



Meeting: Board Meeting
Meeting date: 26th March 2024
Title: Corporate Parenting – Key Deliverables 2024
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive: Dr Tim Allison, Director of Public Health and Policy
Report Author: Debbie Stewart, Child Health Commissioner

1 Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Awareness

This report relates to a:

- Government policy/directive

This report will align to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition(s):

Safe, Effective and Person Centred

This report relates to the following Strategic Outcome(s)

Start Well	X	Thrive Well	X	Stay Well		Anchor Well	
Grow Well	X	Listen Well		Nurture Well		Plan Well	
Care Well	X	Live Well		Respond Well		Treat Well	
Journey Well		Age Well		End Well		Value Well	
Perform well	X	Progress well		All Well Themes			

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

The NHS Highland Board has corporate parenting responsibilities as detailed in the [Statutory guidance on Part 9 \(Corporate Parenting\) of the Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) as applied to infants, children and young people to the age of 26 years. Oversight of Corporate Parenting is by the [Argyll and Bute Corporate Parenting](#)

[Board](#) and [The Promise Board](#) in Highland. [Who Cares Scotland](#) emphasises that the impact of care can be lifelong, and encourages Corporate Parents not to be limited in their support by age. This paper is being brought to the meeting's attention to provide awareness of current and planned Corporate Parenting activity for 2024.

2.2 Background

Corporate Parenting establishes a framework of duties and responsibilities for relevant public bodies that requires; a systematic, proactive and determined approach to understanding and meeting the physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational needs of care experienced infants, children and young people (Scottish Government, 2014). Corporate Parenting is a key strand of the improvement journey to [#keepthepromise](#) by 2030 and is strengthened by the incorporation of the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#) in to Scots law in January 2024. Collectively, the legislation and policy initiatives aim to ensure that all children, particularly those with care experience, grow up to reach their full potential in a Scotland where they are loved, safe and respected.

2.3 Assessment

Arrangements for Corporate Parenting differ across the two parts of NHS in light of the different governance arrangements and lead agency in the Highland HSCP area. Having a single overarching Corporate Parenting Plan is not practicable or reflective of local need and priorities. Nonetheless, the HSCPs and NHS are striving to achieve the same outcomes through respective plans and/or activity. For a brief summary of current activity see Appendix 1. A key deliverable in 2024 is for NHS to be a proactive partner in the development of improved area based plans, whilst also delivering on a distinctive but complementary health focused Corporate Parenting Plan. Work is needed to develop NHS Highland's corporate parenting activity. The recent appointment of a Child Health Commissioner in January 2024 will provide capacity to progress this area of work.

2.4 Proposed level of Assurance

Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comment on the level of assurance

A renewed NHS Plan needs to be completed and progress evidenced to ensure a higher level of assurance.

3 Impact Analysis

3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

Addressing the needs of care experienced children and young people will improve the quality of care.

3.2 Workforce

Ensuring the workforce is aware of the needs and circumstances of care experienced children and young people and the development of opportunities for employing those who are care experienced.

3.3 Financial

There are no specific financial implications in this paper, albeit sufficient capacity to meet demand may have resourcing implications for the future.

3.4 Risk Assessment/Management

Risk assessment needs to be developed further following self-assessment of duties and responsibilities in line with NHS Highland processes.

3.5 Data Protection

No specific data protection implications.

3.6 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

Addressing the needs of care experienced children and young people, including employability needs, will help reduce health inequalities and contribute towards the Fairer Scotland Duty. A Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) will be conducted as part of the development of a renewed improvement plan.

3.7 Other impacts

There are no other specific other impacts.

3.8 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

State how this has been carried out and note any meetings that have taken place.
Meeting with Chair of Argyll & Bute Corporate Parenting Board – 20th Feb 2024
Meeting with Chair of The Promise Board – 15th Feb 2024
Meeting with The Promise Programme Manager – 14th Feb 2024
Attendance at The Highland Promise Board – 23rd Feb 2024

3.9 Route to the Meeting

The content has been collated through individual meetings and attendance at the Highland Promise Board meeting on 23rd February 2024. Further governance arrangements will be confirmed for future reports.

4 Recommendation

- **Awareness** – For Members’ information only.

4.1 List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Activity – Brief Summary
- Appendix 2 – Highland Promise Board – Delivery Structure

Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Activity – Brief Summary

Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute HSCP has a proactive Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) that is chaired by the Chief Executive of the Third Sector Interface and co-chaired by a person with care experience. The CPB is committed to #keepthepromise with further detail on progress accessible at: [Argyll and Bute - The Promise Annual Report](#) NHS is represented on the CPB, albeit there have been challenges attending all meetings. The CPB progresses the priorities set out in the [Argyll & Bute Corporate Parenting Plan 2021 - 2024](#) and reports to the Children Strategic Group and in turn to the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB). A quarterly plan tracker is in place, albeit it has at times stalled due to capacity challenges.

The focus on Corporate Parenting has been strengthened through #keepthepromise and a significant shift to delivering trauma-informed practice across Argyll and Bute HSCP. There are a number of Champion groups across the area that provide a voice for care experienced children and young people and a route in to the CPB on issues that require to be resolved at a local level. The CPB is also assisted in its work by Children's Champions. The CPB recently undertook a self-evaluation exercise on 02/02/24 to review; progress, key achievements, external environment, areas for improvement, partnership working, tracking of progress and future priorities. A **key deliverable for 2024** is to produce an updated Corporate Parenting Plan from 2024 - 2027.

Highland

Much of the progress on Corporate Parenting in Highland HSCP has been led by Highland Council with NHS representation on The Promise Board formed in June 2023. The Board is committed to upholding Highland's Corporate Parenting responsibilities and to delivering co-designed Corporate Parenting and #keepthepromise plans. These will be aligned to the Highland Care Experience Charter which sets out Highland's pledge as Corporate Parents. The Highland Promise Board reports to the Integrated Children's Service Partnership (ICSP) Board and in turn the CPPB. Further detail on progress can be accessed at: [Highland - The Promise Annual Report](#) Care Experienced older young people input into meetings and are increasingly influencing the work of the Board. The ICSPB has commissioned development of a Children and Young Person Participation Strategy, for the Board, delivery groups and all partners to use. NHS is expected to sign up to this as a key member of the Highland Corporate Parenting family.

A broad range of creative resources have been developed, with some nationally recognised, to better support care experienced young people and practitioners. For example; a video produced by care experienced young people in Highland in collaboration with Who Cares Scotland on [What a Corporate Parent should be](#) A recent self-evaluation demonstrates that The Promise Board is making steady progress. A particularly positive finding linked to the Families 1st Strategy, is that from 2020 to 2023 there has been an 18-20% reduction in 'looked after children' which is below comparator areas and the Scottish average. Collaboration with [Each and Every Child](#) on tests of change in local residential homes are also underway.

A **key deliverable for 2024** is to produce a Promise Board (Corporate Parenting) Plan, consisting of 'delivery groups' (see Appendix 2), that details '*what better looks like*' alongside change theories that captures how this will be achieved. Opportunities for NHS Board members to be fully involved in developing the Corporate Parenting Plan from an early stage, has been highlighted.

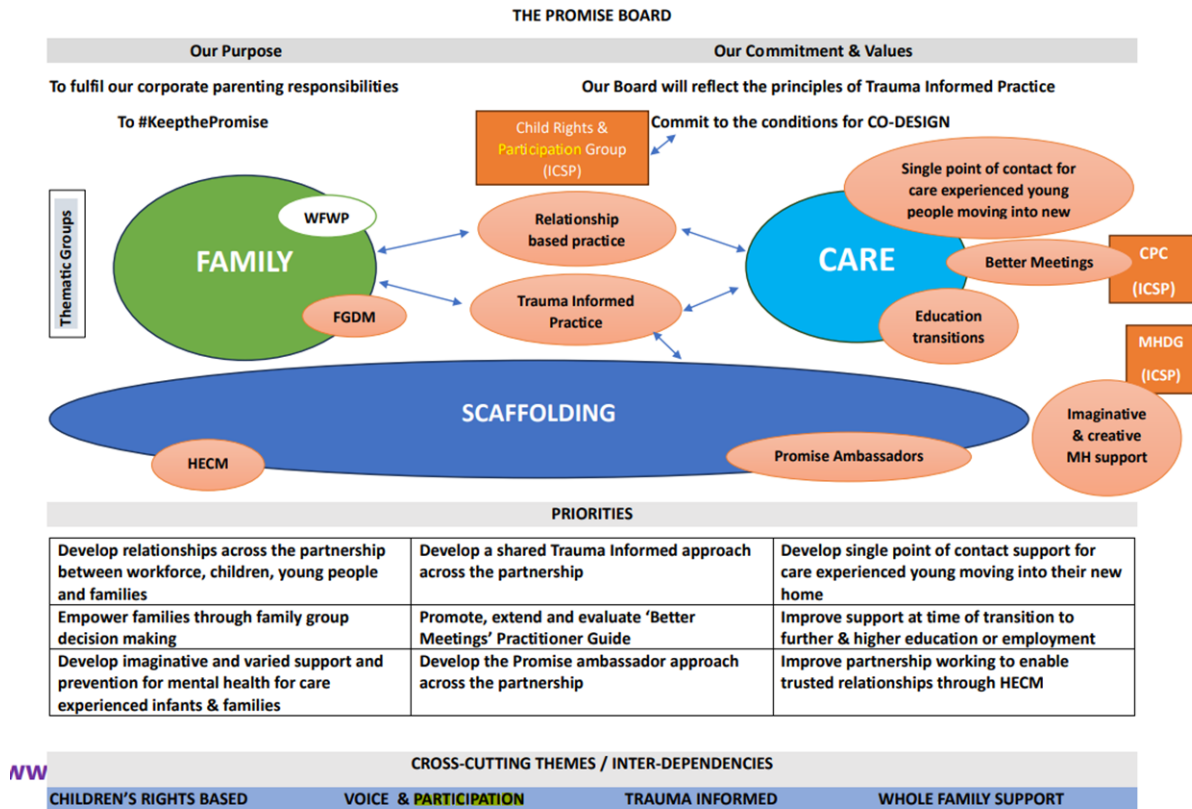
NHS Highland

The NHS Highland [Together We Care](#) Strategy (2022 – 2027) gives a firm commitment to working collaboratively to #keepthepromise with future performance on Corporate Parenting, #keepthepromise and GIRFEC to be reported via the Population Health Programme Board and Annual Delivery Plan process. The NHS Board and senior leaders previously participated in [Who Cares Scotland](#) training on Corporate Parenting responsibilities which can be refreshed later this year. A draft NHS [Corporate Parenting Plan](#) is in place, albeit progress has stalled due to capacity challenges. Now that pressures are easing with a Child Health Commissioner appointed in January 2024, the plan will be renewed in 2024 to identify and progress improvement priorities.

Examples of related activity in the past year include a [Highland Children and Young People's Needs Assessment](#) to inform the [Highland Children's Service Plan 2023-2026](#) which prioritises Corporate Parenting, #keepthepromise, children's rights and participation. Progress in these areas is reported bi-monthly to the ICSP Board where NHS is represented and a proactive partner. A Children's Service Plan annual report on progress was submitted to the Highland CPPB on 01/03/24. Examples of activity more specific to NHS include planning to establish an employability group that will explore options for care experienced young people to access NHS employment opportunities, tracking and reporting on health assessments to better understand and respond to health needs, Promise Scotland delivery of an awareness session to key health service managers.

Key deliverables for 2024 are for NHS to be a proactive partner and participate fully in The Promise/Corporate Parenting Boards and development of their respective plans, whilst also delivering a distinctive NHS Corporate Parenting Plan focused on health.

Appendix 2 – Highland Promise Board - Delivery Structure



(With thanks to Carrie McLaughlin, Promise Programme Manager, Highland Council)