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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Alliance Board</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>19 March 2018</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Louise Long Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Plan Progress Report</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Inverclyde Alliance Board of the progress of the multi-agency Inverclyde Corporate Parenting Plan 2016 – 2018.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Part 9, 10 and 11 of the Children and Young People (Scotland ) Act 2014 (thereafter called the 2014 Act) outlined new duties as responsibilities on corporate parents to work together to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of looked after children (LAC), young people and care leavers.
- 2.2 HSCP Children's Services partnered with looked after young people, CELCIS and Who Cares Scotland to consult with Inverclyde Alliance's corporate parents to produce the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Plan 2016-2018. This has mapped our activities to date, and has been further proofed by the data in Inverclyde Alliance's Strategic Needs Assessment (2017), the findings from the Care Inspectorate's Joint Inspection of Children's Services in Inverclyde (October, 2017), and our work with the Life Changes Trust (LCT) to establish a Champions Board.
- 2.3 Inverclyde HSCP was successful in securing three year funding from the Life Changes Trust to establish a Champions Board. The overall aim of Inverclyde's Champions Board is to improve the life chances of care experienced young people within the wider community.
- 2.4 The 2014 Act stipulated a reporting cycle for corporate parents along with an additional layer of accountability through a duty to provide Scottish Ministers with information as to how the corporate parent has exercised its responsibilities and fulfilled its functions around planning, collaboration and reporting. The first reporting period is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Inverclyde Alliance Board is asked to note the Corporate Parenting Plan Progress Report which has to be submitted to the Scottish Government 31st March 2018.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 Looked After Data**

Inverclyde's figures of looked after children, rate per 1,000 of the age 0-18 population has been consistent over the last three year period, showing a decrease of 1.4%. As of 31st July 2017 there were 218 children and young people looked after by Inverclyde Council, with gender composition of 119 males and 99 females. Of this number of children 191 (88%) were residing within a community setting and 27 (12%) were residing in a residential setting.

### **4.2 Strategy and Leadership**

Corporate Parenting Part 9 of the Act commenced on 1st April 2015 and placed new corporate parenting duties on a wide range of publicly funded organisations, increasing the breadth and depth of support available to looked after children and young people, and those leaving care. Specifically the duties introduced by Part 9 of the Act create new drivers to support organisations to work individually as well as together to deliver better outcomes for looked after children and young people.

4.3 The Scottish Government made the decision to legislate in this area because there was widespread belief that not enough was being achieved by policy alone and in this respect the implementation of Part 9 should be seen in the context of previous policy documents "We Can and Must Do Better" (2007) and "These Are Our Bairns – A Guide for Community Planning Partnerships" (2008)

4.4 Part 9 of the Act introduces a number of new duties. For the purposes of corporate parenting planning the following have the most relevance.

- Section 58 Corporate Parents are alert, assess, promote, provide opportunities, ensure access, strive to improve
- Section 59 Planning by Corporate Parents
- Section 60 Collaborative working by Corporate Parents
- Section 61 Reports by Corporate Parents
- Section 62 Duty to provide information to Scottish Ministers

4.5 The guidance supporting the Act recommended that every corporate parent gives consideration to how they can contribute towards:

- Provision of safe, secure, stable and nurturing homes for looked after children and care leavers
- Enable looked after children and care leavers to develop or maintain positive relationships
- Uphold and promote children's rights
- Securing positive education outcomes for looked after children and care leavers
- Ensuring "care" is an experience in which children are valued
- Ensure physical or mental health concerns are identified early
- Increase the number of care leavers in education, training and employment
- Reduce the number of looked after children and care leavers who enter the criminal justice system

4.6 The Corporate Parenting Strategy and Plan 2016-2018 identified four key themes underpinned by Inverclyde Alliance's Strategic Needs Assessment and is aligned with Inverclyde's Children and Young People's Services Plan. The Care Inspectorate highlighted that this demonstrated that the Alliance had a full understanding of local needs and gave trend data to inform effective planning and service delivery in a challenging climate of fiscal constraint.

Four key Corporate Parenting priorities for Inverclyde:-

- **Early Help and Assistance**

Children their families and carers receive early help and assistance with seamless transitions from birth to adulthood

- **Health and Wellbeing**

Care experienced young people have improved physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing

- **Learning, Achievement and Skills for Life**

Care experienced young people benefit from aspirational education and have equal opportunities to maximise skills for life.

- **Accommodation and Housing**

Care experienced young people have safe, secure, stable and nurturing homes

- 4.7 A participative model of engagement with children, young people, care leavers and their families has continued to inform the corporate parenting strategy. It is in line with the Christie Commission recommendations of working with and for people and communities to understand need and build resilience through a preventative and integrated approach. The strength of what we are doing was highlighted in the Joint Inspection of Services to Children in Inverclyde by the Care Inspectorate as sector leading.
- 4.8 Inverclyde's Corporate Parenting Group was established as a sub group of SOA6 (Best Start In Life) and is the strategic lead for corporate parenting planning and activity. Further consideration will be given to the governance and reporting structure following the establishment of Inverclyde Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. The Corporate Parenting Group will provide support to the Champions Board to ensure the functions in part 9,10 and 11 of the 2014 Act are reported and quality assured, with an agreed data set that delivers improvements for looked after children, young people and care leavers.
- 4.9 The Champions Board will launch in April 2018 to coincide with the Year of the Child. Over the past year a significant amount of activity has taken place directly with the young people who will co-produce with the Champions around all aspect of corporate parenting.
- 4.10 Under Section 61 of the Act corporate parents should report at least once every three years on how it has exercised its corporate parenting responsibilities. It should be noted that many corporate parents are subject to other reporting requirements and are therefore encouraged to make the relevant links between separate reporting combining these where appropriate. Corporate parenting reports can therefore be published alongside other reports and for Inverclyde we have attempted to align this with the Children and Young People's Service Plan and Inverclyde Alliance Strategic Needs Assessment.
- 4.11 Corporate parenting reports should detail how the wellbeing needs of looked after children and care leavers were identified and how opportunities, services and supports are made accessible to looked after children and care leavers.
- 4.12 Under Section 62 of the Act, corporate parents must provide Scottish Ministers with information on how they have exercised their duties and responsibilities along with functions around planning, collaborations and reporting. This may be submitted in any format that meets the above requirements when requested. Scottish Ministers will report on corporate parenting at the end of every three year cycle the first reporting period scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The duty to provide Scottish Ministers with information provides an additional layer of accountability which performance around corporate parenting can be monitored.
- 4.13 **Impact**

The Inverclyde Alliance Strategic Needs Assessment provides insight into the needs of all young people across Inverclyde and allows us to identify the gaps between young people who are looked after and those who are not. Reducing barriers by being alert and creating opportunities for looked after children and care leavers is the responsibility of all corporate parents. The Inverclyde Alliance

Strategic Needs Assessment has enabled us to make positive start to developing meaningful outcome indicators and baseline data from which to track improvements for looked after children over time.

- 4.14 Significant investment has been given to a programme of new builds across residential children's services. Phase 2 - the replacement of Neil St was completed in February 2018. Young people have the opportunity to be looked after in modern houses that they were involved in the design of.
- 4.15 Social Work, Health, Education and Police all deploy staff in a way that specifically addresses the needs of our looked after children and their carers. The HSCP has developed a model of including looked after young people in the recruitment of residential, fieldwork and managerial posts.
- 4.16 We can evidence that a growing number of our looked after children and young people across residential, kinship and foster placements experience stability. The proportion of young people who remain in placement post sixteen has continued to increase and for many this addition period has a significant impact on their wellbeing.
- 4.17 The timescales for securing permanence for children who cannot live with family are reducing and the service provide to those affected by adoption has been further enhanced by the Birth Ties project.
- 4.18 All three residential children's houses have achieved the UNICEF rights respecting award and Kylemore has achieved rights respecting Level 1. Engagement with the Proud2Care continues to increase with 80% of the young people reporting that they feel more confident.
- 4.19 Parts 10 and 11 of the Act set out the extension of care and support available to looked after children and young people born after the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1999. "Continuing care" places a statutory duty on local authorities to support young people. A new model for delivering continuing care is currently being developed and will be included in the Corporate Parenting Plan.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

5.1	Legal:	None
	Finance:	None
	Human Resources	None
	Repopulation	None
	Equality and Diversity:	None
	Inequalities:	None

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Proud2Care Group – Stigma, Children's Hearings, LAC experience in the class room, Health and Wellbeing, 1000 Voices with Who Cares? Scotland (also meeting the First Minister) and refurbishing the Children's Houses.
- 6.2 Health and Wellbeing and Housing with Proud2Care Group and corporate parents.
- 6.3 Preparation for the Champions Board with the Proud2Care Group, Who Cares? Scotland, HSCP and Champions Board members (February – April 2017).
- 6.4 Citizens Panel 2017 – feedback raise awareness of the needs and challenges for looked after children, young people and care leavers.
- 6.5 Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC) test of change in early help and support, raising attainment, bench marking health and wellbeing and positive destinations.

## **7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 DRAFT Inverclyde Corporate Parenting Progress Report 2016 – 18.

Inverclyde's  
Corporate Parenting Progress Report  
2016 – 2018

**PROUD2CARE**

**Inverclyde  
Corporate Parents**



1. Welcome
2. Why a Progress Report?
3. Our looked after population
4. What children, young people and care leavers have told us?
5. Listening to families and carers
6. How have we delivered our promises?
7. What difference have we made?
8. Corporate Parenting Outcomes Framework
9. Next steps

## Appendices

1. Scotland's Corporate Parents
2. Legal definition of looked after children, young people and carers
3. Inverclyde Alliance Governance and Reporting Structure

## **1. Welcome to Inverclyde's Corporate Parenting Progress Report**

Getting it Right for Every Child offers a unique opportunity for all who work with children and young people; it offers a consistent approach for all to understand what children require to grow up safely. The wellbeing indicators provide for this, and give a common language to offer to help and support to those most in need; namely to children and young people who are looked after.

This is not the end of our statutory responsibility, but simply the beginning because it raises a challenge to all of us who work within Inverclyde and demands that we all deliver a coherent strategy across our local planning partnerships.

The Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, places Corporate Parenting on a statutory footing. It provides a framework of new duties and responsibilities for Inverclyde Council and 23 other public bodies to deliver services that are child centred and improve their outcomes, through a more coordinated and collaborative approach.

With this in mind, Corporate Parenting means a collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees and partner agencies to make Inverclyde the best place in Scotland to live, for our children and young people who are looked after and care leavers.

These Are Our Bairns : A Guide for Community Planning Partnerships (2008) shifted the emphasis from “corporate” to “parent “ with the challenge to take all actions necessary to promote and support the physical, emotional, social, spiritual and cognitive development of children from infancy to adulthood.

Every good parent wants the best for their child, to see them flourish with good health, to be safe and happy, to do well at school, to enjoy good relationships with their peers. Make the most of leisure opportunities, hobbies and interests, and grow towards adulthood equipped to lead independent lives and to make their way as adults either in higher education or in employment, so that they can have choices in their life.

This is the aspiration of “Nurturing Inverclyde” where we accept the responsibility for our children, young people and care leavers to make the upholding of their rights, their safeguarding and wellbeing needs our priority.

**Aubrey Fawcett**  
**Chief Executive**

**Stephen McCabe**  
**Leader of the Council**



## 2. Why a Progress Report?

We wanted to reflect on our journey so far.

Part 9 (Corporate Parenting) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 came into force in April 2015. In this year we partnered with CELSIS (the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland) to carry out a scoping exercise of our local need in preparation for a consultation with our local corporate parents, Who Cares? Scotland and care leavers. This took place in December 2015; it agreed the framework of our local corporate parenting strategy and culminated in the signing of the Scottish Carer Leavers Covenant, involving two care leavers, our then Chief Executive and an elected member.



Sharon McAlees, Head of Service for Children and Families and Criminal Justice set out a vision for all looked after children and young people:

*"you are our child, this is your home, and you will be here as long as you need to be"*

This is the vision of Nurturing Inverclyde - that you are safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included.

The consultation event also detailed the corporate parenting duties and responsibilities as outlined in section 58 of the 2014 Act. This is best illustrated in the picture below:



The corporate parenting requirements under section 59, 60, 61, and 62 of the said Act were also highlighted; namely collaboration with each other in order to prepare and publish their corporate parenting plans and keep these plans under review.

The Scottish Government's Corporate Parenting Statutory Guidance published in August 2015 defined corporate parenting as;

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

Of course being a good corporate parent is more than fulfilling statutory duties. Children in our care and young people who are receiving a continuing care or after-care service have the right to expect that we will provide them with everything a good parent would provide in order to ensure they reach their full potential.

To support this we agreed to:

- know the children and young people in our care, their needs and aspirations and promote their interests;
- have high expectations for their future and work to reduce barriers to success
- take an interest in their progress and celebrate their successes
- listen to their views and ensure they influence policy, services, and practice
- ensure they are consulted about their own lives and plans;
- ensure they live in a safe and stable home environment where they can develop positive and caring relationships with trusted adults, family and friends
- provide educational experiences of the highest standards;
- promote their physical and mental health and emotional resilience
- support transition to adulthood and promote their economic prospects

To achieve this we would:

- ensure assessment, planning and decision-making meets the highest standards and is in the child's best interests
- develop and deliver services centred on improving each child's outcomes
- provide safe, stable and nurturing placements
- make progress in reducing timescales around decisions about permanence
- strengthen the professional team around the child and young person
- work together to improve educational experiences and outcomes
- ensure access to healthcare, assessment, treatment and support
- involve children and young people in the planning and design of services
- collaborate with new corporate parents to enable them to identify the contribution they can make.

This incremental approach has established a strong corporate parenting foundation as we move to the next step of establishing a Champions Board in 2018, the Year of the Child.

### 3. Our looked after population

As of 31st July 2017 there were 218 children and young people looked after by Inverclyde Council, with gender composition of 119 males and 99 females. Of this number of children 191 (88%) were residing within community setting and 27 (12%) were residing in a residential setting.

There are 103 young people receiving a service of continuing care and after care.

When we compare ourselves with the latest national figures for looked after children (as of the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016); Inverclyde looked after population was 0.7%, which is under the national average.

The gender balance of looked after children is represented slightly more by males.

### 4. What children, young people and care leavers have told us?

Inverclyde has established a vibrant children, young people and care leavers network called Proud2Care. It is supported by the Children's Rights and Information Officer, HSCP staff and from Who Cares?

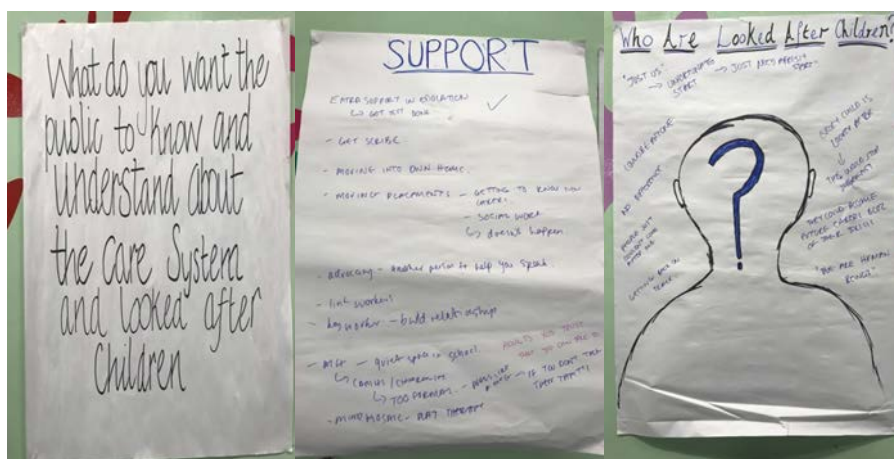
They have told us that they are proud of where they stay; their involvement in the design and moving into their new Children's House – 'making it home'.

They have told the Children's Hearing corporate parent that they want to be listened to. In February 2016, they met with two chairs of the Children's Hearing:

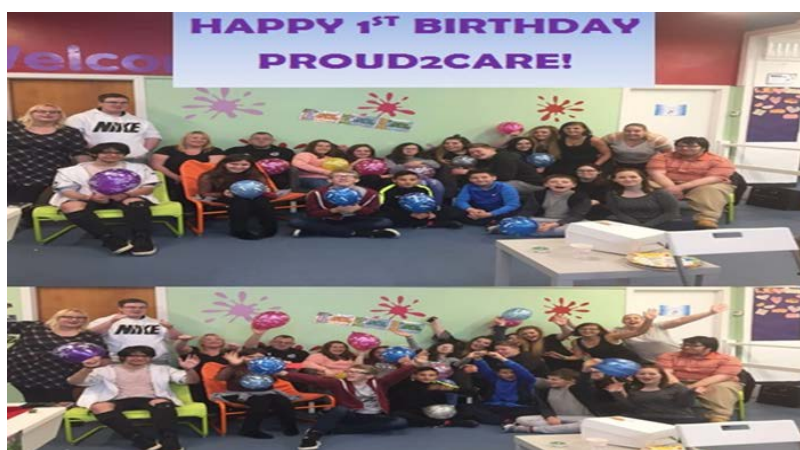
*'to discuss panels and hear about positive and negative experiences. The group prepared things to discuss and were also asked to provide their views on how the new panel waiting room should look'.*

A Session focussing on the issues of stigma supported by staff supported from Who Cares? Scotland





Building resilience in the Proud2Care Group through participation with corporate parents has been a key building block in preparation to establishing a Champions Board. This has been our main priority. The group is now one year old.



This preparation, engagement and participation has been celebrated by the Care Inspectorate who said:

*'The Proud2Care group for care experienced young people was very well facilitated by staff. The group were influential in the recruitment of staff and the refurbishing of children's houses. They had met with children's panel members to feed back their experiences of attending children's hearings and made powerful presentations, for example to the Inverclyde annual looked after children conference (October, 2017, p29).*

## 5. Listening to families and carers

Supporting our most vulnerable parents is our priority; our Birth Ties Support Project offers practical assistance, advice and a listening ear at one of the most challenging times for any person.

Our Kinship Carers' value their involvement in the Family Ties Group – offering peer support, as well as having fun:



## 6. How have we delivered our promises?

We have delivered our promises through relationship based practice that is respectful, listening and engaging.

It has been underpinned by targeting systems at both a whole population level and individual need. Examples of this:

- young looked after children sharing their experience of the classroom with educational colleagues at a conference involving head teachers, guidance staff and strategic leader; and,
- change through the Rights Respecting School/Residential Awards - Kylemore, one of our Children's Houses is the first in the world to achieve this.
- safeguarding and promoting individual need; where staff are committed to make a difference, with one of our Children's House Managers winning a SIRCC Residential Award.



Inverclyde's Corporate Parenting Group is key to how we deliver performance and its link to the Inverclyde Alliance Governance and Reporting Structure. Our focus is both for corporate parents who have duties and responsibilities to deliver direct services and support and for those who do not have this direct function, but who are responsible to 'be alert' to wellbeing and provide opportunities to promote wellbeing.

One example of this response has been our offer of training to staff who have delegated responsibilities the housing regulator, to deliver their local role.

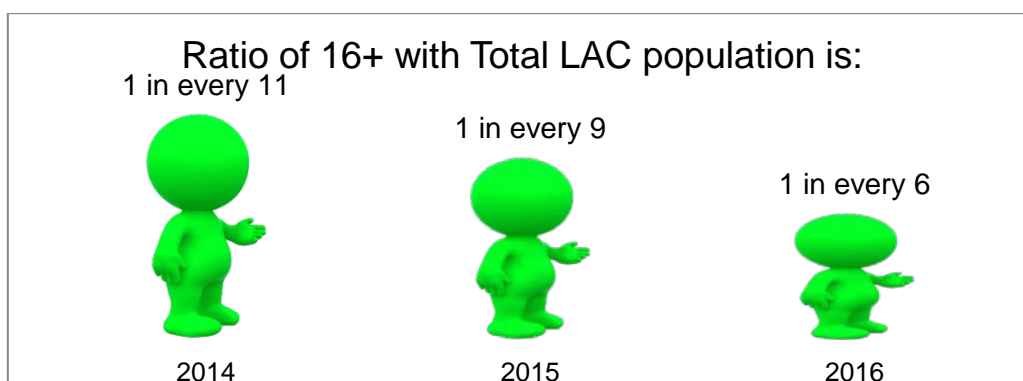
In addition to this, it is the role of the Group to monitor and review performance and to be assured that our services are offered equally and improve outcomes for both the whole population of looked after children, young people and care leavers and the individual.

## **7. What impact have we made?**

Relationship based practice; incorporating a strong agenda of participation and children's rights, is the golden thread binding Inverclyde's approach to corporate parenting. We believe we are making steady progress in transforming traditionally poor outcomes for looked after and accommodated children to better and improving outcomes across the range of wellbeing indicators. All of our regulated care services are graded at 5 or above by the care inspectorate and we continue to strive for excellence in our quality of care.

### **Early Help and Support**

- 85% of children are looked after in the community
- 5-8% of our looked after population are in external placements
- 5 young people have been supported to take up their right to continuing care
- 96 young people are in contact with services post 16yrs
- We have an increasing trend of young people staying put post 16:



### **Rights and Participation**

- All three of our residential children's houses have achieved UNICEF rights respecting award and one has attained RRSA Level 1
- 80% of young people who have engaged with Proud2Care have reported feeling more confident
- Our local school provision involving children with additional support needs offers volunteering; with young people achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.



## Health and Wellbeing

- Following the implementation of the vulnerable health pathway 63% of looked after children took up the offer of a health assessment with 22% assessed as having no unmet health need however 78% were referred to other health related services
- We have worked with Police Scotland to reduce the numbers of children missing from placement across residential children's services

## Learning, Achievement and Skills for Life

- 100% of looked after children gaining at least one subject at SCF level 3 or better
- 100% of looked after children gaining both English and maths at SCQF level 3 or better
- School attendance for children in residential and foster care consistently high

## Housing and Accommodation

Over half of our care leavers who are living independently have sustained their tenancy for over 12 months and care leavers experiencing one or more periods of homelessness continues to reduce.

### 8. Corporate Parenting Outcomes Framework

During the development of the plan development we worked within the framework of our local Single Outcome Agreement and in particular the outcomes related to children, young people and families:

**SOA6** A nurturing Inverclyde gives all our children and young people the best start in life.

Our activities have been co-ordinated through the Inverclyde Corporate Parenting Group (ICPG), which is represented by the key corporate parents. This network has built a communication and participation infrastructure that allows our looked after children, young people and care leavers to say to the Care Inspectors *'the benefits they experienced from partners' commitment to corporate parenting'* (October 2017, p28).

Early Help and Assistance			
Outcome	Activity	Responsible Corporate Parent	Achievement
Children, their families and carers receive early help and assistance with seamless transitions from birth to adulthood	Full implementation of assessment and care planning processes across the authority.	HSCP	Implemented
	Care planning and permanence planning progressed in a timely manner		
	Looked after children and care leavers to be consulted on current transition arrangements, the strengths and areas for improvement		Consulted

Early help and support for children, young people who are at risk of becoming looked after that is timely, appropriate and proportionate	Meeting the needs of Children, Young People and Families in Inverclyde; Getting it Right for Every Child Practice Guidance 2016 to be implemented throughout Children's Services and involved partners  Inverclyde's Attainment Challenge identifies and supports P1, P2 and P3 pupils to improve numeracy and literacy. The impact is evaluated through learning and assessment.	HSCP/Education	In progress – impacted by the implementation of the 2014 Act on information sharing
Promoting equality of opportunities at key transitions points, for example in moves through education and through childhood to adulthood	Develop tool box for practitioners/agencies Adult services have awareness of transitions have systems in place to identify care leavers	HSCP/Education	In progress through HSCP Planning and Improvement Officer

#### How do we measure success in 2018

##### Early help and support

1: % of all children who have reached their developmental milestones at the time of their 13-15 month review and % of all looked after children at home who have reached this developmental milestones

2; % of all children who have reached their developmental milestones by the end of their 27-30 month review and % of all looked after children at home who have reached this developmental milestones

3: % of all children who have reached their developmental milestones by the time of their 4-5 year child health review and % of all looked after children who have reached this developmental milestones by the time of their 4-5 year child health review

4: % of all children who have achieved early literacy, numeracy and progressing in their wellbeing and the % of all looked after children at home progressing in these areas

##### Early stability and permanence

5:Reduce the duration of CSOs at home

6:Increase the number of Kinship Care Orders

7:Reduce the time to secure a permanence order for children



<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>			
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Corporate Parent</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
Looked after children and care experienced young people will have improved physical emotional and mental wellbeing and mental health wellbeing	<p>The health needs of children and young people will be assessed and reviewed by a medical practitioner in a timely way</p> <p>All looked after children, young people and care leavers are registered with GP and dentist</p> <p>Timely access to mental health services</p> <p>Established access pathways between CAMHS/LAC Health Team /Specialist Children's Health Services</p> <p>Effective inter-authority liaison to ensure consistent access to health supports for external placements</p>	HSCP	<p>Health and wellbeing remains a challenging area.</p> <p>In tier 2 of the vulnerable health pathway – 0.5 of a nursing post is available.</p> <p>We are in discussion with colleagues from CLD and Health Improvement to take forward a consultation with young people and partners.</p>
	<p>Emotional wellbeing is identified and supported through trained staff (5 to Thrive) in schools under the Inverclyde Attainment Challenge.</p> <p>Nurturing Playgrounds support safe, emotionally included and physical activity through trained staff in attachment.</p>	HSCP/Education	
<b>How do we measure success in 2018</b>			
<p>1:All LAC reviews between April 2018 – June 2018 to check that children, young people and care leavers are registered with a GP, dentist.</p> <p>2:Review themes of wellbeing need identified by the LAC Health Assessment from April 2018 – October 2018.</p> <p>3:LAC at home and Kinship are active and responsible through participation in sport and volunteering – 50% of their Child's Plans to be reviewed in November 2018.</p> <p>4:LAAC transition points – pathway plans will take place at all LAAC Reviews before their 16th birthday and include the offer of a CLD health assessment.</p> <p>5:Better Review of Children Hearing – advocacy service will support the Proud2Care Group to review the impact of agreed improvement areas and will be a themed discussion in the Autumn 2018 with the Champions Board.</p>			

<b>Learning, Achievement and Skills for Life</b>			
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Corporate Parent</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
All Looked after children benefit from engaging and aspirational educational experiences which meet their developmental needs and helps them to fulfil their potential	Inverclyde's most vulnerable children are supported through focussed approaches to improve numeracy and literacy under Inverclyde's Attainment Challenge. They have individualised plans promoted through primary 1, 2 and 3. This is evaluated through learning and assessment to evaluate the impact.  The ASN Forum meets and ensures plans and resources align to meet assessed wellbeing needs	Education	This is being established.
Looked after children experience the same positive educational attainments and outcomes as their peers – including increasing the numbers of Looked after young people who engage, sustain and successfully complete further education	Review of all LAC educational plans as contained in the Child's Plan (through monitoring and review by Quality Assurance in social work and Education services – jointly reviewing data sets	HSCP/Education	Sustainability is this challenge in this area and is part of our measures in 2018.
Care experienced young people experience a sense of 'connection and belonging to their named school and are supported to participate in the full life of the school.	Effective monitoring and reporting of looked after children and young people who are excluded or on 'part time timetables' and the reasons why; with appropriate actions to address school inclusion issues	Education	
<b>How do we measure success in 2018</b>			
1: There will be a reduction in the number of children living in poverty  2: There will be a reduction in the attainment gap with increase in attainment of pupils in the 20% most deprived area  3: Increase the % participation rate of young people from SIMD 1 and 2  3: Test of change in Inverclyde Academy to build resilience in S 3 LAC pupils for positive destinations  4: Increase the number of positive destinations for LAC – 3 months after education and 6 months after leaving education  5: Reduction in the % of young people 16 to 24 who are unemployed  6: Reduction in the % of care leavers who are unemployed			

<b>Housing and Accommodation</b>			
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Corporate Parent</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
<p>Improved range of, and access to, needs-led housing and accommodation options, with integrated person-centred support.</p> <p>Reduce the number of homeless applications by care leavers</p>	<p>Full implementation of Housing Options Protocols for Care Leavers</p> <p>Looked After and Care leavers are fully aware of right to “Continuing Care” and “Aftercare”</p> <p>Mechanisms to convert foster carer to supported carers and develop options for suitable continuing care placements</p> <p>Mechanisms to convert foster carer to supported carers and develop options for suitable continuing care placements</p>	Housing Partnership Group	The SHIP includes RSL’s accommodation for vulnerable young people in new build being developed
Young people are supported to sustain tenancies and accommodation within their own community	<p>Improved liaison re advice, guidance and access to housing accommodation and support options – Introduce joint interviews process for care leavers with Housing &amp; TCAC staff re housing applications</p> <p>Develop a Multi-Agency Transitions Forum to coordinate housing and accommodation resource planning; and track and monitor supports outcomes. Joint training between SW/TCAC and housing staff.</p>	Housing Partnership Group	Our statistics for sustainable tenancies suggest this is an improving trend.
<b>How do we measure success in 2018</b>			
<p>1:The number of young people opting for continuing care  2:Reduce homeless rates for carer leavers  3:Increase the sustainability of tenancies for care leavers  4:Survey housing providers and carer leavers on the impact of the implementation of the Young People’s Housing Statement in the Autumn 2018.</p>			

<b>Rights and Participation</b>			
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Corporate Parent</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
LA/CLs have access to decision makers to influence policy, strategy and practice	<p>Develop Corporate Parenting Champions Board – seek additional funding from Life Changes Trust to develop Champs Board model and implementation.</p> <p>Link to Life Changes Trust and Scottish Care Leavers Covenant work</p> <p>Inverclyde can evidence impact of views and input of YP of services</p>	HSCP	In progress and to be established in April 2018
Young people voices and views are at the heart of decision making - YP /parents /carers report that meetings and processes are inclusive	<p>LAC review format to be reviewed</p> <p>Independent advocacy is available to all care experienced children</p> <p>Inverclyde work in partnership with CHS &amp; SCRA to strengthen links and ensure meetings, systems and processes maintain focus on young person</p> <p>SW assessments and recommendations are evidence-informed and practice issues are reviewed at quarterly meetings with local Reporter</p> <p>Young People involved in the recruitment of residential, fieldwork and managerial posts</p>	<p>HSCP</p> <p>WC/Barnardo's</p> <p>HSCP/SCRA</p> <p>HSCP/SCRA</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Implemented</p> <p>Key area for the Champions Board</p> <p>Training Plan being progressed.</p>
<b>How do we measure success in 2018</b>			
<p>1: Number of young people accessing Who Cares advocacy services</p> <p>2: Number of young people engaging with Proud2Care</p> <p>3: Young people's collaboration with Champions Board</p>			

## **9. Next steps**

Inverclyde's Champions Board will be established in April 2018; the Year of the Child. All our activities to date have centred on building resilience within the Proud2Care Group. This has involved group members increasing their confidence, skills and relationships by engaging with local corporate parents through consultations, involvement in delivering workshops with them, being influential in recruiting staff and the refurbishing of local Children's Houses.

Research by the National Children's Bureau around Champions Boards (2013) highlights that effective corporate parenting through the vehicle of a Champions Board has a triple effect; improves the outcomes for individual children, offers best value and increases the performance of the community planning partnership.

All of our work to date has made us ready to take the next step. This was commented upon by the Care Inspectorate who said 'that leaders within the Inverclyde Alliance took corporate responsibilities very seriously and were determined to improve the life chances of looked after children and care leavers'. (Inverclyde: Joint Strategic Inspection of Children's Services October, 2017, p30).

## Appendix 1

Corporate parents in Schedule 4 of the Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act 2014:

<b>The Scottish Ministers</b>	<b>A local authority</b>	<b>A health board</b>
<b>Children’s Hearings Scotland</b>	The Principal Reporter	The Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration
<b>A “post 16 education body” for the purposes of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005</b>	A board constituted under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978	Skills Development Scotland Co. Ltd (Registered Number SC202659)
<b>The National Convener of Children’s Hearings Scotland</b>	The Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland	Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland
<b>The Scottish Social Services Council</b>	The Scottish Sports Council	The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland
<b>Healthcare Improvement Scotland</b>	The Scottish Police Authority	The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
<b>The Scottish Legal Aid Board</b>	The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland	The Scottish Housing Regulator
<b>Bord na Gaidhlig</b>	Creative Scotland	The Scottish Qualifications Authority

## **Appendix 2**

### **Legal definition of ‘looked after’ children, young people, and care leavers**

The term “looked after” legally means that a child or young person falls into one of the following categories:

- subject to a compulsory supervision order under Section 70 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995;
- subject to a Permanence Order under Section 80 of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007; and,
- accommodated by the local authority under Section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

Corporate Parenting duties include all of the care leavers within the following categories:

- in receipt of an Aftercare Service under Section 66 of the Children and Young People’s (Scotland) Act 2014; and,
- in receipt of a Continuing Care Service under Section 67 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Appendix 3

Inverclyde Alliance Governance and Reporting Structure

