

SCOTTISH BORDERS CORPORATE



# PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021



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## CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This is the sixth Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Annual Report. The first report covered the period 2015-2016.

The term Corporate Parent was described in the Scottish Government document “Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better” and then reiterated in “These Are Our Bairns (Scottish Government 2008)” as:

“The formal and local partnerships needed between all local authority departments and services, and associated agencies, who are responsible for working together to meet the needs of Looked After Children and Young People.” (Scottish Executive, January 2007).

Responsible parents fulfil all those activities associated with bringing up children. These include providing for their basic needs, planning for the future, being a resource to turn to, providing positive experiences, hopes and dreams and acting as advocate and mentor. Their legal responsibilities include taking decisions on where children live, what education they receive and when medical treatment is required. As a corporate parent we need to know that we are making the same decisions for looked after children as we would make for our own children. A corporate parent needs to do at least what it would expect a good parent to do.

In April 2015, corporate parenting was placed on a statutory footing in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Part 9 of the Act places explicit statutory duties and responsibilities on corporate parents (Section 58). These include:

- to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of looked after children and young people (and those in Continuing Care and Aftercare)
- to assess the needs of those looked after children and young people for services and support it provides
- to promote the interests of looked after children and young people
- to seek to provide looked after children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 also requires corporate parents to work collaboratively: corporate parents must, in so far as reasonably practicable, collaborate with each other when exercising their corporate parenting responsibilities where they consider

that doing so would safeguard or promote the wellbeing of children or young people to whom this Part applies (Section 60). Other key aspects include the duty to plan and report to the Scottish Government on how corporate parents exercise their responsibilities.

The list of who is a corporate parent was also expanded under the Act. The list includes 24 separate groups and organisations:

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

The expanded list of who is a corporate parent creates greater opportunity to work holistically with looked after children and young people and ensure, through collaborative practice, agencies are best placed to meet their needs.

Statutory Guidance on Part 9 (Corporate Parenting) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 further defines Corporate Parenting as:

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

Publication of the main findings of the Independent Care Review are contained in The Promise (February 2020) and provide the clear policy direction for Corporate Parenting for the next 10 years. The Promise takes a broad ranging, holistic view of the care system and the care experience of children and young people. Preparation of the Promise included individual care experiences; a holistic review of multi-agency practice; the care 'process'; legislation and legal context; etc. and as part of the Review, over 5,500 individual responses were received, 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 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 has identified five foundations for change, with over 80 specific changes that must be made to transform how Scotland cares for children and families as well as the unpaid and paid workforce.

The five foundations 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.



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# CORPORATE PARENTING IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

In response to “Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better” the first Corporate Parenting Strategy was agreed in 2007. This was underpinned by the Corporate Parenting Policy (February 2006), the Health Needs of Looked After Children Policy in partnership with Scottish Borders Health Board in January 2007 and a Joint Policy for the Education of Looked After Children in autumn 2007. The current version of the Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2021 is the fourth iteration of the multi-agency Strategy.

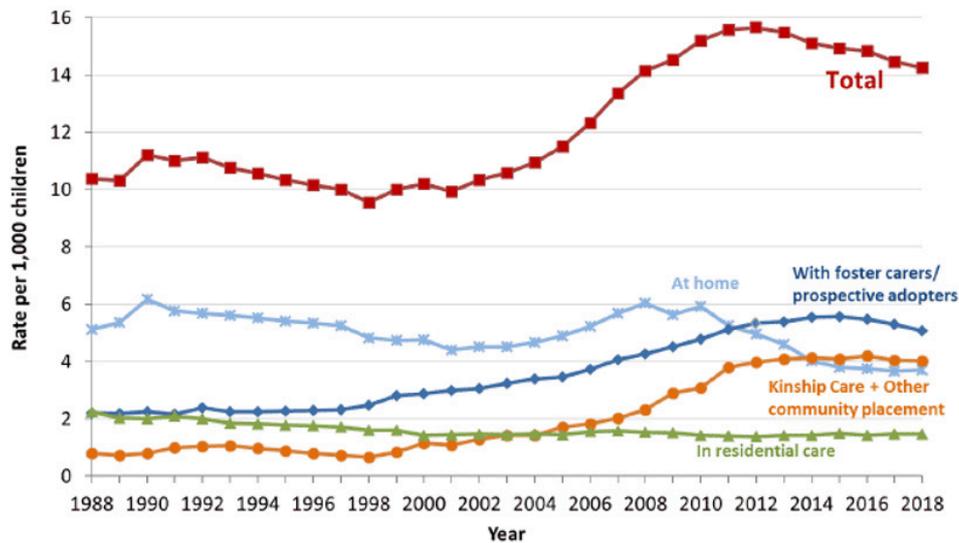
Corporate parenting is now firmly established across the Scottish Borders as the multi-agency approach to improving services and outcomes for looked after children and young people, young people in Continuing Care and care experienced young people. This was recognised in the most recent Care Inspectorate joint inspection of Services for Children and Young People in the Scottish Borders: “Leaders across services, including elected members, were clearly committed to their corporate parenting responsibilities” (June 2016).

Scottish Borders produced their first Corporate Parenting Annual Report in April 2016.

## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN NATIONAL STATISTICS AND TRENDS

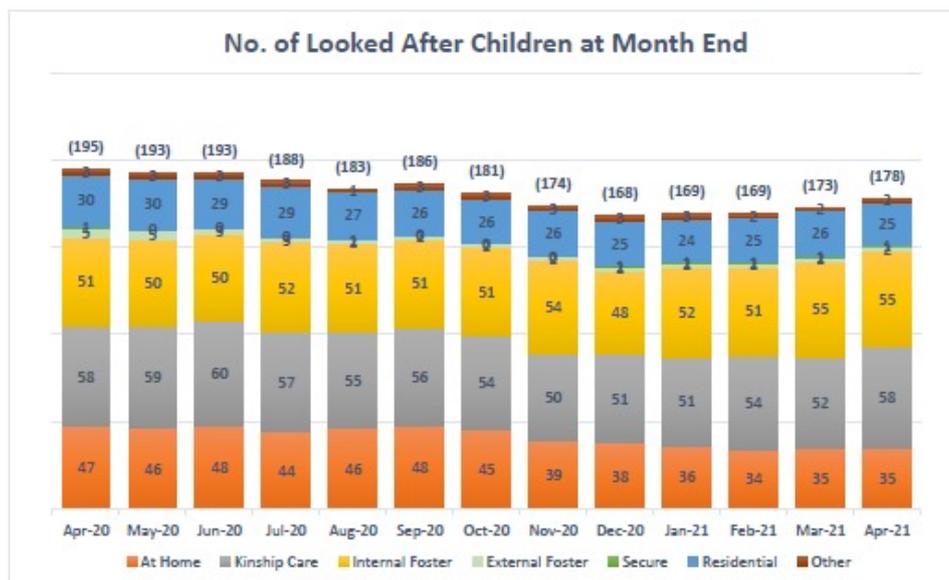
The Scottish Government collate statistics and data on looked after children on an annual basis. In July 2019 (the latest figures available), there were an estimated 14,015 looked after children – a decrease of 723 (5%) from 2018. This is the seventh consecutive year the number of looked after children has decreased.

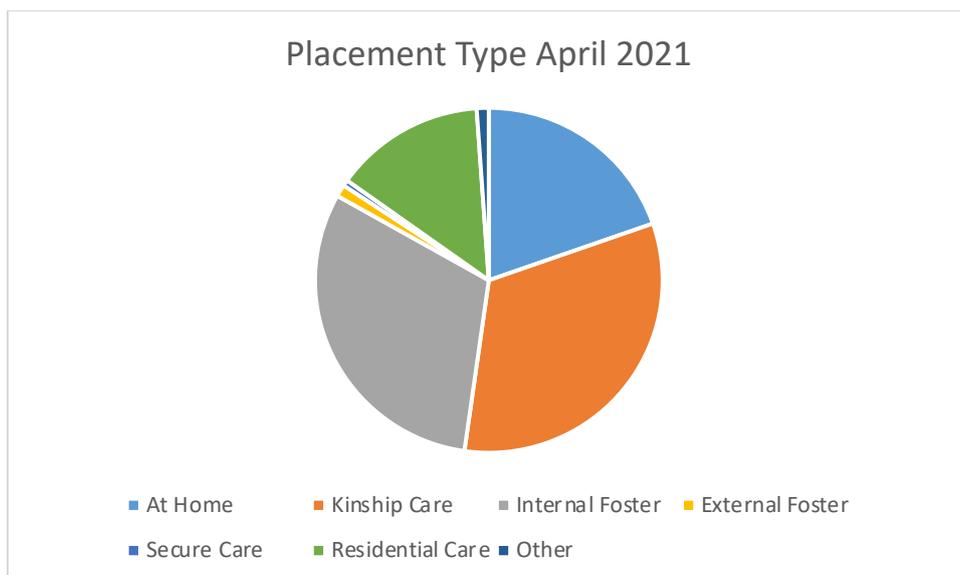
# CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER PER 1,000 CHILDREN UNDER 18 BY TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION IN SCOTLAND, 1988-2019



# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STATISTICS AND TRENDS, SCOTTISH BORDERS APRIL 2020 –APRIL 2021

The following comparative data details the number of looked after children and placement types.





There has been a reduction in the overall looked after children numbers in the Scottish Borders. They have decreased by 17 children from 195 to 178. This is a percentage decrease of 8.7%. Overall there has been little change in placement type of looked after children over 2020-21 and the reduction is primarily due to fewer children and young people looked after at home (from 47 to 35) and a reduction of 5 placements in residential care (though this does not take into account young people in residential care who are in continuing care). Of most significance is 2020-21 is the first year since recording of looked after children began that the number of children in kinship care placements has been greater than those in foster placements.

On 1st April 2021 there were 26 young people in Continuing Care in the Scottish Borders and 29 young people were receiving Aftercare services.

Local Authority	Rate of Looked after per 1,000 population 2015	Rate of Looked after per 1,000 population 2020
Dumfries and Galloway	15.1	13.9
Scottish Borders	9.4	8.8
Stirling	12.1	14.1
Falkirk	11.4	11.7
Clackmannan	19.3	24.7
Glasgow City	31.2	22.8

The above chart details the number of looked after child per 1,000 population showing the general reduction on looked after numbers over the last 5 years and, shows comparative data of a number of local authorities including the Scottish Borders.



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# GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE PARENTING DEVELOPMENTS APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

## CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Governance of Corporate Parenting in the Scottish Borders is managed through the multi-agency Children and Young People's Leadership Group (chaired and co-ordinated by Scottish Borders Council) which in turn reports to the Community Planning Partnership. The Leadership Group is attended by a range of senior managers from both the statutory and third sector and includes a significant representation from corporate parents. It is of note that due to the Covid pandemic, the CYP Leadership Group did not meet between March 2020 and August 2020.

The membership of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group between April 2020 and March 2021 was:

- Lesley Munro - Service Director Young People, Engagement & Inclusion (Chair)
- Nicky Berry - Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Acute Services, NHS Borders
- Susan Hunter – Chief Officer, Youth Borders
- Fiona Doig – Strategic Lead in ADP and Health Improvement
- Lesley Siewert – Locality Reporter Manager, SCRA
- Janice Robertson - Programme Co-ordinator (C&YP), Scottish Borders Council
- Michelle Strong – Chief Officer, Education
- John Fyfe, Chief Officer, Children and Families Social Work
- Carole Anderson - Public Health Lead: Children, Young People and Families Child Health Commissioner Joint Health Improvement Team

# CORPORATE PARENTING OPERATIONS GROUP

Guided by the Leadership Group, the Corporate Parenting Operational Group has a key role within the Children's Services planning structure. It ensures that the particular needs of looked after children remain central to the work of other planning groups, including those developing services which work directly with looked after children, those which work with young people in Continuing Care or Aftercare, or those aiming to prevent children and young people becoming looked after. Membership of the group has been expanded since the list of Corporate Parents was extended in April 2015. The group now better reflects the range of organisations and groups designated as Corporate Parents. The current membership of the Operational Group is:

- Gareth Stott (Chair) - Group Manager, Resources, Children & Families Social Work, SBC
- Gina Dickson – Local Authority Liaison Officer, Police Scotland
- Sharon Johnston - Resources Team Leader, Children & Families Social Work, SBC
- David Kemp – Homelessness Services Manager
- Norrie Tait – CLD Youth Work Team Leader
- Gillian Elliott - Child Protection/Looked After Children's Nurse, NHS Borders
- Lorraine Tait – Child Protection/Looked After Children's Nurse, NHS Borders
- Robert Jamieson - Throughcare Aftercare and Youth Justice Team Leader, Children & Families Social Work, SBC
- Rachel Pulman - Nurse Consultant Public Protection, NHS Borders
- Carole Anderson - Public Health Lead: Children, Young People and Families Child Health Commissioner Joint Health Improvement Team
- Jen McKenzie - Care Aware Adviser, Borders College
- Tim Glockling - Educational Psychologist, Education, SBC
- Claire Nairn - Head of Student Services, Borders College
- Andrea Hall, Skills Development Scotland
- Anne Gerry, Area Support and Improvement Partner, Children's Hearings Scotland

Peter Macklin – Attainment Advisor, Education, SBC, changed roles in 2020 and resigned from the Corporate Parenting Operations Group. Peter had been instrumental in the development of Scottish Borders Council's 'Virtual School' and was a valued member of the group. He will be replaced by a new education representative in May 2021.

The Corporate Parenting Operations group met 4 times over the reporting period. Due to the Covid pandemic, the group met 'virtually' on Microsoft Teams. Over 2020-21 the Operations Group focused primarily on a range of relevant areas. These included the Independent Care review and the Promise; incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law; participation and development of a Champions' Board; updating the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-21 and driving the actions detailed in the draft Strategy (Appendix 1).

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# ACTION PLAN AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

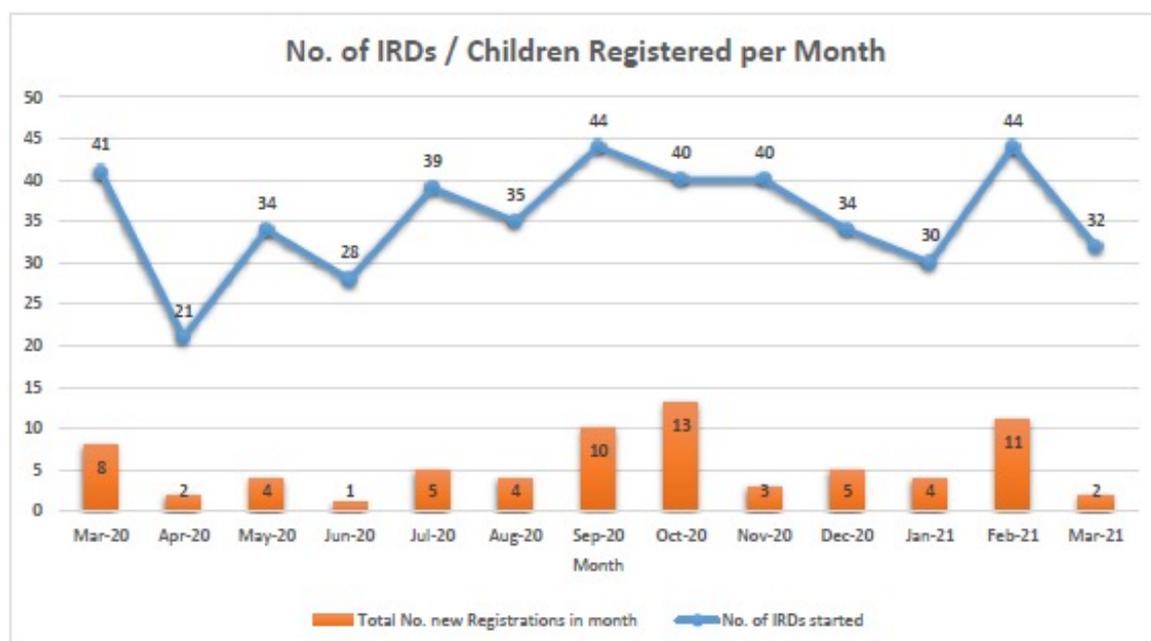
Over 2020-21 two specific issues / developments have significantly affected practice and service development in relation to looked after and care experienced children and young people – the Covid-19 pandemic and the Promise.

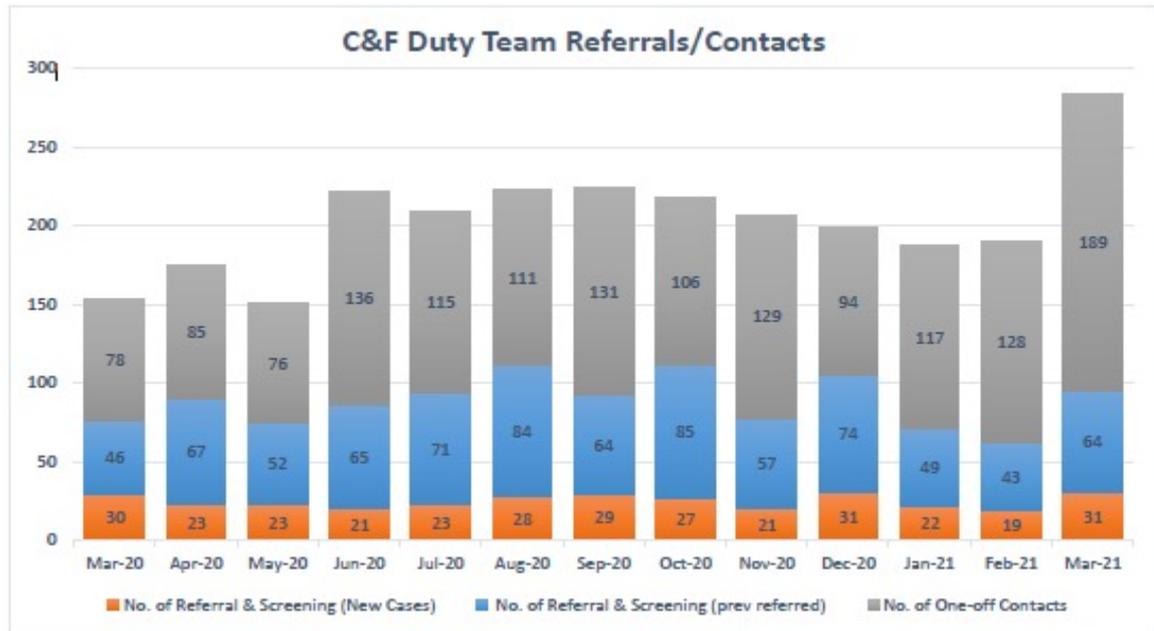
## COVID-19

The impact of Covid-19 on corporate parenting and on looked after and care experienced children and young people, their families and carers cannot be over-estimated. The pandemic has affected different agencies in different ways but all have been impacted on. Reporting on the Core Commitments and related agency / corporate parents' actions will reflect these in more detail.

During 2020-21 agencies supporting looked after and care experienced children and young people worked within national, professional and local guidelines to provide appropriate support. All Children and Families Social Work offices were staffed (at a reduced level in line with guidance) and children and families were visited face-to-face on a prioritised, risk assessed basis. As the situation changed depending on the stage of the pandemic, changes to practice to accommodate the situation were introduced and there was a less marked impact on service delivery over time. The following information is not intended to be an in-depth review of service responses to the Covid-19 situation, but a summary of key practices and actions undertaken to ensure services met their statutory responsibilities and provide appropriate care and support to looked after and care experienced children and young people and their families during an unprecedented period of service delivery.

- All child protection visits to children on the Child Protection Register continued throughout the period.
- Contact with looked after children, young people in Continuing Care and in aftercare continued on an on-going basis throughout the period. Contact were primarily face-to-face.
- On average 69% of those eligible for aftercare services were seen / contacted by a professional within 2 weeks (national average – 67%)\*. On average 85.6% of children with a multi-agency plan were seen within a week (national average – 73%)\*.  
\* Data and charts for the weekly Social Work Chief Officer Group vulnerable children and adult protection monitoring return (1st October 2020 – 31st March 2021)
- Child Protection case conferences and core groups continued remotely throughout the period using appropriate software (Microsoft Teams).
- Parental supervised contact with looked after children continued throughout the period in accordance with an appropriate risk assessment and in line with national guidance on appropriate social distancing, PPE and other protective measures.
- The Scottish Borders Fostering Panel resumed on 5th May 2020.
- The Scottish Borders Adoption and Permanence Panel resumed on 14th May 2020.
- Although there was a drop in referrals to social work in the first national lockdown (March and April 2020 - evidenced through the number of IRDs and Duty referrals), there was no comparable pattern between October 2020 and March 2021:





- There has been no appreciable effect of the Covid-19 situation on the numbers of looked after children.

During both periods of National Lockdown and school holiday periods, the Scottish Government required all local authorities to set up Childcare Hubs for all vulnerable children and young people.

In Scottish Borders, all children who were identified by schools and Early Years settings as needing support during this time were offered places at our hubs across Scottish Borders. SBC activated 9 hubs based in schools for children and young people aged 5 - 14 and 9 hubs across our early years settings, both in house and in partnership with our early years providers.

All of our children identified by schools were also offered transport to and from the hubs where needed as well as free meals and snacks. If families chose not to access the childcare hubs, regular contact was made to families each week to clarify if further supports were required.

Each day the hubs were accessed by between 450 – 500 children and young people. Childcare Hubs operated 7 days a week from 7am to 7pm, this allowed for wrap around care and support for children of key workers.

Other operational responses to supporting looked after and care experienced children and young people and their families during the Covid pandemic are detailed throughout this report.

## THE PROMISE

Through publication of the Independent Care Review's 'Promise' in February 2020, looked after and care experienced children and young people have given corporate parents a very clear message and direction to improve services and support for them and their families. The Promise Plan 2021-24 states 'This is immediate and urgent work – what can change now must change now. It also needs broad and deep work that engenders long lasting change, so that there is never a need for another Care Review'. This is both a challenge and mandate for corporate parenting in the Scottish Borders.

The clarity of message and demand for change detailed in the Promise provides a firm, evidential base for the future of corporate parenting in Scotland and, helps shape the focus of development of corporate parenting and improve the lives of looked after and care experienced children and young people across the Scottish Borders.

In July 2020 it was agreed that the next iteration of the Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy (2021-2024) will be based on the key findings of the report and its five foundations: Voice, Family, Care, People and Scaffolding. This has been further informed by publication of the Promise Plan 21-24 published in March 2021.

## CORE COMMITMENTS

Successful corporate parenting requires passion, commitment, partnership working and engagement across all agencies. It also requires meaningful engagement and participation with looked after and care experienced children, young people and their families. It requires everyone, from the head of organisations to front line practitioners, to take a proactive approach to better understand their corporate parenting responsibilities and improve their practice accordingly. We need to work together to enable looked after children, young people and care leavers to be, and feel, nurtured, listened to and supported to achieve their individual potential.

Corporate parenting strategic and operational service developments over 2020-21 took place within the context of the Core Commitments and Action Plan detailed in the Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-21.

Core Commitment 1	<p>In order to meet their responsibilities, corporate parents will listen and respond to the voices of children and families/carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure our services are as effective as they can be they must be shaped by the voices and participation of the children, young people and care leavers</li> <li>We will ensure that all corporate parents understand their responsibilities and action these through strategy, planning, practice and resource allocation</li> </ul>
Core Commitment 2	<p>All looked after children and care experienced young people will be treated fairly, have equality of opportunity and have a sense of belonging in their communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are committed to reducing inequality for all our children and young people</li> <li>We are committed to improving educational outcomes and reducing the inequality gap</li> <li>We will promote children and young people’s rights and advocate on their behalf</li> </ul>
Core Commitment 3	<p>Corporate parents will ensure children and young people who are looked after at home have the same opportunities and outcomes as other children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are committed to ensuring that those who are looked after at home have the same social, emotional and educational and health support and outcomes as all other children and young people</li> <li>We will reduce inequalities for this group of children and young people</li> </ul>
Core Commitment 4	<p>Children and young people will be supported to improve their physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are committed to ensuring that young people are supported in terms of education, training, employment, health, housing and relationships</li> <li>We are committed to providing care leavers with sustained positive destinations in all areas of their lives</li> </ul>
Core Commitment 5	<p>Young people making the transition to adulthood will be supported to achieve their full potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are committed to ensuring that young people are supported in terms of education, training, employment, health, housing and relationships</li> <li>We are committed to providing care leavers with sustained positive destinations in all areas of their lives</li> </ul>
Core Commitment 6	<p>Corporate parents will raise awareness of corporate parenting responsibilities across organisations and agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are committed to ensuring that all corporate parents are fully aware of their responsibilities to facilitate change, reduce risk, reduce stigma, promote equality and improve outcomes for looked after children and care experienced young people</li> </ul>



The Corporate Parenting Action Plan is the key driver for delivering developments in Corporate Parenting and improving support and services for looked after children and young people. Responsibility for the delivery of the Action Plan lies primarily with the members of the Corporate Parenting Operations Group who are representative of a number of key agencies: Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Children's Hearings Scotland and Borders College. Aspects of the delivery of action contained within the plan can be delegated outwith the Corporate Parenting Operations Group.

Some of the notable developments in the Corporate Parenting Core Commitments are listed below:

## CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

# CORE COMMITMENT 1 - IN ORDER TO MEET THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, CORPORATE PARENTS WILL LISTEN AND RESPOND TO THE VOICES OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES/CARERS.

As highlighted in the previous Corporate Parenting Annual Report, participation of children and young people in the services they receive as looked after children was an area of development across all corporate parent organisations. In response to these challenges it was proposed that a clear strategic approach and plan for relaunching participation work with care experienced young people be undertaken with the aim, amongst other initiatives, to develop a Champions Board (using the learning from existing models across Scotland).

## CHAMPIONS' BOARD DEVELOPMENT

A multi-agency Champions' Board Planning group was formally set up in October 2020. The group consists of staff from the Throughcare Aftercare Team, Wheatlands Children's Home, Community Learning and Development, the Family Placement Team and Social Work training team. The intention of the group is to formalise and make approaches to participation consistent and, initiate a Champions' Board within the Scottish Borders. It was recognised that there was initially no care experienced young person representation on the group but the aim was to rectify this as soon as possible. A formal Scottish Borders Champions' Board and Participation Action Plan was developed in January 2021. The plan has clear actions to endure a consistent, comprehensive approach to participation with opportunities for all looked after and care experienced young people. Specific actions included:

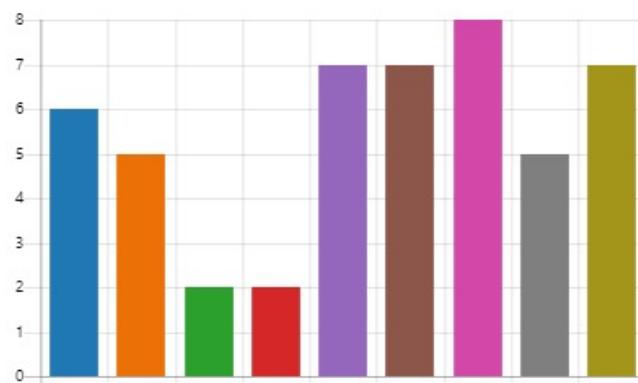
- Develop a formal Champions' Board to ensure looked after and care experienced voices have active involvement in all areas of decision making which affects their lives.
- Ensure the involvement of young people at all stages of participation development.
- The established 'older' participation group (TCAC and Wheatlands clients) will evolve into the formal Champions' Board.
- All looked after and care experienced children and young people will have an opportunity to be actively involved in participation, regardless of age or additional need.
- A modern Apprentice will be employed to help develop the Champions' Board and participation in the Scottish Borders.
- The Champions' Board and Participation will be adequately funded in the Scottish Borders
- Participation in the Scottish Borders is informed by national best practice.

Several sustained actions have taken place as a result of the plan and the commitment of those involved in taking participation forward in the Scottish Borders. Key developments and actions have included:

- A monthly participation group for older looked after and care experienced young people. Following the participation group held in December 2020, participants were asked about their opinions on future sessions. The questionnaire included questions about both the social and participative elements of meetings and interest was shown in a number of areas – advocacy and Children’s Rights received most support for future discussion. 19 looked after and care experienced young people responded to the questionnaire. The responses will be used to plan future sessions.

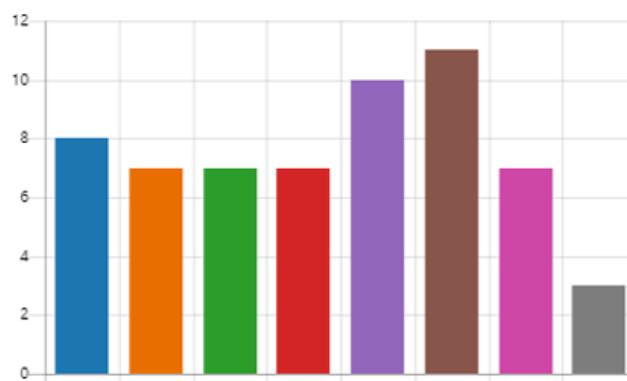
What type of activities would you be interested in for future online sessions?

● craft sessions	6
● games (e.g. bingo, treasure hu...	5
● creative writing	2
● book group	2
● wellbeing activities (relaxation,...	7
● cooking demos	7
● film showing	8
● drama and music	5
● Other	7



As part of future sessions we would like to tell you a bit more about opportunities for participation and our plans to develop a Champions Board in Scottish Borders. These are some of the themes we think it would be helpful to talk with you about- please tick the ones you think would be most useful and let us know if there are any topics we have missed

● team building/planning	8
● participation- what is it?	7
● the Care Review and 'The Pro...	7
● corporate parents- who are th...	7
● advocacy/the power of your v...	10
● Children's Rights	11
● Champions Board	7
● Other	3



The meetings are a combination of social and more focused work. Activities and sessions have included a 'virtual' baking session, an input on Children's Rights, input on development of a Champions' Board and, consultation on the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24.

- Regular participation groups for children and young people aged 7-15 years old. Sessions have included a 'virtual' scavenger hunt. This group has been more affected by Covid and the inability to meet face-to-face than the older participation group who are more used to 'virtual' based meetings and activities
- A Modern Apprentice post to help develop the Champions' Board and participation in the Scottish Borders has been established and advertised. Interviews are set for April 2021 and it is hoped to have a care experienced young person in post in early summer 2021.

In addition, a number of young people took part in a national consultation about for Children's Hearings Scotland's Children's Rights and Inclusion Strategy (Scottish Borders are mentioned in the acknowledgments <https://www.chscotland.gov.uk/media/vcxf214b/chs-children-s-rights-and-inclusion-strategy-final-version-2.pdf>)

Young people were also involved in the recruitment of Children's Panel members. This involved 3 young people who were supported to complete the CHS interviews skills training. Only 1 person felt able to be involved in subsequent interviews.

## MIND OF MY OWN (MOMO)

Children and Families Social Work commissioned Mind of My Own (MOMO), a web based application which enables children and young people to communicate their views, on both a formal and informal basis, at any time. The One and Express apps. enable children and young people to express their views for both formal meetings and settings – MACs, LAC Reviews, etc. and, to communicate their views at any time. Information is collated at a central point and redirected to the child or young person's social worker within 24 hours. The Express App. is suitable for use with younger children and children with additional and complex needs. Implementation of MOMO was delayed due to contractual and IT issues, however an implementation plan and practice standards have been developed. The contract with MOMO was formally agreed in April 2021 and training for all staff is arranged for early June 2021.

Participation of looked after and care experienced young people in the development of the services they receive remains a key commitment of the Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy.



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# CORE COMMITMENT 2 - ALL LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE TREATED FAIRLY, HAVE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND HAVE A SENSE OF BELONGING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

## THE 'VIRTUAL SCHOOL'

In terms of equity of opportunity, the development of a 'Virtual School' for looked after children took place within the Scottish Borders over 2018-19.

The core purpose of the Virtual School is to be relentless in driving forward improvements in educational progress through attainment/achievement of all children looked after. Children who are looked after are being educated across a large number of schools, the Virtual School Leader has a powerful role in tracking their progress as if they were in a single school. This local authority remit requires close collaboration and joint planning with Head Teachers and others across the service who share responsibility for individual children and young people.

The Virtual School has continued to develop over 2020-21 ensuring there is a system to rigorously track and monitor the attainment of children who are looked after; ensuring all children who are looked after have a robust and effective plan that supports access to appropriate and timely support; championing the educational needs of looked after children across the authority; and, providing support and advice to schools and to the service and advocacy for children and young people who are looked after. The Virtual School is a member of the national network of Virtual Schools hosted by CELCIS and works in direct and frequent collaboration with other Virtual Schools and beyond.

The latest national figures for the education of looked after children in Scotland - Education Outcomes for Looked After Children 2019-20 showed positive trends in a number of areas:

- 22.2% of looked after school leavers left with 1 or more qualification at SCQF level 5. The national average for looked after children and young people is 21.76%
- 81.8% of looked after school leavers left school with positive follow up destinations. The national figure is marginally better at 82.5%. The figure was 66.6% in 2015, and there has been a demonstrable improving trend over the last 5 years.
- School attendance rate improved for looked after pupils in secondary school in 2019-20 from 82% to 84%. The attendance rate for pupils in primary school dropped slightly from 95% to 94% but overall, school attendance for looked after children improved marginally.
- There was a marked reduction in exclusion of looked after children in both primary and secondary school settings over 2019-20, with the number of incidents in secondary school reducing from 40 to 18. This would not have been influenced by Covid to a significant degree.

In the Scottish Borders outcome trends for looked after children and young people were generally similar or better than the national situation.

## PERMANENCE

Achieving permanent placements for looked after children is the best way to provide security and positive outcomes for those where rehabilitation to their birth parents is not possible or appropriate. Permanence is a statutory process resulting in adoption (primarily through a Permanence Order with authority to Adopt) or a Permanence Order. It is a complex, multi-agency process often subject to drift and delay. Historically permanence planning for children has been subject to drift and delay across Scotland resulting in significant delays in children's permanence plans and permanent care arrangements being finalised. Improving trends in timescales to achieve permanency planning in turn delivers improved outcomes for children given what we know from research findings about how much better children thrive when afforded the security provided by permanent substitute family care.

Over 2020 – 2021 timescales in achieving permanence for children have not shown the same improvement as in the previous reporting period. There has been no deterioration in timescales however and despite the on-going restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic, there was a clear increase in the number of permanence cases being progressed.

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2021 5 Permanence Orders (2with Authority to Adopt) were granted in court for Scottish Borders children.

# FOSTERING AND KINSHIP CARE

For the first time since reporting began, the number of children in foster care was exceeded by the number of looked after children in kinship care. On 1st April 2021 there were 55 children and young people in foster care and 58 children in kinship care. This rebalancing of care placement types has been happening incrementally over the last 10 years. Despite the change, the vast majority of looked after children and young people continue to be looked after in family based placements. 85% of all looked after children are placed in family placements and, of those looked after away from home, 76% are in family placements (fostering or kinship care placements). Recruitment and retention of carers remains a priority in order to increase the number of carer households and meet the needs of children and young people in the Scottish Borders. Recruitment and approval of new carers was affected by Covid with only 1 new carer household (2 foster carers) being registered during the reporting period. This was a reduction from the 3 new carer households registered in 2019-20, however the restrictions placed on recruitment activities and home visiting due to Covid had an impact on assessment and registration.

## MULTI-AGENCY AUDITS

Multi-agency auditing in the Scottish Borders began in July 2017 following a joint initiative from the Corporate Parenting Operational Group, the multi-agency GIRFEC Group and the Child Protection Committee, with the aim of completing 6 audits a year. Social Work, Health and Education staff review cases from their own professional perspective and a multi-agency perspective. A bespoke case file audit tool is used and completed for the randomly selected audits.

Multi-agency auditing was affected by Covid-19 over 2020-21, but 14 multi-agency audits were undertaken on case files. The issues raised in the audits included:

- Inconsistent sharing and recording of formal reports between agencies.
- Risk assessments were present in files where required. Protective factors and adversaries were always noted and analysis evident in the majority
- The impact of Covid on the provision of support was reported on. In most cases support continued to be delivered at an appropriate level by all agencies.
- The child's view was not consistently seen throughout files across agencies
- There is a lack of consistency in completing case chronologies across agencies.
- There is evidence of positive multi-agency collaboration, work and support.

A formal review of multi-agency audits for the period March – October 2020 was completed for the GIRFEC Group in January 2021. The findings of the report saw the need for improvement in areas such as more consistent use of the Neglect Toolkit, better sharing of documentation and, consistent recording of the views of the child. Areas of good practice included overall multi-agency collaboration, working with risk and risk assessments, recording of family views and responding to wellbeing issues.



## CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

# CORE COMMITMENT 3 - CORPORATE PARENTS WILL ENSURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKED AFTER AT HOME HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTCOMES AS OTHER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

It has been acknowledged nationally that the social, emotional and educational outcomes for children and young people looked after at home are worse than those looked after away from home. This is why it has been included as a specific Core Commitment in the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-21.

The frequency and quality of statutory reviews of children looked after at home has been closely monitored to ensure equity with those looked after away from home. Each child should be reviewed every 6 months as a minimum and the target set for completed reviews is 80%. The average number of completed S.31 LAC Reviews for children looked after at home over the past year has been 78.5%. This is an improvement on the previous figure of 64% in 2019-20.

Outcomes for children and young people who are looked after at home remains demonstrably lower than those looked after away from home and there has been little improvement in this area over 2020-21. Single and multi-agency auditing of children looked after at home evidence multi-agency work and support of children, young people and their families but despite the evidenced involvement of targeted support, outcomes for the looked after at home group remain lower than those looked after away from home. This remains a key area of improvement and development for corporate parents across the Scottish Borders and will be addressed within the 'Good Childhood' and 'Whole Family Support' priority areas of the next Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24.

As reported earlier, it is of note that there has been a significant shift in the overall care of looked after children both nationally and in the Scottish Borders over the last 10 years. Both in terms of numbers and as a percentage of the overall looked after population there has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people in kinship care (formal care arrangements made with family members and relations) with foster care remaining relatively stable.

	LAC and Continuing Care in Foster Care	Percentage of overall LAC	LAC in Kinship Care	Percentage of overall LAC	Total number of Looked After Children
February 2011	74	36.0%	25	12.1%	205
February 2021	65	36.1%	53	29.4%	180

Kinship carers differ significantly from foster carers. They are predominantly grandparents or close family members who have, in many circumstances, been involved to some degree in the circumstances and trauma surrounding the care of the child they look after. As such, support is key in ensuring kinship care placements are as robust as possible and not subject to unnecessary breakdown or disruption.

## CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

# CORE COMMITMENT 4 - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE SUPPORTED TO IMPROVE THEIR PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Due to the Covid pandemic there has been limited opportunity for any significant service development within NHS Borders (including Joint Health Improvement) and the focus has been on continuing to respond to the health needs of looked after children.

School nurses have ensured as far as possible that initial looked after children health assessments have been prioritised. This has not been without challenge given that several teams' members were redeployed to support the Covid response across NHS Borders.

The health improvement work was also postponed at the start of the pandemic again so staff could be redeployed to support in other areas. The restrictions placed on outside professional entering schools also meant that health improvement initiatives such as 'What's the Harm' training the See Me Schools Mental Health Initiative: Scottish Mental Health First Aid Training had to be postponed.

NHS Borders are currently developing their NHS Borders Care Experienced children and Young People /Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2021-2023. The primary commitments within the plan include:

- To be alert to the issues which, or might affect the wellbeing of children and young people
- To assess the needs of children and young people for health services and support
- To support children and young people to access opportunities and services to improve their physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
- To support and signpost those young people moving into continuing care / Throughcare Aftercare services to ensure that they transition to adult services as appropriate and can access the right service at the right time
- To promote the interests and rights of children and young people and provide opportunities for them
- To collaborate with other corporate parents and continue to improve the way we work with children and young people



In terms of wellbeing, Police Scotland are currently working with Social Work and Wheatlands Children's Home to implement the 'Looked after and accommodated children who go missing from residential and foster care' protocol. This is informed by the Scottish Government's National Missing Person Framework which was introduced in May 2017. The protocol is to highlight best practice where a looked after child goes missing and how we can support the staff, police and partners to ensure the needs of the child are met and put any preventative measures in place for future incidents. It is currently under development and implementation and training should take place within the next 6 months.

The Covid pandemic and associated lockdowns and other restrictions had a particular effect on the mental health of looked after children and care experienced young people and those who provide them with support. Specific initiatives and innovative approaches to support are detailed elsewhere in this report.

## CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

# CORE COMMITMENT 5 - YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD WILL BE SUPPORTED TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

## THE 'VIRTUAL SCHOOL'

As a result of the pandemic, much of the support offered by the social work Throughcare Aftercare Team had to be done remotely with a sudden stop of face to face contacts other than in extreme or urgent of situations. However, staff increasingly undertook socially distanced walks or door stop visits with young people or carers and as the restrictions lifted or changed.

Given the rural setting of the Scottish Borders, many young people faced real isolation due to poor Wi-Fi/broadband, lack of transportation and the closure of schools, colleges, workplaces and universities. As such, digital connectivity has been a primary objective and the team appointed a digital champion who oversaw the distribution of laptops, iPads and other products to allow young people to maintain social, educational and work commitments. As well as provision of individual support, the Throughcare Aftercare Team hosted online participation evenings to alleviate social isolation and encourage the participation of young people. As Covid restrictions continued it has become apparent that enthusiasm for 'virtual' contact is waning and many young people wanted increased face to face contact.

The team also had to be responsive and creative in terms of the type of support traditionally offered to care experienced young people. For instance, the pandemic caused a real shortage in suitable accommodation being available for young people and as such, many of those receiving support were at risk of homelessness or being 'stuck' in temporary accommodation. As such, the training flat at Albert Place (Scottish Borders Housing Association / Scottish Borders Council's accommodation resource for care leavers) was used in a flexible way to avoid some young people going down the homeless route. In addition, some young people returned to their carers from university or college accommodation and the team had to respond to individual needs and be flexible and creative in the support offered to them. Within the last year, 3 young people have successfully used the training flat and all three now have tenancies within Albert Place.

The Throughcare Aftercare Team recognised that the pandemic created a lot of additional need – financial need, practical and housing / accommodation needs. The team have responded as creatively and holistically as possible given the unprecedented situation faced by care experienced young people. For instance, given many of young people were spending increasing amounts of time indoors and at home, it was recognised that there would likely be an increase in heating and electricity costs so additional financial support was provided where appropriate, to alleviate the impact of this additional expenditure. The Throughcare Aftercare team were also very aware of the impact on the mental well-being of the young people that they support and identified and purchased mindfulness, mental health and well-being apps; gym memberships and bicycles and other equipment, recognising the positive link between mental well-being and exercise. The team also provided specific support to young people with health issues or shielding needs helping out with shopping and groceries over the pandemic period.

## BORDERS COLLEGE

This last academic year has been challenging due to the pandemic and the ongoing restrictions and lockdown. This has been a very difficult time for those vulnerable and most at risk of disengagement due to a number of external factors affecting their lives. Borders College's duties as Corporate Parents have never been so important. With the reduced options for 1-1 and physical meetings, it proved much more difficult to gather the emotional intelligence the college's support teams rely on in situations that are more complex. Staff however worked hard to reduce as many of the difficulties arising as possible. This included the mobilising IT equipment loans to all care experienced young people along with broadband packages to ensure they were able to access learning remotely.

Additional discretionary funds allowed Borders College to make one-off additional payments to help mitigate hardship and additional costs incurred due to lockdown, loss of part-time employment, increased living costs, etc. In addition, staff ensured that all care experienced students were able to access the support they required and staff adopted a process of regular weekly or fortnightly check in calls to ensure no young person was facing difficulties alone - this included arranging 1-1 support sessions within the guidance provided.

The Borders Young Talent Mentors remained in post over the summer of 2020 to support our vulnerable groups including care experienced young people in their transition to full-time programmes. This included ensuring access to digital equipment and connectivity, providing desks and chairs where required, wellbeing doorstep visits to deliver stationery starter packs, etc. as well as giving guidance and support to help access and maximise funding for individuals.

Attainment has shown clear improvement with 67% of care experienced students achieving their success in 2019/20 compared to 46.1% in 2017/18 (see Appendix 2 – Management Information).

Borders College are due to review their Corporate Parenting Plan in 2021 and want to ensure it aligns with the overall Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy. Their plan will take a holistic regional partnership approach to corporate parenting and will include the aims and objectives of The Promise.

## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

In addition to its involvement in Albert Place, Scottish Borders Council and its partners updated the Scottish Borders Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019/20 - 2023/24 (RRTP) action plan and submitted it to the Scottish Government in June 2021. The RRTP Action Plan included Action 2.7 to review “the delivery of services, develop housing and support pathways for.... Individuals up to the age of 26 who were previous looked after by the local authority”. A multi-agency project group will be established in 2021/2022 to lead this action which will also consider the recommendations of the ‘Way Home Scotland’ guidance (2019), which aims to improve care leavers housing pathways.

The Housing Options Protocol for Care Leavers in the Scottish Borders, which was developed and implemented in partnership between the Council and the four locally based Registered Social Landlords in 2017/2018, continued to operate during 2020/2021. The protocol seeks to ensure that the priority accommodation and support needs of care leavers are recognised in order that their needs for suitable housing are met in a planned and sustainable way and that they do not need to enter the homelessness system in order to access housing. During 2020/2021 10 young care leavers were referred to the Housing Options Panel resulting in 8 care leavers achieving a permanent housing solution and 2 accessing supported transitional flats within TCAC Supported Accommodation Project at Albert Place.

The training flat within Albert Place was closed twice during 2020/2021 due to the lockdown restrictions, during both of these periods it was used to provide full time accommodation to a young person. When lockdown regulations allowed the training flat was operational with increased safety measures and was utilised by a further 8 young people.

Homelessness services assessed 25 applicants as homeless or threatened with homelessness were the applicant identified themselves as care experienced. To date, 21 applicants have been supported to secured permanent housing, the vast majority of applicants (20) secured an RSL tenancy with the remaining applicant securing housing in the Private Rented Sector. One applicant returned to their previous accommodation, the outcome is not known for 1 applicant and 2 applicants continue to be supported by homelessness services in finding a housing solution.

## EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

Corporate parents are also actively involved in promoting and providing employment opportunities for care experienced young people. The Scottish Borders Council Employment Support Service (ESS) engaged with 16 looked after and care experienced young people during 2020/21. Covid restrictions posed challenges in terms of engagement however using digital and virtual methods ESS continued to support people to move closer to the labour market and reach their employment goals. During 2020/21 ESS supported 4 young people to secure paid employment – 2 within SBC and 2 external jobs including an apprenticeship. The Borders Family Firm continues to meet every quarter with all partners involved in supporting looked after and care experienced young people to find and sustain paid employment. NHS Borders and SBC continue to ring-fence work experience and job opportunities for this group. SBC offer priority interviews to looked after and care experienced young people who meet the job vacancy essential criteria as part of the councils Work Opportunities Scheme Policy.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) continue to provide a service to young people who are care experienced in both school and post school settings as outlined in the SDS Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-21. SDS operates a targeted service which takes account of the challenges of a care experienced person's life journey. In school, a young person who is identified as care experienced (either current or previous) is entitled to the maximum service offer which is up to 5 coaching engagements in an academic year depending on when they plan to leave school. Advisers work with them on a 1:1 basis over the year to provide guidance and support them to develop their Career Management Skills. Over the last year and as a result of the pandemic, delivery has been both face to face and virtual.

SDS's post school targeted offer 'Next Steps' provides enhanced coaching support for young people aged 16-18.5 years old who have left school and not yet transitioned into further education, training or employment. For care experienced this is extended up to a young person's 26th birthday. Having identified a number of care experienced young people with an 'unknown' post school status SDS Team Leader and SBC Throughcare Aftercare and Youth Justice Team Leader have met to case manage and establish current status. The local SDS team have a care experienced champion who is very active and has championed care experience at a local level through facilitating team reflective practice and building relationships between SDS and Social Work staff. The Champion shares from the wider SDS care experienced community of practice group and promotes relevant information on the SDS Scottish Borders Facebook page. There is a companywide Corporate Parenting Yammer group set up and the champion shares content, best practice and resources to the local teams Yammer group. The local champion attends fortnightly youth justice early effective intervention (EEI) meetings with other corporate parents to support young people who have offended in the community and promote diversion.

As well as regular links with Social Work services, the SDS Careers Adviser who is based in Borders College has been working with the care experienced lead from the College to share and promote the SDS offer. In the reporting period a new intervention has been introduced whereby the College lead e-mails all care experienced young people to offer a 1:1 with a Careers Adviser. SDS also offer support to potential students who are care experienced which includes help with completing application forms and interpreter services. The SDS Area Manager meets with local authority Equity and Inclusion Lead Officer which includes the Virtual Head teacher remit on a regular basis to discuss targeted cohort, support and 16+ data including post school intentions for care experienced school pupils.

## CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

# CORE COMMITMENT 6 - CORPORATE PARENTS WILL RAISE AWARENESS OF CORPORATE PARENTING RESPONSIBILITIES ACROSS ORGANISATIONS AND AGENCIES

Raising awareness of corporate parenting responsibilities across organisations and agencies was initially affected by the Covid pandemic, however this was overcome with the increasing use of 'virtual' platforms for communication, meetings and events. The primary focus in terms of awareness raising was the Promise and its broad message of the need for operational and transformational change across all services working with looked after and care experienced children and young people. Team, agency and multi-agency awareness raising sessions were undertaken in early 2021 with presentations tailored to meet the specific needs of the audience. Awareness raising sessions were delivered across council agencies at both a strategic and operational level – the Children and Young People Leadership Group, the Corporate Parenting Operational Group, the Quality Improvement Officers meeting (Education), all areas of Children and Families Social Work, etc. Awareness raising sessions are continuing and presentations to Scottish Borders Councillors, CMT, NHS Borders and other organisations are planned.



## CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

# FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

2021-22 will be a crucial year in terms of corporate parenting. The new Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24 will be launched. Using all the evidence from the Scottish Borders corporate parenting self-assessment; the views of looked after and care experienced children and young people; and, taking account of the findings of 'The Promise' and the subsequent Plan, the Strategy identifies and prioritises the way forward for our looked after children. The Strategy has been drafted and is currently awaiting publication.

The key development for corporate parenting in the Scottish Borders in 2021-22 will be based around the Promise Five Foundations and Plan 2021-24. Scottish Borders Council were successful in gaining a grant from the Corra Foundation through The Promise Partnership on behalf of the Scottish Government for implementing the Promise. The one year grant has been used to employ a Promise Implementation Officer who will essentially enable the recommendations from the Promise and the Five Foundations to be progressed and implemented across the council and with partner agencies. The post will be managed by the Corporate Parenting Operations Group Chair and work in partnership with children, young people and their families and, across council services (primarily Social Work, Education, Community Learning and Development and Housing / Homelessness but with a council wide remit). Although sitting within Scottish Borders Council, partnership work and co-production with and with other corporate parents and relevant third sector / voluntary agencies will be integral to the post.

Priority areas in 2021-22 will include the following:

- Establish a representative Scottish Borders Champions' Board and improve overall participation across corporate parenting services.
- Introduce a strengths-based approach in how we work with families across agencies in the Scottish Borders.
- Incorporate the use of multi-agency performance data (quantitative and qualitative) in targeting and developing support services.
- Develop approaches to partnership work and co-production across council services and partner agencies resulting in real partnership and shared outcomes which directly benefit looked after and care experienced children and young people and their families.

The Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting plan and priorities will be complimented by single and joint agency plans relating to the Promise.

Gareth Stott,  
Chair, Corporate Parenting Operational Group.  
12th August 2021



## APPENDIX 1

<b>Core Commitments – Headline Action Plan</b>	
<b>Core Commitment 1</b>	<p><b>In order to meet their responsibilities, corporate parents will listen and respond to the voices of children and families/ carers.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure our services are as effective as they can be they must be shaped by the voices and participation of the children, young people and care leavers</li> <li>• We will ensure that all corporate parents understand their responsibilities and action these through strategy, planning, practice and resource allocation</li> </ul>
1.	Corporate Parents will be encouraged to include the participation of looked after children, care experienced young people and their families in their service delivery and developments and monitor developments in this area.
2.	Develop formal involvement of looked after and care experienced young people in the governance of Corporate Parenting in the Scottish Borders.
3.	Actively seek and promote the participation of children and young people who are looked after at home in service design and delivery.
<b>Core Commitment 2</b>	<p><b>All looked after children and care experienced young people will be treated fairly, have equity of opportunity and have a sense of belonging in their communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are committed to reducing inequality for all our children and young people</li> <li>• We are committed to improving educational outcomes and reducing the inequality gap</li> <li>• We will promote children and young people’s rights and advocate on their behalf</li> </ul>
4.	Scottish Borders Council will develop a ‘Virtual School’ to better track educational progress and improve achievement and attainment for all looked after children.
5.	Accessibility to health services for all looked after and care experienced young people will be improved, meet their individual need and not differ to accessibility for any other child or young person.
6.	Advocacy services will be developed for all looked after children and young people across the Scottish Borders.

<b>Core Commitment 3</b>	<p><b>Corporate parents will ensure children and young people who are looked after at home have the same opportunities and outcomes as other children and young people</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are committed to ensuring that those who are looked after at home have the same social, emotional and educational and health support and outcomes as all other children and young people</li> <li>• We will reduce inequalities for this group of children and young people</li> </ul>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Corporate Parents will be encouraged to include the participation of looked after children, care experienced young people and their families in their service delivery and developments and monitor developments in this area.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Develop formal involvement of looked after and care experienced young people in the governance of Corporate Parenting in the Scottish Borders.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Actively seek and promote the participation of children and young people who are looked after at home in service design and delivery.</p>
<b>Core Commitment 4</b>	<p><b>Children and young people will be supported to improve their physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are committed to improving health outcomes and reducing and inequality gap</li> <li>• Emotional and mental health services will meet the needs of looked after and care experienced young people</li> </ul>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Early intervention services for children experiencing emotional wellbeing and mental health issues will meet the needs of looked after children and young people.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Health assessments for looked after children and young people will be delivered in line with national guidance and include 'harder to reach' groups – children and young people looked after at home and those in kinship care.</p>
<b>Core Commitment 5</b>	<p><b>Young people making the transition to adulthood will be supported to achieve their full potential</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are committed to ensuring that young people are supported in terms of education, training, employment, health, housing and relationships</li> <li>• We are committed to providing care leavers with sustained positive destinations in all areas of their lives</li> </ul>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Accommodation and housing options for looked after and previously looked after young people will be improved and expanded, and homelessness amongst looked after or previously looked after young people will be prevented.</p>

13.	Employability services for care leavers will provide greater opportunities for all looked after young people and care leavers.
14.	Access and signposting to health services will improve for care experienced young people.
<b>Core Commitment 6</b>	<p><b>Corporate parents will raise awareness of corporate parenting responsibilities across organisations and agencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are committed to ensuring that all corporate parents are fully aware of their responsibilities to facilitate change, reduce risk, reduce stigma, promote equality and improve outcomes for looked after children and care experienced young people</li> </ul>
15.	The full range of Corporate Parenting organisations will be actively involved in the Scottish Borders approach to Corporate Parenting.
16.	Awareness raising events and training regarding Corporate Parenting will be provided to improve outcomes for looked after children and care experienced young people.
17.	Social media and other forms of awareness raising relating to Corporate Parenting will be developed across organisations.

## APPENDIX 2

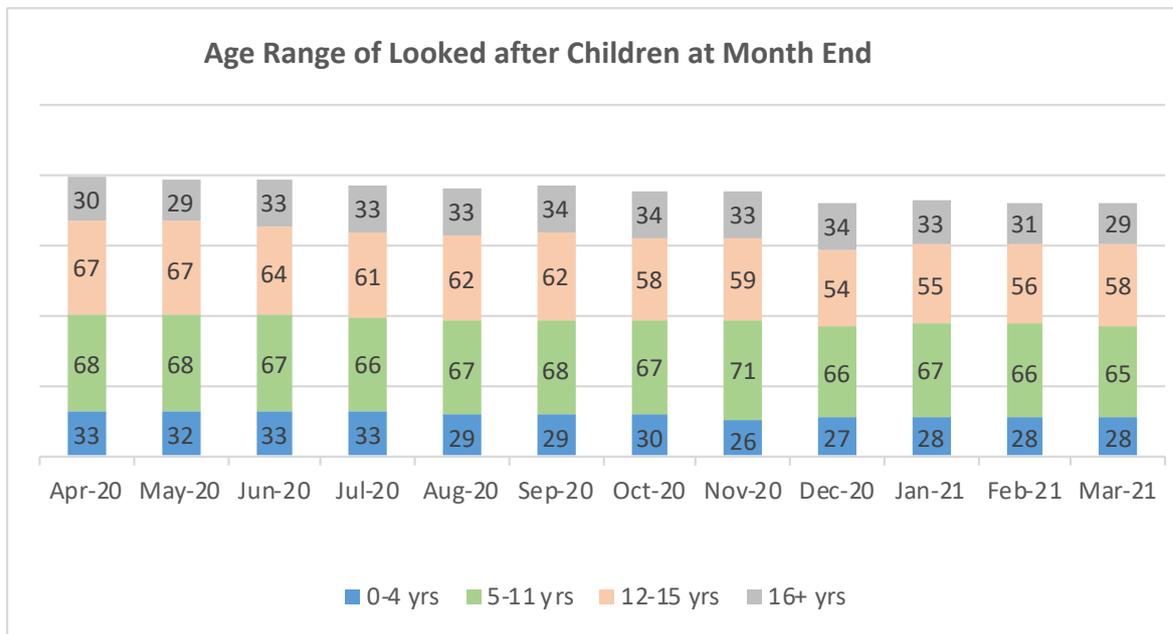
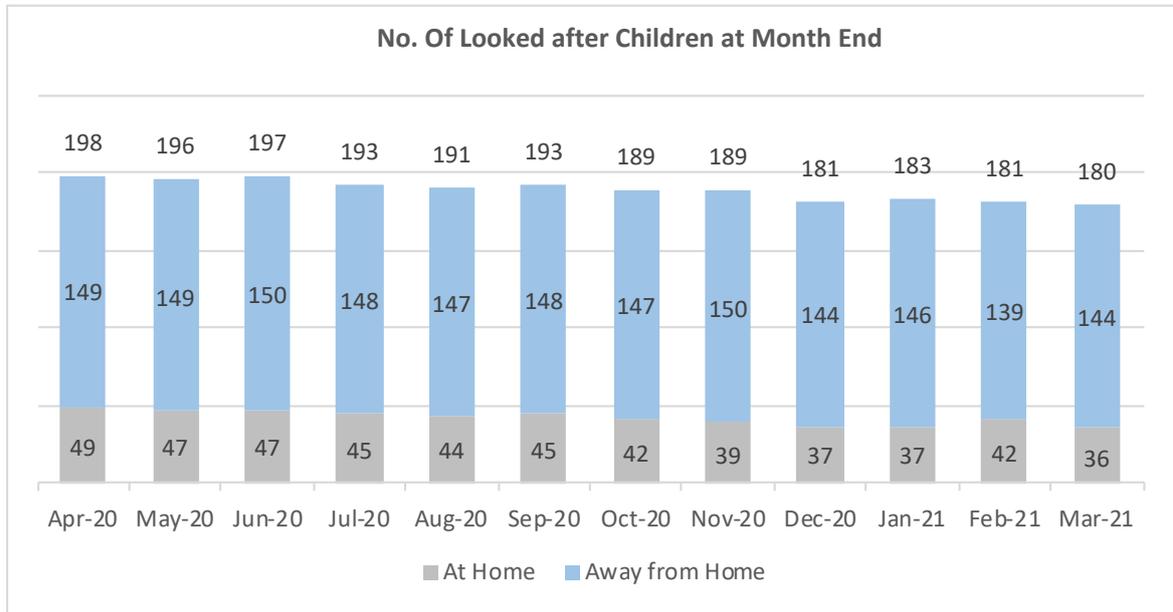


# CORPORATE PARENTING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

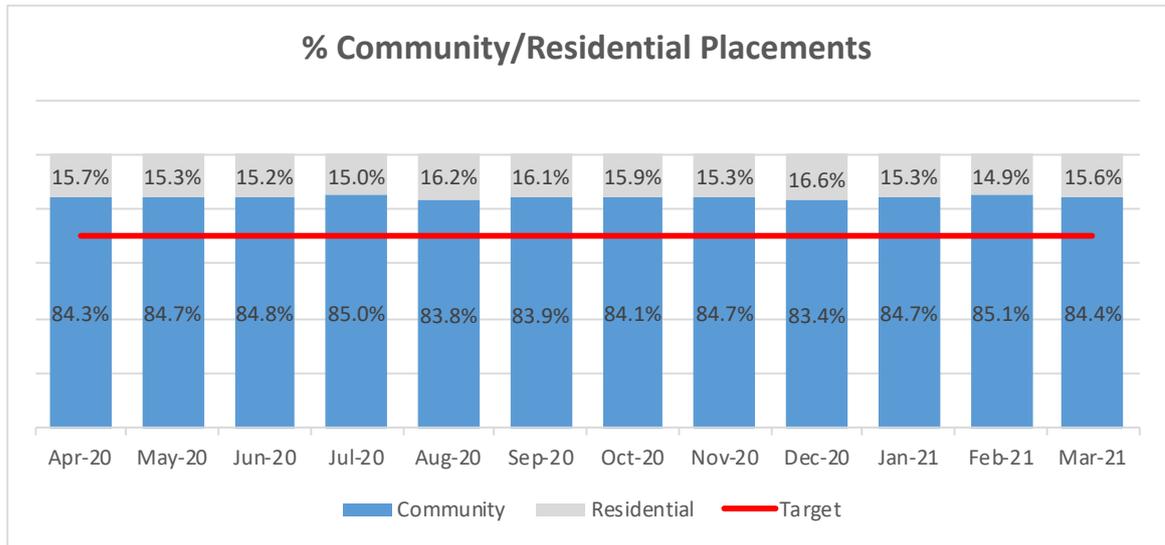
APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021  
(ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20)

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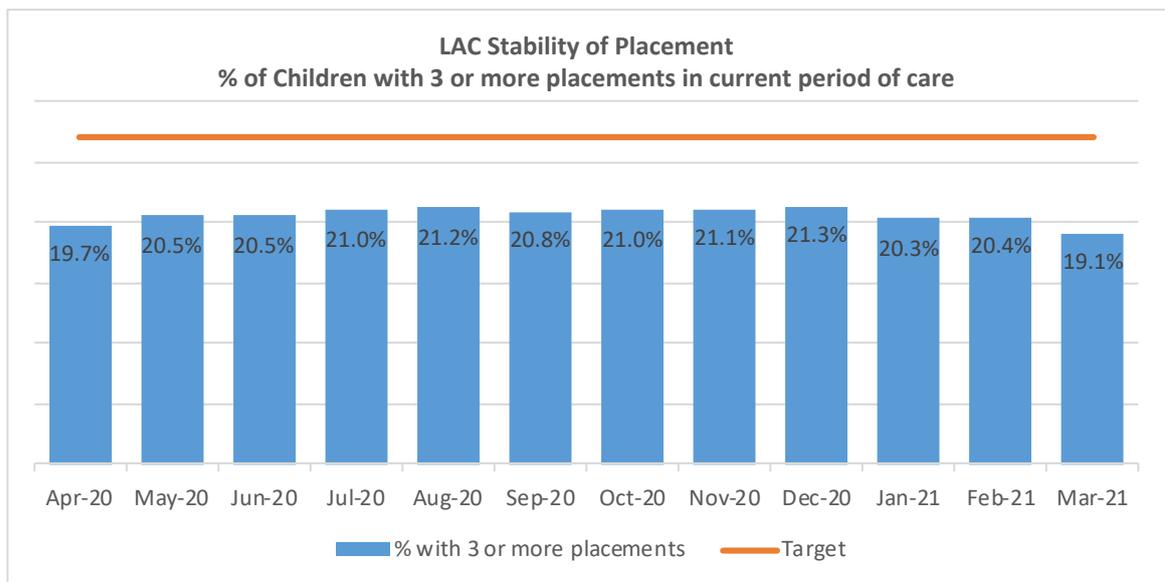
# CY&P LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN INFORMATION



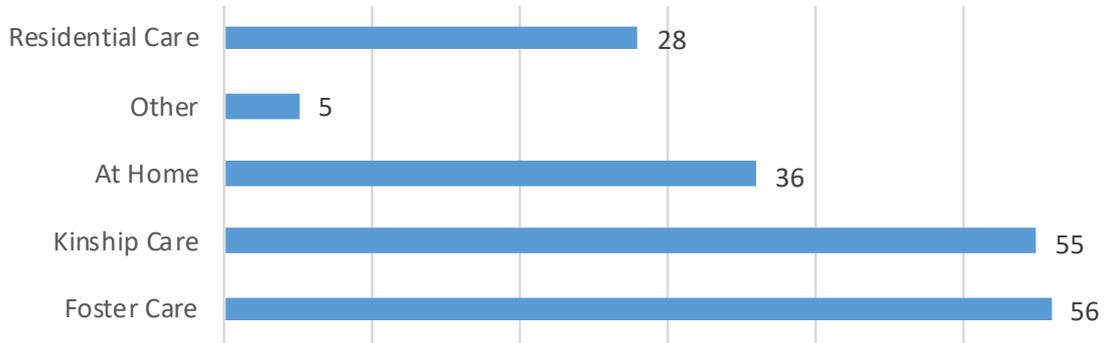
# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLACEMENT INFORMATION



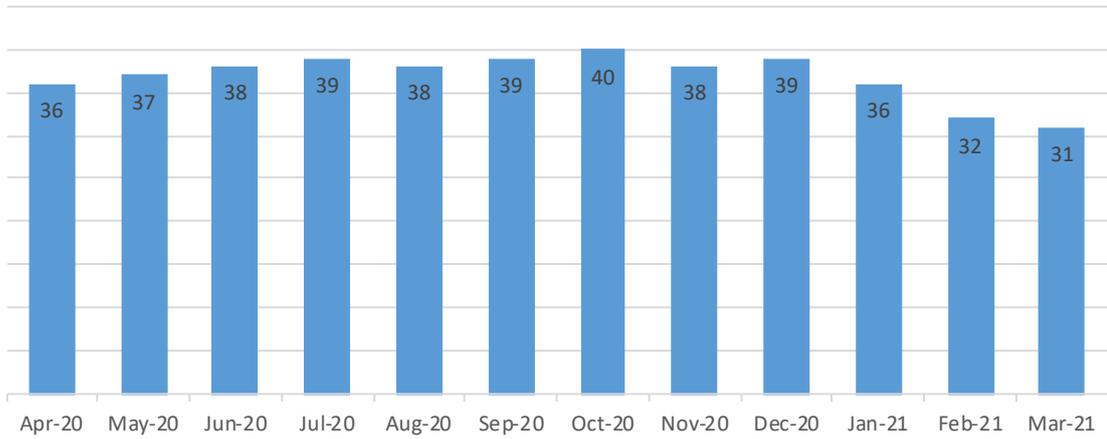
Proportion of Looked After & Accommodated children (12+) in family based placements compared to those in residential placements. The target is to have at least 70% of children in community based placements.



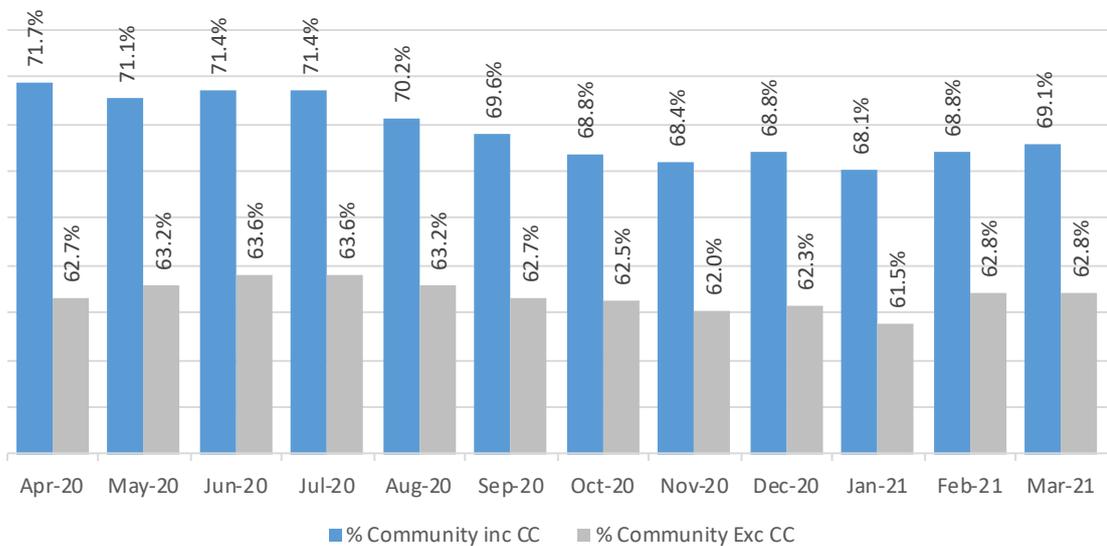
## LAC Placement breakdown at Year End



## Average Length of Time ( In Months) in Residential School Placements



## LAC 12+- % Community Placements with Continuing Care



# MONITORING OF LAC REVIEWS

The following data shows the number of LAC reviews undertaken in each month along with the average number of months since the previous review.

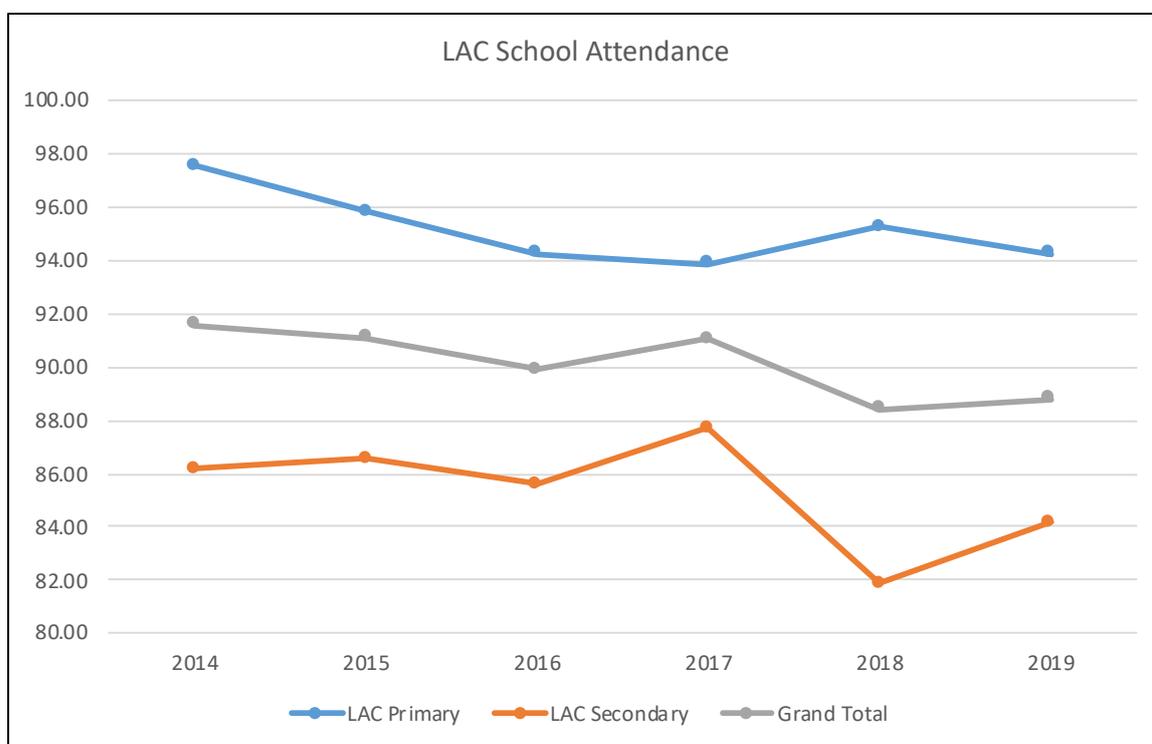
		NO. MONTHS BETWEEN REVIEWS (Average)							
		AT HOME		AWAY FROM HOME		OTHER		ALL	
		No. Reviews	Months Between	No. Reviews	Months Between	No. Reviews	Months Between	No. Reviews	Months Between
	Apr-19	19	4.24	22	3.54	2	21.29	43	4.68
	May-19	13	3.47	27	4.62	1	13.22	41	4.47
	Jun-19	5	0.76	15	3.16	2	5.63	22	2.84
	Jul-19	10	1.60	14	3.57			24	2.75
	Aug-19	10	2.89	11	4.34	1	2.32	22	3.59
	Sep-19	12	5.85	28	4.57	3	4.09	43	4.90
	Oct-19	15	6.07	23	3.83	1	5.83	39	4.74
	Nov-19	16	6.67	21	4.60	1	20.53	38	5.89
	Dec-19	4	3.04	17	3.51	1	5.60	22	3.52
	Jan-20	16	5.55	20	3.84			36	4.60
	Feb-20	12	5.78	23	3.97	2	4.08	37	4.57
	Mar-20	15	4.00	26	3.85	3	3.97	44	3.91
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>147</b>	<b>4.58</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7.86</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>4.37</b>

LAC at Home	LAC Away from Home	LAC Other
Home with Parents Kinship Care	Local authority Home (Wheatlands) Other Residential Placement Residential School Secure Accommodation With foster carers provided by Local Authority With foster carers purchased by Local Authority With prospective adopters	Continuing Care Respite (Aberlour) Short Breaks Carers

# EDUCATION

Academic Year 2019 (01.08.2019 – 31.07.2020)

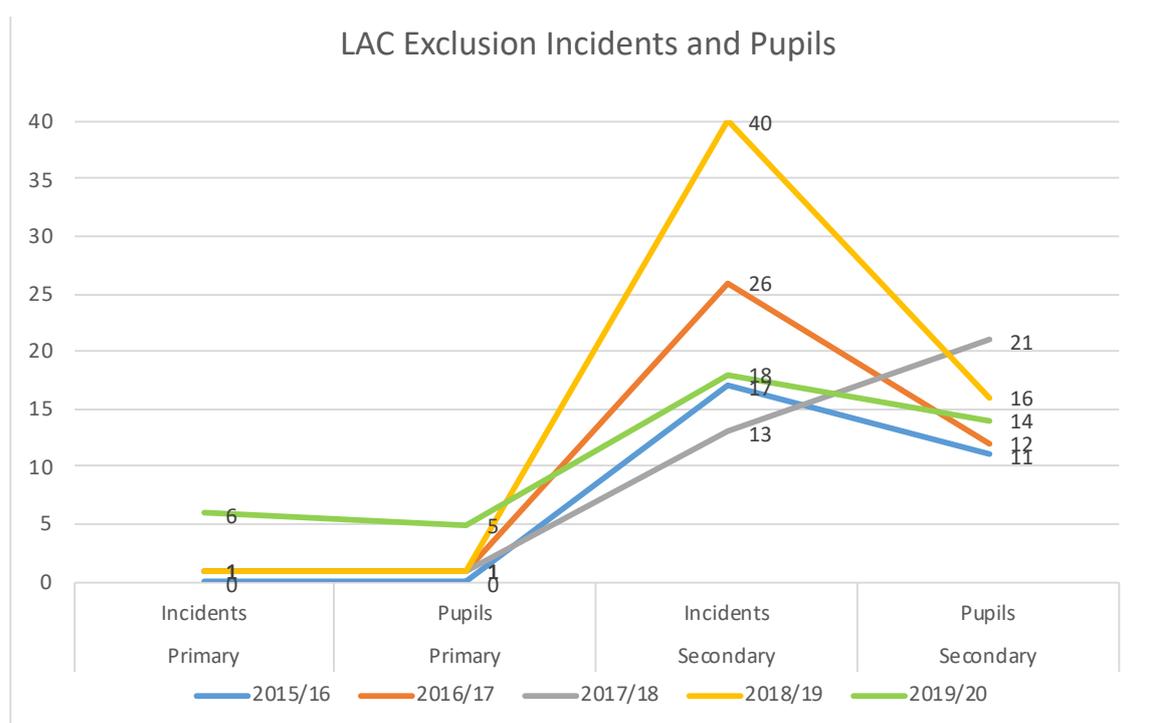
## ATTENDANCE



Type	Looked After Description	% Attendance	% Authorised Absence	% Unauthorised Absence	% Exclusions	% Absence
Nursery	Away	81.68%	18.15%	0.18%	0.00%	18.33%
	Home	91.57%	7.34%	1.08%	0.00%	8.42%
	Previously	88.31%	9.68%	2.02%	0.00%	11.70%
<b>Nursery Total</b>		<b>86.03%</b>	<b>13.28%</b>	<b>0.69%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>13.97%</b>
Primary	Away	96.56%	2.74%	0.69%	0.01%	3.44%
	Home	92.24%	4.21%	3.35%	0.20%	7.76%
	Previously	92.40%	5.23%	2.30%	0.07%	7.60%
<b>Primary Total</b>		<b>94.25%</b>	<b>3.96%</b>	<b>1.73%</b>	<b>0.06%</b>	<b>5.75%</b>
Secondary	Away	89.01%	6.44%	4.42%	0.14%	11.00%
	Home	68.83%	14.82%	16.21%	0.13%	31.16%
	Previously	84.10%	8.18%	7.65%	0.07%	15.90%
<b>Secondary Total</b>		<b>84.16%</b>	<b>8.33%</b>	<b>7.40%</b>	<b>0.11%</b>	<b>15.84%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>88.78%</b>	<b>6.73%</b>	<b>4.40%</b>	<b>0.08%</b>	<b>11.21%</b>

# EXCLUSIONS

Type	Looked After Description	Number of Individuals	Individuals Excluded	Exclusion Incidents
Primary	Away	76	1	1
	Home	26	2	3
	Previously	60	2	2
<b>Primary Total</b>		<b>162</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Secondary	Away	72	4	6
	Home	22	2	2
	Previously	66	3	4
<b>Secondary Total</b>		<b>160</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>322</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>

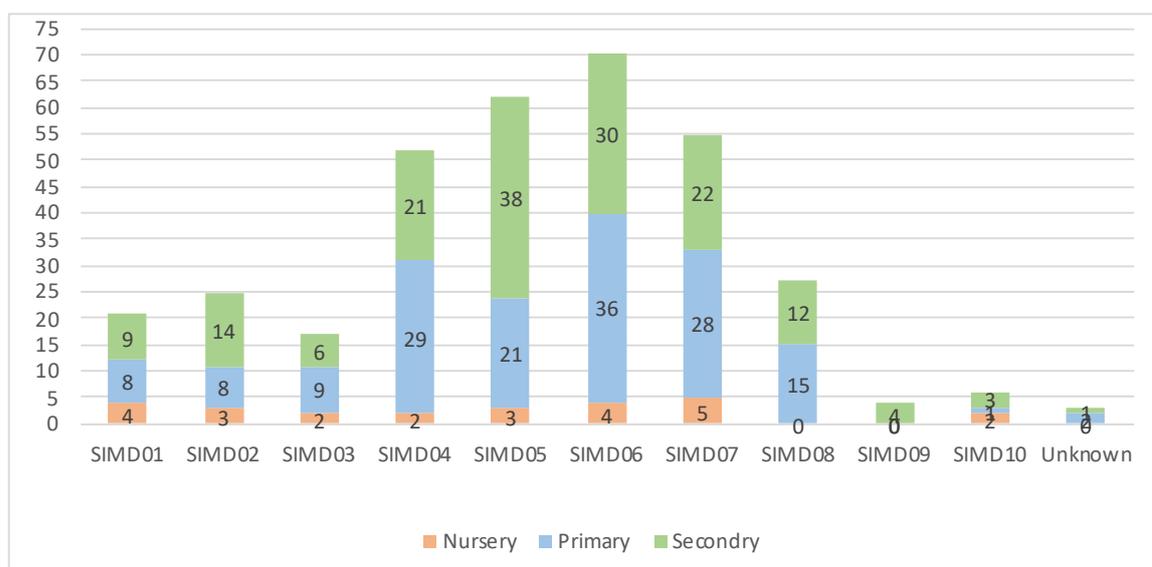


Year	Primary	Primary	Secondary	Secondary
	Incidents	Pupils	Incidents	Pupils
2015/16	0	0	17	11
2016/17	1	1	26	12
2017/18	1	1	13	21
2018/19	1	1	40	16
2019/20	6	5	18	14

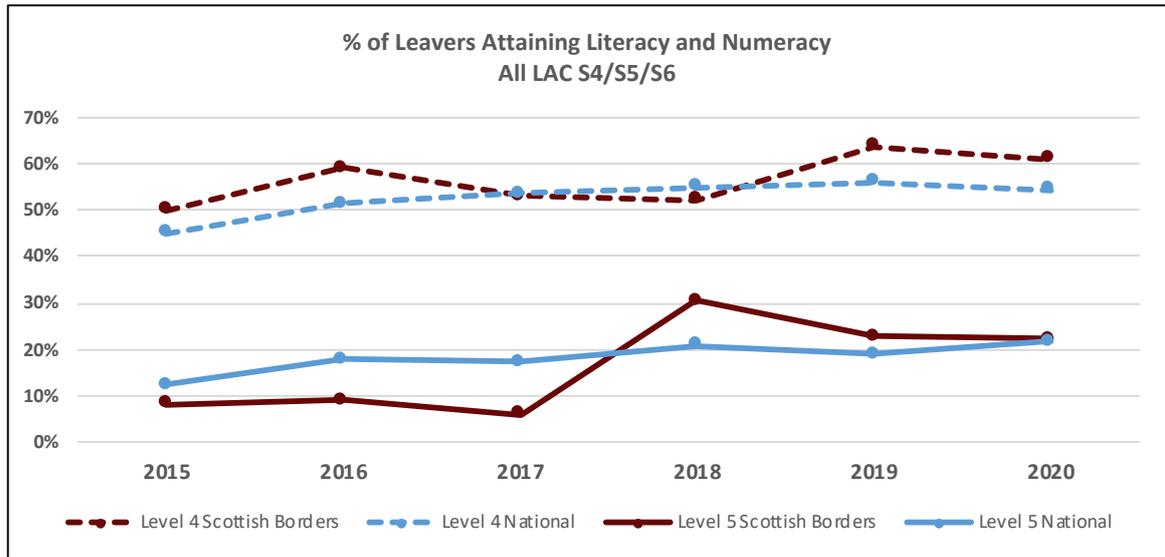
## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS 2019/20

Type	Looked After Description	No. Individuals receiving Free School Meal	No. Individuals receiving Clothing Grant	No. Individuals with ASN
Nursery	Away	0	0	5
	Home	0	0	0
	Previously	0	0	0
<b>Nursery Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
Primary	Away	17	17	66
	Home	13	16	20
	Previously	35	38	47
<b>Primary Total</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>133</b>
Secondary	Away	16	16	70
	Home	11	12	20
	Previously	27	30	57
<b>Secondary Total</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>119</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>285</b>

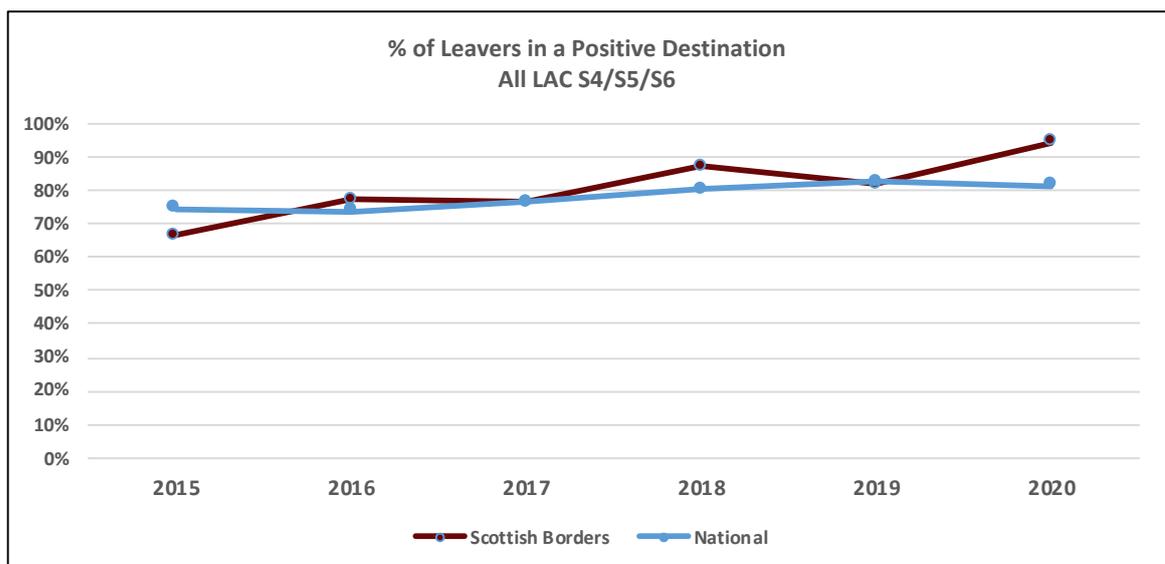
## SIMD DISTRIBUTION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN 2019/20



# ATTAINMENT AND POSITIVE DESTINATIONS



Year	Level 4		Level 5	
	Scottish Borders	National	Scottish Borders	National
2015	50.00%	45.19%	8.33%	12.25%
2016	59.09%	51.50%	9.09%	17.78%
2017	52.94%	53.70%	5.88%	17.32%
2018	52.17%	55.04%	30.43%	20.85%
2019	63.64%	56.06%	22.73%	18.91%
2020	61.11%	54.30%	22.22%	21.76%



Year	% Leavers in a Positive Destination	
	Scottish Borders	National
2015	66.67%	45.19%
2016	77.27%	51.50%
2017	76.47%	53.70%
2018	86.96%	55.04%
2019	81.82%	56.06%
2020	94.44%	54.30%

**Looked after Children achieving target Cfe Level**  
(CfE data for 2019/20 has not been published due to the Covid pandemic)

## INCREASED ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN)

### Aftercare Comparison with comparator Authorities

Young people eligible for aftercare services, percentage receiving aftercare and percentage in employment, education or training, by local authority, 31 July 2020

Local authority area	Young people eligible for aftercare services	Number receiving aftercare services	Percent receiving aftercare services	Percentage of those receiving aftercare services with an unknown economic activity	In employment, education or training	
					As percentage of those receiving aftercare with known economic activity	As percentage of all eligible for aftercare services
Angus	79	78	99%	0%	73%	72%
East Lothian	98	39	40%	15%	55%	18%
Highland	117	20	17%	15%	71%	10%
Moray	135	71	53%	0%	49%	26%
Scottish Borders	93	45	48%	2%	50%	24%
Stirling	99	96	97%	0%	55%	54%
Scotland	7,198	4,129	57%	22%	54%	24%

Taken from Children's Social Work Statistics 2015-16 - Additional Tables, Table 3.5 Young people eligible for aftercare services, percentage receiving aftercare and percentage in employment, education or training, by local authority, 31 July 2020

# NHS BORDERS LAC DATA

Due to operational constraints the NHS Borders LAC Data has not been published for 2019-20. Improvements in data collection and analysis will be an area for development in 2021.

## BORDERS COLLEGE CORPORATE PARENTING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

The College recognises that learner success for this group is considerably lower than the general population however there has been clear improvement with 67% of care experienced students achieving their success in 2019/20 compared to 46.1% in 2017/18. Borders College commits to finding an appropriate place at college for all those wishing to study, wherever this is possible, and accepts a young person may have a number of failed attempts at college before finding the skills to persevere and make the most of their abilities and achieve success.

OA National Measure	Actual 2017-18	Ambition 2019-20	Ambition 2020-21	Ambition 2021-22
1(c) Proportion of Credits delivered to students with Care Experience	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
4(d)* Proportion of full-time enrolled Care Experienced students successfully achieving a recognised qualification	FTFE			
	47.9%	60.0%	61.0%	62.0%
	FTFE			
	*50.0%	*66.0%	*66.0%	*66.0%

Academic Year	Actual 2017-18	Actual 2018-19	Ambition 2019-20	Ambition 2020-21
Percentage of CE FT FE enrolled students achieving a recognised qualification	<b>46.1%</b> (24/52 students)	<b>54.2%</b> (32/59 students)	<b>67%</b> (39/58 students)	<b>62%</b>
	<b>13.5% partial</b> (7/52 students)	<b>11.86% partial</b> (7/59 students)		<b>91 Enrolments</b>
Percentage of CE FT HE enrolled students achieving a recognised qualification	<b>50%</b> (2/4 students)	<b>33.3%</b> (1/3 students)	<b>75%</b> (3/4 students)	<b>66%</b> 2 Enrolments

(Noted that due to the Pandemic, the Outcome Agreement was refined in terms of targets to allow Colleges to focus on the student outcomes. Unable to report on outcomes until Aug 2021)







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