

Guidance sheet for Corporate Parent Strategy feedback form

Practical Materials Required:

- **Printed copies of the survey** (with large print or simplified versions if needed)
- **Pens, pencils, highlighters, and erasers**
- **Sticky notes** for jotting down thoughts or ideas before answering

Other useful aids:

- **Mood cards or emoji cards** to help express feelings
- **Drawing materials** (paper, markers, crayons) for those who prefer to draw their answers
- **Fidget toys or sensory items** to help with focus and comfort
- **Prompt cards** with simplified versions of each question or examples
- **Flashcards** with the five priorities and what they mean in plain language
- **Scenario cards** (e.g. “What would a great foster carer do?”) to spark ideas
- **Yes/No paddles** or thumbs-up/down cards for quick responses (*we have paddles available in the Learning Academy office at the Town Hall*)

Visual rating scales

Some questions use a rating scale (see below). Please choose the option that best reflects how the young person feels about the question. The scale is from 1 to 5.

☹️ 1 ☐ ☹️ 2 ☐ 😐 3 ☐ 😊 4 ☐ 😊 5 ☐

Set the scene

Provide a youth-friendly description of what a corporate parent and corporate parent strategy is. Be sure to offer to read the blurb aloud to young people if they prefer to aid in comprehension. Once this is done then you can move on to the first question:

Q1. We call the adults and organisations who support young people in care ‘corporate parents’. Does that name feel right to you? If not, what would you call them instead?

- Start with a **clear and simple explanation** of what a corporate parent is
When we say corporate parent, we mean all the adults and organisations –

social workers, teachers, the local council – who are here to support you, just like a good parent would

- **Prompt with examples if needed:** “some young people have suggested names like ‘Support Team’ or ‘Safe Circle’
- **Reassure:** “*whatever you think is totally fine, we just want to hear your voice*”

Q2. What do you think a ‘corporate parent’ should do?

- Go through each of the multiple choice options one by one and ask **open-ended questions:**
- **Be there when I need help** - “*Can you think of a time when you needed help—what did you want from the adults around you?*”
- **Listen to me and take me seriously** - “*Do you feel like adults listen to you? What does being taken seriously look like to you?*”
- **Help me feel safe and cared for** - “*What makes you feel safe? Who helps you feel cared for?*”
- **Support me with school, college or work** - “*What kind of support do you need with school or your future plans?*”
- **Treat me with respect** - “*What does respect mean to you? How do you know when someone is treating you with respect?*”
- **Make sure I have a good place to live** - “*What makes a place feel like a good home to you?*”
- For the “**Other**” box, prompt them to think about anything that’s important to them that isn’t listed:

“Is there anything else you think a good corporate parent should do that’s not on this list?”

If the young people prefer, they could possibly be encouraged to write or draw their answers in ‘Other’

Q3. Have you heard about our ‘Promise to you’ pledge for children in care?

- Simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer required only
- **Mood scale**, or **thumbs up/down paddles** could be used in non-verbal cases or to increase confidence

Priorities

Priority 1: We will work with you

- **Reassure and empower** – before asking any of the questions, emphasise to young people that there are no wrong answers, that their voice matters and it will help adults to understand how to be better for them
- Try **breaking down the scale** and provide relatable examples to help them choose:

- **1–2:** “Do you feel like decisions are made *for* you without asking what you think?”
- **3:** “Do you sometimes get asked, but not always listened to?”
- **4–5:** “Do you feel like your views really matter and help shape what happens?”
- You could also use the **visual emoji scale** to illicit an answer
- **Scenario cards** with images of school, a home etc could be used to provide examples of areas where they can talk about how involved they feel in decisions made regarding them

Priority 2: We will ensure your placement [where you live] is safe and meets your needs

*For the sake of consistency, we haven’t changed the wording of the priority, but it may be best to avoid the term ‘placement’ when going through this priority as it may have trauma surrounding it and could be a trigger word. Try “**where you live**” instead*

- Again, important to **reassure and empower:** “You don’t have to share anything you’re not comfortable with. But if something could be better, this is a chance to help us understand and improve it.”
- **Explain:** “This question is about how you feel where you live—whether it’s a foster home, residential care, or supported accommodation. It’s about your comfort, safety, and whether it feels like a good place for you.”
- As above, **break down the scale**, use **visual emoji scale** and **relatable examples** to prompt responses such as “Do you feel safe when you’re at home?”, “Is it a place where you can relax and be yourself?”, “Do you feel listened to and respected by the people you live with?”

Priority 3: We will support you to fulfil your potential (help you to achieve your goals and dreams)

- **Explain:** “This question is about your goals—big or small—and whether you feel like the adults around you are helping you get there. That could be school, college, work, hobbies, or anything you dream of doing.”
- Use same tips as previous priorities
- To support the open-ended question you can ask questions to fill in any missing information such as:
 - “What’s something you’d love to do or achieve?”
 - “Is there anything stopping you from working towards that?”
 - “What kind of support would make a difference – like mentoring, or someone to talk to?”
- Offer to let them **draw their goals or dreams**

Priority 4: We will ensure that your physical, emotional, mental health needs are met

- **Explain:** *“This question is about how well you feel looked after—physically, emotionally, and mentally. That includes things like seeing a doctor, having someone to talk to when you’re upset, or getting help with stress or anxiety.”*
- **Reassure** that they do not have to answer anything they feel uncomfortable with and show that you understand that this is a sensitive topic and we just want to get a better understanding in order to improve things for them.
- Use the **visual emoji scale** and **break down the numbered scale**, using prompt questions like *“Do you feel like your health needs are taken seriously?” “Is there someone you can talk to when you’re feeling low or anxious?” “Do you get help when you’re unwell or struggling?”*
- To support the **open-ended question** you can ask questions to fill in any missing information such as:
 - o *“Is there anything you wish you had more help with—like sleep, stress, or emotions?”*
 - o *“Do you feel comfortable talking to adults about how you’re feeling?”*
 - o *“Is there anything that would make you feel healthier or more supported?”*

Alternatively, they could draw how they feel physically and emotionally, or mood or emoji cards could be used to ascertain feelings

Priority 5: You will be supported to develop into an independent, confident and responsible adult

- **Explain:** *“This question is about how much support you feel you’re getting to grow into the adult you want to be—things like learning life skills, making your own choices, and feeling confident in yourself.”*
- **Prompt questions** for reflection to respond to the scale:
 - o *“Do you feel like you’re learning how to do things on your own – like cooking, budgeting, or managing appointments?”*
 - o *“Do you feel confident making decisions about your life?”*
 - o *“Do you have people who encourage you and believe in you?”*
- **For the open-ended questions:** ask open-ended prompts to explore what’s missing or could be better:
 - o *“Is there anything you wish you had more help with to feel more independent?”*
 - o *“What would help you feel more confident or ready for adult life?”*
 - o *“Are there any skills you’d like to learn but haven’t had the chance to yet?”*
- Let them **draw their future self** or **what they think independence looks like**
- **Use scenario cards** with a common goals on them (*“what’s one thing you’d like to learn to do on your own?”*)

Q3. What does ‘amazing’ support look like to you?

- **Explain:** *“Some young people say amazing support means being listened to, having someone check in regularly, or being helped without having to ask. What’s it like for you?”*

- **Prompt reflection on past experiences:** *“You’ve probably had some good and not-so-good experiences. What made the good ones stand out? What would you change about the others?”*

Gauge the situation and the young person’s feelings before asking this as the reflection may prompt difficult emotions. Reassure them that there is no wrong answer and that their ideas will help to make things better

- **Draw it:** *“Can you draw what amazing support looks like?”*
- **Build a ‘dream team’:** *“If you could build your perfect support team, who would be in it and what would they do?”*
- **Use emojis or cards** to describe feelings when support is good vs. not so good

Q4. Is there anything else you want to say?

- **Explain:** *“This is your chance to say anything that hasn’t been asked yet—something you’re proud of, something that’s going well, or something you’d like to change.”*
- **Reassure:** *“You don’t have to say anything if you don’t want to—but if there’s something on your mind, this is a safe space to share it. Your voice matters.”*
- Let them **draw or write freely** about their care experience
- Use **story starters** like:
 - *“One thing I wish people knew about being in care is…”*
 - *“Something that’s going really well for me is…”*

Wrap Up

1. Thank Them Genuinely

“Thank you so much for taking the time to share your thoughts. What you’ve said is really important and will help us make things better—not just for you, but for other young people too.”

2. Reflect Back What You Heard

- Briefly summarise or reflect on something they shared:
- *“You mentioned that you’d like more support with [e.g. college, mental health, independence]—that’s really helpful to know.”*
- This shows you were listening and that their feedback matters.

3. Explain What Happens Next

- *“Your feedback will be shared [anonymously – we will only take their first name on the feedback survey and only if they want to disclose it] with the team working on the new Corporate Parenting Strategy. It helps shape how we support young people in care going forward.”*
- *“If you’d like to be involved in future workshops or help shape the final version, we can talk about that too.”* [Mention our Children in Care Council

participation group at Torbay Council, if interested let our participation team know on participation@torbay.gov.uk]

4. Check In Emotionally

- *“How are you feeling after going through those questions?”*
“Was there anything that felt difficult or brought up any feelings?”
- Offer space to talk or decompress if needed.

5. Offer Next Steps or Support

- *“Is there anything you’d like to talk more about or get help with now?”*
“Would you like me to follow up on anything you mentioned?”
- This helps turn feedback into action and shows you’re responsive.

6. End on a Positive Note

- *“You’ve done something really powerful today by sharing your voice. That takes courage, and it really matters.”*