



Corporate parenting plan

Report on implementation and
introducing the 2018-2021 plan
Published August 2018

The Scottish Legal Aid Board

www.slab.org.uk

The Scottish Legal Aid Board as a Corporate Parent

Part 1: Outcomes from the implementation of the first plan

Introduction

1. The Scottish Legal Aid Board published its first Corporate Parenting Plan in September 2016 after extensive internal and external consultation. During that process we identified 11 activities that, if implemented, would fulfil our corporate parenting duties in so far as they are consistent with our statutory role in administering legal aid in Scotland.
2. Under section 58 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 the corporate parenting responsibilities are set out as:
 - (1) It is the duty of every corporate parent, in so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its other functions —
 - (a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,
 - (b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,
 - (c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,
 - (d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,
 - (e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people—
 - (i) to access opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph (d),
 - (ii) to make use of services, and access support, which it provides, and
 - (f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.

The Activities in the First Corporate Parenting Plan

3. Table 1 plots the activities in the first corporate parenting plan against the duties associated with that activity.
4. Of the 11 activities in the plan we have implemented seven of them, which together fulfil all of the statutory Corporate Parenting duties. Details of the implementation and the various reasons why four of the activities have not yet been implemented are set out below.

Activity	Duties						To Collaborate
	A	B	C	D	E	F	
Implemented							
Not fully implemented/ carried forward to 2018-21 Plan							
1. Mentoring	x		x	x	x		x
2. General training and bespoke staff training	x		x			x	
3. Reforms, projects, planning and advice to Ministers - awareness of implications for eligible young people	x	x				x	
4. Guidance on circumstances	x	x				x	
5. Improving written communications			x	x	x		x
6. Improving distribution and dissemination of information about availability of legal aid	x	x	x				x
7. Improving our understanding of eligible young people's interaction with legal aid - testing ongoing collection of information	x	x				x	
8. Improving our understanding of eligible young people's interaction with legal aid - applicant research	x	x				x	
9. Improving our understanding of eligible young people's interaction with legal aid - literature review	x	x	x			x	x
10. Learning from Corporate Parenting partners	x	x				x	x
11. Direct Service Delivery - police station advice	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Mentoring

5. The original intention behind this activity was to link SLAB activity with the Scottish Government's existing mentoring scheme and thus support SLAB staff who wish to volunteer as mentors.
6. Shortly after we published the Corporate Parenting Plan, the Scottish Government launched a new mentoring scheme called Intandem. This programme provides mentoring for looked after children aged 8-14 by funding partner charities.
7. A local Edinburgh charity - Move On - is funded through the Scottish Government's "Intandem" mentoring programme to provide support to looked after 8 to 14 year olds. After discussing our Corporate Parenting plan with them, Move On have confirmed that they are happy to accept volunteers from SLAB who want to apply for their mentoring programme.
8. Staff have had an opportunity to become actively involved in SLAB's role as a Corporate Parent and provide a positive role model for a child. Although two members of staff expressed an interest in becoming mentors, they have not taken matters further therefore thought will be given as to how to progress mentoring in the 2018-2021 plan.

General and Bespoke staff training

9. A Learning Management System package has been developed, which provides some basic information about what Corporate Parenting is, what it means for SLAB as an organisation and for our employees.
10. To date only nine employees have completed the training. However, as part of the 2018-21 Corporate Parenting plan we will include this training as part of the induction process for new staff to improve general awareness raising and promote the training package and target the training at frontline service delivery staff such as those in the Civil Legal Assistance Office.

Reforms, projects, planning and advice to Ministers - awareness of implications for eligible young people

11. Awareness of looked after children and care leavers has been built into the consideration of SLAB's wider equalities duties and the corporate parenting plan is part of SLAB's wider corporate plan. As such there is now a corporate awareness of looked after children and care leavers that will be built in to SLAB's planning and project work and, where relevant, its advice to Ministers.
12. SLAB's design principles which are an agreed a set of principles to consider when developing changes to policies, procedures, or services, also incorporate considering the impact on our Corporate Parenting duties.
13. SLAB's EqIA process is currently under review and corporate parenting duties will be built in to a refreshed process.

Guidance on circumstances

14. There is now amended guidance in place in the Civil, Children's and Criminal handbooks which states that the care status of an applicant may be taken into account when assessing the reasonableness of an application, where it is relevant.

Improving written communications

15. This work has been incorporated into the wider SLAB plans to improve a range of communications with the public and is an example of where our corporate parenting duties inform other projects within SLAB.
16. This activity will be developed as part of the 2018-21 plan.

Improving distribution and dissemination of information about availability of legal aid

17. The literature review (see paragraph 22) had identified that many of the problems facing looked after children and care leavers are legal problems, or can become legal problems if early support is not provided. The two main transition points which result in care experienced young people experiencing issues which may require legal assistance appear to be:
 - a. Where they first enter the care system, and subsequent placement moves;
 - b. When they transition from 'looked after children' to 'care leavers'.
18. Care leavers, often who have had difficult lives, have to live independently much earlier than their peers, and without the 'safety blanket' of their family to go back to should something not work out. This can have severe impacts on care leavers, with the risk of entering the criminal justice system or becoming homeless being a real risk. Who Cares? Scotland estimate that 30-50% of homeless people are care experienced so we know that this is an issue we might be able to help with.
19. We are developing a project to increase the links between the Civil Legal Assistance Office and those corporate parents and voluntary organisations that assist looked after children who are transitioning out of care, to enable them to identify problems and signpost appropriately, and so avoid more serious problems. This will be further developed as part of the 2018–21 Corporate Parenting Plan.

Improving our understanding of eligible young people's interaction with legal aid - testing ongoing collection of information:

20. A current project is reviewing how, and to what extent applicant's equality characteristics are captured throughout the application process and subsequent interactions with SLAB. Preliminary work has established the extent to which SLAB collects and uses equalities information and how that is shared, or otherwise, across the organisation. The project intends to ensure that care status is to be included as a characteristic for collection where appropriate. This will be an activity for the 2018-21 plan.

Improving our understanding of eligible young people's interaction with legal aid - applicant research:

21. We are now incorporating a question about the care status of individuals on the appropriate research questionnaires, not only in the applicant's surveys, but also the staff survey.

Improving our understanding of eligible young people's interaction with legal aid - literature review:

22. A literature review has been completed and has been used to inform the development of the 2018-2021 plan and will be published on our website with a view to sharing with other Corporate Parents.

Learning from Corporate Parenting partners:

23. Early engagement with other corporate parents informed the development of some of the ideas in the Corporate Parenting Plan and allowed us to gauge our progress in drafting the plan.
24. This activity is closely linked to the requirement to collaborate with other corporate parents. Work continues to forge and maintain links with corporate parents through various forums designed to share ideas and experiences and identify potential ways of working together. See below under "Collaboration" for more information.
25. Activities in the plan such as improving the dissemination of information about legal aid arose as a direct result of engagement from partners, in this case Who Cares? Scotland.
26. Furthermore, discussion with other Corporate Parents was important in providing us with insight which in turn gave us assurance that the development of the SLAB plan was on track and that the internal consultation exercise was appropriate and proportionate.

Direct Service Delivery - police station advice:

27. Work around this activity has been subsumed by the work around the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act. Police Scotland are also corporate parents and are developing their own information gathering and sharing programmes in relation to care status. Therefore much of what SLAB does in relation to this activity will be dependent upon Police Scotland. In the Police Scotland National Corporate Parenting Plan they commit to working with SLAB to explore the feasibility of identifying care experienced young people in custody¹.
28. Work will continue with Police Scotland under the 2018-21 plan.

¹ <http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/138327/150739/corporate-parenting-plan?view=Standard> at page 12.

Collaboration

29. As mentioned in the activities above collaboration is a key part of being a corporate parent. SLAB has made progress in developing this particular duty:
- SLAB is a founding member of the National Corporate Parenting Collaboration Group² which is convened by the Children's Commissioner. Membership of the group includes Police Scotland, SCRA the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Creative Scotland, the Mental Welfare Commission and the care inspectorate.
 - SLAB is now included on the attendee lists for Glasgow City Health and Community Care Partnership's corporate parenting forum as they look to coordinate between the large number of agencies in the Glasgow area who are corporate parents and who work closely with looked after children and care leavers. Glasgow City Council has approximately 3300 looked after children, which is the highest proportion of looked after children of any local authority in Scotland.
30. Related to the collaboration duty is the question of how we should share information with other corporate parents. As part of the plan SLAB is starting to improve its knowledge of the numbers of lac/cl who are interacting with SLAB and we also have a completed literature review. Both of these things will likely be of interest to other corporate parents.

Reports to Scottish Ministers

31. The Scottish Government issued a pro forma, the completion of which would comprise the section 62 report to the Scottish Government required by the Act. We were able to provide a full response which is appended to this report.

Conclusion

32. We have implemented seven of the 11 activities in the 2015-2018 Corporate Parenting Plan. Those seven activities have, between them, meant that SLAB complies with all of the Corporate Parenting duties prescribed by the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014.
33. The duty to collaborate was important to the development of the plan as we shared ideas with other Corporate Parents and spoke with organisations such as CELCIS and Who Cares? Scotland. The establishment of those early links with other Corporate Parents has been important in laying the groundwork for ongoing engagement with Corporate Parents.

² See Annex A for aims and membership

Part 2: The 2018 - 2021 Corporate Parenting Plan

34. The 2018-21 Corporate Parenting plan follows on from a review of the activities in the first plan. We considered which of those had been successful and merit continuation and those activities that have been identified as having the potential for further growth.
35. New ideas for the plan resulted from a review of the original long list of activities that were produced for the first plan along with ideas that cropped up as part of the implementation of that plan and ideas generated from speaking with other corporate parents.
36. The first corporate parenting plan focussed on developing our understanding of the needs of looked after children and care leavers, to help contribute to the outcome:

“To enable the upholding of the rights of looked after children and care leavers”
37. The activities outlined below remain consistent with that outcome.

Continuation

38. It is proposed that the following activities continue under the 2018-2021 plan:
 - a. Mentoring: We will continue to make opportunities available, but we are mindful of the commitment required by a mentor.

Outcome: Mentoring opportunities are available and promotion of those raises awareness of the challenges faced by care experienced young people.
 - b. General training: The LMS package is now live on the system. There may be occasional updating and reminders of its availability circulated to staff via Intraslab. We will also have this training included as part of the induction training for new staff. We will also target the learning package and seek input from Who Cares? Scotland in providing training to front line service delivery staff.

Outcome: We increase the number of staff who have completed the LMS course and have the course included as part of the mandatory induction training package resulting in better awareness about corporate parenting among staff.
 - c. Reforms, projects, planning and advice to Ministers - awareness of implications for eligible young people: As mentioned above, SLAB is now corporately aware of its duties and, as such, will continue to be cognisant of them in project planning, policy development and advice to Ministers And will be building in consideration of corporate parenting duties into the forthcoming review of the EqIA process.

Outcome: Our role as a corporate parent is clearly identified as part of the EqIA process and as such will be considered in policy development.

- d. Improving our understanding of eligible young people’s interaction with legal aid - testing ongoing collection of information: A project under the umbrella of SLAB’s equalities work is looking at various aspects of the collection of equalities data and the care status of legal aid users will be included as one of the data categories.

Outcome: Options will be identified which aim to improve the collection of information pertaining to care status and how that information is used by SLAB.

- e. Improving our understanding of eligible young people’s interaction with legal aid -applicant research: SLAB’s current applicant research questionnaire now includes a question inquiring as to the care status of the applicant. We will continue to include the care status question in future survey and focus group work.

Outcome: Our knowledge about the number of applicants with care experience will improve which may contribute to improving the legal aid system for looked after children and care leavers.

- f. Police station advice: We will continue to liaise with Police Scotland’s corporate parenting team throughout the introduction of the changes under the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act and monitor progress towards sharing care status information with the SCL, subject to a privacy impact assessment.

Outcome: We share care status information with Police Scotland.

Develop

39. The following activities have the potential to be developed and the new plan will set out in greater detail how that will be achieved:

- g. Guidance on circumstances: There is currently a project underway which is looking at improving SLAB’s Handbook. As this project progresses there will be an opportunity to consider changes to the guidance that reflect our duties as a corporate parent.

Outcome: SLAB guidance will specifically recognise the care status of applicants where it is appropriate to do so.

- h. Improving written communications: There is a medium term plan to improve all of SLAB’s written communications. As with the Handbook project there will be an opportunity to consider our corporate parenting duties when drafting the new communications. We have been offered assistance from Who Cares? Scotland including care experienced young people in “sense checking” communications. The extent to which we might engage more broadly with care experienced people will also be considered, effectively broadening out this activity beyond correspondence.

Outcome: Looked after children and care leavers will be better able to understand the legal aid process.

- i. Learning from Corporate Parenting partners: Corporate parents are still finding their feet when it comes to the duty to collaborate and a number of different groupings have formed over the last year in particular. Through our participation in some of these groups and through our new links with other corporate parents we will aim to build a more cohesive engagement plan, particularly with those corporate parents from the justice sector.

We will also seek to work with those who are not corporate parents but who work closely with looked after children and care leavers.

Outcome: SLAB has an improved awareness of the corporate parenting work being done by other organisations, which will contribute to the development and review of our own corporate parenting plan.

New activities

40. The following new activities will be developed for the 2018-21 plan:

- j. Traineeships: We will examine the feasibility of creating a traineeship post in SLAB and that we specifically target a care experienced law graduate for the post. Through our links with other Corporate Parents we know that the universities are doing a lot of work in identifying and supporting those students who have care experience and we could work closely with the universities to publicise the opportunity and direct it to eligible students.

Our initial assessment is that this activity will likely fulfil duties a, c, d, e, and f.

Outcome: A care experienced law graduate's opportunity to enter the legal profession will be improved.

- k. Work experience, shadowing and unpaid or paid internships: We will examine the feasibility of providing looked after children and care leavers with the opportunity to have some form of work experience or internship within SLAB.

Our initial assessment is that this activity will likely fulfil duties a, c, d, e, and f.

Outcome: A care experienced person's opportunity to enter the job market will be improved.

- l. Housing advice for care leavers: Care leavers are particularly prone to having problems with housing and homelessness. We will scope a project to look at how SLAB might provide housing advice or information for care leavers via intermediaries and directly, via the Civil Legal Assistance Office. This work will also contribute, in targeted advice, to improving

distribution and dissemination of information about availability of legal aid:

The initial assessment is that this activity is likely to fulfil duties a, b, c, d, and e.

Outcome: Care experienced young people access housing advice services.

Name and outcome	Proposed activity	Relevant Directorate(s)	Relevant Corporate Parenting Duty
<p>Mentoring</p> <p>SLAB will continue to recognise the importance of improving the opportunities for looked after children and care leavers.</p>	<p>The link with the Move On mentoring scheme will be maintained and the selection process established in the first Corporate Parenting Plan will remain in place. There will be occasional reminders posted on Intraslab.</p>	<p>Strategic Development Directorate</p>	<p><i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i></p> <p><i>(c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,</i></p> <p><i>(d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,</i></p> <p><i>(e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people-</i></p> <p><i>(i) to access opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph (d),</i></p> <p><i>(ii) to make use of services, and access support, which it provides</i></p>
<p>General Training</p> <p>SLAB continues to recognise the importance of raising awareness and knowledge about corporate parenting duties among staff.</p>	<p>The existing Learning Management System package will remain available to all staff and there will be additional publicity via Intraslab to alert staff to this. We will also seek to have this training included as part of the induction training for new staff.</p>	<p>Strategic Development Directorate and Corporate Services Directorate</p>	<p><i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i></p> <p><i>(c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,</i></p> <p><i>(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.</i></p>
<p>Reforms, projects, planning and advice to Ministers</p> <p>The impacts on eligible young people will be considered</p>	<p>SLAB is now corporately aware of its duties and, as such, will continue to be cognisant of them in project planning, policy development and advice to</p>	<p>Strategic Development Directorate</p>	<p><i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i></p> <p><i>(b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,</i></p>

Name and outcome	Proposed activity	Relevant Directorate(s)	Relevant Corporate Parenting Duty
<p>when developing and implementing reforms and projects, providing advice to Ministers, undertaking corporate planning and carrying out SLAB's monitoring function.</p>	<p>Ministers And will be building in consideration of corporate parenting duties into the forthcoming review of the EqIA process.</p>		<p><i>(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.</i></p>
<p>Improving our understanding of eligible young people's interaction with legal aid - testing ongoing collection of information</p> <p>SLAB will continue to improve understanding of the extent to which looked after children and care leavers interact with the legal aid system.</p>	<p>A project under the umbrella of SLAB's equalities work is looking at various aspects of the collection of equalities data and the care status of legal aid users will be included as one of the data categories.</p>	<p>Strategic Development Directorate</p>	<p><i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i> <i>(b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,</i> <i>(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.</i></p>
<p>Improving our understanding of eligible young people's interaction with legal aid - applicant research</p> <p>SLAB will continue to improve understanding of the extent to which looked after children and care leavers interact with the legal aid system.</p>	<p>SLAB's applicant research questionnaire now includes a question inquiring as to the care status of the applicant. We will continue to include the care status question in future survey work.</p>	<p>Strategic Development Directorate</p>	<p><i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i> <i>(b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,</i> <i>(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.</i></p>

Name and outcome	Proposed activity	Relevant Directorate(s)	Relevant Corporate Parenting Duty
<p>Police station advice</p> <p>The interaction of looked after children and care leavers interact with the criminal justice system will be better understood and operational changes can be considered.</p>	<p>We will continue to liaise with Police Scotland’s corporate parenting team throughout the introduction of the changes under the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act and monitor progress towards sharing care status information with the SCL.</p>	<p>Corporate Services Directorate</p>	<p><i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i> <i>(b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,</i> <i>(c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,</i> <i>(d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,</i> <i>(e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people-</i> <i>(i) to access opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph (d),</i> <i>(ii) to make use of services, and access support, which it provides, and</i> <i>(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.</i></p>
<p>Guidance on circumstances</p> <p>Where an individual’s circumstances or background is deemed relevant to the merits of granting legal aid, this can be taken into account.</p>	<p>SLAB’s guidance handbook is currently being reviewed. As this review progresses there will be an opportunity to consider changes to the guidance that reflect our duties as a corporate parent.</p>	<p>Operations Directorate</p>	<p><i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i> <i>(b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,</i> <i>(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.</i></p>

Name and outcome	Proposed activity	Relevant Directorate(s)	Relevant Corporate Parenting Duty
<p>Improving written communications</p> <p>SLAB is aware of the complexity of legal aid and the need to communicate clearly with applicants.</p>	<p>There will be an opportunity to consider our corporate parenting duties as part of SLAB's plans to improve its written communications. The extent to which we might engage more broadly with care experienced people will also be considered, effectively broadening out this activity beyond correspondence relating to legal aid applications.</p>	<p>Operations Directorate</p>	<p><i>(c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,</i> <i>(d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,</i> <i>(e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people-</i> <i>(i) to access opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph (d),</i> <i>(ii) to make use of services, and access support, which it provides</i></p>
<p>Learning from Corporate Parenting partners</p> <p>SLAB will learn directly from the experience of other corporate parents and relevant partners who already deliver services to care-experienced young people</p>	<p>Corporate parents are still finding their feet when it comes to the duty to collaborate and a number of different groupings have formed over the last year in particular. Through our participation in some of these groups and through our new links with other corporate parents we will aim to build a more cohesive engagement plan, particularly with those corporate parents from the justice sector.</p> <p>We will also seek to work with those who are not corporate parents but who work closely with looked after children and</p>	<p>Strategic Development Directorate</p>	<p><i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i> <i>(b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,</i> <i>(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.</i></p>

Name and outcome	Proposed activity	Relevant Directorate(s)	Relevant Corporate Parenting Duty
	care leavers such as CLAN Child Law, Streetwork and the Legal Services Agency.		
Traineeships Improves opportunities for care experienced law students seeking to start their career in law.	We will examine the feasibility of creating a traineeship post in SLAB and that we specifically target a care experienced law graduate for the post. Through our links with other Corporate Parents we know that the universities are doing a lot of work in identifying and supporting those students who have care experience and we could work closely with the universities to publicise the opportunity and direct it to eligible students.	Strategic Development Directorate Corporate Service Directorate	<i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i> <i>(c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,</i> <i>(d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,</i> <i>(e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people-</i> <i>(i) to access opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph (d),</i> <i>(ii) to make use of services, and access support, which it provides</i> <i>(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.</i>
Work experience, shadowing and unpaid or paid internships Improves employment opportunities for looked after children and care leavers	We will examine the feasibility of providing looked after children and care leavers with the opportunity to have some form of work experience or internship within SLAB.	Strategic Development Directorate Corporate Service Directorate	<i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i> <i>(c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,</i> <i>(d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,</i>

Name and outcome	Proposed activity	Relevant Directorate(s)	Relevant Corporate Parenting Duty
			<p><i>(e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people-</i></p> <p><i>(i) to access opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph (d),</i></p> <p><i>(ii) to make use of services, and access support, which it provides</i></p> <p><i>(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.</i></p>
<p>Housing advice for care leavers Care leavers will have access to quality advice about housing related issues.</p>	<p>SLAB will scope a project to look out how SLAB might provide housing advice for care leavers either through the CLAO or in partnership with a third party.</p>	<p>Strategic Development Directorate</p>	<p><i>(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,</i></p> <p><i>(b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,</i></p> <p><i>(c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,</i></p> <p><i>(d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,</i></p> <p><i>(e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people-</i></p> <p><i>(i) to access opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph (d),</i></p> <p><i>(ii) to make use of services, and access support, which it provides</i></p>

Annex A: The National Corporate Parenting Collaboration Group

Aims:

- To facilitate discussion and exchange of practice between corporate parents (cross fertilisation of ideas)
- To identify areas for joint working e.g. projects, seminars and other events
- To alert group members to relevant activities and highlight any relevant research
- To invite external guests as appropriate in order to share information on issues relating to our role as corporate parents

The current membership consists of representatives from:

- Children and Young People's Commissioner
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- (Police Scotland
- Mental welfare Commission
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Sport Scotland
- Creative Scotland

Appendix B: Section 62 Report to the Scottish Government

PROFORMA

CORPORATE PARENTING - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PROGRESS AGAINST OUTCOMES/ACTIONS IN CORPORATE PARENTING PLANS

CORPORATE PARENT CONTACT DETAILS
Q1. Name of the Corporate Parent organisation.
The Scottish Legal Aid Board
Q2. Contact details of the person completing this return or person to be contact should we need to follow up on any information. Please provide the persons full name, job title, postal and email address and telephone number.
Stuart Drummond Policy and Development Officer The Scottish Legal Aid Board Thistle House 91 Haymarket Terrace Edinburgh EH12 5HE Drummondst@slab.org.uk 0131 240 2041
CONFIRMATION OF PROCESSES IN PLACE TO EVALUATE YOUR PROGRESS AGAINST YOUR PLAN
Q3. Confirm the processes in place to review and evaluate progress towards the desired outcomes of your corporate parenting plan. Include a web link to your published plan, and any reviews or reports you have published.
When SLAB became Corporate Parents in 2015 a small project team was established to oversee the development of the first Corporate Parenting Plan [link] and the subsequent implementation of the activities after the plan was published in September 2016. That team meets regularly to monitor the day-to-day progress and provides a regular report to SLAB's Executive Team which is the main approval and decision making authority for this project.
A SUMMARY OF YOUR PROGRESS AS A CORPORATE PARENT BETWEEN APRIL 2015 AND MARCH 2018
Q4. Please provide a few sentences describing the following:

<p>i. Where were you - what did ‘corporate parenting’ mean to your organisation in April 2015?</p>
<p>SLAB was initially unclear as to how to meet the corporate parenting duties within the bounds of the primary and secondary legislation which define our role in administering the legal aid fund.</p>
<p>ii. Where you are now - summarise how has this changed? Provide up to three examples to demonstrate the progress and impact of corporate parenting in the last three years. (For example, ways in which the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers have been enhanced; ways in which their rights have been promoted; opportunities that have been accessed).</p>
<p>SLAB identified 11 activities in the Corporate Parenting Plan published in 2016, which together fulfil or have the potential to fulfil all of the duties in the Act.</p> <p>Prior to the writing and publication of the plan an extensive consultation with managers, other corporate parents and Who Cares? Scotland was carried out that identified a number of activities that had the potential to fulfil the corporate parenting duties. This long list was further consulted upon with managers before the final list of 11 activities was decided upon for inclusion in the Corporate Parenting Plan.</p> <p>Good progress has been made in implementing these activities and the following three activities in particular reflect how SLAB has made steps to enhance the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Guidance on circumstances: There is now amended guidance in place in the Civil, Children’s and Criminal handbooks which states that the care status of an applicant <i>may</i> be taken into account when assessing the reasonableness of an application. This is consistent with the limited discretion SLAB can exercise within the parameters of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 and associated secondary legislation. 2) Improving our understanding of eligible young people’s interaction with legal aid – applicant research: We are now incorporating a question inquiring as to the care status of individuals on the appropriate research questionnaires, not only in the applicants surveys, but also the staff survey. Such information will be shared as appropriate with other corporate parents and used to inform legal aid policy making at SLAB and Scottish Government level. 3) Staff training: A Learning Management System package has been developed, which provides information about what Corporate Parenting is, what it means for SLAB as an organisation and for employees. Staff have been encouraged to complete this training and the intention is to include this as part of the induction process for new staff.
<p>iii. Where are you going – what are your priorities for improvement over the next three years?</p>

We are currently developing our second Corporate Parenting plan. This will be a combination of the following:

- A continuation of current activities that have been successfully implemented
- The development of specific activities that have been identified as having the potential for further growth
- Proposals for the development of new activities

The new activities will look at our role as an employer and explore what we might be able to do in terms of work experience and traineeships. We will also seek to develop our understanding of the direct impact of housing advice for those leaving care.

SUMMARY OF CHALLENGES AND ENABLERS

Q5. What have been the key barriers and enablers to successfully implementing your corporate parenting plan?

The key barriers were identified as part of the consultation work done in advance of the publication of the first Corporate Parenting Plan. Those barriers were:

1. A lack of staff awareness about Corporate Parenting.
2. The lack of care status information about those accessing legal aid.
3. The legislative framework in which we operate, which restricted what we were able to do.

The following has enabled us in implementing SLAB's first Corporate Parenting Plan:

1. Managers at all levels have accepted and understand the Corporate Parenting duties. Instrumental to that has been the direct testimony of a care experienced young person delivered at a senior manager's meeting.
2. With the assistance of those managers SLAB staff have a better understanding of what Corporate Parenting means and the extent to which it might affect their role in the organisation.
3. Collaborating with other Corporate Parents, particularly those in the justice sector, has been useful with the implementation of those activities where there was an existing degree of interaction.

A CASE STUDY OR PRACTICE EXAMPLE DEMONSTRATING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCES VIEWS AND PERCEPTION OF HOW YOU ACT AS A CORPORATE PARENT

Q6. Please provide:

- i. Provide up to three examples of how you have engaged with children and young people to ensure that their needs and views are fully considered in your planning and reviewing processes.**

As part of the initial consultation process we worked with Who Cares? Scotland who made presentation at a meeting of senior SLAB directors and managers at which there was a

care experienced young person who spoke their experiences with the legal system and legal aid. This directly influenced the development of our Corporate Parenting Plan.

As part of our applicants survey we now ask directly about the care status of applicants. The data gathered here will be used to inform legal aid policy where appropriate.

ii. If appropriate, please provide a summary of children and young people's views and experiences of the corporate parent.