

Public Document Pack

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To: Cllr Arnold Woolley Dip.IM, MCFI (Chair)

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Mel Buckley, Tina Claydon, Jean Davies, Carol Ellis, Gladys Healey, Dennis Hutchinson, Dave Mackie, Hilary McGuill, Debbie Owen and Linda Thomas

5 February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF HYBRID MEETING
SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 2024 at 10.00 AM

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: Attendance at this meeting is either in person in the Delyn Committee Room, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire or on a virtual basis.

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. The live streaming will stop when any confidential items are considered. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team on 01352 702345.

A G E N D A

1 **APOLOGIES**

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 **COUNCIL FUND BUDGET 2024/25** (Pages 3 - 10)

Report of Chief Officer (Social Services), Corporate Finance Manager - Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

Purpose: To review and comment on the cost pressures, proposed cost reductions, and associated risks.

4 **STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES** (Pages 11 - 14)

Report of Chief Officer (Social Services) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

Purpose: To provide a list of services within Social Services indicating which were statutory and which were non-statutory.

5 **CORPORATE PARENTING CHARTER - A PROMISE FOR WALES** (Pages 15 - 40)

Report of Chief Officer (Social Services) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

Purpose: To seek agreement that Flintshire County Council adopts the Corporate Parenting Charter: 'A Promise for Wales'.

Please note that there may be a 10 minute adjournment of this meeting if it lasts longer than two hours



SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Friday 9 th February 2024
Report Subject	Council Fund Budget 2024/25
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Social, Health & Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value & Procurement
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager and Chief Officer (Social Services)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From last summer onwards members have received regular updates on the Council's challenging budget position for the 2024/25 financial year.

The Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement was announced on 20 December 2023 as planned with responses to the consultation on the settlement invited by the deadline of 2 February 2024. A summary of the key headlines were set out in a report to Cabinet on 16 January which also updated on the 'remaining gap' of £12.946m which the Council will need to bridge to enable it to set a legal and balanced budget

As a result of this position, all Portfolios were asked to revisit their cost base to re look at potential ways of reducing budgets or removing cost pressures to contribute more to meeting the remaining gap.

The purpose of this report is to provide details of additional proposals for the Social Services portfolio.

The Committee is invited to review and comment on the Portfolios options to reduce budgets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Review and comment on the Social Services portfolio's options to reduce budgets.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE BUDGET POSITION 2024/25																																																																						
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1.04	<p>Social Services Portfolio – Proposals for budget reductions</p> <p>These are set out in the paragraphs which follow.</p>																																																																						
1.05	<p><u>Table 1: Social Services – Budget Reductions</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget Efficiency Proposals</th> <th>£m</th> <th>RAG</th> <th>Note</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Defer Children's residential budget pressures</td> <td>0.200</td> <td>G</td> <td>1.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vacancy management</td> <td>0.100</td> <td>G</td> <td>2.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reduce regional contribution</td> <td>0.025</td> <td>R</td> <td>3.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Service review Adult and Children Services</td> <td>0.075</td> <td>A</td> <td>4.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deferral of Pressure for in house home care</td> <td>0.100</td> <td>G</td> <td>5.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extra BCUHB contribution to Marleyfield</td> <td>0.050</td> <td>A</td> <td>6.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disability day service efficiency</td> <td>0.040</td> <td>G</td> <td>7.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointee service charging</td> <td>0.050</td> <td>R</td> <td>8.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Efficiencies to planned contracts with third sector</td> <td>0.020</td> <td>G</td> <td>9.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant maximisation in Children's Services</td> <td>0.050</td> <td>G</td> <td>10.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reduced NEWCES contribution</td> <td>0.010</td> <td>R</td> <td>11.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant Funding for Adult Social Services. 2024/25 only</td> <td>0.100</td> <td>G</td> <td>12.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disability services charging for college placements pending financial assessments</td> <td>0.020</td> <td>A</td> <td>13.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Older People Commissioning - increase to income budget</td> <td>0.050</td> <td>A</td> <td>14.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Care Commissioning budget pressure reduction</td> <td>1.686</td> <td>G</td> <td>15..</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>2.576</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Budget Efficiency Proposals	£m	RAG	Note	Defer Children's residential budget pressures	0.200	G	1.	Vacancy management	0.100	G	2.	Reduce regional contribution	0.025	R	3.	Service review Adult and Children Services	0.075	A	4.	Deferral of Pressure for in house home care	0.100	G	5.	Extra BCUHB contribution to Marleyfield	0.050	A	6.	Disability day service efficiency	0.040	G	7.	Appointee service charging	0.050	R	8.	Efficiencies to planned contracts with third sector	0.020	G	9.	Grant maximisation in Children's Services	0.050	G	10.	Reduced NEWCES contribution	0.010	R	11.	Grant Funding for Adult Social Services. 2024/25 only	0.100	G	12.	Disability services charging for college placements pending financial assessments	0.020	A	13.	Older People Commissioning - increase to income budget	0.050	A	14.	Care Commissioning budget pressure reduction	1.686	G	15..	Total	2.576		
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Notes:

1. Defer Children's residential budget pressures (£0.200m)

A further small residential setting, run by Flintshire County Council, for children requiring a residential placement is planned for 2024/25. The home will not be operational at the start of the year and is expected to be running from the midpoint of the financial year. Previously the opening was assumed from the start of the year. This reduces the budget requirement for 2024/25 but this will be required in the 2025/26 budget.

2. Vacancy management (0.100m)

Within Social Services there is a target which captures in-year vacancy savings, this efficiency will further increase the target.

3. Reduce regional contribution (£0.025m)

An annual contribution is paid to the Regional Team, we are negotiating a reduction to the annual amount on a recurring basis. This will require agreement by the Regional Team.

4. Service review Adult and Children Services (£0.075m)

When posts become vacant, they will be reviewed as to whether they can be deleted from the structure without adversely impacting on front line service delivery.

5. Deferral of Pressure for in house home care (£0.100m)

Recruitment to the in-house provided homecare service is currently challenging so this pressure is being deferred until 2025/26.

6. Extra BCUHB contribution to Marleyfield (£0.050m)

This is for an increased contribution from BCUHB for Marleyfield Older People's Residential Care Home. Agreement from BCUHB will be required.

7. Disability day service efficiency (£0.040m)

There is scope for an efficiency within the currently budgeted amount for the day and work services for people with learning disabilities and mental ill health.

8. Appointee service charging (£0.050m)

There would be a charge for appointee services whenever the Council acts as an appointee. Consultation process will be required which could delay the implementation.

	<p>9. Efficiencies to planned contracts with third sector (£0.020m).</p> <p>With some service Level agreements ending this year there is scope to reduce the contracted amount when retendering.</p> <p>10. Grant maximisation in Children’s Services (£0.050m)</p> <p>Efficient use of grant to maximise service deliverability. Targeting grants to reduce costs on statutory services.</p> <p>11. Reduced NEWCES (Northeast Community Equipment Service) contribution (£0.010m)</p> <p>NEWCES would concentrate resources to purchase equipment of medium and high value. By not purchasing equipment of smaller value a modest saving is expected.</p> <p>12. Grant Funding for Adult Social Services. 2024/25 only (£0.100m)</p> <p>Efficient use of grant to maximise service deliverability. Targeting grants to reduce costs on statutory services.</p> <p>13. Disability services charging for college placements pending financial assessments. (£0.020m)</p> <p>Young adults attending residential college would be financially assessed and expected to make contributions in the same way as other care. This would require consultation before implementing.</p> <p>14. Older People Commissioning - increase to income budget (£0.050m)</p> <p>In 2022/23 there was an overachievement of income received for the charging of contributions to care.</p> <p>15. Care Commissioning budget pressure reduction (£1.686m)</p> <p>Remodelling the care commissioning annual uplift resulted in a lower budget pressure requirement.</p>
1.06	<p>Ongoing Risks</p> <p>A number of ongoing risks, outlined below, are being monitored and given further consideration which may change the additional budget forecast requirement further.</p>
1.07	<p>1. Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers</p> <p>There is a significant challenge to recruit and retain experienced Social Workers, particularly within Children’s Services. As safeguarding levels must be maintained this is resulting in greater use of agency social workers, which are more expensive.</p> <p>2. Commissioned care fees</p>

The past couple of years have seen much higher rates of inflation than usual, this has led to an increase in the running costs and carer wages for care providers. Although provision is being made for inflationary increases to the fees paid by Flintshire County Council, there will be pressure from some independent care providers for much greater uplifts than those budgeted.

3. In-year Government Grants

Historically there has been frequent opportunity within Social Services to receive in-year government grants. This sometimes allowed for resources to be redirected and through efficient working, in-year savings would be achieved. These savings frequently mitigated in-year pressures. The opportunity to receive grants for the forthcoming year is expected to diminish which will adversely impact the portfolio's ability to mitigate in-year cost pressures.

4. Service Demand

There is a constant increase in demand for social care. Whilst some growth in demand is managed through the budget process, such as within disability services for children transferring to adulthood, there are increases in demand on other services such as mental healthcare. Increases in demand where the Local Authority has a statutory duty mean that the portfolio will incur greater costs than currently planned for.

1.08 Out of County Placements

The position on Out of County placements remains an ongoing risk and the projected overspend in the current financial year is now £1.603m. An amount of only £0.500m is included in the current forecast which will need to be reviewed as part of final budget setting.

1.09 Budget Timeline

An outline of the local budget timeline at this stage is set out in the table below:

Table 4: Budget Timeline

Date	Event
1 to 9 February 2024	Overview and Scrutiny Committees
20 February 2024	Cabinet and Council – Final Budget Setting
27 February 2024	WG Final Budget/Settlement

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Revenue: the revenue implications for the 2024/25 budget are set out in the report.</p> <p>Capital: there are no new implications for the approved capital programme for either the current financial year or for future financial years – the capital programme will be subject to a separate report</p>

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet • Member Budget Briefings July and October 2023 • Specific Overview and Scrutiny Committees • Corporate Resource Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	As set out in the report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTFs and Budget 2024/25 Cabinet Report July 2023 • MTFs and Budget 2024/25 Cabinet Report September 2023 • Member Briefing Slides • Cabinet Report December 2023 • Cabinet Report January 2024 • Member Briefings January 2024

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS): a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations.</p> <p>Revenue: a term used to describe the day to day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges</p>

for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure.

Budget: a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.

Budget Requirement: The amount of resource required to meet the Councils financial priorities in a financial year.

Forecast: An estimate of the level of resource needed in the future based on a set of demands or priorities.

Capital: Expenditure on the acquisition of **non-current assets** or expenditure which extends the useful life of an existing asset.

Revenue Support Grant: the annual amount of money the Council receives from Welsh Government to fund what it does alongside the Council Tax and other income the Council raises locally. Councils can decide how to use this grant across services although their freedom to allocate according to local choice can be limited by guidelines set by Government.

Specific Grants: An award of funding from a grant provider (e.g. Welsh Government) which must be used for a pre-defined purpose.

Welsh Local Government Association: the representative body for unitary councils, fire and rescue authorities and national parks authorities in Wales.

Financial Year: the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April.

Local Government Funding Formula: The system through which the annual funding needs of each council is assessed at a national level and under which each council's Aggregate External Finance (AEF) is set. The revenue support grant is distributed according to that formula.

Aggregate External Finance (AEF): The support for local revenue spending from the Welsh Government and is made up of formula grant including the revenue support grant and the distributable part of non-domestic rates.

Provisional Local Government Settlement: The Provisional Settlement is the draft budget for local government published by the Welsh Government for consultation. The Final Local Government Settlement is set following the consultation.

Funding Floor: a guaranteed level of funding for councils who come under the all-Wales average change in the annual Settlement. A floor has been a feature of the Settlement for many years.

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SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Friday 9 th February 2024
Report Subject	Statutory and Non-Statutory Services - Social Services
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social, Health & Wellbeing
Report Author	Chief Officer, Social Services
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A request was made at Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 December 2023 for a list of statutory and non-statutory services within the Social Services portfolio.

Within this report is the list of services, as per the budget headings for Social Services, stating where they are statutory or non-statutory.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To note the provision of the listed statutory and non-statutory services included
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Explaining Statutory Services
1.01	There is various legislation for Social Services which sets out the statutory duties of Local Authorities, primarily the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The difference between a statutory and non-statutory service is that a statutory service is required by legislation and non-statutory services is not.
1.02	Social Services have a statutory obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable children and adults and provide a wide range of services to meet this obligation.
1.03	The table below lists the services within Social Services and identifies which are required to fulfil the Local Authority's statutory duties and which services are non-statutory. Services are listed under the portfolio's budget headings and

budget amounts are provided as at the amounts included within the Month 9 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report.

1.04

Table 1: Statutory and Non-Statutory Services within Social Services

Service	Approved Budget as at Month 9 (£m)	Statutory/ Non-Statutory
Older People		
Localities	23.247	Statutory
Regional Integration Fund	0.000	Statutory
Reablement Services	0.667	Statutory
Community Equipment Contribution	0.333	Statutory
Professional & Admin Support	0.360	Statutory
Resources & Regulated Services	10.264	Statutory
Total Older People Services	34.872	
Adults of Working Age		
Resources & Regulated Services	33.768	Statutory
Children to Adult Transition Services	1.001	Statutory
Management & Support	0.088	Statutory
Professional and Administrative Support	0.468	Statutory
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.818	Statutory
Learning Disabilities Transformation Fund	0.000	Non-Statutory
Social Links	0.259	Statutory
Voluntary Sector Services	0.287	Statutory
Intensive Support	0.490	Statutory
Community Living	0.424	Statutory
MH Forensic	0.135	Statutory
Supporting People	-0.386	Statutory
Residential Placements	2.607	Statutory
Professional Support	0.859	Statutory
Substance Misuse	0.385	Statutory
Employment & Occupation	0.320	Statutory
Total Adults of Working Age	41.522	
Children's Services		
Children's Development	0.022	Statutory
Family Group Meetings	0.126	Statutory
Family Placement	3.175	Statutory
Integrated Working	0.210	Statutory
Flying Start	0.000	Non-Statutory
Family Support	0.416	Statutory
Early Years & Family Support	0.339	Statutory
Legal & Third Party	0.262	Statutory

Residential Placements	1.669	Statutory
Professional Support	6.128	Statutory
Total Children's Services	12.346	
Safeguarding & Commissioning		
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.988	Statutory
Charging Policy income	-3.385	Statutory
Business Support Service	1.319	Statutory
Appointee/Deputyship	0.073	Statutory
Safeguarding Unit	1.410	Statutory
Performance and Information	0.731	Statutory
Commissioning	0.774	Statutory
Management & Support	-1.646	Statutory
Service Planning (PLOF)	0.000	Statutory
Training	0.259	Statutory
Vacancy Management	-0.027	Non-Statutory
Total Safeguarding & Commissioning	0.495	
Total Social Services (excluding Out of County)	89.235	

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	



SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	9 February 2024
Report Subject	Corporate Parenting Charter: A Promise for Wales
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Report Author	Chief Officer: Social Services
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welsh Government have formally launched a Corporate Parenting Charter: 'A Promise for Wales'. The Charter, sets out 11 principles on equality, eradicating stigma, working together, inclusive support, fulfilling ambitions, nurturing, good health, a stable home, education, thriving in the future, and after care support. The Charter also sets 9 promises for how care experienced children and young people will be treated, listened to, and involved in decisions that affect them.

The Charter has been published initially on a voluntary basis. Public sector organisations are encouraged to sign a pledge to fully support the principles set out in the Charter. The pledge commits organisations to ensuring that everything they undertake for care-experienced children and young people is underpinned by empowerment, equality, non-discrimination, participation, and accountability and protection. The expected approach is to fully respect, protect and promote their human rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The pledge includes a commitment to engage with children and young people to measure organisational success and commitment to the Charter.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Flintshire County Council signs 'the pledge' and adopts the Corporate Parenting Charter: 'A Promise for Wales'
2	The Children's Services Forum take a lead in measuring organisational success and commitment to the Corporate Parenting Charter.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Explaining The National Corporate Parenting Charter: A Promise for Wales
1.01	On 22 September 2023 Welsh Government formally launched a Corporate Parenting Charter: 'A Promise for Wales'. The Charter forms part of an ambitious vision for transforming children's services in Wales.
1.02	As part of this vision Welsh Government want to ensure that care experienced children and young people have the same life chances as every other child or young person in Wales. Their rights must be equally respected, and their voice heard, listened to and reflected in action. This was a key message to emerge from a national Care Leavers Summit, which involved carer leavers from Flintshire.
1.03	In collaboration with the Young Ambassadors who attended the Summit, representing care experienced children and young people, Welsh Government developed a shared vision for the future which strengthens public bodies in their role as 'corporate parent'.
1.04	The term "corporate parenting" can be defined as promoting the collective responsibility of the whole public sector to safeguard and promote the rights and life chances of care-experienced children and young people. This is a responsibility of everyone working in the public sector.
1.05	The Charter, sets out 11 principles on equality, eradicating stigma, working together, inclusive support, fulfilling ambitions, nurturing, good health, a stable home, education, thriving in the future, after care support. It encourages all public sector bodies to sign up to these principles as well as 9 promises that set out how care experienced children and young people will be treated, listened to, and involved in decisions that affect them.
1.06	These principles and promises align to the key themes of the UNCRC. They also reflect the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Part 6 Code of Practice (Looked After and Accommodated Children).
1.07	Why a Charter – What is it for?
1.08	The Charter is a set of principles and promises developed in collaboration with care-experienced young people. It provides a set of promises that can be adopted by any public sector body when engaging with care-experienced children and young people. It also sets out shared principles that all bodies and their leaders should follow when providing services to care-experienced children and young people.
1.09	The Charter has been designed for all public sector bodies and senior leaders to sign up to as a good Corporate Parent. Flintshire local authority has the opportunity to be an organisational leader in committing to the Charter. It is important to note that the Charter is not exclusive to local

	authorities and public bodies, and members of the third sector and private sector are encouraged to sign up and become a Corporate Parent. There is a real opportunity to consider how we adopt and promote the Charter locally with partners to ensure the best outcomes for our care experienced children and young people.
1.10	Shared Principles and Promises as Corporate Parents
1.11	The Charter sets 11 shared principles for Corporate Parenting and these are set out on page 3 of the Charter (Appendix 1). The Charter also sets out the following promises all Corporate Parents should fulfil when working with care-experienced children and young people:
1.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take time to listen to all care-experienced children and young people and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard and actively considered in all decisions made about them
1.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will treat all care-experienced children and young people with respect
1.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will involve all experienced children and young people in decisions that are made about them.
1.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will keep all care experienced children and young people informed about our involvement with them and explain our actions to them.
1.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use straightforward language when we communicate with all care-experienced children and young people
1.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will show compassion when considering the needs of all care-experienced children and young people
1.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with all care-experienced children and young people to help them achieve their goals.
1.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will advise all care-experienced children and young people of the process to make a complaint should they feel we are not adhering to this charter.
1.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will advise all care-experienced children and young people that they have a right to access independent advocacy to make sure their views, wishes and feelings are heard during decisions
1.21	These promises reflect our existing commitment and approach as a Corporate Parent.
1.22	The Pledge
1.23	The Charter has been published initially on a voluntary basis. An online Pledge has been developed for organisations to sign up to the Charter. The Pledge is set out below:
1.24	<p>We recognise our part as a parent in the largest family in Wales!</p> <p>In signing this pledge, we fully support the principles set out in this Charter and will live up to the common behaviours.</p>

	<p>We will ensure everything we undertake for care-experienced children and young people is underpinned by empowerment, equality, non-discrimination, participation, and accountability and protection and fully respects, protects and promotes your human rights under the UNCRC.</p> <p>We will engage with children and young people to measure our success and commitment to the charter.</p> <p>Our pledge is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work to deliver a better offer of help for you and all care-experienced children and young people in order for you to thrive and reach your potential. ✓ Help you gain access to and make the best use of our services. ✓ Act in your best interests and make you feel secure and well in our relationship with you. ✓ Encourage you to express your views, wishes and feelings and where needed provide you with support to promote these. ✓ Ensure your voice is heard and actively considered in all decisions about you and explain why decisions have been made. ✓ Provide you with information and resources that you need, in a way you understand. ✓ Make sure we are accountable to you for the decisions we take and the outcomes that affect your life. ✓ Help you to reach your potential. ✓ Prepare you for leaving care and support you to thrive independently. ✓ Ensure all staff are made aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities during their induction.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The Charter takes into account legislative duties set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The expectations and requirements of the Charter are consistent with our existing approach to Corporate Parenting.
2.02	Welsh Government are in the process of considering the development of guidance to support implementation of the Charter as well as including a dedicated chapter on Corporate Parenting within the Part 6 Code of Practice (Looked after and accommodated children) under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Once available this further guidance will help inform an implementation and monitoring plan for the Charter. This work will be led through the Childrens Services Forum ensuring the involvement and lead role of young people.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The Charter provides a whole organisational commitment to our care experienced children and young people. An implementation plan will be developed to ensure that there is a shared understand of the commitment across Council Services and consistency of experience in our interactions with care experienced children and young people.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	A National Corporate Parenting Implementation Group, comprising local authorities, as well as Voices from Care Cymru, the Children’s Commissioner’s office, the National Youth Advocacy Service, Children in Wales, National Adoption Service, and Public Health Wales was established in 2019. The Group played a key role in developing the national Charter.
4.02	In Flintshire we will work with care experienced children and young people to agree a set of principles for how we can deliver and monitor compliance with the Charter. Our care experienced children and young people will be central to this work

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales “A SHARED PARENTING PLEDGE”
5.02	Corporate Parenting Charter –A Promise from Wales Becoming a Corporate Parent –What does that mean for you?

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Craig Macleod, Senior Manager: Children Telephone: 01352 701313 E-mail: craig.macleod@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) The UNCRC consists of 54 articles that set out children’s rights and how governments should work together to make them available to all children. Under the terms of the convention, governments are required to meet children’s basic needs and help them reach their full potential. Central to this is the acknowledgment that every child has basic fundamental rights.</p>



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales

“A SHARED PARENTING PLEDGE”

What is Corporate Parenting?

- **Corporate parenting promotes the collective responsibility of local authorities to safeguard and promote the rights and life chances of care-experienced children and young people. Children can find more information about their rights here: [Children's Commissioner for Wales – UNCRC Childrens Rights](#).**
- **Supporting care-experienced children and young people through their childhoods and as they leave care should be the responsibility of all public sector bodies.**
- **We want these bodies to understand and develop their responsibilities towards care-experienced children and young people, and to ensure they have the same life chances as all children living in Wales.**



Why a Charter? What's it for?

- **A Charter is a set of principles and promises. This Charter has been developed in collaboration with care-experienced young people.**
- **This Charter is a set of promises that can be adopted by any public sector body when engaging with care-experienced children and young people.**
- **It also sets out shared principles that all bodies and their leaders should follow when providing services to care-experienced children and young people.**
- **We want all public sector bodies and senior leaders to sign up to this Charter as a good Corporate Parent. This Charter is not exclusive to local authorities and public bodies, and we would welcome any members of the third sector and private sector to sign up and become a Corporate Parent.**
- **The development of this Charter takes into account the overarching duties laid out in Part 2, General Functions of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Specifically, that a person exercising functions in relation to an individual for example a looked after child must have regard to the characteristics, culture and beliefs of the individual (including, for example, language). www.law.gov.wales/social-services-and-well-being-wales-act-2014-further-legislation-codes-and-guidance-made-under-act**
- **The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Part 6 Code of Practice (Looked After and Accommodated Children) will be revised to include additional guidance on the Charter. The updated Code of Practice will be published in 2024 and the Charter will be reviewed as part of this process.**

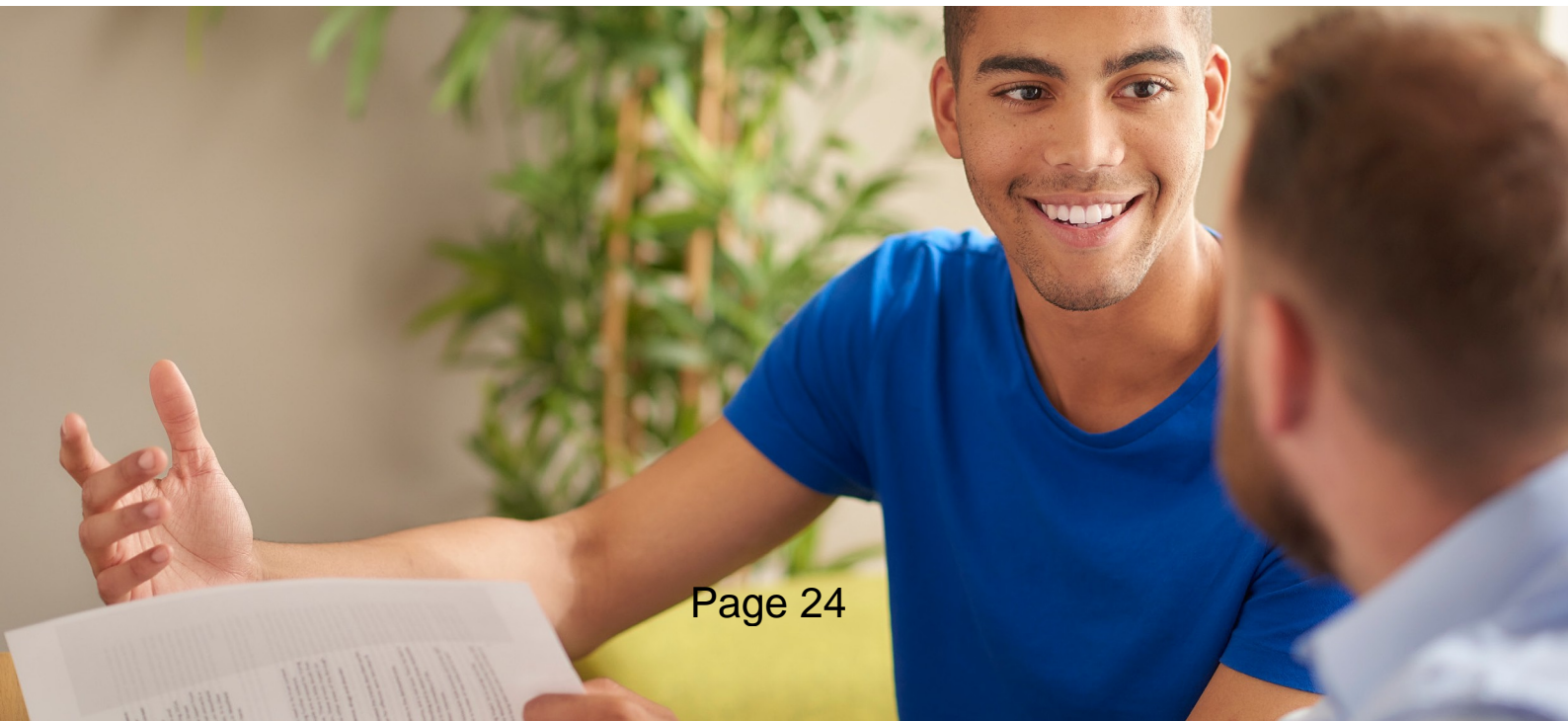
Which kind of public sector body, public service or professionals do we mean?

This charter is for any public sector body or individual who engages with or is responsible for care-experienced children and young people to adopt. For example:

- **Politicians–Welsh Ministers, Members of the Senedd, (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 4).**
- **Independent Bodies – The Children's Commissioner, The Future Generations Commissioner and The Welsh Language Commissioner.**
- **Local Authorities – councillors, chief executives, directors of social services, local authority commissioners and procurement teams, housing and education, Foster Wales and National Adoption Service.**
- **Local Health Boards.**
- NHS Trusts.
- **Regional Partnership Boards.**
- **Social Care Providers – Local authorities, residential children's homes and independent foster agencies.**
- **Social Care Professionals and practitioners – social workers, Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs), personal advisers, youth and support workers, residential children's home staff, foster carers, kinship carers and adoptive parents.**
- **Housing Providers – housing associations.**
- **Education – schools, governors, universities, colleges and Qualifications Wales.**
- **Transport for Wales.**
- **Third Sector Organisations and voluntary adoption agencies or services.**
- **Inspectorates – Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), Estyn and Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW).**
- **Cafcass Cymru.**
- **Department for Work and Pensions.**
- **Police – youth justice teams and those supporting individuals in custody.**
- **Employers/Apprenticeship/Traineeship providers.**
- **Other public bodies: National Resources Wales, National Park Authorities, The Arts Council of Wales, Sport Wales, National Library of Wales and National Museum of Wales. (As listed in Section 6 of the Wales Future Generations Act 2015).**

Shared Principles for Corporate Parents

- **Equality – We will support care-experienced children and young people to have the same life chances as every other young person in Wales. This is because all children have rights, no matter who they are (Article 1. UNCRC)**
- **Eradicate Stigma – We will recognise care-experienced children and young people for who they are, not just by their experience of being in care. This is because all children have a right not to be discriminated against (Article 2)**
- **Togetherness – We will work alongside care-experienced children and young people to ensure their views, feelings and ideas are integral to, influence and inform the services they receive and the way they receive those services. This is because all children have a right to be listened to and taken seriously (Article 12).**
- **Support – We will ensure professionals working with care-experienced young people understand their care experiences children and young people’s needs and/or have access to information and training.**
- **Ambition – We will ensure every care-experienced child and young person reaches their potential and can enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sport and social activities. This is because all children have a right to be the best they can be (Article 3 and 29) and have the right to relax and play (Article 31).**
- **Nurture – We will make all care-experienced children and young people feel valued, respected, cared for and loved. This is because all children have a right to be safe and protected from harm (Article 19) and because all children who are not living with their families should be checked on regularly to make sure they are okay (Article 25).**
- **Good Health – We will provide support to access the right health care and advice needed to support the best physical, mental health and general well-being for all care-experienced children and young people. This is because all children have the right to the best possible health and support (Article 24 and 39).**
- **A Stable Home – We will seek out and provide stable places to live that are right for all care-experienced children and young people. This is because all children have a right to special protection if they don’t live with their family (Article 20). This is because any adoption must be overseen by Government to make it supports the young person in their growth and development, is lawful and that it prioritises children’s best interests (Article 21).**

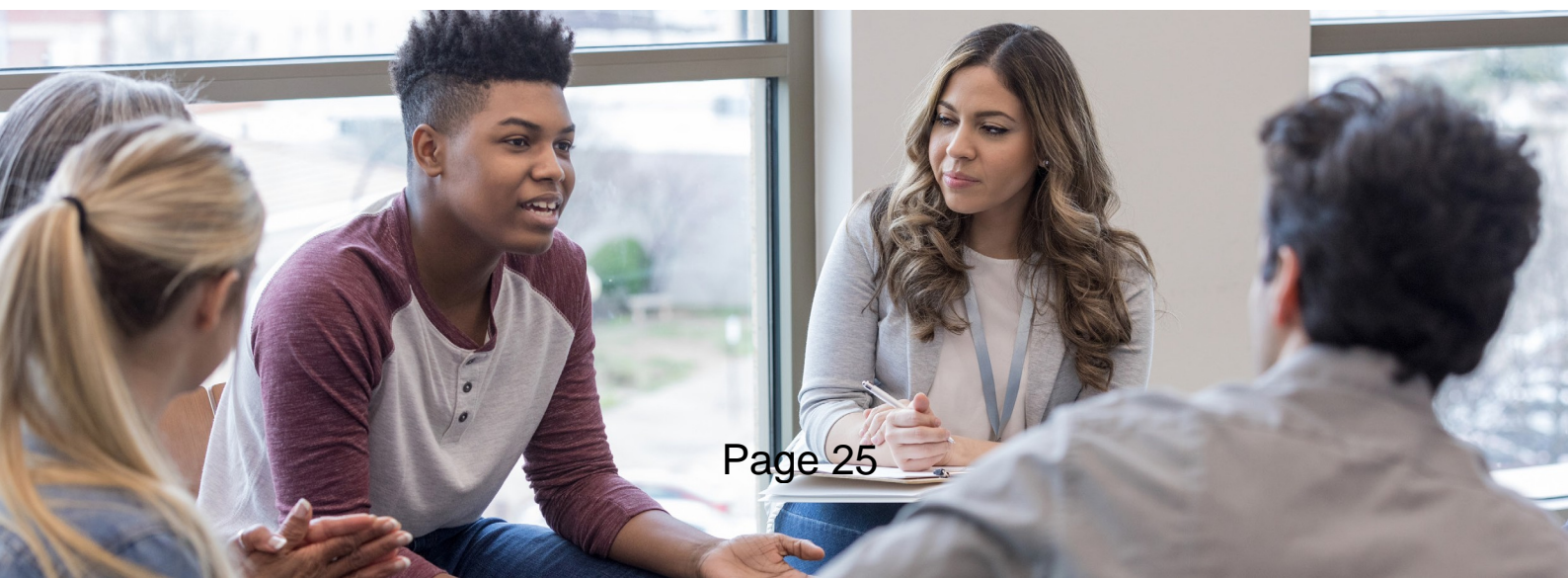


- **A Good Education – We will provide opportunities and support for all care-experienced children and young people to learn/develop and help them become who they want to be. This is because all children have a right to an education (Article 28 and 29).**
- **Thrive – We will ensure all care-experienced children and young people are prepared for the future and are able make positive choices for independent living and adulthood. This is because all children have a right to reach their potential (Article 3 and 29).**
- **Lifelong – We will work to provide access to and raise awareness of the support and information available after leaving care. This is because adults have a duty to act in children’s best interests (Article 3).**

Our Promises as Corporate Parents

Set out below are the promises all Corporate Parents should fulfil when working with care-experienced children and young people:

- **We will take time to listen to all care-experienced children and young people and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard and actively considered in all decisions made about them.**
- **We will treat all care-experienced children and young people with respect.**
- **We will involve all experienced children and young people in decisions that are made about them.**
- **We will keep all care experienced children and young people informed about our involvement with them and explain our actions to them.**
- **We will use straightforward language when we communicate with all care-experienced children and young people.**
- **We will show compassion when considering the needs of all care-experienced children and young people.**
- **We will work with all care-experienced children and young people to help them achieve their goals.**
- **We will advise all care-experienced children and young people of the process to make a complaint should they feel we are not adhering to this charter.**
- **We will advise all care-experienced children and young people that they have a right to access independent advocacy to make sure their views, wishes and feelings are heard during decisions being made or when they are unhappy and want something stopped, started or changed.**



References

Reference	Description
UNCRC Article 2	The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.
UNCRC Article 4	Governments should make these rights available to children.
UNCRC Article 12	Respect for children's views. Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.
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UNCRC Article 20	Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.
UNCRC Article 21	Adoption. Government must oversee the process of adoption to make sure it is safe, lawful and that it prioritises children's best interests.
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UNCRC Article 25	(Review of treatment in care). If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example with a foster family or in a hospital they have a right to a regular review of their treatment, the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.
UNCRC Article 28	Children have a right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.
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UNCRC Article 31	All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.
UNCRC Article 39	Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self-respect.

UNCRC

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international agreement that protects the human rights of children up to the age of 18. It recognises not only their basic human rights but gives them additional rights to protect them from harm as one of the most vulnerable groups in society. In 2011 the Welsh Government made the UNCRC law in Wales, with the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011. The Measure places a duty on Welsh Ministers to have a due regard to the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols when making their decisions. Altogether there are 54 articles in the convention. Articles 1-42 set out how children should be treated.

For further information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child please visit: The Welsh Government's UNCRC website [Children's rights | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#).

Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Becoming a Corporate Parent – What does that mean for you?

Corporate Parenting is about supporting care experienced children and young people to have the same opportunities in life as all children and young people in Wales.

By signing up to be a corporate parent, you are agreeing to consider the following principles when delivering your existing services and support, planning new services and/or engaging with care-experienced children and young people:

The Principles

Principle 1

Support care-experienced children and young people to have the same life chances as every other young person in Wales.

Example: Support a care experienced child or young person to find a stable home with provides them with the opportunity to access education and fulfil their potential.

Principle 2

Recognise care-experienced children and young people for who they are, not just by their experience of being in care.

Example: Treat all children and young people the same no matter their background.

Principle 3

Work alongside care-experienced children and young people to ensure their views, feelings and ideas are integral to, influence and inform the services they receive and the way they receive those services.

Example: Ensure forums or stakeholder groups are in place or established to develop new services includes care-experienced representatives.



Principle 4

Ensure those working in your organisations working with care-experienced young people understand their care experiences children and young people's needs and/or have access to information and training.

Example: The needs of care-experienced children and young people are referred to in induction training of new staff.

Principle 5

Ensure that every care-experienced child and young person reaches their potential and is able to enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sport and social activities.

Example: Can concessionary and/or discounted access be made available for sport, leisure and cultural activities to care-experienced children and young people.



Principle 6

By making all care-experienced children and young people feel valued, respected, cared for and loved.

Example: By actively listening to all care-experienced children and young people you engage with.

Principle 7

By providing support to access the right health care and advice needed to support the best physical, mental health and general well-being for all care-experienced children and young people.

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Principle 8

By seeking out and providing stable places to live that are right for all care-experienced children and young people.

Example: By ensuring that the needs and wishes of the child and young person is central to any foster or adoption placement being considered.

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By providing opportunities and support for all care-experienced children and young people to learn/develop and help them become who they want to be.

Example: Offering care experienced children and young people work experience placements, work shadowing opportunities, internships, traineeships and apprenticeships.

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By ensuring all care-experienced children and young people are prepared for the future and are able make positive choices for independent living and adulthood.

Example: Can you provide one-to-one mentoring on how to manage their finances, their career/employment guidance and further education opportunities.

Principle 11

By working to provide access to and raise awareness of the support and information available to care experienced young people after leaving care.

Example: Providing access to support and information through a variety of channels – websites, apps, social media and meetings.

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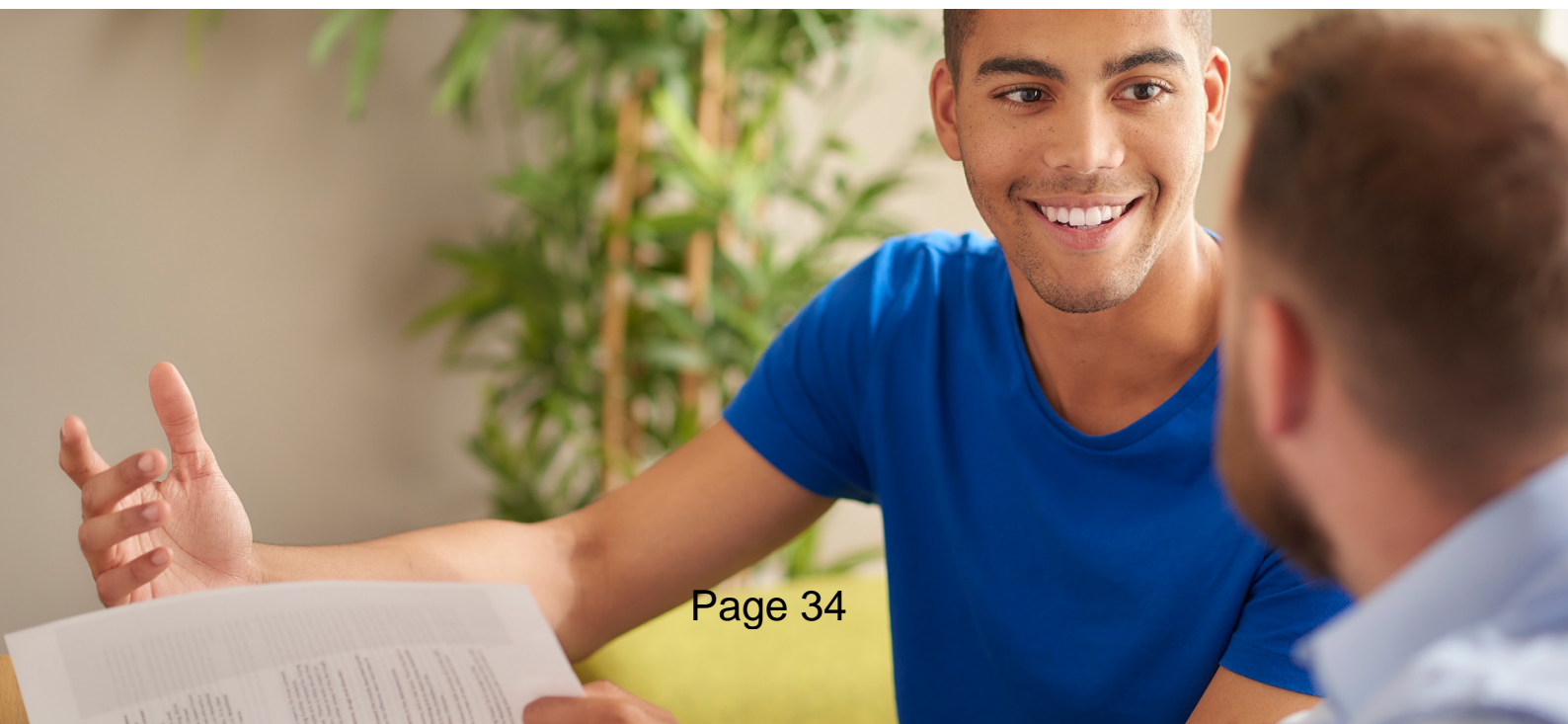
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Work alongside care-experienced children and young people to ensure their views, feelings and ideas are integral to, influence and inform the services they receive and the way they receive those services.

Example: Ensure forums or stakeholder groups are in place or established to develop new services includes care-experienced representatives.



Principle 4

Ensure those working in your organisations working with care-experienced young people understand their care experiences children and young people's needs and/or have access to information and training.

Example: The needs of care-experienced children and young people are referred to in induction training of new staff.

Principle 5

Ensure that every care-experienced child and young person reaches their potential and is able to enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sport and social activities.

Example: Can concessionary and/or discounted access be made available for sport, leisure and cultural activities to care-experienced children and young people.



Principle 6

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