. The statutory guidance on [Part 9 of the 2014 Act](#) provides a critical frame of reference in relation to the fundamental outcomes we should be striving to achieve (Figure 6):

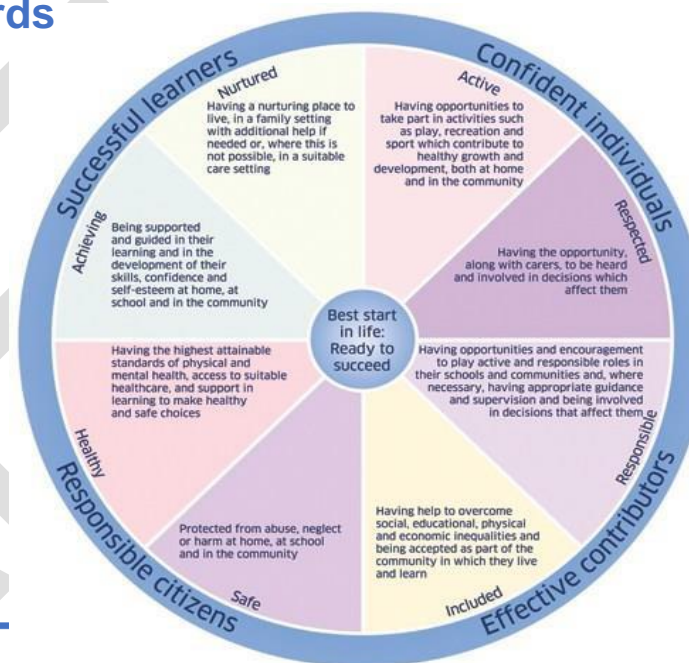


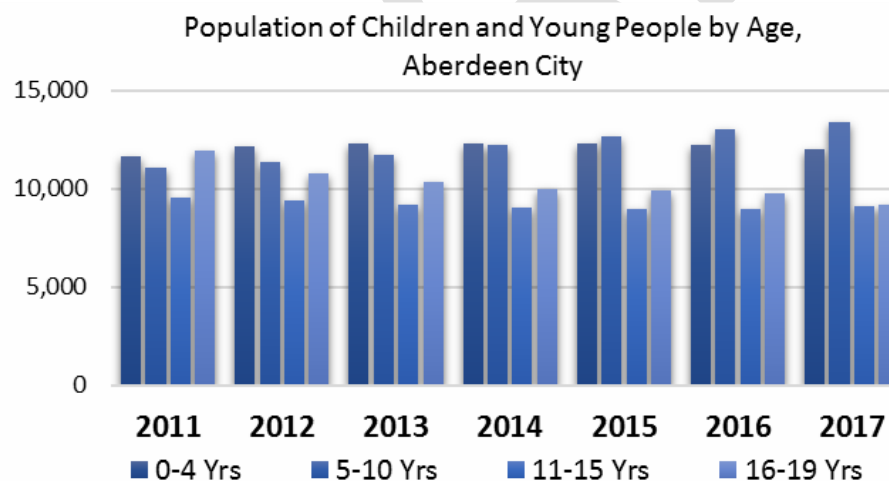
Figure 6

1. Providing safe, secure, stable and nurturing homes for looked after children and care leavers.
2. Enabling looked after children and care leavers to develop or maintain positive relationships with their family, friends, professionals and other trusted adults.
3. Upholding and promoting children's rights.
4. Securing positive educational outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.
5. Ensuring 'care' is an experience in which children are valued as individuals, and where support addresses their strengths as well as their needs.
6. Ensuring physical or mental health concerns are identified early and addressed quickly.
7. Increasing the number of care leavers in education, training and employment.
8. Reducing the number of looked after children and care leavers who enter the youth and criminal justice systems.

## Our Local Context

In considering how we will address our Corporate Parenting responsibilities, it is important that the local context is understood. This is important given both the opportunities within Aberdeen City which has a diverse population and vibrant city culture and in acknowledgement of the challenges which the impact of negative social and economic change have on families, children and young people who have fewer resources to meet social and economic adversities. Aberdeen City is the third most populous city in Scotland, and seventh largest geographically. The estimated population of Aberdeen City's Children and Young People aged 0-25 was 68,321 in 2017. This is a decrease from its peak of 72,417 in 2013. Compared nationally, Aberdeen's youth population has decreased by 3.1% more than the rest of Scotland between 2011 and 2017. Although the overall population change for Aberdeen City has increased since 1997 by 5.3%, it is currently below the Scottish average of 6.7%. The older adult populations have continued to grow whilst the youth population has significantly declined. (Figure 7 Source: National Records of Scotland)

Figure 7



The latest Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2016 demonstrates that the 22 Aberdeen City data zones in the most deprived 20% have a population of 18,055, this accounts for 7.9% of the City's total population. Although Aberdeen City has fewer deprived data zones in

the Income and Employment domain, the data may not accurately reflect the current economic situation in Aberdeen City, where unemployment is rising.

In July 2017, there were 590 children and young people, looked after, recent data from December 2018, indicates a reduction in these numbers to 550. Numbers of children and young people subject to Compulsory Measures made through the Children’s Hearings continue to reduce from 2014 as (Figure 8) below. In addition, there has been both a reduction in the numbers of children referred to the Scottish Children’s Reporters Administration (SCRA) and a strong indication that Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is creating a well -informed preventative and early intervention approach taken to supporting children and young people where early help has been identified.

Figure 8

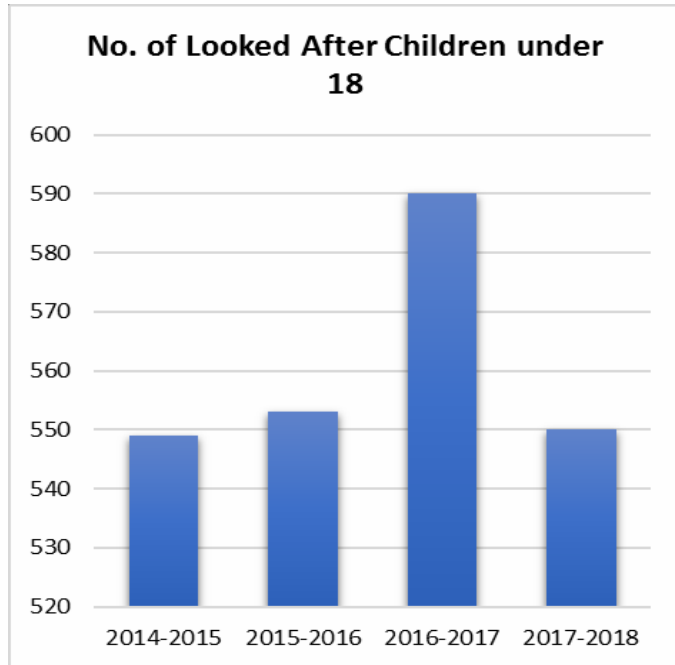
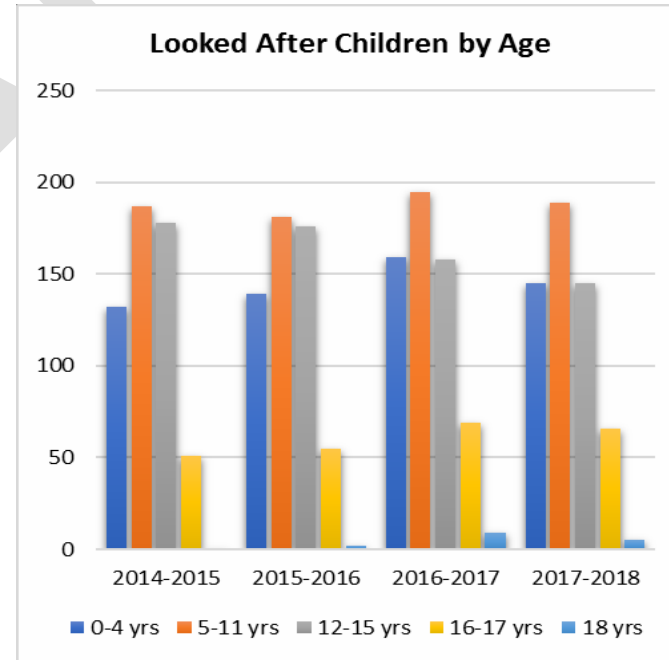


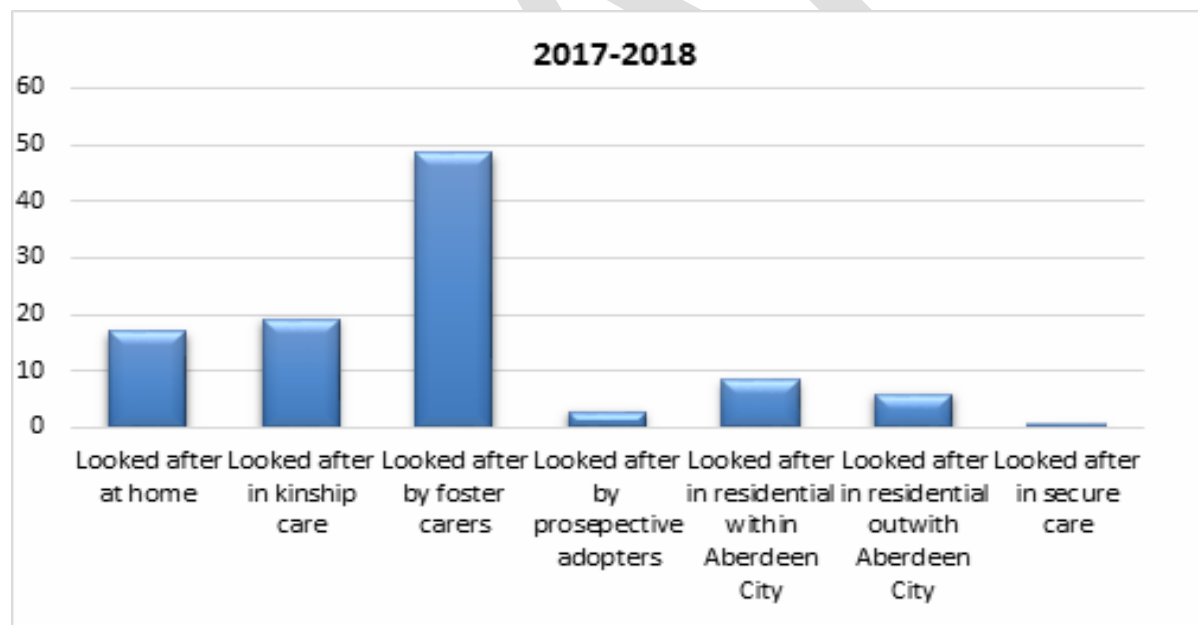
Figure 9



## Where are Children and Young People Placed and How well?

Our data (*figure 9*) above, tells us that the majority of children we look after aged under 5 years has continued to increase and that the significant majority are aged under 11 years. The principals informing placement decision making and matching will always seek to prioritise and demonstrate how we best support a young person's sense of family and place identity; (*figure 10*) below shows the use of placement type by percentage of young people placed. As far as need and resource availability allows, children and young people will be matched to placement types which best meet their needs. We recognise that this is an area of ongoing improvement. So, for example, we are utilising Improvement Methodology as an approach to increase the number of Kinship Care placements we have locally and consequently, aim to reduce the numbers of children and young people who may otherwise be placed with foster carers based out-with Aberdeen City.

Figure 10



As of December 2018, there are 161 looked after children and young people who live and are educated in Aberdeen City with 83 in Primary and 78 in Secondary. Whilst 226 of our Looked After children and young people are educated and reside in another authority area. We have 142 girls and 245 boys who are young people assessed as having Literacy and Numeracy at SCQF Level 4 (Figure 11) and as such, are considered to have the necessary reading, writing, listening and talking and numeracy skills to support them in a variety of forms relevant for learning, life and work. In Aberdeen City as a whole, this has increased from 2013-2014 with 78.86% to 89.07% in 2017, which is higher than the Virtual Comparator at 88.48% and almost on par with the National figure of 89.15%. Looked After Children in Aberdeen have shown a significant increase from 2013-2014 with 13.33% to 56.67% in 2016-2017 which is higher than the National comparator (53.7%) but they are still quite far behind the Virtual Comparator (75%). Looked After. The high number of our children and young people who live out with the authority poses challenges in ensuring equity of provision.

For Looked After Children, pupils started achieving Level 5 in 2015-2016, (6.9%) and this has increased to 10% in 2016-2017. Whilst this is considerably behind the Virtual comparator in 2016-2017, (31.33%), it is a vast improvement since 2013-2014 when there were no pupils attaining Level 5 (Figure 12).

Figure 11

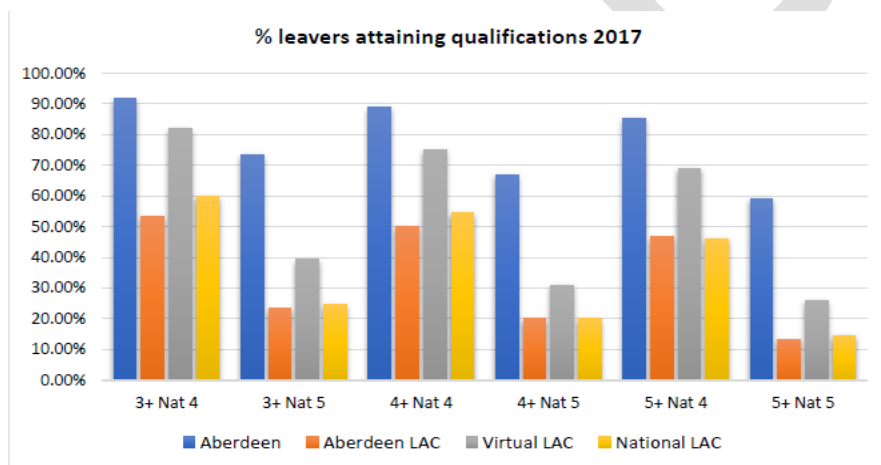
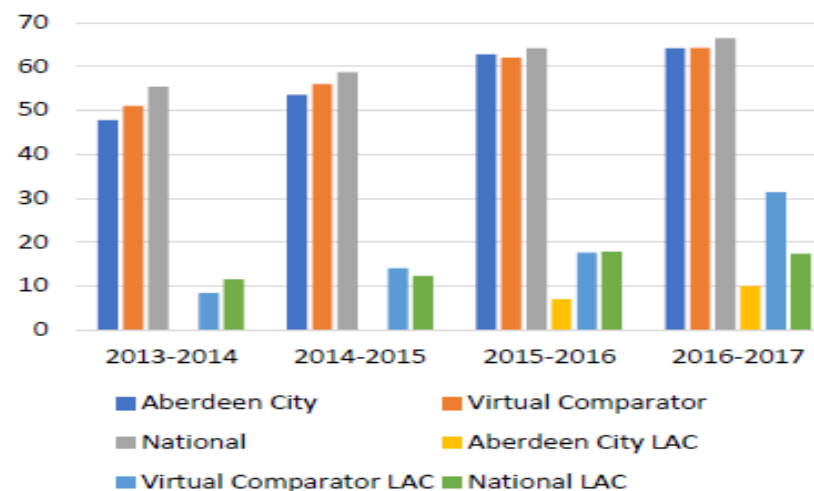


Figure 12

% of pupils attaining Level 5 Literacy & Numeracy



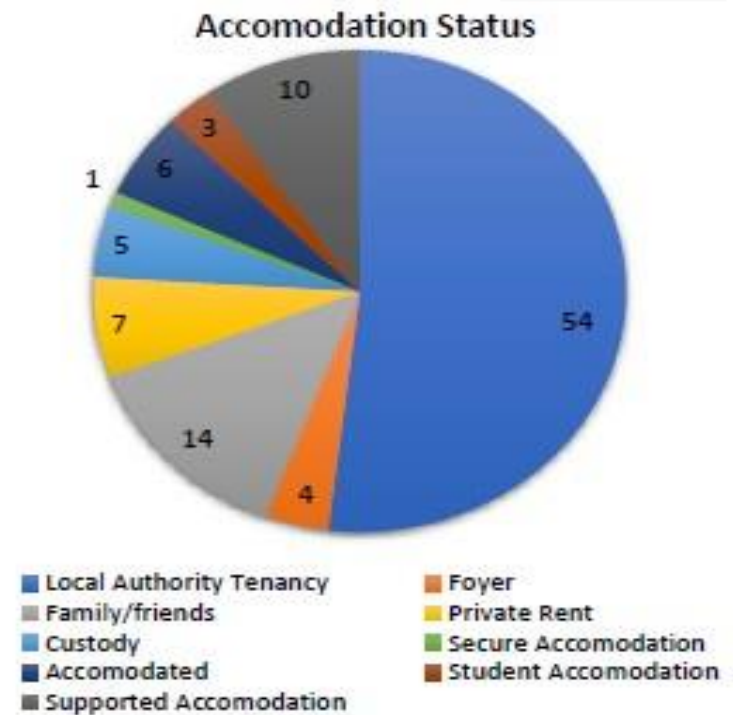


Having the majority of our looked after young people in placements out-with their City, creates varying challenges which need to have robust solutions. Issues such as how we effectively seek young people’s views and support them in maintaining contact with local participation and inclusive activities and; ensuring the voice of those young people placed at a distance can be clearly heard by us as Corporate Parents. The recent adoption and purchase of the MOMO <https://mindofmyown.org.uk/> app should serve us well as an example of a development in this area.

## Our care leavers

Young people leaving care in Aberdeen City will be offered support through our young person’s Throughcare Housing Protocol. This recognises the need and recognition that for many young people they will benefit from an approach that recognises their need and prevents them being considered within Homelessness pathways. Our care leavers team the Youth Team and Housing Access meet regularly to support forward planning and early identification of an accommodation need. The stability and sustainability of accommodation is a significant partnership concern. The figure below shows that 51% of the young people allocated to Youth Team have local authority tenure. The Youth Team have been part of a coordinated approach promoting the uptake of Council Tax exemption for care experienced young people. In collaboration with Revenue and Benefits and Housing Access processes have been improved which can identify at an early stage when young people allocated through the Housing Access Protocol may be encountering rent arrears or similar. We are utilising the same system to identify young people who can apply for the exemption of Council Tax. The information below provides an indication of the destinations occupied by young people following them moving on and an indication of the areas we would seek to improve. So, we are seeking to improve supports to our care leavers which is increasingly joined up and does not create any unnecessary delays or barriers to young people accessing support.

Figure 13

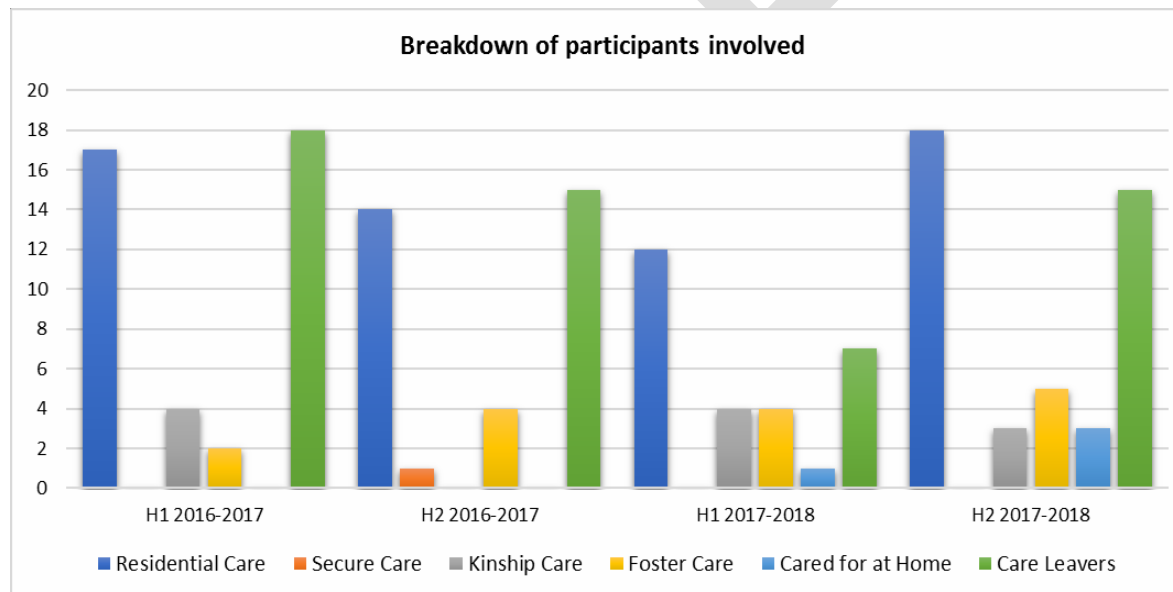


## How are we making it happen?

### Our Champions Board

The Champions Board meet four times per year and has sought to be sensitive and empathetic in the design and delivery of these sessions. Professional representation is targeted to invite a good fit to the aims of our Corporate Parenting Plan. Young people from a variety of care experiences are welcome to participate in the Champions Board, with the older age range most confident in the current model of participation, as highlighted in numbers outlined in Figure 14.

Figure 14



Our Champions Board has benefitted from targeted investment of resources from 2016-2019 having successfully applied for monies from Life Changes Trust. This award has been matched funded by Aberdeen City Council and has been focused on building the capacity of care experienced young people as key stakeholders, to be empowered to engage with Champions and to support the better development and impact of our Corporate Parenting Plan. Young people have been represented on the Champions Board as below, with a growing focus for 2019 to promote the inclusion of those young people looked after at home.

**When asked what should ACE look like a group of care experienced young people?**

**“Fun” “Chat” “Chill” “Catch-up”**  
**“Charades” “Music”**  
**“Opportunity” “Options”**  
**“Friendship” “A fun place for kids to chill”**

The focus and impact of The Champions Board will continue to be supported by the award of the next stage of Life Changes Trust monies which will allow the continued employment of a Participation Development worker, whose role focuses on inclusion and personal capacity building to support the contribution and voice of the

diverse group of young people who are care experienced.

Aberdeen Care Experienced (ACE) young people group meet on a regular basis. This group includes but is not exclusive, to young people who are also active in their role with the Champions Board.

ACE has been facilitated by a combination of Aberdeen City Children’s Social Work, Sport Aberdeen and Who Cares Scotland? Staff.

The **ACE Group** and **Sports Group** have continued to meet on alternate fortnights. Two of the ACE evenings focused on mental wellness and included mindfulness sessions delivered by mindfulness practitioners.



These mindfulness sessions were well received by our young people and were a good link to the Health and Wellbeing theme of both the September and December 2018 **Champions Boards**.

Young people are encouraged to co-produce and be supported to develop the agenda and activities which the group progresses. Examples include two residential events, many and varied outdoor activity and themed sports events. In addition to those with a 'softer' focus including cinema, discussion and social themed activity at Halloween and Christmas.

The membership of the Champions Board has grown and developed since 2016, with core membership and attendance from National Partner organisations and consistent attendance from our local and third sector partners. Representation at the Champions Board is broken down in Figure 15.

Figure 15

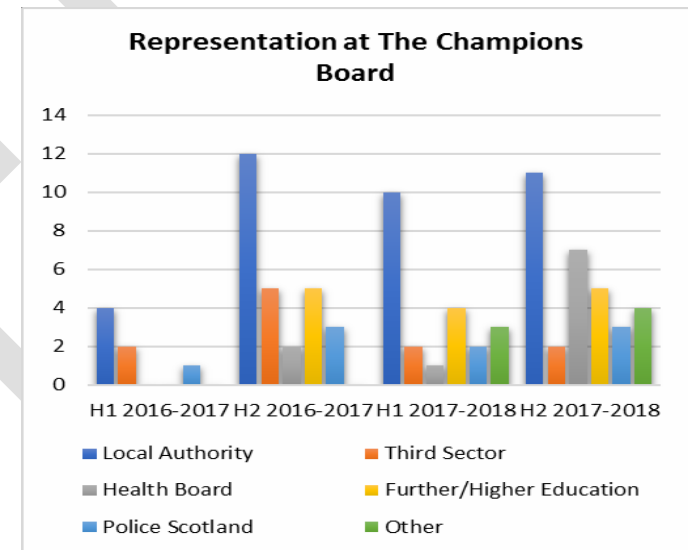
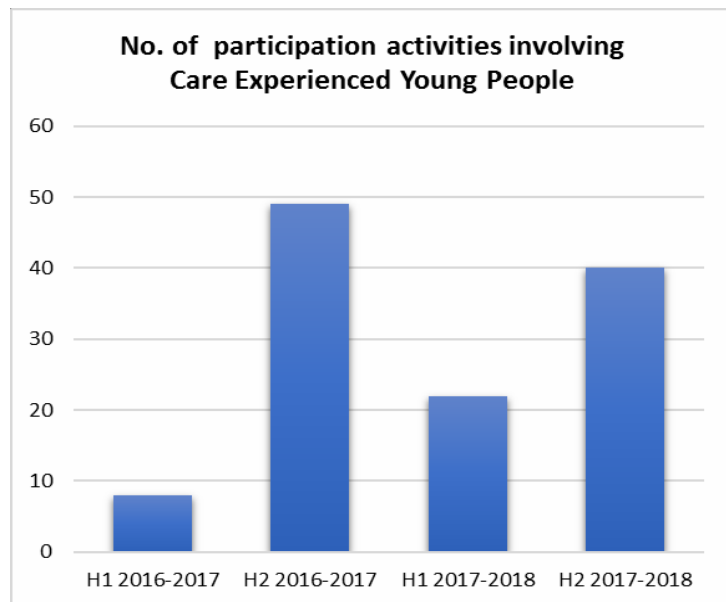


Figure 16



There has been planning and awareness applied to targeting partners who could best support the development of Champions Board and invest in its capacities. The aim is to be sensitive to having a smaller number of professionals as a proportion to care experienced young people who attend (Figure 16). This approach is being updated and reviewed as part of the Champion Board Action Plan for 2019-21.

## Grants Project

One of the key aspects of the Life Changes Trust award has been the establishment of a funding source for grant applications, available for care experienced young people aged 14 to 26 years. The number of applications and awards is broken down in Figure 17.

The award panel is hosted by ACVO and members include care leavers and those engaging with care experienced young people. Over the last three years there has been improvement in both administration and clear evidence of beneficial impact on how the grant awards have created opportunities which have supported young people to make improvements in their quality of life.

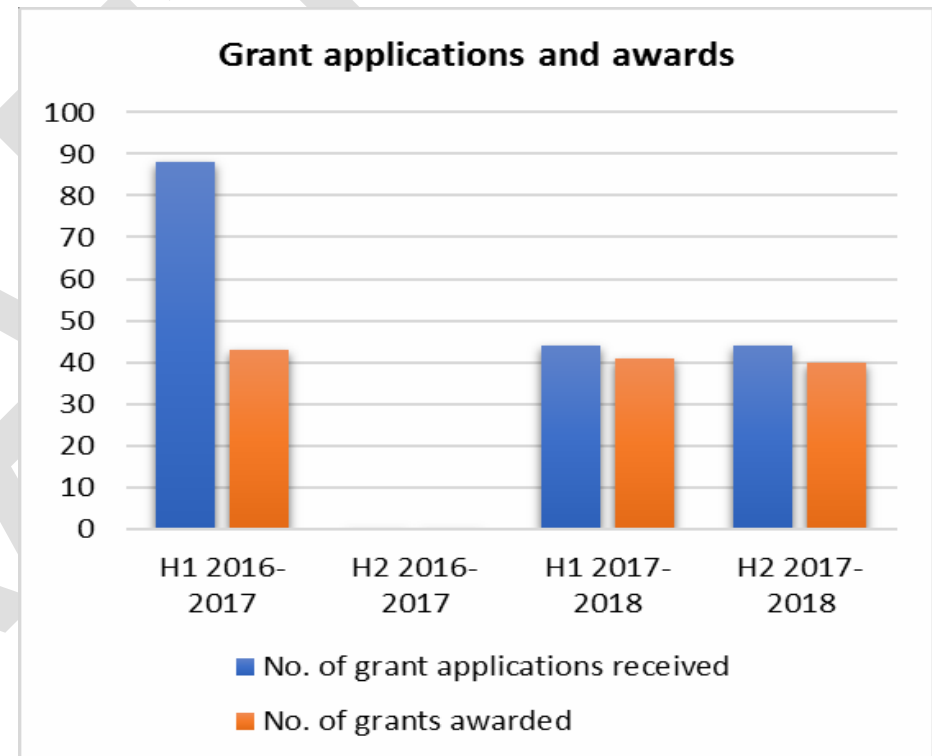
What young people, and others have said about the Grant Awards:

**“The money helped the flat feel like my own and improved my confidence massively.”**

**“Yes, I now practice doing stunts and build on my BMX skills anytime as I now have my own BMX bike. I feel very proud to own this bike, a big thank you to Life Changes Trust.”**

**“It improved her life hugely. The money was spent on things to furnish her new flat. It made a huge difference and greatly improved her day to day life.”**

Figure 17



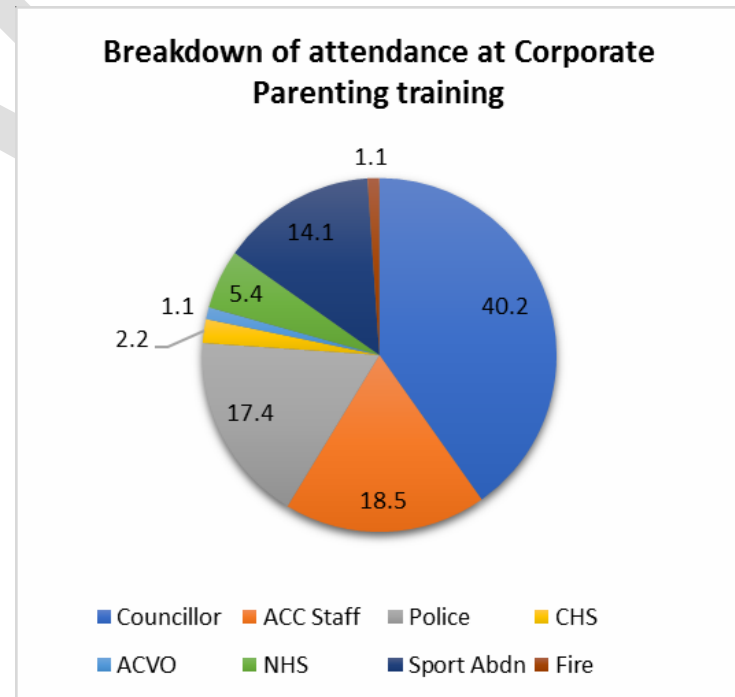
## Corporate Parenting Training

There were eight Corporate Parenting training sessions in 2018; 5 of these were co-delivered by Care Experienced Young People. These sessions have developed in content and delivery model as we have become better aware of levels of knowledge, learning styles and the need to become increasingly targeted in ensuring those attending are in key roles. In going forward we have set an aim to have 100% of sessions supported by care experienced young people.



Figure 18

Extending the reach of Aberdeen City Council Corporate Parenting training is an implementation priority for our corporate parent and champions board action plan. A breakdown of attendance is found in Figure 18.



## What we are going to do now...?

Between now and March 2021, we will continue with our partnership with Life Changes Trust and to utilise the resource they provide, to improve the effectiveness of our Champions Board and therefore on the impact of our Corporate Parenting activities. We recognise the need for sustained long term improvement in our multi-agency partnership, to reduce gaps for example, in education attainment and in the wider wellbeing opportunities which are experienced by Looked After young people and Care Leavers.

- We know, as young people tell us, that trusting relationships which can be sustained over time are associated with more successful outcomes, for example in sustaining accommodation and making informed choices. We will continue to;
- Monitor our progress against the targets set in our LOIP ( Appendix 1) reducing the attainment and outcome gap
- Develop and expand the options for young people and younger children to participate and have their views represented in the Champions Board.
- Our Champions Board workplan, as attached, outlines our agreed targets and commitments over the next 2-year period.
- Our main priority is to support the ongoing involvement of those care experienced children and young people who are active in our City and services, to
- Utilise their experiences and invest with them in identifying and supporting children and young people, who are not yet engaging, to be aware of the Champions Board and its role in informing our approach to Corporate Parenting

We will take stock and review our progress again in 2021, and similarly, in the production of this Plan we have taken time to reflect and learn from the opportunities the Life Changes Trust funding has offered in broadening the reach of our engagement with care experienced young people, and the creative dynamic introduced by these additional resources. This learning and drive is reflected in the Champions Board Action Plan (2019-2021) (Appendix2) and in the priorities our refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan is committed to attaining within Integrated Children Services activities is attached below as (Appendix1). We aim to become better equipped to be inclusive in our thinking, better informed in hearing the views of a wider range of care experienced young people who have diverse experiences. We will use approaches to engagement and participation which work well and will include those informed by co production and link into the national lead for participation and all the opportunities presented by capacity building activities for care experienced people.

## Appendix 1

Aberdeen's Local Outcomes and Improvements Plan (LOIP) - Corporate Parenting Outcomes			
Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Key Improvement Measures
<p><b>5. 95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers by 2026</b></p> <p><i>(Baseline 2016/17: Positive Destinations- 63.3% 4 or more SCQF awards at Level 3 - 56.7%)</i></p> <p><b>Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Integrated Children's Services Board</b></p>	<p>5.1 Improving education outcomes for care experienced children and young people</p>	<p>Increase the number of care experienced young people accessing a positive and sustained destination by 25% by 2022</p>	% of care experienced young people (S4-6) who leave school and go to a sustained positive destination <i>(Baseline 2016/17: 63.33%)</i>
			% of achievement in Curriculum for Excellence Levels for reading <i>(Baseline 2016/17: P1: 46.67%; P3: 46.15%; P7: 28.57%; S3: 40.91%)</i>
			No. of complementary Tariff Points Aberdeen City (AC) compared to virtual comparator (VC): <i>(Baseline 2016/17: Lowest Attaining 20% - AC: 21/ VC: 87 Middle Attaining 60% - AC: 270/VC: 405 Highest Attaining 20% - AC: 804/VC: 977)</i>
			% of care experienced school leavers attaining SCQF Level 3 in Literacy and Numeracy <i>(Baseline 2016/17: 63.33%)</i>
			% of care experience young people leaving school with 4 or more SCQF awards at Level 3 <i>(Baseline 2016/17: 56.67%)</i>
			No. of exclusions of care experienced young people <i>(Baseline 2016/17: Primary: 25;Secondary: 206)</i>
			No. of care experienced pupils excluded <i>(Baseline 2016/17: Primary: 14; Secondary: 104)</i>
			No. of care experienced children and young people attending school on a part time basis <i>(Baseline 2017: 7)</i>
			% of care experienced pupil school attendance <i>(Baseline 2016/17: Primary: 89.2%; Secondary: 78.3%)</i>
			No. of staff trained



5.2 Supporting care experienced children and young people who sustain care placements which meet their needs and sense of identity	Increase number of staff, including carers working with care experienced children and young people trained in trauma skills and knowledge, to 80% by 2021	No. of emergency admissions in to care
	Increase in the number of inhouse foster and kinship placements by 2021	No. of kinship placements <i>(Baseline 2018: 37% [of all care experienced children and young people])</i>
	Increase in the number of inhouse foster care placement by 2021	No. of care placement moves
	Increase the number of children and young people remaining in a placement between 16-18 year by 2021	No. of foster care placements
5.3 Supporting children and young people to understand and access multiagency throughcare and aftercare services	Increase the number of care experienced young people receiving appropriate multiagency throughcare by 2021	No. of children and young people remaining in care placement
		No. of care leavers with a pathway plan
		No. of care leavers who receive throughcare and aftercare support
		No. of young people we offer targeted support linked to tenancy sustainment
5.4 Improving physical and emotional health outcomes for care experienced young people	Increase the number of carers who report increased understanding and skills to respond to children who have adverse childhood experiences by 20%, by 2021	% of care leavers accessing their benefit entitlement
		No. of Placements on an unplanned basis
		No. of carers who self-report increased confidence and skill in meeting the needs of children who have adverse childhood experiences
		No. of children that report being happy in their care placement
		% of care experienced children and young people who report feeling mentally well
		Establish a baseline for care experienced children and young people who report feeling mentally well

		Reduce the length of time that care experienced children	No. of young people waiting longer than 4 weeks to have a CAMHS appointment
		and young people wait for an initial Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) appointment to less than 4 weeks by 2021	No. of children and young people being provided with individualised therapeutic intervention from a range of agencies No. of children and young people who have a health needs assessment undertaken within 4 weeks of being accommodated
<p><b>6. 95% of children living in our priority localities will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026</b></p> <p><i>(Baseline: 83.57% in 16/17 [for most deprived 30%])</i></p> <p><b>Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Integrated Children's Services Board</b></p>	<p>6.1 Improving pathways to education, employment and training for identified groups (including Care Experienced Young People and those with Additional Support Needs)</p>	Increase the no. young people who effectively transition from primary school to secondary school by 2021	% of pupils with a transition plan Attendance of pupils with a transition plan Exclusions of pupils with a transition plan
		Increase the range and number of accredited courses being provided by schools & partners by 25% by 2021	No. of courses presented per school No. of relevant work-related learning experiences for all secondary pupils % of S3-S5 pupils identified as 'at risk' of disengaging that stay on
			% of primary school attendance by areas of deprivation <i>(Baseline 2016/17: Quintiles 1,2 and 3 – 92.5 -94% Quintiles 4 and 5 – 95.7-96.5%)</i>
			% of secondary school attendance by areas of deprivation <i>(Baseline 2016/17: Quintiles 1,2 and 3 – 87.2 -91.1% Quintiles 4 and 5 – 92.8- 94.7%)</i>
			% difference between 30% most and least deprived for literacy and numeracy <i>(Baseline 2016/17: 30% Most Deprived - Literacy/Numeracy Level 4: 80.92% 30% Least Deprived - Literacy/Numeracy Level 4: 94.77% Variance: 13.85%)</i>
		Increase the number of partners supporting delivery of the Senior Phase by 10% by 2021	Mean no. of partners supporting delivery of the senior phase in each school
		Increase the number of young people taking up foundation apprenticeships to 142 by 2021	No. of foundation apprenticeships

		Reduce the number of winter leavers with no positive destination by 50% by 2021	<i>No. of winter leavers with no positive destination (Baseline: 50)</i>
		Increase the number of young people who leave school with a minimum of SVQ 3 in literacy and numeracy and 4 other qualifications to 98% 2021	% Attaining Literacy Level 3: <i>(Baseline 2016/17: Aberdeen City: 96.58% Virtual Comparator: 96.00%)</i>
			% Attaining Numeracy Level 3: <i>(Baseline 2016/17: Aberdeen City: 94.99% Virtual Comparator: 95.75%)</i>
	6.2 Supporting young people, families, carers and communities to better understand the opportunities available to their children upon leaving school	Increase the number of young people living in Quintiles 1,2 and 3 who achieve a sustained positive destination by working with communities to 90% 2022	No. of young people leaving school with no qualifications
			% Difference between the 30% most and least deprived school leavers in positive destinations [Aberdeen City (AC) compared to Virtual Comparator (VC)] <i>(Baseline 2016/17: Most Deprived 30%: Aberdeen City (AC):83.57% Virtual Comparator (VC):90.05% Middle 40% by Deprivation: AC: 88.65% VC: 90.05% Least Deprived 30%: AC: 96.08% VC: 95.96% Variance: AC: 12.51% VC: 5.91%)</i>
			No. of developing young workforce programmes available to young people
			% of young people engagement with Skills Development Scotland from S1
			No. of opportunities to further skills for life, learning and work across a community
			No. of community mentors available per 100 young people in our priority localities <i>(Baseline 2018: 0)</i>

		Increase the number of curricular offerings shaped by school communities by 20%, by 2021	No. of city-wide engagement opportunities for children, young people, parents, carers and families <i>(Baseline 2018: 0)</i>
			No. of local engagement opportunities for parents, carers and families
			Mean no. of opportunities for children and young people to shape the curricular offering in local school communities
			Mean no. of registration and usage of My World of Work in each secondary school
		Increase the number of opportunities to discuss and record skills for life, learning and work from S1 by 20%, by 2021	No. of staff trained to support young people and families to identify their preferred careers choices
			% school staff who report increased understanding of the routes into work
	6.3 Ensuring children, young people and families understand the pathways available to them and skills required for future.	Increase children, young people and families' awareness and understanding of future skill requirements by June 2021	No. of offers to Aberdeen Guarantees members per week <i>(Baseline 2018: Employment opportunities: 10 Apprenticeships: 5)</i>
			No. of employer engagement opportunities both face to face and virtually
			No. of face to face opportunities for parents, carers and the community
			No. of opportunities to engage with the city campus digitally <i>(Baseline 2018: 0)</i>

<p><b>7. Achieve and retain UNICEF Child Friendly City Status by 2026</b></p>	<p>7.1 Secure required six UNICEF badges to gain Child Friendly City status Equality and Inclusiveness</p>	<p>Achieve badges in: Health Equality and Inclusiveness Participation And 3 more to be identified by 2022</p>	<p>No. of badges achieved</p>
		<p>Detailed improvement projects to be confirmed following feedback from UNICEF</p>	
<p><b>8. 15% less young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026</b></p> <p><i>(Baseline data: 965 young people charged in 2015-16; 827 in 2016-17; 698 in 2017/18. A 15% reduction is 105 young people)</i></p> <p><b>Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Community Justice Group/ Integrated Children's Services Board</b></p>	<p>8.1 Young people receive the right help at the right time through provision of a strong universal offer alongside availability of multi-disciplinary targeted interventions (using a trauma-informed approach) to improve outcomes for young people at risk of becoming involved in the Justice System</p>	<p>Reduce the number of young people identified as having indicators of being at risk of being excluded from school by 2021</p> <p>Reduce the number of young people referred to the Children's Reporter on offence grounds as a result of appropriate and effective interventions by 2021</p> <p>Increase by 10% the number of young people who are jointly reported to SCRA and COPFS who are offered robust alternatives to entering the statutory system by 2021</p>	<p>% of young people identified as at risk who are receiving a targeted intervention to support participation and engagement</p> <p>No. of school exclusion incidents for 'General or persistent disobedience' <i>(Baseline data: 17/18: 206)</i></p> <p>Unauthorised absence levels</p> <p>No. of young people referred to the Children's Reporter on offence grounds <i>(Baseline data: 16/17 – 90 17/18 – 81)</i></p> <p>No. of young people referred by SCRA to relevant services</p> <p>No. of residential care home workers who are aware of the Police Scotland Protocol in relation to responses to care-experienced young people.</p> <p>No. of care experienced children and young people appropriately diverted from the adult Criminal Justice System.</p>

		<p>Increase by 20% the number of young people identified as being at risk of becoming involved in offending behaviour who are engaged in targeted community-based activities by 2021</p>	<p>No. of young people engaged in activity programmes aimed at diverting away from offending behaviour</p> <p>No. of offences committed by 8-15 year olds:</p> <p>i) Group 3 offences - e.g. shoplifting, housebreaking, theft of motor vehicles. (Baseline data: 16/17 – 367 17/18 – 260)</p>
			<p>ii) Group 6 offences - e.g. common assaults and breach of peace (Baseline data: 16/17 – 465 17/18 – 254)</p> <p>No. of offences committed by 16 &amp; 17 year olds:</p> <p>i) Group 3 offences - e.g. shoplifting, housebreaking, theft of motor vehicles. (Baseline data: 16/17 – 293 17/18 – 167)</p> <p>ii) Group 6 offences - e.g. common assaults and breach of peace. (Baseline data: 16/17 – 234 17/18 – 192)</p> <p>No. of young people involved in three or more Police CrimeFiles (Baseline data: 16/17 – 100 17/18 – 71)</p>

		<p>i) Increase the number of awareness-raising events relating to 'digital' offending by 2021, and then</p> <p>ii) reduce the number of 'digital' offences from 2021 – 2026</p>	<p>No. of awareness-raising events regarding 'digital' offending e.g. sexting  <i>(Baseline data:</i>  16/17 – 105  17/18 - 128)</p> <p>No. of 'digital' offences committed by under 18s  <i>(Baseline data:</i>  16/17 – 40  17/18 – 65)</p>
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## Appendix 2

### Champions Board Aberdeen City Action Plan 2019 - 2021

What do we want to do and by When?	How are we going to do it?
<p><b><u><a href="#">LISTEN TO AND LEARN FROM OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</a></u></b></p> <p>When children and young people make their contribution to champions they will be listened to, understood and be able to hold champions to account for their follow up actions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By 2019, the MOMO App (<a href="https://mindofmyown.org.uk/">https://mindofmyown.org.uk/</a>) will help us to more widely gather the views of our children and young people.</li> <li>2. By 2019, we will have worked with our children and young people to consider the best models to establish a Young Persons’ Forum or Board.</li> <li>3. By 2020, we will have had two co-production sessions with Champions and our Young Persons’ Forum or Board.</li> <li>4. By 2021, we will use the LCT monies to establish a Development Worker post to support and sustain our children and young people’s engagement with champions.</li> </ol>	<p>All ‘how’s’ relate to each of the noted areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Champions will be mindful and responsive to findings from national inquiries and reviews such as the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and the Independent Care Review.</li> <li>• Consider how being trauma informed may benefit models of co-production and information sharing.</li> <li>• Who Cares? Development Worker will co-create an activity plan with our children and young people and champions.</li> <li>• We will use a range of communication methods to ensure that everyone understands what has been agreed and who’s doing what.</li> </ul>



What do we want to do and by When?	How are we going to do it?
<p>5. By 2020, Champions will report on the take up of Corporate Parenting Training/awareness raising in their own respective service/work area and seek to improve 2019 baseline by 20%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree a participation plan which communicates with ALL our children and young people.</li> <li>• Support the delivery of a range of face to face and online corporate parenting training across all ACC and partners.</li> <li>• Understand better the experiences of our children and young people and seek to share this understanding to improve their outcomes. We will find out if research in the above could be carried out by champions.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME LIFE OPPORTUNITIES AS THEIR PEERS</u></b></p> <p>1. By October 2019, champions will be familiar with a baseline dataset which allows comparisons to be made regarding the outcomes for care experienced children and young people with their peers.</p> <p>2. Each champion will be accountable for how their service, area or ward promotes our children and young people’s access to and understanding of ‘what’s out there’.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisit a Family Firm Policy.</li> <li>• Champions will identify and promote employment, training and work experience opportunities for our children and young people.</li> <li>• Consider options for recruitment which recognises looked after status as a pathway to interview for vacancies.</li> </ul>

What do we want to do and by When?	How are we going to do it?
<p>3. By 2020, we want to ensure that all our children and young people, regardless of where they live, are aware of and included in opportunities for play, connectedness and belonging.</p> <p>4. By 2021, we want to establish a range of participatory groups for our children and young people of all ages and stages. This would include younger children e.g. a 'mini champs' group as well as extending the reach of our ACE and Sports Group.</p> <p>5. By 2019, we will have in place a multi-agency co-located workspace based at 116 Westburn Rd.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote that our children and young people are a key group in developing young workforce activities.</li> <li>• Introduce a mentor scheme matching care experienced children and young people with champions and key officers.</li> <li>• Establish access to free/supplemented travel concessions within the city which helps our children and young people maintain relationships with important others and so promote their emotional health and well-being.</li> <li>• Establish ways of working to ensure that different services with corporate parenting duties can talk to each other to seek quicker solutions for young people both planned eg to secure good quality accommodation and access to housing and in crisis; e.g. know when young people require housing support, are exempt from council tax and where debt and arrears are identified.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EMBED A CHILDREN'S RIGHTS APPROACH INTO SERVICES</b></p> <p>1. Policy and procedures update will be compliant with and informed by children's rights in realising our Corporate Parenting responsibilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy and Procedures being updated will reflect and be influenced by both international and national convention.</li> </ul>

What do we want to do and by When?	How are we going to do it?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Young Person’s Recruitment panel should be developed and deployed to support recruitment by Champions of managers with resources responsibilities.</li> </ul>

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*The statutory guidance on Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) 2014 Act provides a critical frame of reference in relation to the fundamental outcomes we should be striving to achieve:*

- 1. Providing safe, secure, stable and nurturing homes for looked after children and care leavers.*
  - 2. Enabling looked after children and care leavers to develop or maintain positive relationships with their family, friends, professionals and other trusted adults.*
  - 3. Upholding and promoting children's rights.*
  - 4. Securing positive educational outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.*
  - 5. Ensuring 'care' is an experience in which children are valued as individuals, and where support addresses their strengths as well as their needs.*
  - 6. Ensuring physical or mental health concerns are identified early and addressed quickly.*
  - 7. Increasing the number of care leavers in education, training and employment.*
  - 8. Reducing the number of looked after children and care leavers who enter the youth and criminal justice systems.*
-



**Aberdeen Young Person's Rights Service**

**NEW LOGO DESIGNED BY BETHANY FORSYTH**

**CONTACT US**  
 young person'srights@aberdeencity.gov.uk [General Email]

**RIGHTS OFFICERS**

**Forrest Templeton**  
 FTEMPLETON@aberdeencity.gov.uk  
 Mobile: 07733179202

**Donna Simpson**  
 DSIMPSON@aberdeencity.gov.uk  
 Mobile: 07876780877

**If we are not able to answer straight away, please leave a message with your name and contact number and we will call you back.**

## Young people co-produced and approved this visual to show who the Service is for:

Children & Young People looked after at home.

Children & Young People looked after with extended family or friends - kinship

Children & Young People looked after in Foster Care in and outside Aberdeen.

Children & Young People looked after in Residential Care in and outside Aberdeen.

Children & Young People looked after in Secure Care.

Young Adults being supported on a Continuing or After care basis.

**Aberdeen Young Person's Rights Service**

"Looked After" children & young people are defined as those in the care of their local authority. This could include being looked after on an emergency, respite, short-term, long-term or permanent basis (including looked after in foster care with a view to adoption).

Continuing Care offers eligible young people the entitlement to remain in their care setting up to their 21st birthday when you cease to be looked after by a local authority, though certain criteria need to be met.

Aftercare entitles you to receive a range of support until your 26th birthday. Eligibility for Aftercare applies to all care leavers, regardless of their placement type while they were looked after.

When a child's name is put on the Child Protection Register it helps alert workers/agencies that there is concern about that child and a multi-agency child protection plan will be put in place to help protect the child.

More information on the Child Protection Partnership website: <https://www.aberdeengettingitright.org.uk/>

Further information can be found in: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/looked-after-children/> and <https://www.cypcs.org.uk/rights/your-rights-to-care/>

# ABERDEEN YOUNG PERSON'S RIGHTS SERVICE

THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC) IS KEY TO OUR SERVICE.

THE SERVICE IS INDEPENDENT OF OTHER PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR YOUR CARE AND SUPPORT.

WE HAVE A SAFEGUARDING ROLE AND PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IS ONE OF OUR KEY DUTIES.

Here are some of the things the Service can do with and for you:

- help make sure you get listened to.
- Give you information and advice about your rights.
- Let you know about other supports and services.
- Support you to represent your views at different meetings e.g. case conference, looked after children's review, Children's Hearing or Care and Risk Management Meeting.
- Raise any concerns you may have, and if need be, support you to make a complaint.
- Ask about your experiences and views on services and support to help improve them.

Those working with and caring for you should know about the **Aberdeen Young People's Rights Service** and will be able to help you use it.



**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!!**

Most of you will have an adult you can trust and talk to.

Even though this may be the case, some things can be difficult or awkward to share and sometimes it's easier to talk to someone independent.

WE CAN HELP YOU IN A WAY YOU ARE MOST COMFORTABLE WITH OR WHICH SUITS YOUR LIVING CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS COULD BE FACE TO FACE, A PHONE OR VIDEO CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL. YOU CAN CHOOSE TO MEET US ON YOUR OWN OR IN PRIVATE OR HAVE SOMEONE WITH YOU.



YOU COULD ALSO USE A COMMUNICATION TOOL CALLED **MIND OF MY OWN** WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO BE HEARD WHENEVER YOU WANT. YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS APP THROUGH THIS LINK AND THROUGH YOUR SOCIAL WORKER.

ChildrensRights@aberdeencity.gov.uk

# ABERDEEN YOUNG PERSON'S RIGHTS SERVICE

KEY RIGHTS COME UNDER THREE MAIN AREAS:

PROTECTION RIGHTS - TO BE SAFE  
PROVISION RIGHTS - TO BE WELL LOOKED AFTER  
PARTICIPATION RIGHTS - TO HAVE YOUR SAY AND BE LISTENED TO

YOUR 'VOICE' AND PARTICIPATION ARE REALLY IMPORTANT: FROM SUPPORTING YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN DECISIONS ABOUT YOUR LIFE TO CONTRIBUTING TO HOW SERVICES SHOULD LOOK AND BE DELIVERED.



We also work closely with the Youth Team who provide support to those leaving care or who have been in care between the ages of 16 and 26. Want to know if you are eligible?

Call 0800 9178545.

Like @YouthTeamAberdeen on Facebook to find out more.

<https://www.facebook.com/youthteamaberdeen>

As part of this, we work closely with **ACE (Aberdeen Care Experienced)**. ACE supports Aberdeen children, young people and young adults to engage, participate and discuss ideas and issues, important to them.

These are then taken to the Aberdeen City Champions Board to ensure that 'lived experience' is heard and responded to in ways which help bring about positive change.

Like @ACEAberdeen on Facebook to find out more.



THE INDEPENDENT CARE REVIEW REPORTED ITS CONCLUSION ON 5 FEBRUARY 2020.

LISTENING TO ALL THOSE WITH CARE EXPERIENCE WAS AT THE HEART OF THE REVIEW.

LOOKING FORWARD, ABERDEEN YOUNG PERSON'S RIGHTS SERVICE WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE REVIEW IN HOW WE SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF OUR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG ADULTS.

ChildrensRights@aberdeencity.gov.uk



### HOW TO CONTACT US:

ChildrensRights@aberdeencity.gov.uk [General Email]

**Rights Officers: Forrest Templeton**  
FTEMPLETON@aberdeencity.gov.uk  
Mobile: 07733179202

**Donna Simpson**  
DSIMPSON@aberdeencity.gov.uk  
Mobile: 07876780877

If we are not able to answer straight away, please leave a message with your name and contact number and we will call you back.

### OTHER USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS:

**Children and Young Peoples Commissioner Scotland** - <https://cypcs.org.uk/>  
On Instagram: @CYPCS On Twitter: @CYPCS On Facebook: @CYPCS

**Childline** - 0800 1111 <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

**Scottish Child Law Centre** - 0131 6676333 - <https://sclc.org.uk/>

**Who Cares Scotland** - 0141 226 4441 - <https://www.whocarescotland.org/>

**The Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice** - [www.cycj.org.uk/](http://www.cycj.org.uk/)

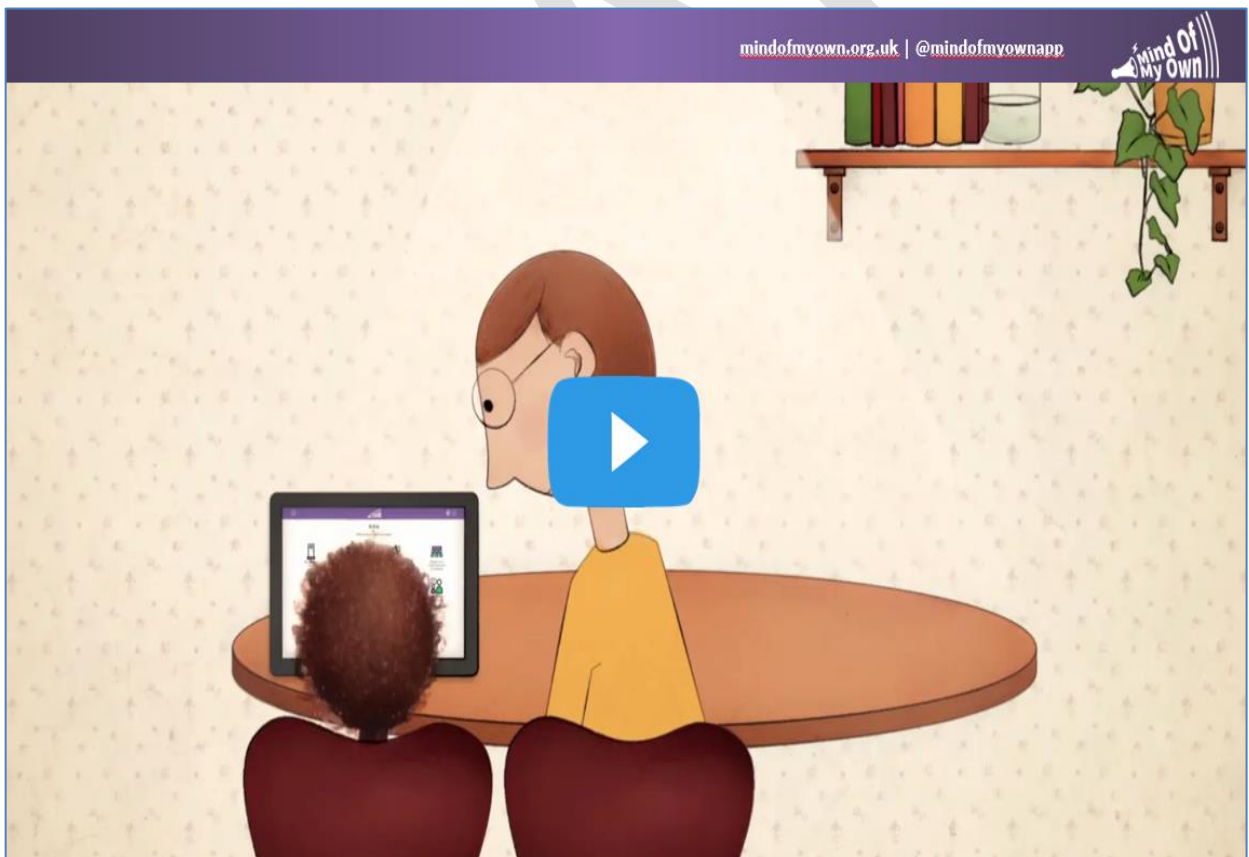
**Scottish Children's Reporter Administration** - [www.scra.gov.uk/](http://www.scra.gov.uk/)

**Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)** - [www.togetherscotland.org.uk/](http://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/)

**Children's Hearings Scotland** - [www.chscotland.gov.uk/](http://www.chscotland.gov.uk/)

**ACC Virtual School** - [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/virtual-school](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/virtual-school)

ChildrensRights@aberdeencity.gov.uk







## Management Project Group

- Mind Of My Own invited to meet a targeted group including young people
- Licence agreed for 3 years beginning March 2019
- Project Group set up prior to implementation
- Champions identified across the service
- Project Group meet monthly



## Mind Of My Own Champions

- Champions attended 2 training sessions and have delivered the training in house since.
- Champions met fortnightly and delivered weekly training to cover Aberdeen City Children and Family Services as well as any other relevant professionals
- Children's Rights Development assistants involved in delivering training and advertising the app across the city.



# Why Mind Of My Own?



**For Young People:** Mind Of My Own apps are designed and co-produced with young people for young people. Mind Of My Own embrace the fact that children and young people are experts by experience and the app gives them the opportunity to share their views on their terms and a time that suits them.



**For Professionals :** Mind Of My Own helps children and young people express themselves and communicate with professionals, making sure everyone is heard. The voice of the child clearly being heard within assessment, planning and intervention.

Participation matters to Mind Of My Own, both the One App and Express are effective direct work tools which are used by a range of professionals including social workers, teachers and support workers.

Mind Of My Own helps young people to communicate what's important to them.





## Mind Of My Own Young People Participation Workshop

June 2019 Mind Of My Own visited Westburn and met with 5 young people to gather their views on using the app. This was children 15 and above to discuss the 'Planning for Adulthood Scenarios'.

February 2020 – Mind Of My Own have asked to host another workshop in Aberdeen.

## Children's Rights Development Assistants Input

Our CRDA have been involved throughout the implementation. This ranged from mapping of ideas at the beginning to delivering training to relevant professionals. Their role essential in connecting with young people and highlighting the app.



Voxcon May 2019 – Swiftest Implementation

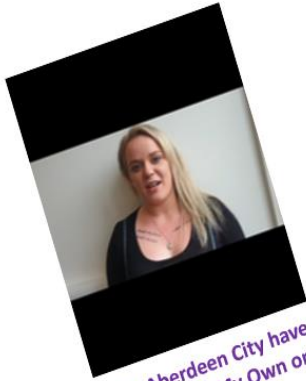


VoxconScot 2019 – Swiftest Implementation Highly Commended – Greatest use and Greatest media Use over the year



## Sharing Our Success

mindofmyown.org.uk | @mindofmyownapp



Sharing why Aberdeen City have invested in Mind Of My Own on an online vlog



Being guest speakers at the Mind Of My Own VoxconScot 2019



Afternoon Tea with the Lord Provost

## Media Interest

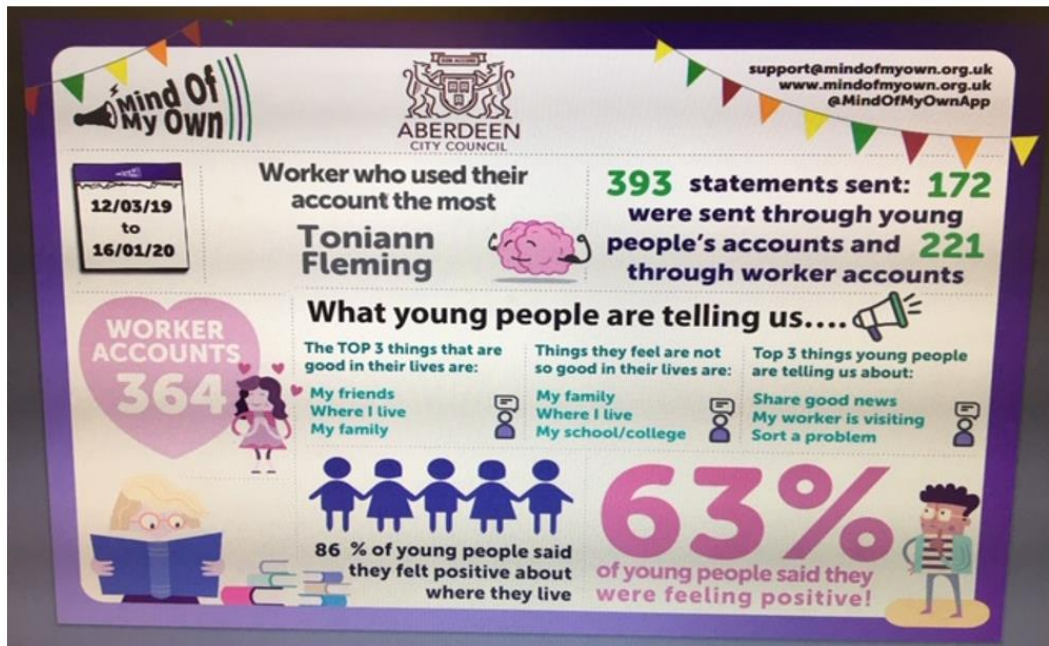
mindofmyown.org.uk | @mindofmyownapp



Press and Journal and Evening Express sharing the news of the app supporting young people to feel heard.



That's TV interview about the app and what we hope to achieve with its implementation.



## Demographic

**139 Young People have their OWN accounts in Aberdeen**

**447 Statements have been received**

- 266 One Statements and 181 Express
- Young people between the ages of 6 years old and 22 years old have used the app either themselves or alongside a worker.
- 68% of young people are using the app independently compared to 32% alongside their worker.
- The age group using Mind Of My Own most often are between the ages of 10 years old and 16 years old.

## What are Young People telling us?

[mindofmyown.org.uk](http://mindofmyown.org.uk) | [@mindofmyownapp](https://twitter.com/mindofmyownapp)



**My Wellbeing:** 'I am funny, I'm shy, I'm good at something.'

**Share Good News:** 'I feel calm, hopeful and excited.'

**Get Ready for a Foster Care Review:** 'I enjoy our time together, they are good at listening, they care about me.'

**My Worker is Visiting:** 'I feel excited, like where I live and my money.'

**Solve a Problem:** 'I am feeling anxious and ignored and would like to talk to my worker.'

**Preparation for a Meeting:** 'Feeling hopeful about my Core Group. I want my social worker to chair.'



## Demonstration

[mindofmyown.org.uk](http://mindofmyown.org.uk) | [@mindofmyownapp](https://twitter.com/mindofmyownapp)



First explore the Demo Profile to see how it works, then create a new profile to help a young person.

 Charlie Evans DOB: 08/09/2004



 Natalie Evans DOB: 08/09/2004



 Test Profile DOB: 20/01/2017

