

SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY

Corporate Parenting Report

2017-20



What is a Corporate Parent?

A Corporate Parent is intended to carry out many of the roles a loving parent should. Whilst Corporate Parents may not be able to provide everything a parent can, they should still be able to provide the children and young people they're responsible for with the best possible support and care



The role of the Scottish Police Authority

As per the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, the SPA is responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account and to promote and support continuous improvement in the policing of Scotland. The SPA is also responsible for the management and delivery of Forensic Services in Scotland and the administration of independent custody visitors.

The SPA sits separately from Police Scotland and therefore needs to create and implement its own Corporate Parenting Plan. This ensures that those who are care experienced understand the commitments the SPA specifically is making as a Corporate Parent and to enable us to be held accountable for how we support the community.

How we did during 2017-20

The Scottish Police Authority is early in its journey as a Corporate Parent. No formal plan was in place during 2017-20, however in carrying out our role, the Authority acted in the spirit of a corporate parent. Some examples of this work are:



Scrutiny of the use of stop and search by police and its impact on specific groups including young people

Stop and search

Set up an Independent Advisory Group to review Police Scotland's use of temporary police powers during COVID. This group included the Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland.

Police powers during COVID

Monitoring of custody conditions and openly reporting data on children and young people in Police Scotland custody.

Custody visiting

What next?

During 2021 we developed our first [Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-24](#). This describes how we will make sure that policing in Scotland supports care experienced children and young people, and how the SPA will deliver positive change in our engagement with the care experienced community. In the plan we commit to:



Look - oversee Police Scotland to ensure they support the care experienced community and that corporate parenting responsibilities are performance in relation to other statutory duties.



Listen - ensure that those who are care experienced have their voice heard in matters relating to policing



Learn - make sure all our staff understand our responsibilities as a Corporate Parent



Review - make sure we continue to do our best for children, young people and the care experience community

We will monitor and review this plan to help us prepare for reporting progress on our role as a corporate parent during 2020-23.

We will also continue to engage with guidance on transitional arrangements for revised reporting that the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill will bring.