

Corporate Parenting Principles

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced Corporate Parenting Principles. These are a list of seven needs that local authorities in England must consider whenever they work with looked-after children or care leavers.

The Corporate Parenting Principles are there to help create a better approach any time we are dealing with looked after children and care leavers. The Principles also help us to enable secure, nurturing, and positive experiences for looked-after children and young people to enable positive outcomes for them.

The Corporate Parenting Principles are:

1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
4. To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
6. For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living

The national statutory guidance on the application of the Corporate Parenting Principles is designed to help local authorities consider the kinds of services that may be offered when having regard to those Principles. It states the importance for anyone who works with looked-after children and care leavers (including those responsible for housing and council tax) to work together to ensure they have a more joined up approach.

The national statutory guidance also sets out where consideration of Corporate Parenting Principles should normally apply. This includes the services offered by district councils (where they exist in a two-tier system), collection of council tax being one of those functions.