Children and Social Work Act 2017

2017 CHAPTER 16

PART 1

CHILDREN

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LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Corporate parenting principles for English local authorities

1 Corporate parenting principles

(1) A local authority in England must, in carrying out functions in relation to the children and young people mentioned in subsection (2), have regard to the need—

(a) to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
(b) to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
(c) to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
(d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
(e) to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
(f) for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
(g) to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

(2) The children and young people mentioned in this subsection are—
(a) children who are looked after by a local authority, within the meaning given by section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989;
(b) relevant children within the meaning given by section 23A(2) of that Act;
(c) persons aged under 25 who are former relevant children within the meaning given by section 23C(1) of that Act.

(3) In this section—
   “local authority in England” means—
   (a) a county council in England;
   (b) a district council;
   (c) a London borough council;
   (d) the Common Council of the City of London (in their capacity as a local authority);
   (e) the Council of the Isles of Scilly;
   (f) a combined authority established under section 103 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009;
   “relevant partners”, in relation to a local authority, has the meaning given by section 10(4) of the Children Act 2004.

(4) A local authority in England must have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State as to the performance of the duty under subsection (1).