

Meeting:	NHS Grampian Board
Meeting date:	6 February 2025
Item Number:	7
Title:	Corporate Parenting Annual Report 23/24
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:	Geraldine Fraser, Integrated Families Portfolio Executive Lead
Report Author:	Caroline Clark, Chief Nurse

1 Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- **Assurance** – review and scrutinise the information provided in this paper and confirm that it provides assurance that NHSG is meeting its corporate parenting legal responsibilities as set out by Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and progression with the Scottish Government’s aspirations set out in The Promise 2020.

This report relates to a:

- Government policy/directive
- Legal requirement

This aligns to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition(s):

- Person Centred

2 Report summary

This report sets out the NHS Grampian progress in meeting corporate parenting responsibilities across Grampian. This details the strategic framework, the current statistics for care experienced children and young people, what we have achieved and the priorities for 2024/25.

The NHSG Corporate Parenting action plan 2025-27 is in development. This is taking into account the need to align to our partnership Corporate Parenting plans, The Promise Plan 2024 – 2030 and qualitative data learned through engagement with care experienced children, young people and their families. The draft outcomes and objectives are included as an appendix to the main report.

2.1 Situation

This report comes annually to NHSG board to provide assurance on compliance with corporate parenting responsibilities. NHS Grampian became a statutory corporate parent in April 2015 under part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Corporate Parenting). The statutory obligations impact well beyond child health services to all the functions of NHS Grampian.

2.2 Background

The Promise sets out the Scottish Government strategic direction for meeting corporate parenting responsibilities. Published in 2020 The Promise aspires to support shifts in policy, practice and culture so Scotland can **#KeepThePromise** it made to care experienced infants, children, young people, adults and their families - that every child grows up loved, safe and respected, and able to realise their full potential.

NHS Grampian's strategic plan, 'Plan for the Future 2022 – 2028' recognises that by paying particular attention to children, young people and families we can enable healthier and happier future generations. NHS Grampians Children's Board provides the governance and assurance on child health priorities and as such the NHS Grampian Corporate Parenting Group reports to the Children's Board. The Children's Board reports to the Integrated Family Portfolio Strategic Board.

2.3 Assessment

Statistics and compliance with Initial Health Assessment (IHA) timescales remain static. Moray has set KPIs to try and improve this compliance but this remains a work in progress. However, a risk remains for NHSG as outlined in section 4.4 of the accompanying report, is around our contribution and support to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).

A key achievement this year is in the Family Nurse Partnership increasing its service reach by changing the age range from 19 years to 25 years for care experienced parents.

We have recently heard from care experienced children and young people in Aberdeen through the [Your Life Your Care](#) and [Your Life Beyond Care](#) Bright Spots Surveys. 72% of children aged 4-17 and 69% of young people age 18+ responded to the surveys. Of particular note, 35% of care leavers (those 18+) indicated that they had a long-term health problem or disability. This is much higher than young people in the comparator report – 21%. When asked for more detail about their health concerns, these are the issues and concerns that they highlighted:

2.3.2 Workforce

This unique cohort of children and young people are particularly vulnerable and are likely to have complex physical and mental health, and social needs. Meeting the needs of these children is a priority, however there is further work to be done within NHS Grampian to ensure this is reflected across all our services.

2.3.3 Financial

No known financial impact.

2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management

None required.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

Prioritising our children's health needs is a key strand of the Plan for the Future, as is tackling health inequalities.

2.3.6 Other impacts

None known

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

This report has been developed with the support of the NHS Grampian Corporate Parenting Group which has membership from across NHS Grampian, including all three HSCPs and local authorities.

2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

The attached report has been developed over a period of months at the NHS Grampian Corporate Parenting Group. The report was approved by the Chief Executive Team at meeting on 14/1/25.

2.4 Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

- review and scrutinise the information provided in this paper and confirm that it provides assurance that NHS Grampian is meeting its corporate parenting legal responsibilities as set out by Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and progression with the Scottish Government's aspirations set out in The Promise 2020.

3 Appendix/List of appendices

Corporate Parenting Annual Report 23-24

