

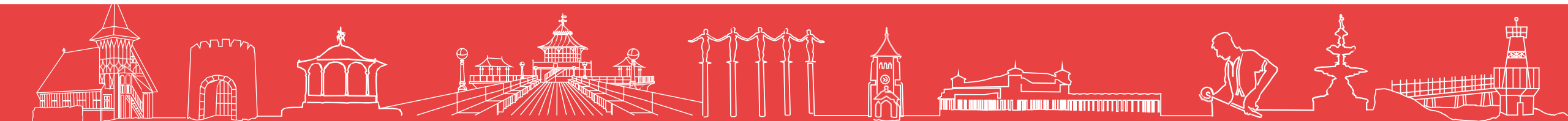
Corporate Parenting

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Carrie Yeates – Head of Corporate Parenting

Description/what is being covered

- What does Corporate Parenting Mean?
- The Impact you can make as a corporate Parent



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3. Quote from Corporate Parenting Strategy

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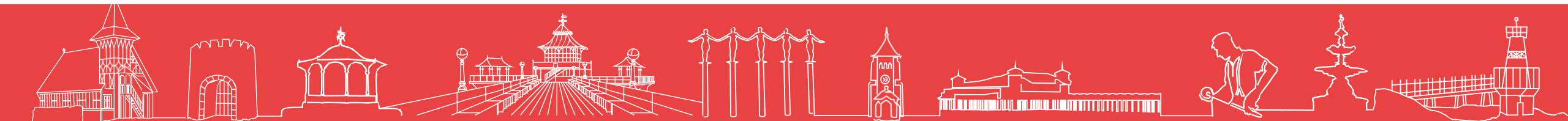
7. What it means to young people

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Corporate Parenting Strategy

Acting as a corporate parent for our children and young people is an important responsibility in North Somerset. Corporate Parenting must seek to ensure supportive relationships where young people feel cared for, not just looked after.

Good Corporate Parenting involves championing the rights of children in care and care experienced young people and ensuring that they have access to good services and support from the local authority, partner agencies and individual lead practitioners.



What does Corporate Parent Mean?

The role that the council and partners play in looking after children is one of the most important things we do, a good corporate parent should have the same aspirations for a child in care or care leaver, as a good parent would have for their child.

Providing the stability and support they need to make progress, helping them to access new opportunities and experiences that inspire them to set ambitious goals for themselves. It also means celebrating their successes, but also recognizing that they will sometimes make mistakes and need help to get back on track

Supporting children in care and care leavers to gain the skills and confidence to live independent lives, while letting them know that they have someone to call on for help if the going gets tough

Understanding that young people in care and care leavers are individuals who often have had difficult experiences in some of the most formative years of their lives which means they may need support with their emotional health and wellbeing

North Somerset Council's Corporate Parenting strategy sets out how we intend to challenge ourselves as corporate parents. It provides the legal and local context in which we operate, our vision for children in our care and how we intend to deliver on the priorities which are set out in legislation.



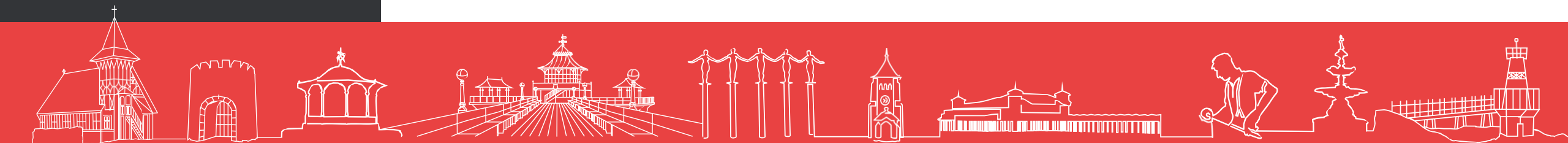
North Somerset Children in Care and Care Leavers

240 Children in Care

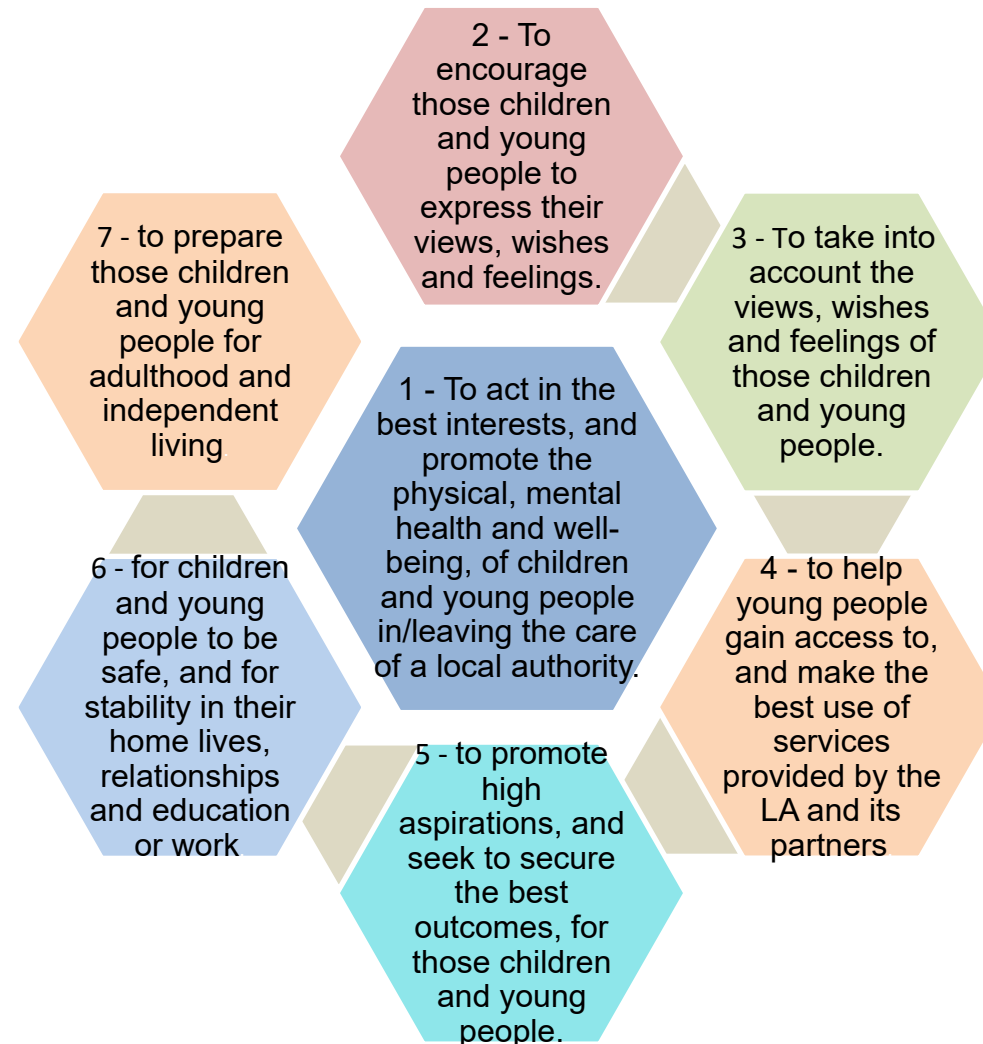
- Foster care including kinship care, supported/semi-independent accommodation, residential children's homes

249 Care Leavers

- Staying put with foster carers, supported/Semi-independent accommodation, social housing.



Principles of Corporate Parenting



What does being a Corporate Parent mean to children and young people?

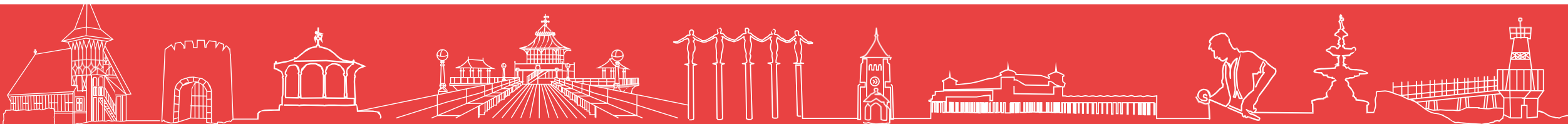
For some Care Leavers a “corporate parent” is the closest thing we will have to a parent in our lives.

A corporate parent to us is someone who listens and treats us all with the respect and equality. Someone reliable who works in a transparent and inclusive way, who will help us set and reach goals we might not have set by ourselves.

Someone who is understanding of the barriers children in care face and someone who can advocate for us when we don't know what we need or are entitled too.



Our Number One Question is



Would this be good enough for my child?

“Would I make the same decisions if it were my child”

- The reason we ask ourselves this question is because you are the “decision maker”.
- It is important we consider how we would want our own children to be treated if they were involved with the service.

“Would I talk or write about my own child like this”

- This is the most important question for me because when children and young adults come to access their files there is language used which can be potentially harmful and upsetting.
- Not only that the language can be upsetting but it can also be confusing and “jargonised” language.

“Would my child understand the language I am using”

- It is important to know that one day, the young person will access their files and will come to see all that has ever been written about them.
- It is important that they can understand the language used about them in order for them to understand their situations and the decisions that were made.

Our ask of you as corporate parents...

Think about our children and young people when you are making decisions and plans

Ask our children and young people what they think and listen to them.

Champion our children and young people and make sure they get the resources they deserve

Challenge us and each other! Get to know our services through attending our corporate parenting panel and CYPS scrutiny and hold officers and the Council to account



Links to helpful Documents



North Somerset Council

Corporate Parenting Strategy

Children's Services

March 2023 for review in March 2026



Fostering Service

Statement of Purpose

January 2023

Review date: January 2024



time to care... Fostering North Somerset 



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Questions?

