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| London Borough Of Havering |
| Corporate Parenting Strategy Draft |
| 2025-2028 |

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# Introduction

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

This strategy has been created together 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 your 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.](https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/file/6824/havering-integrated-starting-well-plan-2024-2027)

Our goal is to make sure every child and young person, especially those in care or who have been in care, gets the support they need. Here are our promises to you:

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

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, schools, health services, housing, and more works 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](https://issuu.com/haveringcouncil/docs/6609_vision_for_havering_v9), 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.

## What is Corporate Parenting?

When you're in care, the council takes care of you like a parent would. Social workers, teachers, doctors, and others work together to keep you safe and make sure you have everything you need to be happy and healthy.

Being a "corporate parent" means we do everything we can to help 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.

Our approach is guided by the seven principles set out in the [Children and Social Work Act 2017.](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/section/1) 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](https://issuu.com/haveringcouncil/docs/6609_vision_for_havering_v9) and the [Havering Integrated Starting Well Plan](https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/file/6824/havering-integrated-starting-well-plan-2024-2027). 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’s our WISH and it’s what guides everything we do.

## Our Goals and What We Want to Achieve

Our strategy is built around the WISH principles and reflects the feedback from young people and professionals across Havering:

1. **Well**– We’ll help you stay healthy, support your mental wellbeing, and make sure your health needs are met.
2. **Inspired** – We’ll cheer you on at school, help you plan for your future, and give you chances to try new things.
3. **Safe** – We’ll work with others to keep you safe at home, in school, and in your community.
4. **Heard**– Your voice matters. We’ll listen, involve you in decisions, and support you to speak up.
5. Treated Fairly – We’ll celebrate who you are and make sure everyone is treated with respect and kindness.

These objectives 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 cared about.

## What We're Going to Do

To deliver on our aims and objectives, we will take the following key actions over the next three years:

1. **Well**

* Ensure timely access to physical and mental health services, including CAMHS and counselling.
* Deliver life skills programmes covering budgeting, cooking, and managing finances.
* Promote mental health awareness through inclusive events and campaigns.

1. **Inspired**

* 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.
* Implement a community broadcast channel to support communication of events, key information and celebration events.

1. **Safe**

* Work with community safety partners to address concerns about public spaces and transport and feelings of unsafety on public transport.
* Explore the use of community resources and police engagement to improve safety.
* Ensure all placements are safe, stable, and supportive, with regular reviews and feedback from young people.
* Make sure every young person has a trusted adult they can talk to, someone who listens, doesn’t judge, and is always there for them

1. **Heard**

* Expand participation groups and ensure young people are involved in shaping services and decisions that affect them.
* Include young people in care planning meetings and reviews, with accessible formats and language.
* Invite young people to coauthor the strategy foreword and contribute to ongoing monitoring and evaluation.
* Organise special ‘Takeover Days’ where young people get to run the show, leading meetings, sharing ideas, and helping make decisions.

1. Treated Fairly

* Celebrate a diverse range of cultural and religious events, including Eid, Hanukkah, 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, 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. They will track goals, share updates, and listen to young people's feedback to improve the strategy. Their aim is to ensure its successful delivery.

## Helpful Information

* The Havering you want to be part of
* [Integrated Starting Well Plan – Happy, Healthy Lives 2024–2027.](https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/file/6824/havering-integrated-starting-well-plan-2024-2027)

## How We’ll Check Progress

Every year, the Corporate Parenting Panel will take time to carefully review how well the strategy is working to support children and young people. They will make updates to the action plan, ensuring it stays relevant and effective. A revised action plan will be shared with everyone involved so that children and young people know what has been achieved and what the next steps will be to better meet their needs.

This strategy is scheduled for review in 2028.