

# Dorset's Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020 – 2023

Making Dorset  
the best place  
to grow-up



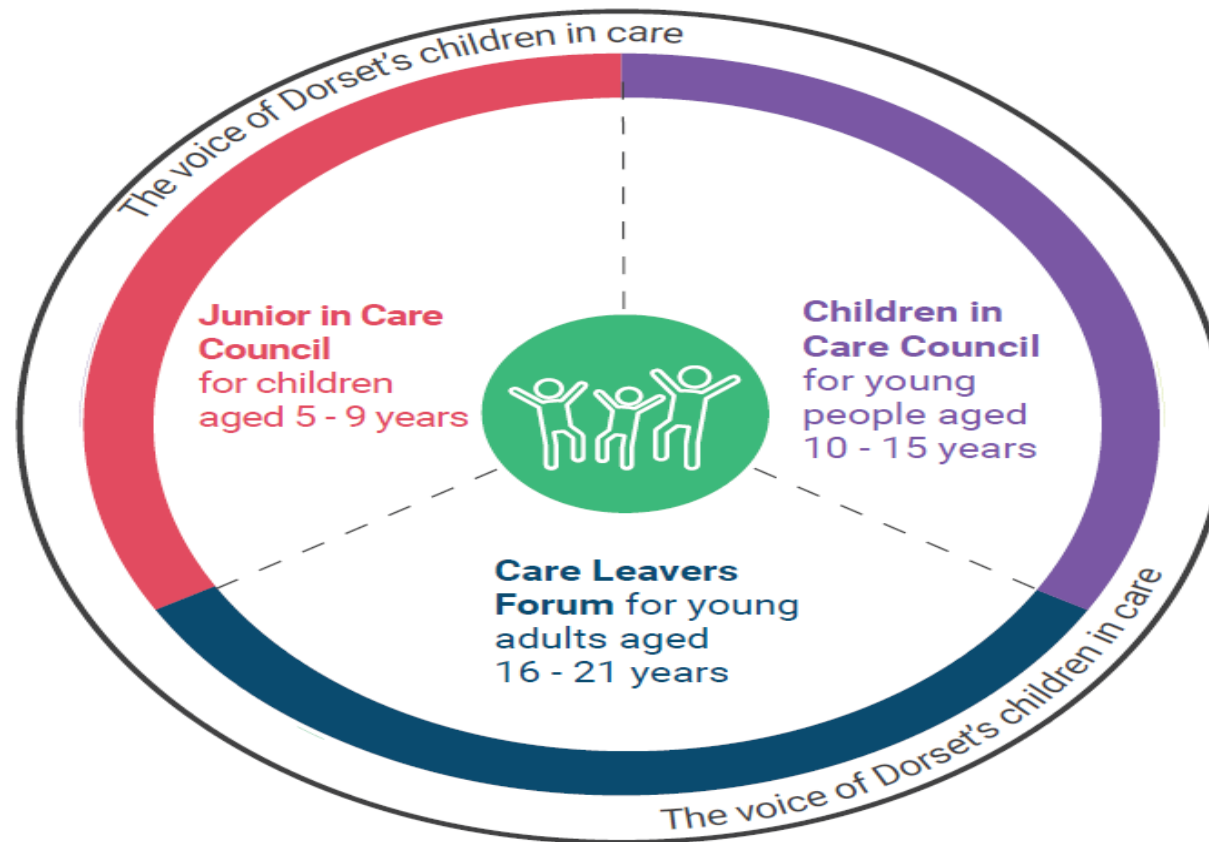
Dorset  
Council

# Corporate Parenting Ambitions & Priorities

- 1 Increase opportunities to hear the voice of our children and young people and to take their views, wishes and feelings into account.
- 2 Promote better physical and mental health and well-being through improved access to health information and services.
- 3 Have high aspirations for children in care and care leavers in their education, training and employment.
- 4 Ensure safe and stable accommodation within the family home or close relatives and friends. If not possible, children are moved to a permanent placement without delay.
- 5 For our children to have a good and enriching experience of care provision and to prepare for adulthood and an independent and successful life.
- 6 Effective governance and planning arrangements are in place to mean the Corporate Parent can be the best they can be.



- 1 Increase opportunities to hear the voice of our children and young people and to take their views, wishes and feelings into account.



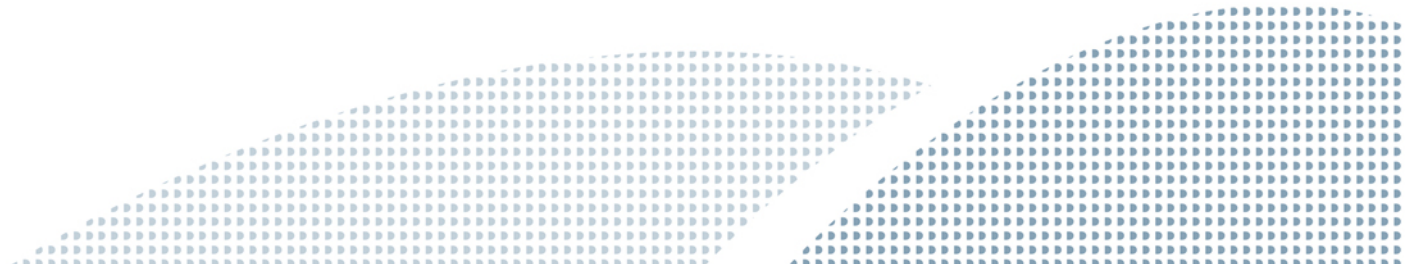
- 2** Promote better physical and mental health and well-being through improved access to health information and services.

## **Positives**

- Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) are well sighted each month on the Strengths and Difficulties Questioner (SDQ) data.
- Adhoc report on Emotional Health and Wellbeing presented to Board Jan 2021.
- Strengthening Services plan in place (SDQ).
- Review Health Assessment (RHA) rates remain positive.

## **Areas of focus**

- Education Psychologist delivering SDQ training to staff in January 2021.
- Refine process for staff.
- Initial Health Assessment rate is low – improved process embedding.



- 3** Have high aspirations for children in care and care leavers in their education, training and employment.

## Positives

- Virtual Schools Annual report and end of term data to CPB
- Deep Dive on Care Leavers' Employment, Education and Skills – Not In Education , Employment or Training (NEET) (June and September 2021)
- New virtual schools Principal Teacher
- Electronic Personal Education Plan (PEP) training in January 2021
- Pandemic has encouraged use of tech to stay in contact with one another and made accessible a variety of resources to young people that may not have previously accessed this.
- Our NEET statistics are slightly better than those of our statistical neighbours and have been improving by a small amount each month since August, coinciding with the new academic term.
- Monthly meeting on Red Amber Green (RAG) rated Children in Care not in Education or reduced time table.

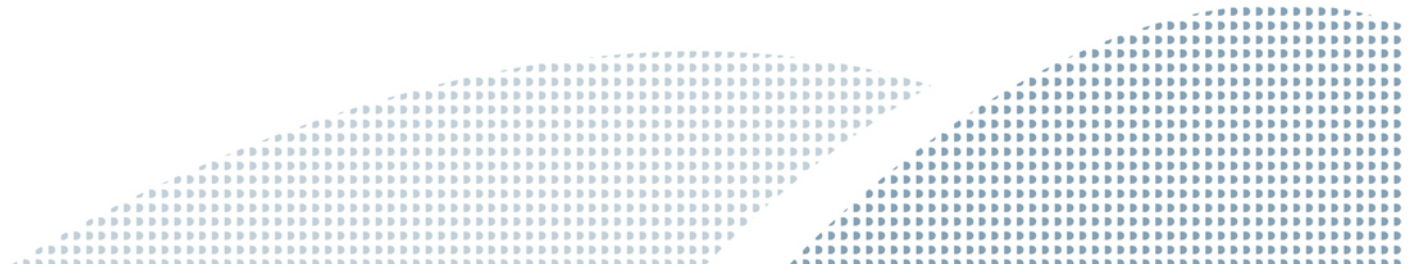




- 3 Have high aspirations for children in care and care leavers in their education, training and employment.

## **Areas of focus**

- Pandemic has limited school access as well as clubs, cultural activities.
- Focus on reducing the number of Care Leavers that are NEET and have created a 'team within the team' to focus on supporting Care Leavers around their employment, education and training.
- Focus on the approximately 60 Care Leavers who are NEET but are available for education, employment and training.



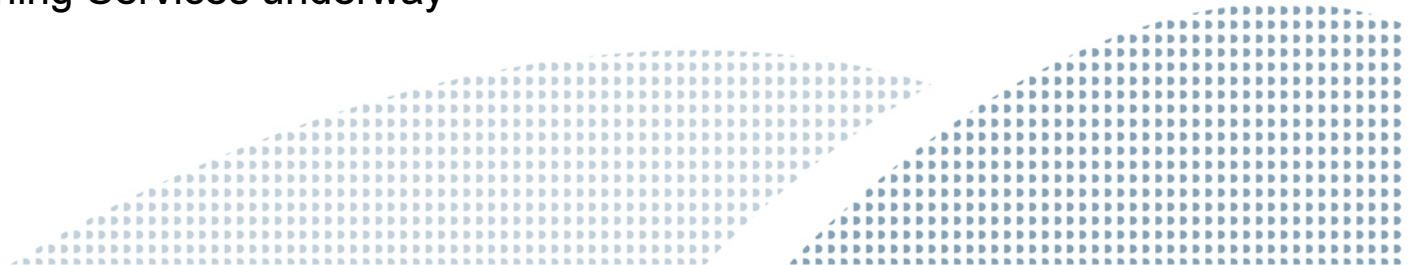
- 4 Ensure safe and stable accommodation within the family home or close relatives and friends. If not possible, children are moved to a permanent placement without delay.

## Positive

- Established improved management oversight processes
- Joint Viability Assessments completed between the children's social worker and a fostering social worker.
- Fortnightly Permanency Panel established October 2020 .
- Permanence training for social workers
- Enhanced Tracking by Quality Assurance Reviewing Officers QARO
- Joint Housing Protocol 16-17 yrs workshop in the first quarter of 2021
- New Harbour Project

## Areas of focus

- Better use of Family Group Conferences
- Continued development of Permanence planning
- Refined Long term Fostering Process ready for sign off
- Fostering Strengthening Services underway



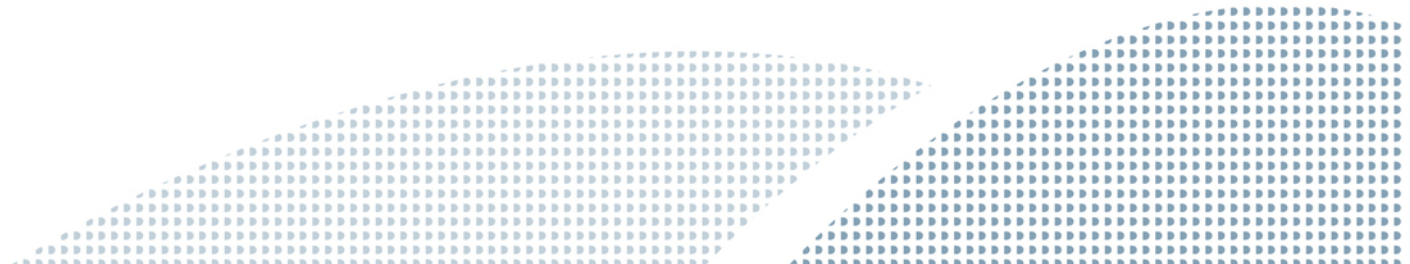
- 5** For our children to have a good and enriching experience of care provision and to prepare for adulthood and an independent and successful life.

## Positive

- Independent Advocacy services for our Children In Care age 8 years and older (opt out)
- Children in Care Awards well established
- Transition working group underway

## Areas of focus

- MAX card promotion
- Strengthening the in-house fostering offer to ensure that children are local, and to build local links and access local services.
- Transition working group





- 6 Effective governance and planning arrangements are in place to mean the Corporate Parent can be the best they can be.

## Positives

- Corporate Parenting Strategy Launch for 2020-2023 linked with other existing policies.
- Corporate Parenting Strategy update at formal meetings and Annual Report
- CPB Forward Planner in place until 2022.
- Monthly data pack comparing our performance against statistical neighbours and national trends.

## Area of focus

- Corporate Parenting to form part of new starters induction to DC.

