Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

The Corporate Parenting Model in the Scotland, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland

	Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland
Establishment & Duration	Established in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Duration: 12 years	Established in Children and Social Work Act 2017 Duration: 7 years, but principles have been applied informally in practice for ~15 years	Introduced under Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 Duration: 12 years	Formalised in Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 [with guidance updated by Dept. of Health/Dept. of Education in 2008 and later] Duration: 28 years (formalised duties updated over time)
Legislation	Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014	Children and Social Work Act 2017	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
Scope (Who is a Corporate Parent?)	Local authorities, NHS boards, Ministers, Police, Prison Service, universities/colleges	Local authorities, NHS bodies, schools, police, probation services, prisons	Local authorities, health boards, police, courts, colleges	HSC Trusts, Education Boards, government departments
Key Principles	12 Corporate Parenting Principles: 1. Act in best interests 2. Promote wellbeing	8 Corporate Parenting Principles: 1. Act in child's best interests 2. Promote education 3. Promote health	Rights-based principles aligned with UNCRC: • Best interests • Participation & co-production	Focus on life chances, stability, education, wellbeing, inclusion, participation.

		3. Strive for stability 4. Anticipate needs 5. Listen to and involve children 6. Provide support to reach potential 7. Promote equality and opportunity 8. Promote health 9. Encourage participation 10. Work collaboratively 11. Be proactive 12. Plan for transitions	4. Plan for stability & transitions, 5. Advocate for children 6. Listen to children & act on views 7. Work across agencies 8. Prepare children for adulthood	• Wellbeing • Equality • Stability • Health • Preparation for adulthood.	
Key Bodies	Central Body	Local Authorities / Councils	Local Authorities / Councils	Local Authorities / Councils	HSC Trusts
	Health	NHS Boards	NHS & CCGs	Health Boards	HSC Trusts
	Education	Schools, universities, colleges	Schools, universities, colleges	Schools, universities, colleges	Education Authority / Boards
	Justice	Police, Scottish Prison Service	Police, Probation, Youth Justice	Police & Youth Justice Services	Police, Youth Justice, DoJ
	CYP Participation	Children in Care Councils, Youth Participation Officers	Children in Care Councils (CiCC)	Children in Care Councils	Children in Care Councils, Participation Forums

	Govt /Oversight	Scottish Government, Ministers	Department for Education	Welsh Government, Ministers	Department of Health / Department of Education
	Monitoring	External Audits, Scottish Govt. Oversight	Ofsted / ILACS	Care Inspectorate Wales	Dept. of Health / HSC monitoring
	Other	CELCIS (Training, guidance, research)	Local advisory boards, Pracsas (consultancy), CiCC support	Co-production facilitators, local advisory groups	HSC Boards, advisory groups for care leavers
Strategy & Implementation		Corporate Parenting Plans detail objectives, actions, engagement methods, indicators for health, education, wellbeing, participation, stability. Plans are reviewed regularly. Local and national reporting where progress informs future policy and implementation.	Local authority corporate parenting strategies are often linked to Local Offer for care leavers. Planning involves cross-agency coordination where outcomes are focused on education, health, housing, and transitions. Inspected under ILACS.	Corporate Parenting Strategies are embedded in children's services planning include objectives for participation, wellbeing, housing, education, health. The Code of Practice guidance Part 6 provides structured framework. Periodic review and consultation with children.	Corporate parenting integrated into children's services plans. Trusts and HSC Boards develop strategies for supporting looked-after children and care leavers (includes participation, education, wellbeing, transitions). Reporting via statistics and HSC accountability structures.
Including the Child's Voice	**Legal Requirement**	The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 explicitly emphasises that corporate parents should "take account of the views, wishes, and feelings of the	Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, local authorities and other corporate parents must have regard to the views, wishes, and feelings of children in care and care leavers.	The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 embeds children's participation as a statutory duty, aligning strongly with the UNCRC.	The law expects children's views to be sought in matters affecting their care and life chances. The corporate parenting

		child". The Act also refers to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which Scotland has incorporated into its policy frameworks, giving children the right to express their views and have them taken seriously.	The Children Act 1989/2004 also underpins the right of children to be consulted in matters affecting them.	Corporate parents must actively seek and take account of children's views in planning and delivering services.	duties come from the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, later reinforced by guidance and strategies from the Department of Health and Department of Education.
	Mechanisms	• Corporate Parenting Plans must include how the organization will engage with care-experienced children. • Many local authorities have Youth Councils or Children in Care Councils, which meet regularly with staff and decision-makers. • Participation Officers or Champions are appointed to ensure young people's voices are heard in planning and evaluation.	• Almost all local authorities have Children in Care Councils. • Statutory guidance instructs corporate parents to involve children in designing services, reviewing plans, and monitoring progress. • Care-experienced young people are often involved in recruitment and training of staff, influencing policies, and evaluating service quality.	• Children in Care Councils are widespread and linked to local authority governance. • Young people are consulted on service design, placements, and corporate parenting strategies. • Guidance emphasizes co-production, where children and young people are partners, not just consultees.	• Children in Care Councils and care-experienced forums operate across trusts. • Statutory guidance requires corporate parents to listen to, record, and respond to young people's input. • Participation is integrated into reviews of care plans and corporate parenting strategies.

		• Guidance suggests direct consultation, surveys, focus groups, and co-production of services and strategies with care-experienced children.			
	Enforcement / Monitoring	Annual reporting, guidance compliance	Ofsted inspections, annual reporting	Care Inspectorate Wales, reporting	Trust inspections, reporting
Evaluation	**Report(s)**	Caring for our children and young people: Update on Scotland's Corporate Parenting 2018–21	The Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework assesses how local authorities exercise corporate parenting duties as part of broader evaluation of looked-after children and care leaver services.	N/A	N/A
	Strengths	Corporate parents are using multiple routes to engage with care-experienced children. Many authorities produce annual reports and plans, embedding corporate parenting into broader service planning. Some indicators suggest improved outcomes in areas such as	N/A	N/A	N/A

		apprenticeship participation.			
	Weaknesses	Inconsistent measurement: over 200 different indicators were collected, making cross-sector evaluation difficult. Outcome gaps remain between care-experienced children and peers in key areas (health, housing, education, etc.). Some corporate parents struggle to embed participation and data use consistently.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Modifications		Evolved guidance, integrated UNCRC, and aligned with The Promise.	Refined statutory guidance and inspection frameworks. Sheffield City Council moved away from the language of corporate parenting to develop the *Community Parenting Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2023-2026*	Updating its Code of Practice to strengthen evaluation and participation.	Adjusted guidance for life chances and participation but no major legislative overhaul.
Links		Corporate Parenting Policy & Overview	Applying Corporate Parenting Principles	Consultation on Corporate Parenting	Children Looked After Co-operating to Safeguard

	Statutory Guidance on Part 9 (Corporate Parenting) Statutory Guidance (Scotland Act)	Local Government Resource Pack https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/social-care/children/community-parenting-strategy	Corporate Parenting Code of Practice	Children and Young People

Other countries implementing the Corporate Parenting Model:

- **New Zealand:** The Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) uses frameworks for statutory care of children, emphasising cross-agency responsibilities.
- **Canada:** Provincial child welfare agencies often adopt multi-agency responsibilities for children in care, reflecting similar principles.
- **Europe:** Countries like Denmark, Norway, and the Netherlands implement cross-agency obligations for children in care, sometimes referencing "corporate parenting" or "public parenthood" models.