



# No Limits – Giving Scheme Mandie Rowlands

# Who are you and what makes you the person you have become

- What has made you into the person you are today?
- What has created stability and security in your adult life?

# Roles and Responsibilities of a Parent

## Children's Developmental Needs

**To ensure children have the best chance to fulfil their potential they need to:**

- ✓ Be healthy – both physically and mentally
- ✓ Feel safe – to feel warmth, love and protection
- ✓ Know who they are and where they belong – boundaries, guidance and support
- ✓ Enjoy and achieve – get a good education and have high aspirations
- ✓ Have good connections to the community – accessing opportunities in the community
- ✓ Have financial stability – good housing and financial security

**Our job as a parent is to be loving, while having a fulfilling and meaningful relationship with our child**

# Why are Children cared for by the Local Authority?

## Reasons why children come into care

- Pressures on families, e.g. social exclusion; unemployment; poor accommodation; poor diet; adverse housing; upheaval in family relationships
- Domestic abuse
- Child's disability or illness including physical, sensory and learning disabilities, emotional behavioural difficulties and mental health conditions
- Parental disability or illness
- Parenting capacity is chronically inadequate
- Absent parenting
- Socially unacceptable behaviour
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Negative impact of a parent's/carer's own adverse childhood experiences
- Adults that pose a risk within the child's environment.

# Why are Children cared for by the Local Authority?

## What is classified as Abuse?

- **Neglect** - The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development
- **Physical Harm** - May include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child
- **Emotional Abuse** - The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development
- **Sexual Abuse** - Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening

# Why are Children cared for by the Local Authority?

How many Children do the local authority care for?

**As at 31.12.2022 we had 581 cared for children aged 0-18 years**

- 58% Male
- 42% Female
- 67% is a result of abuse or neglect
- 13% is a result of family dysfunction
- 9 day is the shortest period of care
- 15 years is the longest period of care
- 437 children have been in our care for over 1 year
- 3 young people are in custody – automatically become a child in our care

# Why are Children looked after?

## Where are children placed?

Type of Placement	Number	%
Short Term Foster Care	122	22
Long Term Foster Care	110	19
Short Term Family and Friends Placement	112	19
Long Term Family and Friends Placement	36	6
Children's Homes	72	12
Placed with own Parents or other person with PR	59	10
Semi Independent or Independent Living	54	9
Placed for Adoption	12	2
Residential Care Home	2	1
Secure Accommodation	1	
Other Placement	1	

# Care Leavers

## How many Care Leavers are we Corporate Parents for?

**On 30.12.2022 we had 341 care experienced young people aged 16-27 years eligible for care leaving services**

- 188 are male           55%
- 153 are female       45%

**On 30.12.2022 we had**

- 206 care experienced young people with an active referral to a Personal Adviser
- 8 are co-worked with Social Care
- 124 entitled to service but not currently active
- 3 have died

**We record the following on the active cases**

- ✓ Type and suitability of accommodation
- ✓ EET



# Care Leavers – who we are working with

## Where are young people/adults living?

Type of Placement	Male	%	Female	%
With Parents/Relatives	37	33	24	26
Independent Living	26	23	38	40
Semi-independent, transitional or self-contained accommodation	16	15	11	12
With former foster carers	11	10	9	9
In custody	9	8		
Supported Lodgings	8	7	8	8
No fixed abode/Unsuitable	2	2	2	2
Community home/residential care	2	2	3	3
TOTALS	111		95	

# Care Leavers – who we are working with

## What are young people/adults doing?

Type of Activity	Male	%	Female	%
Not in EET due to other reasons	36	32	13	14
Full time in training or employment (not apprenticeship)	28	25	21	22
Full time in education other than higher	19	17	19	20
Full time in higher education	12	11	12	13
Not in EET due to pregnancy or parenting			8	8
Not in EET due to illness or disability	6	5	13	14
Full time in apprenticeship	4	4	1	1
Part time in apprenticeship	2	2		
Part time in training or employment (not apprenticeship)	2	2	7	7
Part time in higher education	1	1		
Part time in education other than higher	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	111		95	

# Our corporate parenting commitment

## What do we mean by corporate parenting?

### The legislation

The role that our council plays in caring for children is one of the most important things we do. Local authorities have a unique responsibility to the children they care for and young people who become care leavers.

In this context local authorities are often referred to as being the ‘corporate parent’ of these children and young people, and the critical question that local authorities should ask is:

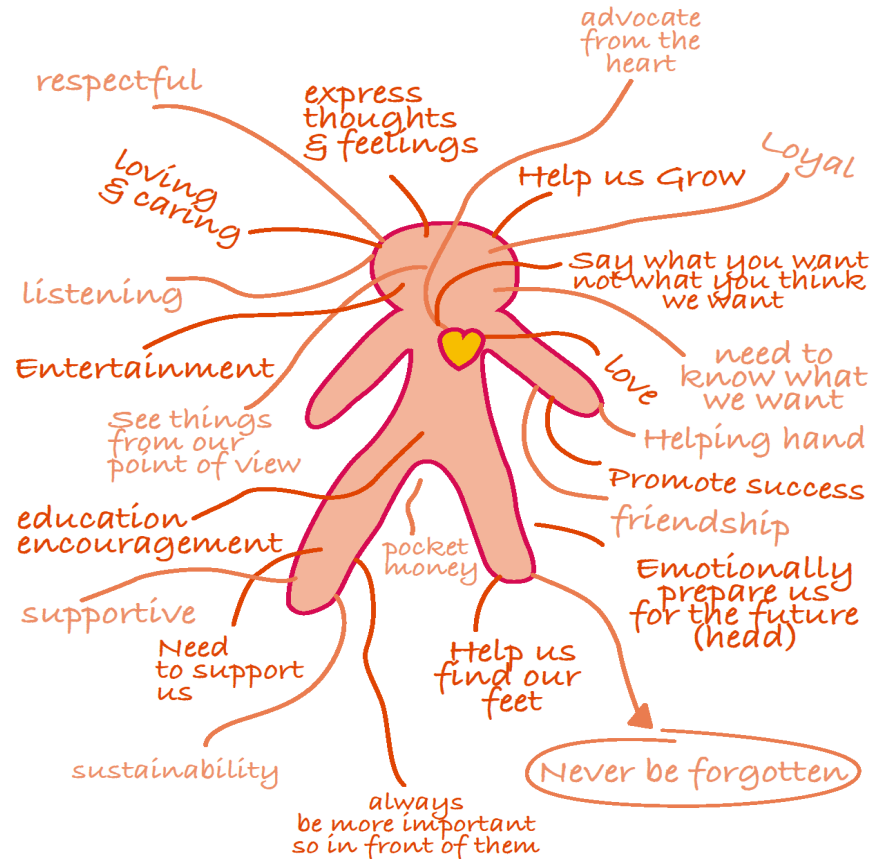
***“what if this was my child?”***

***“would this be good enough for my child?”***

***“what can we do to put this right?”***

# Perfect Corporate Parent

The Perfect Corporate Parent was developed by members of the 'Let's Take Action' Group, representing children in our care. They felt that a corporate parent should be there for them in a time of need, care for them and love them.



# The Corporate Parenting Pledge

Our pledge to all children and young people in care in Stockton-on-Tees is that:

<b>PRIVATE LIFE</b>	"We will make sure that you are treated as an individual, and you will have a care plan to reflect this"
<b>FAMILY CONTACT</b>	"We will help you to maintain important relationships with your family, whenever it is possible and safe to do so"
<b>CHOICE</b>	"We want to help you to make healthy and safe choices. We will work alongside you to prepare you to move into independent living, when you are ready"
<b>POCKET MONEY &amp; MY TIME</b>	"We will help you to enjoy your life. We will support you to enjoy leisure activities including music, the arts, hobbies, sports, and to join young people's organisations"
<b>FRIENDS</b>	"We will encourage you to make friends, keep in touch with old friends, and build on your relationships"
<b>BEING HEALTHY</b>	"We will ensure services are in places to support your emotional wellbeing. You will also get access to advice, to help you lead a healthy lifestyle"
<b>TO BE A LIFELONG CHAMPION</b>	"We want to help you make a positive contribution to your community, and to be prepared for a stable and secure adult life"
<b>EDUCATION</b>	"At your school you will have a designated teacher to make sure you get the help you need; we will encourage & support you to study at college or university"
<b>YOUR FUTURE</b>	"We will provide you with a Personal Advisor to support you from the age of 16 through to 25"
<b>SUPPORT</b>	"We will do our best to help you break down barriers encountered when dealing with other agencies. We will work together with the services you need including housing benefits & employment"

# Our corporate parenting commitment

## What does a good corporate parent mean?

**Put simply the term good corporate parent means we ALL should:**

- Accept responsibility for children in the care of the local authority
- Make their needs a priority
- Seek for them the same outcome any good parent would want for their own children

Every councillor and officer within a council has a responsibility to act for those children and young people as a parent would for their own child

- How do you contribute to your corporate parenting responsibilities?
- How does your department achieve its corporate parenting duties ?

# What is the No Limits scheme?

## Staff giving scheme

The 'No Limits' team was set up in 2019 and is made up of staff from all directorates

The remit of the team is to raise the profile of the corporate parenting role and support the roll out of the scheme

The scheme originally had two main functions:

- ✓ Giving Time – becoming a Volunteer 'buddy' and matching with a young person to provide support, friendship informal mentoring and seeking opportunities to promote wellbeing, things like going for coffee or inviting to a football/rugby club
- ✓ Giving Money – donating regular or one-off payments from your salary, to provide financial support for items that may not be readily available to a child or young person

Now it includes:

- ✓ Gift of Giving – buy a gift at Christmas for all cared for and care experienced young people

The team have met regularly post COVID to mobilise the scheme and work through the logistics of launching it to the whole council

The team have also co-consulted with the Let's Take Action Group to understand what is important to our cared for and care experienced children and young people

# What is the No Limits scheme?

## Staff giving scheme

Back in 2019 staff held a fundraiser, and along with a donation from the Mayors office the pot amounted to £6302.50

From that pot 8 applications for care leavers have been approved and 1 residential has been funded

Examples of what has been funded so far:

£350 - A young man enrolled onto a HND in Make-Up Artistry at University but needed to supply own make-up and brushes. The book allowance would not cover the costs, so the YP applied for the fund, and we purchased the equipment. He is now in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year

£350 - a young man started working as a labourer but wanted to do his plastering qualification, so we subsidised the cost of the course

£149.99 - A young lady completing a course with Stockton Riverside College, studying during lock down need to print some course work, so we bought a printer

# What is the No Limits scheme?

## Staff giving scheme

### **Giving Time Pilot** - Donating time to be a volunteer 'buddy'

- ✓ 5 buddies had 2 days training
- ✓ 3 mentors led the training
- ✓ A handbook is being written
- ✓ Matching is happening

### **Giving Money Pilot** - Donating £1, £3, or £5 direct from your salary [No Limits - Giving Money](#)

- ✓ 17 volunteers have signed up from across the 5 directorates
- ✓ Monthly contributions are £69
- ✓ Creating £828 over next 12 months

### **Gift of Giving** – Donating a one-off payment of £5, £7.50 or £10 from your salary

- ✓ 297 contributions made from staff and 147 tags purchased in Drake the Bookshop
- ✓ 226 books purchased
- ✓ 492 vouchers purchased



# What is the No Limits scheme?

## Staff Giving Scheme

### What's Next?

- Matching volunteers and young people will be done in next 2-3 weeks
- A simple to use system has been built to enable staff to sign up to the scheme – this has been tested
- Look at learning from the pilots – how much do people want to give, how did it feel to be a buddy
- A video has been co-produced with the Let's Take Action Group to showcase the No Limits Scheme
- A dedicated web page has been designed and is ready for launch by March 2023
- Annual Corporate Parenting event is planned for June 2023
- A dedicated email account is now live
- Briefings to teams across the Directorates will be delivered by the No Limits Team – what else could we do?
- Corporate Parenting induction will be provided to all elected members following the elections
- Regular articles and updates in KYIT and as part of the Chief Executives engagement sessions with staff
- Will become part of the Corporate Induction for new members of staff joining the Council
- Newsletter to be co-produced with young people

**THANK YOU AND ANY QUESTIONS??**