

# **ILF Scotland Corporate Parenting Plan 2021 -24**

## Foreword

I am pleased and privileged to introduce ILF Scotland's Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2024. The plan outlines six core commitments, with a seventh, which gives an undertaking to review our plan. We believe that these will drive genuine change within our organisation and will support care experienced young people, enhance their wellbeing and remove barriers that could prevent them from achieving their personal goals.

ILF Scotland has a safeguarding role through our work with young people in our Transition Fund. The Transition Fund provides money, for up to one year, to support young people aged 16 to 25 living with disabilities or impairments. The Transition Fund aims to help these young people transitioning from school or children's services to be more independent and to continue spending time with other people. We estimate that around 7% of young people applying for the Transition Fund are care experienced. As a public body of the Scottish Government, we are committed to supporting Scottish Ministers in their role as corporate parents. We continue to develop our services and the way in which we deliver them, to contribute to improving the life chances of care experienced young people.

This is our first corporate parenting plan. It comes at a time when we are undergoing a period of significant transformational change. We have recently published our new 3 year Strategy 'Hope & Ambition', we are embarking on the development of a new IT system, and systematically reviewing all of our policies and the way in which we deliver our services to our customers. We welcome the unique opportunity to improve the lives of young people by delivering this plan. To do this effectively, we will engage actively with care experienced young people and work collaboratively with other organisations.

This partnership work will be at the heart of our approach, as the feedback we receive will help us shape and improve our services. We will continue to engage with a wide range of stakeholders including care experienced young people. As we develop our plan, we aim to better target our resources towards care experienced young people who can potentially benefit from our funding to bring about transformational change.

Peter Scott  
CEO  
ILF Scotland

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## Introduction

In 2008, the Scottish Government confirmed its commitment to Corporate Parenting by 'listening to the needs, fears and wishes of children and young people, and being proactive and determined in their collective efforts to meet them'. Corporate Parenting is about representing the principles and duties on which improvements can be made for the identified group of young people.

ILF Scotland, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, joined many other public bodies in Scotland to become a national corporate parent under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Part 9 (Corporate Parenting) of this Act placed legal responsibilities on Scottish Ministers to promote the wellbeing of care experienced young people.

This Corporate Parenting Plan sets out how we will help to deliver Scottish Ministers' statutory obligations as a Corporate Parent. We have taken a collaborative approach to developing our plan and have worked closely with partner agencies including the Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children In Scotland (CELCIS), the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Scotland and Who Cares? Scotland. We have asked for feedback from care experienced young people via our contact with Social Work Teams in Health & Social Care Partnerships and have involved staff from key business areas within our organisation. Our Board has contributed to the plan and fully endorses it.

## Background

ILF Scotland is a Non Departmental Public Body and a Company Limited by Guarantee, governed by a Board of Directors, appointed by and accountable to Scottish Ministers.

ILF Scotland operates two funds. Following the closure of ILF UK in 2015, the Scottish Government established a new organisation, ILF Scotland, to administer funding to Scottish recipients of the ILF UK fund, which became known as the 2015 Fund. Through agreement with both Governments, ILF Scotland also administers the 2015 Fund on behalf of recipients in Northern Ireland.

The 2015 fund provides financial awards to over 3,000 people in Scotland and Northern Ireland to help them pay for support to live independently at home, in their communities.

In 2017, working with disabled young people, ILF Scotland opened the Transition Fund for 16 to 21 year olds, which has supported young people to become more active and to participate in their communities. Scottish Government extended the age range to 25 years in November 2019 so that more young people might benefit from the opportunity the Fund offers but also to align with age range associated with looked after and care experienced young people.

All services that work with children and adults are responsible for promoting, supporting and safeguarding the wellbeing of all children and adults at risk of harm and for ensuring that members of the public know who to contact if they are concerned about a child or adult at risk of harm.

ILF Scotland considers that all staff have a duty to report concerns of harm. Our policy is that if any ILF Scotland staff member becomes aware of potential or actual harm, they will act with or without the consent of the ILF Scotland applicant/recipient or of the person affected by providing information in the form of a referral to the relevant Local Authority and in line with the policy of that Local Authority. This will normally involve using an agreed referral form or by telephone.

a. Where possible, an ILF Scotland member of staff should discuss any concerns of harm their line manager or a member of the management team.

b. If ILF Scotland receives a report of harm, it will record this and follow up appropriately to ensure ILF Scotland recipients' safety and to protect ILF Scotland funds.

## **Vision, mission and values**

ILF Scotland exists to support independent living for disabled people in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Independent living means, "Disabled people have the same freedom, choice, dignity and control as other people at home, at work, and in the community. It does not mean living by yourself or looking after yourself on your own. It means the person has rights to practical assistance and support to participate in society and live an ordinary life." (Independent Living in Scotland project, 2008). ILF Scotland aims to enable disabled people to live independent lives, and to exercise choice and control over how each recipient of the fund achieves their own independent living outcomes. We aim to adopt a human rights approach to all that we do. In particular, we seek to ensure our actions support the realisation of Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - "living independently and being included in the community".

ILF Scotland has developed its own vision, mission and values, which we use to inform our business priorities and draw on to influence the approach we take as we try to achieve our goals. The values in particular will influence how we achieve the aims detailed in our corporate parent plan.

### **Vision**

All disabled people, and those with a long-term health condition, can access what they need to lead an independent life.

### **Mission**

To support disabled people, empowering them to lead their fullest lives.

### **Principles**

The core principle of ILF Scotland is that disabled people have the same rights, freedoms and abilities to lead the fullest lives they can, free from discrimination and on an equal basis with others.

## **Corporate Parenting**

### **Overview**

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 defines corporate

parenting as "the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers".

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 came into effect on 1 April 2015. The legislation is a key part of the Scottish Government's strategy for making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up. The Act established a new legal framework within which public services are to work together in support of children, young people and families in Scotland.

The Statutory Guidance on Corporate Parenting defines it as:

"An organisation's performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted." (Scottish Government, 2015)

## **Our role**

The legislation names Scottish Ministers as the Corporate Parent. ILF Scotland is not a corporate parent in its own right but as a public body, effective from 2020, we have a duty to contribute to the success of the Scottish Government's Corporate Parenting role. Our key function is to empower disabled people to live independently by providing support through our funds.

In relation to the Transition Fund, we commit to try to improve our understanding corporately of the needs of care experienced young people up to and including the age of 25, so that we might better target our service to them as well as provide them with the best advice and assistance we can. We will do this by working with other corporate parents and care experienced young people to identify how we can improve our plan, services and processes.

From 1 September 2021, we will have a responsibility under Schedule 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 to report every 3 years on what we have done to meet the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We will set out how we will implement and achieve this as part of our commitments in our Corporate Parenting Plan, which we will review annually.

## **ILF Scotland's Action Plan**

Our Agency has already started a programme of transformation, which involves a review of the systems and processes we use to deliver our services. We want to provide services that are easy for our customers to access and use and that can adapt to changes in policy and recipient needs.

Our Delivery Plan 2020-23 sets out how we will deliver our key business objectives:

**Strategic Priority 1:** Facilitate disabled people's rights to Independent Living

**Strategic Priority 2:** Be leaders in enabling Independent Living

**Strategic Priority 3:** Operate high-quality and efficient services

We will include commitments to care experienced individuals in the annual review of our Corporate Parenting plan.

### Contact information

You can contact us by letter, phone or email:

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Denholm House  
Almondvale Business Park  
Almondvale Way  
Livingston  
EH54 6GA

Email: [enquiries@ILF.scot](mailto:enquiries@ILF.scot)

Phone: 0300 200 2022

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## ILF Scotland's Corporate Parenting plan 2021-24

ILF Scotland's Corporate Parenting plan 2021-24				
Corporate Parenting responsibilities: alert, assess, promote, opportunities, access and improve				
Commitments	Actions	Target date	Owner(s)	Outcome
1 We will develop new and existing relationships with other corporate parents to make sure that ILF Scotland remains <b>alert</b> to the needs of care experienced young people to inform our policy and practice.	We will develop new and existing relationships with other corporate parents, making them aware that we are a Corporate Parent.	March 2022	Director of Policy, Engagement & Improvement Self-Directed Support Manager, Transition Fund  Director of S.D.S	We are alert to matters which, or which might, affect care experienced young people
	We will continue to work closely with relevant organisations and stakeholders to inform our policy and practice.	March 2022	Director of Policy, Improvement & Engagement Self-Directed Support Manager, Transition Fund Director of S.D.S	
We will <b>assess</b> the requirements of care experienced young people to ensure we meet their needs.	We will consider care experienced young people in all ILF Scotland Equality Impact Assessments.	March 2022	Self-Directed Support Manager, Transition Fund	We consider the needs of care experienced young people.
	We will gain an understanding of care experienced young people's needs through engagement with them.	December 2021	Director of Policy, Improvement & Engagement Self-Directed Support Manager, Transition Fund Director of S.D.S, Engagement Officer	

ILF Scotland's Corporate Parenting plan 2021-24

Corporate Parenting responsibilities: alert, assess, promote, opportunities, access and improve

Commitments	Actions	Target date	Owner(s)	Outcome
<p>3 We will develop staff awareness on the subject of corporate parenting to make sure staff <b>promote</b> benefits for care experienced young people.</p>	<p>We will develop awareness sessions for all staff and Board members to outline the principles of corporate parenting, our responsibilities, and the ILF Scotland action plan.</p>	<p>October 2022</p>	<p>Head of Business Services, Director of SDS, SDS Manager, Transition Fund, Director of Policy, Improvement &amp; Engagement</p>	
	<p>We will ensure all new staff have an understanding of corporate parenting by including it in our induction pack.</p>	<p>October 2021</p>	<p>Head of Business Services</p>	
	<p>We will develop a communications strategy, which will include how we might target care experienced young people, and ensure they are aware of the Transition Fund and what we can offer them.</p>	<p>July 2022</p>	<p>Communications Manager and SDS Manager, Transition Fund</p>	
<p>4 We will provide <b>opportunities</b> for care experienced young people.</p>	<p>We will provide opportunities for care experienced young people to be part of the ILF Scotland Young Ambassadors group.</p>	<p>October 2021</p>	<p>Engagement Officer, SDS Transition Fund Manager</p>	<p>We provide an educational role to support and provide opportunities for care experienced young people.</p>

Corporate Parenting responsibilities: alert, assess, promote, opportunities, access and improve

Commitments	Actions	Target date	Owner(s)	Outcome
5  We will ensure <b>access</b> to our services for care experienced young people.	We will fully support care experienced young people to successfully complete the application process.	March 2022	Self-Directed Support Manager, Transition Fund	We assist care experienced young people to access information about the Transition Fund so that they might benefit by receiving grants to help them to transition and be involved in their communities
	We will communicate with care experienced young people through our engagement events to ensure that they have a better understanding on the Transition Fund.	March 2022	Engagement & Events Officer	
	We will flag care experienced young people on our internal database to monitor how many applications we receive from this group, which will help inform us how successful we have been and how we can reach more.	June 2021	Self-Directed Support Manager, Transition Fund	
6  We will consider where we could <b>improve</b> our services and processes for care experienced young people.	We will work with other corporate parents and care experienced young people to identify how we can improve our plan, services and processes. Do we need to make it clearer here that we are introducing a new section on the application form?	March 2022	Director of Policy, Improvement & Engagement Self-Directed Support Manager, Transition Fund Director of S.D.S	We tailor our services for care experienced young people.
7  We will review, develop and report on our Corporate Parenting Plan including what we have done to meet the UNCRC requirements.	We will review our plan annually	March 2022	Director of Policy, Improvement & Engagement	We ensure that our plan continues to be responsive to the needs of care experienced young people.
	We will report on the progress of our plan every three years.	March 2024	Director of Policy, Improvement & Engagement	

