



# Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028

## Scottish Borders' Promise

# FOREWORD

## WELCOME TO SCOTTISH BORDERS CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2025-2028

Our ambition is for all children and young people to thrive – to live, learn and be cared for within the Scottish Borders.

An important measure of this ambition will be in how well Scottish Borders can support the children, young people and families facing the most challenges in life, and a first test should be how well we care for the children and young people in our care and those who have left that care to start their adult lives.

The Scottish Borders is a great place to live, with enormous resources amongst its services, businesses, and communities and so there is no reason why we cannot provide all our children and young people with the very best care and support, and why our children cannot have all the opportunities, happiness and success in life enjoyed by other children in the area.

We want to create an environment where children and young people are respected, feel listened to, are valued, and feel a deep sense of trust, love and belonging. We have a shared commitment in the Scottish Borders to think about every child and young person's long-term future, not just working in the moment. Our Corporate Parenting Strategy builds on the things that matter to children and young people and provides a framework to hold our corporate parents and partners to account in delivering ambitious, hopeful, and meaningful outcomes. It is my commitment that we will always seek to ask, 'Is it good enough for my child?' This strategy underpins our commitment to champion care experienced children and young people and to ensure they have every opportunity to live happy and fulfilling lives.

**Lesley Munro,**  
**Service Director of Education and Children's Services and Chair of the**  
**Scottish Borders Children and Young People's Planning Partnership.**

We are members of the Scottish Borders Champions Board, and we have created this statement for corporate parents to understand what promises they need to keep, to make life better for care experienced children and young people growing up in the Scottish Borders. You have a very important role to play in ensuring they feel loved, safe and respected.

We need you to understand that we need you to keep the promises laid out in this document, as we don't want plastic promises. These promises are informed by care experienced children and young people's views and feedback which came from the Bright Spots survey.

Thank you for taking the time to read this strategy, and we hope you can commit to bring these promises to life.

We'd love to hear what you are doing to make change happen for the children and young people you support! Please get in touch with us and let us know what you're up to.



### The Scottish Borders Champions' Board (June 2025)

It is our shared privilege to introduce this strategy which is a cumulation of conversations with children and young people who are experts in their experience, and with the families, carers and partner agencies who are involved in their journey. It sets out our vision for improving the experience of children in care and care leavers through corporate parenting.

Using a partnership approach and in line with the Promise, we are relentlessly focused on helping keep children and their families together. Our approach will continue to be responsive and respectful and when children and young people do need to come into our care, we will be committed to ensuring they have opportunities to experience:

- a home where they feel loved, valued, and nurtured
- loving and lasting relationships
- a quality education
- fulfilling work and training opportunities
- good health and wellbeing

We aim to build on the great progress and achievements made so far (see Appendix 1 for the detail) and continue to strive to be the best corporate parents we can be for our children and young people. We will remain aspirational in everything we do and ensure children, young people and their families' voices are heard during their care journey with us.

Their views will also help shape future direction and services.



# WHAT IS CORPORATE PARENTING

For those children and young people who are Looked After, unable to live with their parents or guardians, or care leavers, it is our legal duty under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 to act as their corporate parents.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 outlines a range of duties and responsibilities for corporate parents across Scotland. These duties aim to ensure the attention and resources of corporate parents are focused on the task of safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of care experienced children and young people across Scotland. These duties, outlined in Part 9 (Section 58) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Corporate parenting is now firmly established across the Scottish Borders as the multi-agency approach to improving services and outcomes for looked after children and care experienced young people. Although corporate parenting across a range of agencies has already brought about significant positive change and outcomes for looked after children, we need to do more at both a strategic and operational level, with a clear interface between the two.

It takes a whole team to support a cared for child/young person and care leaver, not just one person.

Corporate parents need to be concerned about care experienced children and young people as if they were their own, and it is important that our partners understand how they too can support our shared corporate parenting responsibilities.

## WHO ARE CORPORATE PARENTS?

Corporate parents are defined by Schedule 4 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (see Appendix 2). They are a range of 32 public service organisations which impact on all areas of care experienced children and young people's lives – their care, health, education, employment, housing and leisure time.

In the Scottish Borders, the governance of Corporate Parenting is the responsibility of the Good Childhood Network and the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership.

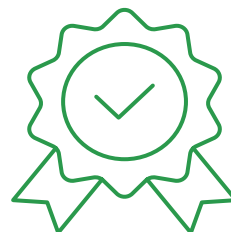


# CORPORATE PARENTING DUTIES

As corporate parents in the Scottish Borders, in accordance with Part 9 (Section 58) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, we will:



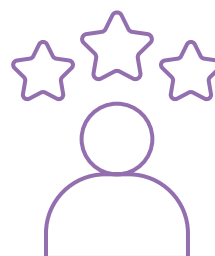
Be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of care experienced children and young people



Assess the needs of children and young people for the services and support we provide



Promote the interests of care experienced children and young people



Seek to provide care experienced children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing



Take action to help care experienced children and young people:

- Access opportunities to improve wellbeing and
- Make use of services, and access the support, which they provide



Take any other action to improve the way in which we exercise our Corporate Parenting functions.

# THE PROMISE

Published in February 2020, the Independent Care Review was informed by over 5,500 individual responses, over half of which were from looked after or care experienced children and young people. Driven by an unwavering focus on the voice of care experience, the Independent Care Review's findings, detailed in The Promise demands the following changes:

- The balance of power must be upended so that listening to children and young people is always the basis of all decisions made about their lives.
- There must be a focus on building and maintaining life-long relationships – that includes a broader understanding of the risk of not having long term, loving relationships.
- Scotland must parent, not process, children so there is no difference between the lives of children in care and their peers. Care experienced children must not miss out on the kind of childhood that many take for granted and the future that all our young people deserve.
- Families must be kept together wherever it is safe to do so. Families must get the support that is right for them at the earliest opportunity, and it must be flexible, consistent, patient and free from stigma. This will mean that more children can live a safe, happy life at home with their families.

The report identified five foundations for change, with over 80 specific changes that must be made to transform how Scotland cares for children and families. The five foundations for change detailed in The Promise are:

1. Voice - voice of the children must be heard at all stages
2. Family - what all families need to thrive
3. Care - care that builds childhoods for children who Scotland has responsibility
4. People - people with a relentless focus on the importance of relationships, and
5. Scaffolding - scaffolding, so that the structure is there to support children and families when needed

Scottish Borders corporate parents 'promise' to care experienced children and young people is that we will develop our services and improve our support in line with the five foundations and changes identified in 'The Promise'.



Together with our care experienced children and young people, Scottish Borders Corporate Parents have developed five promises which set out how they will support them and deliver the vision. A key focus will also be to work with our partners to help them understand their corporate parenting responsibilities and use our influence to make sure our children in care and care leavers receive the services they need at the time they need them.

# SCOTTISH BORDERS CORPORATE PARENTS 5 PROMISES

1. WE PROMISE TO **ALWAYS LISTEN** AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT WE HEAR

2. WE PROMISE TO SUPPORT YOUR **HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING**

3. WE PROMISE TO SUPPORT YOU TO **FEEL VALUED AT HOME, IN SCHOOL,  
AND LIVE IN A LOVING STABLE HOME**

4. WE PROMISE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO **SUCCEED IN YOUR GOALS  
AND CELEBRATE WITH YOU**

5. WE PROMISE TO SUPPORT YOU IN **YOUR LIFE AFTER YOU LEAVE OUR CARE**



The five corporate parenting promises were developed using the voices and experience of care experienced children and young people. These were heard through the Scottish Borders Champions' Boards and, from the Bright Spots survey which was completed in July 2024.

The Bright Spots Programme surveys the views of looked after children and young people. Two surveys were carried out in the Scottish Borders - the views of looked after children and young people aged 4-17yrs and, the views of care leavers.

The Programme was set up by Coram Voice to understand what is important to children in care and care leavers and share learning about what makes life good for them. Official statistics on care-experienced children and young people give only a partial picture of their lives. Data focuses on adult perspectives using objective outcomes measures. This information does not tell us about how children and young people feel: are they happy, safe and feel they are doing well? The Bright Spots Programme takes a different approach by measuring subjective well-being. Subjective well-being is defined as feeling good and doing well at an individual and interpersonal level. Measuring subjective well-being enables us to understand children's experience of care by putting their voice at the centre.





# 1. WE PROMISE TO ALWAYS LISTEN AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT WE HEAR

"Children must be listened to and meaningfully and appropriately involved in decision-making about their care, with all those involved properly listening and responding to what they want and need. There must be a compassionate and caring decision-making culture focussed on children and those they trust." The Promise (2020).



## You Said:

*"We want the promise to 'Always Listen' to be more 'active'. Young people need to know there will likely be some sort of action once we've been listened to."*

## HAVING YOUR VOICE HEARD

You have someone you feel able to talk to. You are aware of your rights from the moment you become looked after, including how to hold us to account. You, your parents, and carers know how to make a compliment or complaint, and we'll ask for feedback on how well we are doing from time to time. You have access to advocacy, and your rights are respected and upheld. Everyone involved with you is aware of how to feed back about your experiences. You can get invited to join the Champions Board.

## ACTIVE LISTENING

We will listen and continue to listen to you. This will help us make decision and improve our services based on your whole life experience, not just a 'snapshot' of one part of your life.

## KEEPING YOU AT THE HEART OF DECISIONS

We will always think about what is right for you and do our best by you. We will involve you when planning for your future. We review how we work with and those who care for you, to make sure our approach consistently meets your needs. We explain decisions to you in a way you and your family understand. We visit you when we say we will visit.

## TRUSTED RELATIONSHIPS

We strive for a consistent approach to building trusting relationships. We see you alone to hear your wishes, views and opinions on matters important to you. Your assessments and plans are written in a way that you understand.

## MAKING PLANS TOGETHER

We ask you and those who support you your views about the things that matter to you, including the support you're provided. You have opportunities to influence, shape and work with us to develop services that are provided to you. We take your views into account when support is reviewed or developed.

## KEEPING THE RIGHT INFORMATION

We always keep a true record of our visits and contact with you. You know your right to access the information we hold about you. The records about you are always kept up to date. Corporate parents will keep you at the heart of their decisions. As corporate parents we will use information gathered to ensure the services meet your needs.

## CONTINUALLY IMPROVING

We support our staff to think about and learn from the way we work with you, your family, carers and partners. We look at opportunities to work with and improve relationships with partners. We are continually looking at ways to make the service we provide to you better. You and your carers' feedback are used when we are planning new services or changes to existing ones. We always think creatively about ways to gain your views. When we look at how well we've done at delivering our promises to you, you work with us to see what we have done and what we still need to do.

## 2. WE PROMISE TO SUPPORT YOUR HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING

"All good parents take account of their children's best interests and health and well-being. This is integral to a culture and attitude where investing in the quality of relationships with looked-after children and care leavers is recognised as of crucial importance." Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers (2018)



### You Said:

*"I would like to see my brothers again. I would like to start seeing them one at a time and not both at once."*

*"Fewer [looked after] children and young people (91%) in Scottish Borders with a good friend than in the general population (98%). This difference was significant for secondary aged children." Your Life, Your Care (Bright Spots) Report July 2024.*

*"Significantly fewer young people (11-17yrs) had a trusted adult in their lives compared to young people in the general population in Scotland (84% to 94%)." Your Life, Your Care (Bright Spots) Report July 2024.*



## GOOD HEALTH

Before you come into care, we will ask your family about you and your family's health history (this is to find out if there are conditions such as diabetes in the family). Ask you to have a basic health check when you come into care - helping us and you understand how healthy you are (really informal and you won't need to undress or talk about things you don't want to). You can have a health check every year for as long as you are in our care if you want to. You are registered straight away with a doctor, dentist and optician. Talk about your health at every Looked After Child / Pathway Plan Review. Making sure all your plans are joined up. Help you attend appointments if you are a care leaver. Provide information and advice for you and your carers on how to lead a healthy lifestyle. Provide access to leisure activities for care leavers.

## HEALTHY AND SAFE RELATIONSHIPS

We will help you to develop and maintain relationships with people that are important to you, particularly with your brothers and sisters. Promote family time that meets your needs. Help you to maintain or regain contact with people important to you. Help you to understand the dangers of risky relationships, peer pressure, on-line safety and misusing drugs and alcohol.

## UNDERSTAND WHO YOU ARE

During assessments, before you are looked after, we will gather as much information about you and your family as possible. Help you to understand your past and what's happening in your future. Ensure you have access to support to help you develop as a person, including social activities. Create opportunities for you to meet other cared for children or care leavers through the Champions' Board and other events.

## BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

We will continue to work with you and your family during your care journey to see if there are any opportunities for you to safely return home. Provide you with access to independent advocacy when you need it. Help you to manage your mental health by making sure you know which services can support you.

## SUPPORT YOU TO SUCCEED

We will support you to feel happy and healthy. Support you to do well at home and at school/ college and in employment. Support you to have friends and a strong support network. Support you to be a good parent when the time comes.

### 3. WE PROMISE TO SUPPORT YOU TO FEEL VALUED AT HOME, IN SCHOOL, AND LIVE IN A LOVING STABLE HOME

"All care givers, wherever children live, must know that their primary purpose is to develop nurturing, patient, kind, compassionate, trusting and respectful relationships so that children in their care feel loved and safe." The Promise (2020).

Safe place to live

Loving stable home

Sense of belonging

Prepared for adulthood

Clarity in decision making

Living independently

#### You Said:

"I love my carers."

"[What would you change to make being in care better for you?] How they handle moving placements, you have to reach crisis before anything is done." Quote from Your Life, Your Care (Bright Spots) Report July 2024.

"25 (93%) of children (8-11yrs) and 29 (73%) of young people (11-17yrs) trusted the adults they lived with 'all or most of the time'." Your Life, Your Care (Bright Spots) Report July 2024.

"40 (95%) young people (11-17yrs) answered that they had the opportunity to practise life skills 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes'." Your Life, Your Care (Bright Spots) Report July 2024.

## SAFE PLACE TO LIVE

Before you come into care, we fully assess your needs so we understand who is best to care for you. Wherever you live, ensure it is safe, and you have opportunities to have loving relationships with, feel valued and are nurtured by those people. We visit you regularly and talk to you alone to ask if you feel safe. If you don't feel safe, we will work with you to understand why and what needs to happen next.

## STABLE HOME

We continue to work with you and your family during your care journey to see if there are any opportunities for you to safely return home. If it is not safe for you to return home, ensure that your forever home is planned for quickly. We only change your school, college or university if we absolutely have to. If there are any concerns identified with your school or college, we will address them quickly.

## SENSE OF BELONGING

You are supported to build new relationships where you are now living, whilst making sure you can keep in touch with the people who are important to you where you used to live if you are unable to continue living in or near your community. If you are living outside of the Scottish Borders, we offer you the same support as if you were living in the Scottish Borders.

## PROTECTING YOU FROM HARM

The people who work for us are safe adults. We provide regular training for our staff, foster carers and residential care workers on how to keep you safe. We provide information and advice about the risks you may face whilst growing up, such as drugs and alcohol misuse, criminal and sexual exploitation. You have someone to talk to if you are worried. You are made safe, as quickly as possible if you are at risk.

## CLARITY IN DECISION MAKING

When decisions need to be made about you, they are done in a timely way. If there are delays in decision making for any reason, you should be informed and the reasons why they were delayed. The people looking after you know what decisions they can make for you from the moment they start to look after you. All our staff, and carers receive a good level of training to help them to understand your needs and have the confidence to make decisions.

## PREPARATION FOR LIVING INDEPENDENTLY

You are prepared for adulthood as you are ready. Preparation for adulthood takes account of your unique individual support needs. This gives you the skills to live independently. There is a clear plan for your future which allows time for you to get ready for independence. You are supported to live independently when you leave care. You are provided with opportunities to stay in continuing care with your carers or residential home until you are 21. You are provided with opportunities to move into semi-supported accommodation or your own tenancy. We continue to work with housing providers to enable you to have a permanent and safe home. We provide a smooth transition to adult services where this is appropriate. Our care leaver and aftercare offer remains ambitious and inspirational.



## 4. WE PROMISE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUCCEED IN YOUR GOALS AND CELEBRATE WITH YOU

"Schools in Scotland must be ambitious for care experienced children and ensure they have all they need to thrive, recognising that they may experience difficulties associated with their life story." The Promise (2020).

High aspirations

Ambitious plans

Good education

Good health

Healthy and safe  
relationships

### You Said:

*"Significantly fewer young people (11- 17yrs) liked school 'a lot' or 'a bit' compared to the Bright Spots comparator group (65% to 78%)." Your Life, Your Care (Bright Spots) Report July 2024.*

*"26 (96%) of 8-11yrs and 39 (95%) of 11- 17yrs indicated that the adults they lived with showed an interest in their education 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes', which is higher than the general population (88%)." Your Life, Your Care (Bright Spots) Report July 2024.*

## HIGH ASPIRATIONS.....

We will ensure everyone dreams big for you and helps you to be the best you can be in whatever you are interested in. If things don't work out, we will always be there for you and never give up on you. We will all celebrate your successes. We will support you to have a stable education, health and wellbeing, relationships, and extra-curricular activities. We will aspire for our education and support settings to be trauma informed.

## AMBITIOUS PLANS.....

Your plans are aspirational, regularly reviewed and joined up. Your plans have clear actions, you understand what is happening and when. When there are any changes in your situation, they are fully planned for and you always know what is happening next (this includes your Child's Plan or Pathway Plan, Personal Learning Plan and Health Plan if you have one). We support you to learn from your mistakes (because there will be some) and help you to grow from those experiences.

Corporate parents will also make mistakes and hope you will help us learn from these. We will listen when you tell us we haven't got it right and ensure you can have a conversation about this with someone you trust.

## GOOD EDUCATION.....

You attend nurseries, schools or colleges that aspire to be 'good' or 'outstanding'. You have regular Personal Learning Plan or Individual Education plan meetings, if you need one, and we address any needs that you might have. Education settings follow the corporate parenting principles. You attend school regularly and take part in your lessons. You receive the support you need in school or Borders College to be the best that you can be. Care leavers are supported to progress to further or higher education or to another positive destinations. If there are any additional factors which make learning hard for you, we will work with you and those that you live with to make sure we find strategies and supports that help.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT.....

You are supported to attend educational and other trips. We create good work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for you. You have a passport so you can travel abroad. We will ensure you have a wide range of experiences.

# WE PROMISE TO SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR LIFE AFTER YOU LEAVE OUR CARE

"Decisions about transitions for young care experienced people who move onto independent living or need to return to a caring environment, will be made based on individual need." The Promise Plan 21-24.

Transition based on  
need not age

Quality Accommodation

Financial stability

Ongoing relationships

Ongoing Support

## You Said:

*"It's an alright place to live - it's not the best environment. It would be better if the houses were a bit bigger."*

*"I try to budget well but doesn't always go to plan. Looking for employment to achieve a steady income."*

*"I would like to travel more but finances prevent this."*

*"I felt alone when my case was closed for a period of time. It could have been explained better that I could have been reopened to the team. I would have been happier if someone checked in with me when I was closed."*

*"Please think of us as kids who need help, not just children to find a house for. Thank you."*



## TRANSITION BASED ON NEED NOT AGE

You will be supported to continue in your existing place that you live until you are 21 years old if that is what you want. We will support you in learning independent living skills and move at your pace when thinking about moving on.

## QUALITY ACCOMMODATION

We will ensure young people moving on are never classed as homeless. We will work together with Registered Social Landlords to provide quality accommodation, which is safe, spacious and accessible and support you in your journey to living independently (on your own). We will support you in your tenancies. We will provide semi-independent supported living opportunities where appropriate and support you in future moves.

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

In order to promote your financial stability, we will provide quality support in education, training and employment. We will signpost you to support where needed to ensure you are in receipt of any financial support which you are entitled to and help maximise your income.

## ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS AND SUPPORT

We will support you in maintaining relationships that are important to you after you leave your care placement. This can include your family, brothers and sisters, carers, residential care staff, Social Worker and Key Workers. Feelings of safety and a sense of belonging are important, and we will promote these as you begin your adult life.

Those who support you when you become adults often change. We will continue to listen to you, provide Aftercare services for you until you are 26 years old and help you negotiate these changes. Importantly, this will include support in your mental health and wellbeing.

# IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

In the Scottish Borders, the governance of Corporate Parenting is the responsibility of the Good Childhood Network and the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership (CYPPP).

Four multi-agency network groups report to the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership (CYPPP):

- A Good Childhood
- Whole Family Support
- Planning and Building Capacity
- Supporting the Workforce

Each CYPPP have developed an Action Plan which encompass a comprehensive range of service developments across the Scottish Borders Children's Services partnership. The CYPPP is also the governance body which oversees the delivery of The Promise. A Promise and Corporate Parenting Annual Report is prepared and activities relating to corporate parenting is provided to the Scottish Government every 3 years.



# APPENDIX 1

## PROGRESS AGAINST THE CORPORATE PARENTING PRIORITIES FROM THE PREVIOUS STRATEGY

The Scottish Borders Champions Board started in Galashiels in December 2021

Champions Board Hubs started in secondary schools in 2023

The Scottish Borders Youth Participation and Engagement Strategy was co-produced with young people in 2024

Scottish Borders 'Reframing Our Language' guide was published in 2023

Bright Spots survey of Care Experienced Children and Young People was completed in July 2024.

An effective pathway to meet the unique health needs of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children and young people was set up in 2023.

Early Years Centres have developed their integration and joint work with other agencies who support children and their families.

Borders College Care Aware support service further embedded in practice.

2 additional UASC Support Workers and a Social Worker recruited to work specifically with Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children and young people.

Care leavers classified as having a 'positive destination' has increased between 2020 and 2024.

Wheatlands Children's Home won the Scottish Social Services Award for Outstanding Residential Care Service for 2022.

Formal Nurturing approaches in all schools across the Scottish Borders began in August 2021 in Scottish Borders.

Children 1st were commissioned to run a Brothers and Sisters project in 2022 to improve and rebuild relationships for care experienced children and young people.

In 2022, Apex, Skills Development Scotland, Eyemouth High School and the Community Justice Partnership funded and delivered an early intervention project for children at risk of offending behaviour.

Young people in Continuing Care increased throughout the period.

Virtually no incidents of restraint / holding safely were recorded at Wheatlands Children's home.

Supported Childminders continue to provide vital support for families.

The Whole Family Support Service, an early intervention service aimed at supporting families, income maximisation and encouraging employability was developed in 2024.

A multi-agency team was developed to deliver The Promise in the Scottish Borders.

Trauma Informed Practice and related training is taking place across Children's Services organisations.

Corporate Parenting training has been delivered across agencies in partnership with Who Cares? Scotland.

Early Years Centres have developed their approaches to early intervention and support work with families.



# APPENDIX 2

## SCHEDULE 4 OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014 DEFINES WHO CORPORATE PARENTS ARE:

1. The Scottish Ministers
2. A local authority
3. The National Convener of Children's Hearings Scotland
4. Children's Hearings Scotland
5. The Principal Reporter
6. The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
7. A health board
8. A board constituted under section 2(1)(b) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978
9. Healthcare Improvement Scotland
10. The Scottish Qualifications Authority
11. Skills Development Scotland Co. Ltd (registered number SC 202659)
12. Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland
13. The Scottish Social Services Council
14. The Scottish Sports Council
15. The chief constable of the Police Service of Scotland
16. The Scottish Police Authority
17. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
18. The Scottish Legal Aid Board
19. The Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland
20. The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland
21. The Scottish Housing Regulator
22. Bòrd na Gàidhlig
23. Creative Scotland
24. A body which is a "post-16 education body" for the purposes of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005

# APPENDIX 3

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. **Bright Spots Programme:** A programme that surveys the views of looked after children and young people to understand their well-being and experiences.
2. **Care Experienced:** In Scotland, "care experienced" refers to individuals who have been in care at any point in their lives. This includes those who are currently in the care of the local authority, as well as care leavers.
3. **Care Experienced Young People:** Young people who have been in care at any point in their lives, including those who are currently in care and care leavers.
4. **Champions' Board:** A group that represents the voices of care experienced children and young people, ensuring their views are heard and considered in decision-making.
5. **Children and Young People's Planning Partnership:** A strategic group made up of key stakeholders/agencies who deliver and seek to improve Children and Young People's Services in the Scottish Borders.
6. **Corporate Parenting:** Corporate parenting is a multi-agency approach aimed at improving services and outcomes for looked after children and care experienced young people. It is a legal duty under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
7. **Independent Care Review:** A significant initiative aimed at transforming the care system for children and young people which was commissioned by the Scottish Government. The Review included the voices of over 5,500 care experienced children and young people, and the findings were detailed in a series of reports, collectively known as The Promise.
8. **Looked After Child or Young Person:** A child or young person who is looked after by/under the care of the local authority. This can occur either through a voluntary agreement with their parents or through a legal order.
9. **Looked After Child Review:** A statutory review of a looked after child or young person which takes place a minimum of every 6 months. The review process includes assessing the child's needs, monitoring the implementation of the care plan, and making decisions about the child's future care arrangements.
10. **Looked After Children:** Children who are under the care of the local authority, either through a voluntary agreement with their parents or through a legal order.
11. **Operational level:** Refers to the level of management that focuses on the day-to-day operations and activities which support children, young people and their families.
12. **Partnership approach:** Collaboration between various agencies and organisations to ensure that the needs of these children and young people are met comprehensively and effectively.
13. **Pathway Plan / Review:** A comprehensive plan designed to support care experienced young people as they transition from care to independent living.
14. **Strategic level:** The highest level of management, which defines the direction and the strategies to be implemented to improve outcomes for children and young people.
15. **The Promise:** A commitment to transform how Scotland cares for children and families, based on the findings of the Independent Care Review.





## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



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### CORPORATE PARENTING

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