



In Scotland, corporate parenting responsibilities have been extended to a broad range of public bodies, including health boards, the Scottish Qualifications Authority, the police and fire services, the Children’s Commissioner, the Housing Regulator and Creative Scotland. Click [here](#) for the full original list. (This list has since changed.)

In May 2022, the [Independent Review of Children’s Social Care](#) recommended that new legislation should be passed to extend corporate parenting responsibilities to a wider set of public bodies and organisations in England.

**1. In your view, which public bodies have the greatest potential to make a positive impact on care-experienced children and young people if they were to be appointed as corporate parents? Why? (400-word limit)**

MyBnk’s research on financial education and support for care leavers, published in October 2022, included ideas about a ‘corporate family’ for care-experienced young people, including multiple public bodies and services. Gathering data from a UK-wide freedom of information requests to local authorities and surveys and interviews with care leavers and care professionals, some research findings suggested a possible role for other public bodies and specialist charities as part of this corporate family.

As we recommended in our research, local authorities would benefit from mapping existing provision and seeking ways to work with this constellation of support. This is important because the support needs and experiences of young people who are care experienced are varied: while they make a small proportion of the youth population, they are a very diverse group. Therefore, diverse support needs would benefit from the diverse support services that are available.

As the UK’s leading specialist financial education charity, MyBnk has an important role to play. Most of the young people we work with have do not have positive experiences of school, local authority provision, job centre plus. We are proud of our track record in supporting young people through our programmes that are led by experienced youth workers, in partnership with local authorities, schools and youth organisations.

**2. In your view, are there any public bodies that should not be considered for appointment as corporate parents? Why? (300-word limit)**



The support needs of care-experienced young people are varied. Some young people may have a positive experience of one service, while others may have a negative experience of that same service.

One example of a public body which some young people may have had negative interactions with is the police. This is often related to the circumstances of their upbringing and the process of being taken into care, or where they have felt unduly stigmatised or criminalised purely because of their being in care. The [Children's Commissioner](#) has also responded to the ONS finding that children in care are greatly over-represented in the criminal justice system, and at a much earlier age than their peers on average.

From speaking with care experienced young people directly in our research, one young person highlighted that she had had negative interactions with being forcibly returned to her care home by the police, and felt under suspicion by authorities even as an adult, whether that was the need to prove that she could manage a tenancy independently or be a good parent to her child. Another told us that the inflexibility of the care system meant that she was frequently contacted by the police out of concerns for her being missing, even though her placement staff were aware that she was working night shifts. While these are only two examples, it is crucial to take care experienced individuals' experiences of interacting with public bodies into account. Therefore, the Government should consult with those with lived experience of the issue regarding any public bodies which may not be suitable.

Emphasis should be placed on making sure young people are accessing services that are appropriate and suitable for their support needs as they transition into adulthood. Further resources will also be needed to enable public bodies to adapt to any additional responsibilities effectively. This may be reflected through funding, additional staffing or even the creation of specific teams and roles.

There are seven corporate parenting principles. Under the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#), local authorities in England, as corporate parents, are required to have regard to the seven corporate parenting principles when carrying out functions related to children in care and care leavers. The seven principles are:

1. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
2. to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;



3. to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
4. to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
5. to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.
6. for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
7. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.”

The government has committed to consider whether these principles should be strengthened or amended.

**Are there any principles missing from the current set of corporate parenting principles that, if included, would positively impact opportunities, experiences or outcomes for care-experienced young people?**

**Additionally, in your view, are there any existing principles that should be strengthened?**

MyBnk recommends strengthening principle 7 to emphasise the need to educate care leavers about money management to prepare them for independent living.

**If you suggest a new principle, please explain why you believe it would have this positive impact. (400-word limit)**

**What accountability measures would be needed to ensure that new corporate parents fulfil their responsibilities in a way that delivers positive impacts for care-experienced children and young people? (300-word limit)**

MyBnk’s care leavers research showed inconsistency in the support provided to young people leaving the UK care system. The research showed that almost 70% of care leavers feel anxious about money and 80% want more help managing their finances. Despite financial education forming part of the ‘pathway plan’ to help care leavers transition to independent living, and 96%



of local authorities saying they offer money management support, most care leavers surveyed couldn't remember learning about these topics.

Beyond financial education and support specifically, most care leavers we spoke with said that contact with local authorities is infrequent and inconsistent. 40% either don't have pathway plan or aren't aware if they have one or not. This suggests that current accountability measures for corporate parents are failing these young people and that more must be done to equip care leavers for independent living.

We recommend that the DfE details the importance of financial education in future guidance and regulations for corporate parents. This should include specific financial education components within pathway plans and surrounding financial support, such as council tax exemption schemes, to ensure a universal standard of consistent provision and opportunity. Furthermore, we would like the DfE to work with a wide selection of stakeholders to provide corporate parents with guidance about what financial education for care leavers should include. We also recommend working with care-experienced young people to give them a voice in shaping provision to ensure it meets their needs.

Our research also showed that over half of local authorities do not collect or collate information about care leaver evictions and only 15% are actively working to prevent care leaver evictions. Without this information, understanding the scale of the problem and resolving it by intervening early is not possible. This in turn could also help prevent serious financial distress, such as homelessness. Therefore, MyBnk recommends mandating corporate parents to collect and collate this data.