

London Borough Of Havering

Corporate Parenting Strategy

2025-2028

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Foreword

At the heart of our Corporate Parenting Strategy is a simple but powerful truth. Young people in our care are not just service users, they are individuals with hopes, talents, and voices that deserve to be heard, respected, and acted upon.

This strategy developed with the help of young people who shared their stories, frustrations, and dreams. They told us they need Social Workers who listen, keep their promises, and take the time to really know them, not just their case files. They asked for consistency, respect, and recognition - not only at Christmas or during transitions, but every day.

We heard about the impact of delays, missed calls, and broken promises. But we also heard about the difference one caring, reliable adult can make. A personal adviser who checks in regularly. A social worker who celebrates you when you do well in school. A team that shows up when it matters most.

This strategy is our promise to do better. It is a call to action for every professional involved in Corporate Parenting across Havering, and our partners, to uphold the highest standards of care, communication, and compassion. It is a promise to work together *with* young people to create effective care and pathway plans for them, and it is a pledge to celebrate their achievements, support their transitions, and ensure their voices are central to every decision that affects their lives.

Thank you to all the young people who helped us. Your honesty and insight are the foundation of this Strategy. We are listening to you and taking action.

Together, we will build a system that not only supports but empowers every young person in our care.

***Councillor
Oscar Ford,
Cabinet Member
for Children and
Young People***

***Andrew Blake-
Herbert,
Havering
Council's Chief
Executive***

***Say It Louder -
Children in Care
Council***

***Youth
Management
Team – Faye De
Friend, Leah
Clarke Dyer,
Nkosinathi "NK"
Ogundiya***

Introduction

Putting You First: Well, Inspired, Safe, Heard and Treated Fairly

This strategy has been created together with children and young people, through engagement with our Youth Management Team and Children in Care Council. They have been at the very heart of shaping it, making sure their voices are heard loud and clear. This strategy is our promise to help children and young people feel safe, grow with confidence, and make sure their voice always matters.

This strategy is rooted in Havering's corporate vision, [The Havering you want to be part of](#), and is fully aligned with the borough's [Integrated Starting Well Plan – Happy, Healthy Lives 2024–2027](#).

Our goal is to make sure every Havering child and young person, including those in care or who have been in care, get the support they need.

Here's what we promise to do for you

- **Well** – We will help you stay healthy, support your mental wellbeing, and make sure your health needs are met.
- **Inspired** – We will cheer you on and support your education and ambitions, help you plan for your future, and give you chances to try new things.
- **Safe** – We aspire to work with others to keep you safe at home, in education, and in your community.
- **Heard** – Your voice matters. We will listen, involve you in decisions, and support you to speak up.
- **Treated Fairly** – We will celebrate who you are, make sure everyone is treated with respect and kindness, and challenge any discrimination.

Through the WISH framework—Well, Inspired, Safe, Heard, and Treated Fairly, we aim to create an environment where every child and young person feels valued and empowered. This strategy is not just about promises; it's about turning those promises into actions that truly make a difference in your life.

Everyone at the council, along with professionals working in schools, health services, housing, and many other areas, will work together to support you. We promise to listen to you, celebrate when you do well, and help you feel [proud to be part of Havering](#), where you can learn, grow, and live a happy, healthy life. Whether you're in care or leaving care, we'll be here to help you live a good life and become the person you want to be.

These promises reflect our shared ambition to create the Havering that young people want to be part of; a borough where they are not only cared for but also cared about.

What is Corporate Parenting?

When you're in care, the council should take care of you like any good parent would. Being a "corporate parent" means we do everything we can to help our children and young people in, or leaving care, to feel supported, grow with confidence, and have the chance to do well in life, just like any caring parent would so you can be happy and healthy.

Our approach is guided by the seven principles set out in the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#). These principles provide a framework to ensure children in care and care leavers feel supported, respected, and empowered every step of the way.

Our Vision

We want every child and young person to feel supported, included, and inspired to be their best. We're here to help with your health, learning, friendships, and feelings because they all matter.

Our vision is part of the [Havering Vision](#) and the [Havering Integrated Starting Well Plan](#). Together, we're creating the *Havering you want to be part of*, where every young person is:

Well, Inspired, Safe, Heard, and Treated Fairly.

That is our WISH for our children and young people and what guides everything we do.

What We're Going to Do

To deliver on our promises, this is what we will do over the next three years:

1. Well - We will:

- Ensure timely access to physical and mental health services to keep you well.
- Deliver life skills programmes covering budgeting, cooking, and managing finances.
- Promote mental health awareness through inclusive events and campaigns.

2. Inspired – We will:

- Strengthen links with schools, colleges, and employers to offer mentoring, apprenticeships, and work experience.
- Celebrate achievements through awards and recognition events.
- Provide targeted support for care leavers transitioning into adulthood, including access to further education and training.
- Consider how to develop a community broadcast channel to support communication of events, key information and celebration events.

3. Safe – We will:

- Work with community safety partners to address concerns about public spaces and transport and your feelings around safety on public transport.
- Develop relationships with community resources and police to improve community safety.

- Ensure all homes that children and young people live in are safe, stable, and supportive, with regular reviews and feedback from children and young people.
- Continue to develop housing pathways ensuring that care leavers and those transitioning to adulthood can access housing in line with their needs.
- Make sure every child and young person has a trusted adult they can talk to, someone who listens, doesn't judge, and is always there for them.

4. Heard - We will:

- Expand participation groups and ensure children and young people are involved in shaping services and decisions that affect them.
- Include children and young people in care planning meetings and reviews, with accessible formats and language.
- Invite child and young people to co-author the strategy foreword and contribute to ongoing monitoring and evaluation of our work with you.
- Organise special 'Takeover Days' where young people get to run the 'show', leading meetings, sharing ideas, and helping make decisions.

5. Treated Fairly - We will:

- Celebrate a diverse range of cultural and religious events, including Eid, Hanukkah, Diwali and others, alongside Christmas and Easter.
- Promote inclusive practices across all services and challenge discrimination wherever it arises.
- Ensure equitable access to resources, support, and opportunities for all children and young people in care.
- Help adults working with you understand how to talk and act in ways that make you feel included, not different or left out.

These actions will be supported by a clear delivery plan, with named leads, timelines, and performance measures to track progress and impact.

Making Sure Everyone Does Their Part

The Corporate Parenting Panel is made up of a group of people who work for Havering council and our partner agencies, as well as elected Councillors including the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. This group meets to make sure that children and young people in care are happy and well supported. While the Corporate Parenting Panel will track our goals, looking at performance data, sharing updates, and listening to young people's feedback, to make sure that the strategy is delivered successfully, and improvements continue to be made. The subgroups will be responsible for delivering the strategy's key actions. This structure ensures clear ownership and helps hold partners to account for their contributions.

Helpful Information

- [The Havering you want to be part of](#)
- [Integrated Starting Well Plan – Happy, Healthy Lives 2024–2027.](#)
- [Corporate parenting: Resource pack for councillors](#)

How We'll Check Progress

Monitoring our progress is essential to make sure we do what we say we will. The Corporate Parenting Panel will be responsible for regularly reviewing the action plan and key performance data. By tracking what's working and where we can improve, the panel will help ensure that our support continues to make a real difference for children and young people. Updates and next steps will be shared openly, so everyone knows how we're moving forward together.

To ensure flexibility and ongoing improvement, the action plan and key performance data will be maintained as separate documents from the overall strategy. These will be revised regularly by the Corporate Parenting Panel, responding to the changing needs of children and young people and reflecting lessons learned along the way. By keeping these documents distinct and adaptable, we can better track progress and quickly implement new ideas or enhancements during the next three years.

This strategy is scheduled for review in 2028.