Introduction

Alfonso Lara Montero

Chief Executive

European Social Network

The Working Group

o 4 Annual Meetings and final publication in 2021

o Policy links across the life course

o Focus: Social services led coordination with other sectors

o Based on publication 'integrated social services in Europe'

o Promote mutual learning among social services and other professionals

o Influence future policy & practice

The Working Group

Methodology:

o Questionnaire shared with members (March 2019)

o Analysis of practices and experiences by external expert

o Meeting to enable discussions

Integrated Care and Support

International principles

- UNCRC

- Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children

- EC: Recommendation Investing in children

- EC: Youth Guarantee

    ESN's request for Care guarantee –Pillar of Social Rights (Towards a people's

    Europe)

Integrated Care and Support

Why are we implementing more integrated support?

o Foster a person-centred approach in social services and policy

o Public policy & funding fragmented leads to fragmented practice

o Evidence tells of improvement in organisational coordination

o Perceived improvement in outcomes

o New ways of understanding quality

Integrated Care and Support
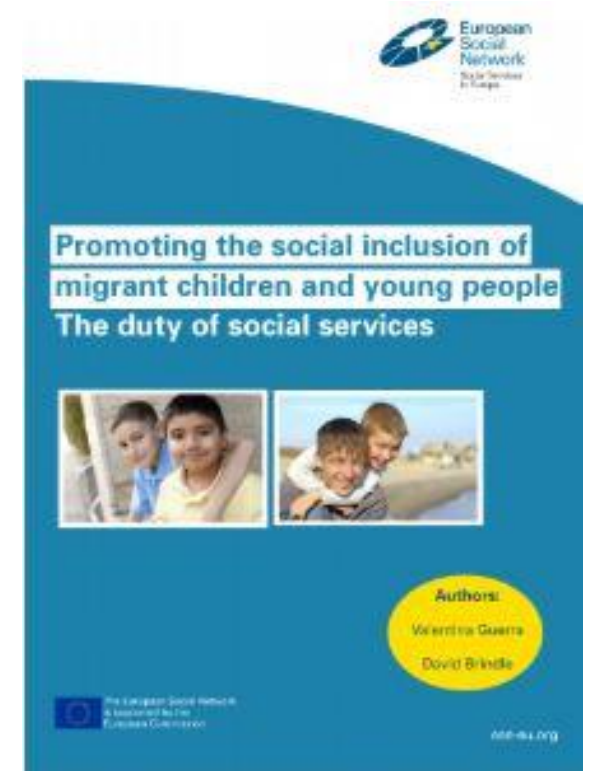
Our previous work on the topic:

- **Evidence-based social services toolkit**

- **Investing in Children's Services, Improving Outcomes**

- **Integrated social services in Europe**

ESN work on young people leaving state care

o **2012**: Seminar and publication on **Vulnerable Youth in Transition**

o **2015**: Workshop on **Youth between Education and Employment**

o **2016**: Workshop on **Young Offenders**

o **2017**: Seminar and publication on **Migrant Children and Young People**

Promoting the social inclusion of migrant children and young people
The duty of social services

Authors:
Valentina Guerra
David Brindle

Integrated Care and Support

What does it look like in practice?

o Joint planning and decision-making

o Joint needs assessment

o Aftercare plans

o Multi-agency teams

o Case management

o Multi-agency working & pooled budgets

Integrated Care and Support

Objectives for the meeting/WG:

o Identify & share practice examples

o Learn whether environment supports better coordination

o Discuss common challenges

o Identify solutions & effective strategies

o Support our members to improve their policy & practice

o Provide relevant information to EU for better policy-making (Eg. Child Guarantee)

Implementation of integrated support for young people leaving care: an analysis

Emily Munro

Professor

University of Bedfordshire

Care is never an end in itself, it's always just one stage of a child's journey into adulthood: the true outcome measure for care must be related to the quality of adult life the young person achieves (ADCS, 2013, p.1)

Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (General Assembly of the United Nations, 2010, p.19)

Recognition of the importance of:

- **Preparation and planning:** 'equipped with social and life skills'

- **Process of transition:** taking into consideration gender, age, maturity and particular circumstances (including counselling and support)

- **Providing aftercare support:** ongoing educational and vocational opportunities and access to social, legal and health services and appropriate financial support

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Value in acknowledging that young people leaving care have a **right to support** rather than framing the discourse around 'additional needs' and 'deficits'

Transition pathways

- Accelerated and compressed transitions

- Extended and abrupt transitions

(Stein, 2008)

Strategies to improve outcomes

- Towards extended and graduated transitions...

- Effective preparation and planning

- Extended/continuing care (formal or informal)

- Enhanced after care support

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Comparative perspectives

- Enhance understanding of how 'individual circumstances are shaped by processes and institutions at local, national and international levels: political, cultural and economic' (Van Breda and Pinkerton, 2019)

- Illuminate policies and practices that might contribute to improving outcomes

- Highlight unintended consequences of specific approaches and/or barriers to policy implementation and how these might be overcome

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Cautionary notes…

- Differences in historical, social, political and economic contexts
- Key concepts are infused with social and cultural meanings and open to multiple interpretations
- Over reliance on material in English
- Variations in the availability, reliability and comparability of data
- Constantly changing landscape: challenges of securing 'live time' picture (Gilligan, 2018)
- Variations in timing and reasons for entry to care, length of stay and type and use of placements (foster care/residential/kin/non-kinship)

(Gilligan, 2018; Munro, Stein and Ward, 2005; Munro and Stein, 2008)

Cautionary notes…

- Variations in the quality and quantity of data supplied

- Not always clear whether responses reflected aspirations or principles that respondents endorsed, or current policies, or day to day practice

- Potential for discrepancies between legal and policy frameworks and day to day practices

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Survey findings

- 18 surveys from 13 countries

- 2 responses from Malta, Romania & Spain & 3 responses from Italy

- Most responses from local and national authorities (but also small number from regional authorities, research institutes etc.)

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Countries

- Belgium
- Germany
- Italy
- Kosovo
- Latvia
- Malta
- Netherlands

- Portugal
- Romania
- Scotland
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden

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Co-operation with other sectors to provide integrated support

	Limited or no cooperation/ lack of synergy	Coordination awareness of other services and can signpost users effectively	Integrated process/services jointly coordinated e.g. assessment and case management	Integrated organisation/ team providing services
Housing	3	7	4	4
Education	1	9	7	1
Health	3	7	6	2
Employment	2	7	6	3
Financial support	1	5	8	4
Justice	3	11	2	2

Most important reasons for cooperation with other sectors

- Improve outcomes (very important in 8 countries)

- Development of a more preventative approach (very important in 7 countries)

- New legislation or policy (very important in 7 countries)

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Care Leavers' involvement in the planning and delivery of integrated support

- **Inform:** explained how services they receive work and why decisions are made (Romania, Latvia, Spain & Italy)

- **Consult:** fill in surveys, attend meetings but their views may not influence planning or decision-making (Malta)

- **Engage**: They are given more opportunities to express their views and may be able to influence some decisions (Kosovo, Sweden, Germany, Italy)

Care Leavers' involvement in the planning and delivery of integrated support

- **Co-design**: Involved in designing services, based on their experiences and ideas (genuine influence) (Belgium)

- **Co-production**: Equal relationships between them and service providers. They work together, from design to delivery, sharing strategic decision-making (Netherlands, Italy, Romania)

- **Evaluation:** They are asked to evaluate services (Portugal, Slovenia)

- Diversity in the nature and extent of involvement (depending on area and context) (Scotland, Spain, Malta)

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Factors for successful integrated support for care leavers

Commitment of stakeholders: 10 very important, 6 fairly important, 2 less important

Learning environment, joint training and time for inter-professional working: 8 very important, 6 fairly important, 4 less important

Sufficient resources to develop more integrated services: 5 very important, 10 fairly important, 3 less important

Leadership and effective management of the integrated service: 11 very important, 4 fairly important, 3 less important

Co-production and involvement of care leavers in design and delivery: 9 very important, 8 fairly important, 1 less important

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Aftercare plans

- Respondents from 10 countries identified aftercare plans as 'more of a priority' or a very important priority'/focus for young people leaving care

Considerations

- Is there a legal requirement to complete a 'pathway plan'?

- Are plans completed in practice?

- Are young people active participants in the process?

- Do young adults have a right to services and support, or are conditions imposed?

- Universal services and/or targeted/specialist?

- Does what young people say they want and need align with what's available?

Sweden

- No specific Acts governing the provision of services to prepare and support young people leaving care or aftercare
- Decentralised and less prescriptive than the UK
- Case-by-case decision-making by frontline workers is influential in shaping the support young people receive resources
- Support varies significantly in different localities, depending upon local resources and the attitudes of individual social workers
- Expectation that universal services will provide what is need

(Mølholt et al., 2012; Oterholm, 2008; 2015 Backe-Hansen et al., 2013; Höjer & Sjöblom, 2014; Munro, Mølholt and Hollingworth, 2016)

United Kingdom

- Targeted legislation to improve preparation, planning and consistency of support (including 'pathway plan')

- Expectation that young people are actively involved in the development of their plan

- Future orientated, with consideration of *young person's continuing need for care, accommodation and support*.

- Areas of focus: accommodation, health and development, education, training and employment, emotional and behavioural development, identity, family and social relationships, practice skills for independent living, financial arrangements, family and social relationships

Messages from research

- Focus on accommodation and education/employment on plans

- Health less of a focus (may reflect gaps in provision e.g. high threshold for Adult Mental Health Services)

- Young people not always active participants and/or experience the process as bureaucratic 'pathway planning syndrome'

- Past experiences (changes of worker/decisions taken for or imposed upon young people) influence expectations about the value of planning

(Munro et al., 2011; Liabo et al., 2016; Hung and Appleton, 2016)

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Pathway plans

Young people were found to value plans that:

- were developed in collaboration with workers that they had established a positive and consistent relationship with

- explored current circumstances and how they were likely to change in the foreseeable future

- outlined clear goals and what services the local authority would supply to support them

- were reviewed and updated in response to changes in needs and circumstances (Munro *et al.*, 2011).

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Romania: Practice in Bucharest

- Various projects provide support to young adults beyond 18 years

- Young people in education programmes are supported until 26 through partnerships with NGOs to facilitate access to shelter and work and to acquire skills for independent living

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Targeted programmes

- Main categories: housing (assisted apartments, transition centres, temporary shelters, night shelters) and job creation to help young people to integrate into the labour market and find jobs

- Most county programmes focus on counselling and socio-professional training, whereas local programmes focus more on temporary shelters

- Specific programmes for young people with disabilities

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Extended/continuing care

- Staying 'in care'/with carers or in residential placement beyond 18

- Informal agreements between kin or non-kinship carers and young people

- Formal schemes underpinned by legislation (e.g. Staying Put in England/Continuing Care in Scotland)

- Or, something in between (e.g. 'Norm' for young people in Sweden to stay until finish schooling/19-20 years but considerable discretion at the local level)

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Extended/continuing care

- Educational engagement often a condition to remain for longer

- Variations in entitlements may apply (e.g. according to time in care, placement type or disability)

- Differences in how options are presented and how options are communicated may influence uptake

- Duty' to provide/entitlement or optional for service to provide ?

- Potential to perpetuate the 'inverse care law'?

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Illustrative examples

- **Italy**

'Provides the **possibility** for social services to define projects for young people from 18-21 years involving public care, extra family payment, psycho-social educational interventions' (art 25/29 R.D. 1404/1934 – L.n. 23/1975)

- **Romania**

Upper age limit of care extended to 26 years where a young adult living in care is in education" (Anghel, Herczog & Dima, 2013, p. 246).

Illustrative examples

- **Germany**: extended from 21 to 27 years 'in any cases involving serious disabilities caused by psychological impairment' (Harder et al., 2013; Gilligan, 2018).

- **Scotland:** Continuing Care (Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, part 11) Remain in former foster, kinship or residential care placement up to 21 years

- **Wales:** When I'm Ready (Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Part 6) Remain with former foster carer upto the age of 21, or until 25 in an agreed programme of education or training

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Messages from research: timing of transitions

- Importance of choice and control rather than age related-transitions and being 'forced' and 'kicked out'
- Young person led transitions 'desire to be free and independent/survivalist self reliance' and/or level of dissatisfaction with placements (4+ placements marginally higher likelihood of leaving early)
- Warm nurturing environment, compensatory care and a secure stable base in foster care tended to opt to stay
- Relationships, how the offer was framed and the legacy of the past were influential (Munro et al., 2012)

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Reflections

It is important to:

- Acknowledge that young people have a right to support
- See young people as individuals and take their wishes and feelings into account
- Supportive relationships and emotional support (not just practical provision) matter
- 'Need for a shift in emphasis from incident and episodic service provision to a culture of long term and continuous support' (Learning from Serious Case Reviews) (Sidebotham et al., 2016)

Shaping Outcomes

- Importance of a comprehensive approach across the life course
- Pre-care: early intervention and prevention, family support when problems arise
- In care: timely decision-making and effective care planning, continuity and stability, a nurturing environment and a secure base
- Leaving care: preparation and planning, extended and graduated transitions and 'rights based' rather than 'age related' transitions

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- Munro, E. R., Stein, M. and Ward, H. (2005) Comparing how different social, political and legal frameworks support or inhibit transitions from public care to independence in Europe, Israel, Canada and the United States. *International Journal of Child Welfare*. 8(4), 191-201.

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Oslo: Norsk institutt for forskning om oppvekst, velferd og aldring), pp. 161-206.
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Van Breda, A. D., & Pinkerton, J. (2019). Raising African voices in the global dialogue on care-leaving and emerging adulthood. *Emerging Adulthood*, pp.1-10

Supporting the transition to adulthood of young people in Scotland: policy and practice review

Chair: Alfonso Lara Montero, Chief Executive, ESN

- Kenny McGhee, Throughcare and Aftercare Lead, CELCIS

- Vivien Thomson, Team Leader, Falkirk Council

- Andrew Thorpe, East Lothian Council

- Chris Wright, Throughcare and Aftercare Team Manager, Dundee

  City Council

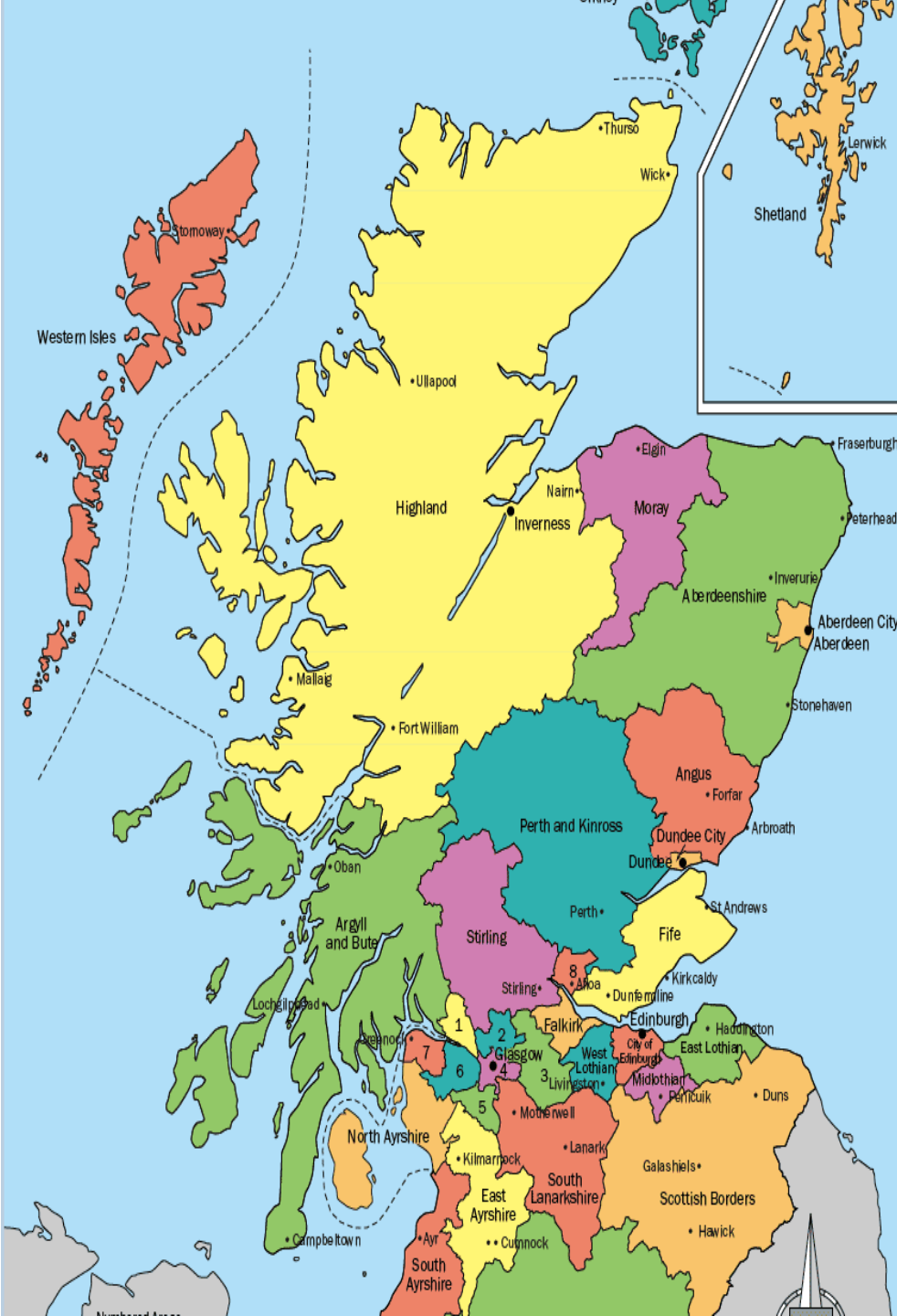*Presentations followed by panel debate with audience*

Integrated Care and Support for Scotland's Care Leavers

Improving Transitions from Care to Interdependence and Adulthood

Kenny McGhee
Throughcare and Aftercare Lead
CELCIS
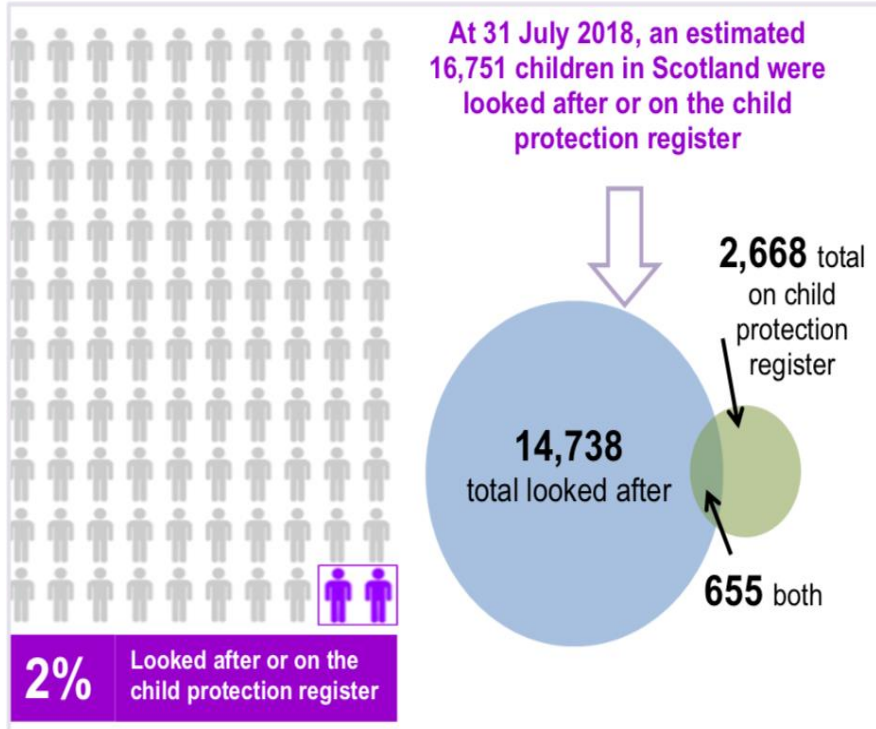kenny.mcghee@strath.ac.uk

Edinburgh
26th September 2019

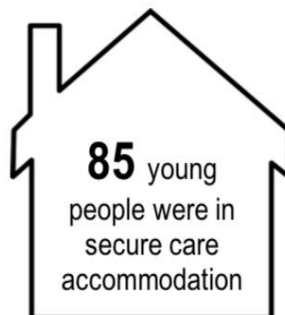*building brighter futures*

#CELCISTweets

Political Context

- UK Government (Westminster, London)
- Scottish Government (Holyrood, Edinburgh)
- **32** Local Authority Areas
- Capital City: Edinburgh
- Population: 5.3m

Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland, 2017-18

At 31 July 2018, an estimated 16,751 children in Scotland were looked after or on the child protection register

2,668 total on child protection register

14,738 total looked after

655 both

2% Looked after or on the child protection register

Comparisons with 2016-17:

1% decrease in number of children looked after

3% increase in number of children on child protection register

5 more young people, on average, during the year in secure care accommodation

85 young people were in secure care accommodation

Our care population...

- Population: **5.3m**
- Looked After Children (all settings): **14,738**
- **2%** of children 'looked after' or on child protection register

Leaving home and leaving care in Scotland

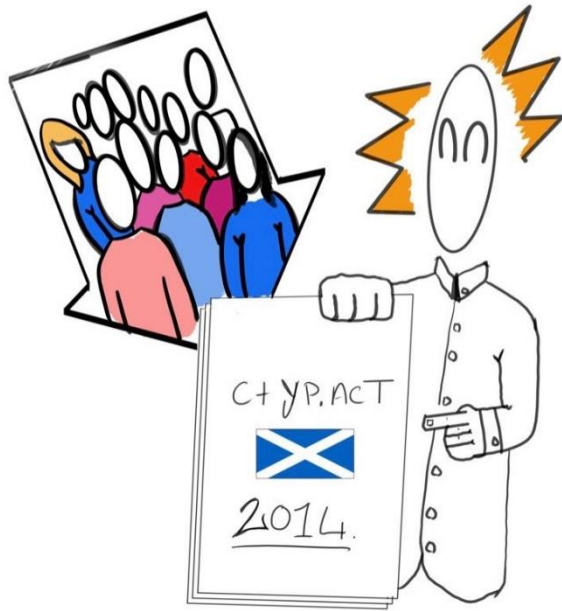The average age for young people leaving care in Scotland is **17**

The average age for most people leaving home in Scotland is **26**

VS

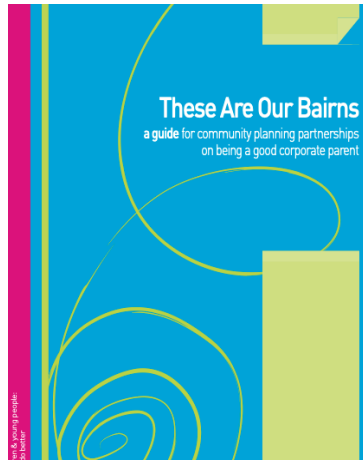# The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act, 2014

- **Corporate Parenting (Part 9)** identifies new Corporate Parents and imposes new **duties** upon them

- **Continuing Care (Part 11) Duty** on local authorities to support young people, to remain in the same accommodation and receive other assistance, up to their **21st** birthday ('*stay put'*)

- **Aftercare (Part 10)** extends the **entitlement** for care leavers to receive support up to their **26th** birthday

What is 'Corporate Parenting?

"An organisation's performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted"

Would this be good enough for my child or young person…?

These Are Our Bairns
a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent

Who are Corporate Parents?

Scottish Ministers	COSLA A local authority	National Convener of Children's Hearings Scotland	Children's Hearings Scotland	Principal Reporter	The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
A health board	A board constituted under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978	Healthcare Improvement Scotland	Scottish Qualifications Authority	Skills Development Scotland	Social Care & Social Work Improvement Scotland
The Scottish Social Services Council	Sport Scotland	The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland	Scottish Police Authority	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	The Scottish Legal Aid Board
Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People	The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland	The Scottish Housing Regulator	Bòrd na Gàidhlig	Creative Scotland	A "post-16" education body

- **All** looked after children
  - Of any age
  - Living in any type of setting (including at home, kinship care, foster care, residential care)
- **All** care leavers
  - Who were looked after on or after their 16th birthday
  - Up to their **26th** birthday

futures

Review performance as corporate parents, and take any necessary action to improve

Systems in place to stay informed of issues which could have a negative impact on the child/young person/population

To ensure services are relevant and accessible to the widest possible group

Help eligible young people to overcome barriers, so that they can benefit from opportunities, services and support

Perform actions which will advantage or benefit looked after children and care leavers

Identify relevant opportunities, through which eligible young people can improve their wellbeing

ALERT

ASSESS

IMPROVE

SECTION 58

PROMOTE

ACCESS

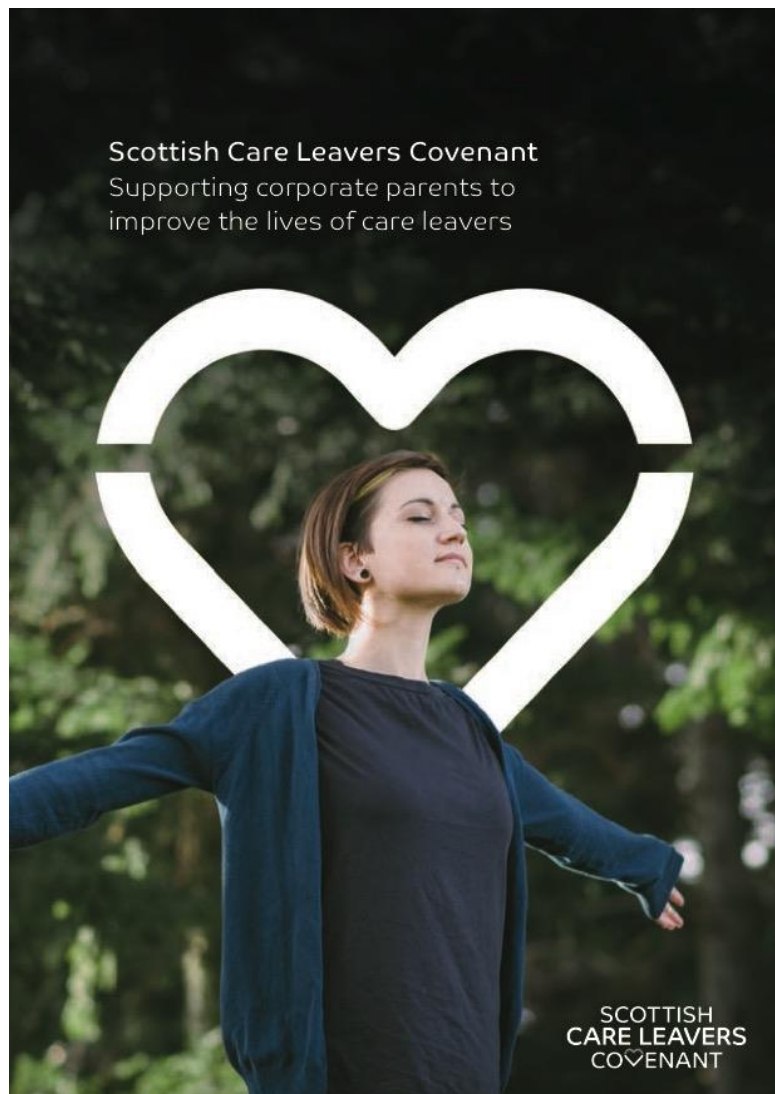OPPORTUNITIES

Planning, collaborating and reporting

Every corporate parent must prepare, keep under review and publish a 'Corporate Parenting Plan'

Corporate parents must collaborate with other corporate parents, sharing information, providing advice or assistance, co-ordinating activities, and funding activities jointly.
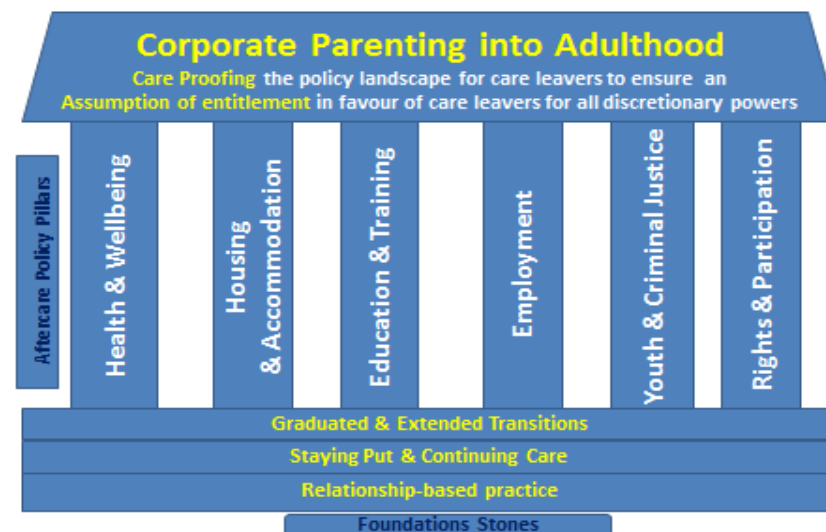
Every corporate parent must publish a 'Corporate Parenting Report' to detail how they have exercised their duties, and how they think they can do better.
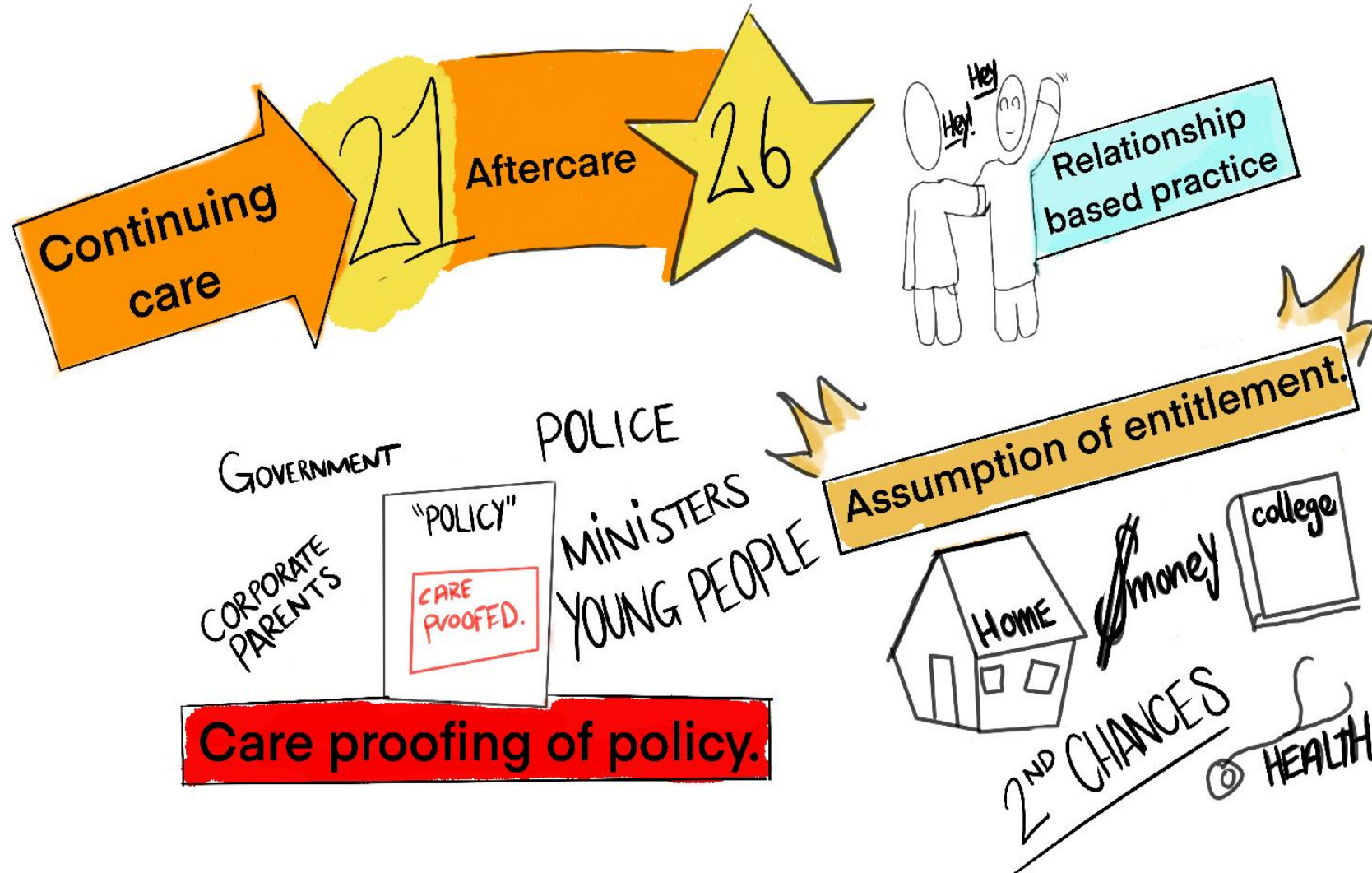
Scottish Care Leavers Covenant A Promise to Act

- **Actively endorse** the **Scottish Care Leavers Covenant** and commit to uphold and promote its principles, within and across their remits and responsibilities and;

- **Take specific relevant action** to fully support and implement the **Agenda for Change** in order to close the gap and make real our ambitions and aspirations for care leavers

Corporate Parenting into Adulthood
Care Proofing the policy landscape for care leavers to ensure an Assumption of entitlement in favour of care leavers for all discretionary powers

- Aftercare Policy Pillars
- Health & Wellbeing
- Housing & Accommodation
- Education & Training
- Employment
- Youth & Criminal Justice
- Rights & Participation

Graduated & Extended Transitions
Staying Put & Continuing Care
Relationship-based practice
Foundations Stones

.org

Guiding Principles

Continuing care

21

Aftercare

26

Hey! Hey! Hey!

Relationship based practice

GOVERNMENT

POLICE

"POLICY"

CARE PROOFED.

CORPORATE PARENTS

MINISTERS

YOUNG PEOPLE

Assumption of entitlement.

Home

$money

college

2ND CHANCES

HEALTH

Care proofing of policy.

Corporate Parenting into Adulthood

Care Proofing the policy landscape for care leavers to ensure an
Assumption of entitlement in favour of care leavers for all discretionary powers

Aftercare Policy Pillars

Health & Wellbeing

Housing & Accommodation

Education & Training

Employment

Youth & Criminal Justice

Rights & Participation

Graduated & Extended Transitions

Staying Put & Continuing Care

Relationship-based practice

Foundations Stones

http://www.scottishcareleaverscovenant.org/

CELCIS
https://www.celcis.org/

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant
https://www.scottishcareleaverscovenant.org/

Andrew Thorpe

East Lothian Council

Creating and keeping connection
Lothian Villa
A different kind of family

Andy Thorpe
East Lothian Council

Connection and Belonging are a universal need we all have in common

"humankind's most basic fear is the threat of being separated from other humans"
Erich Fromm

Being available for connection

Edward Tronick, Ph.D. The still face experiment.
The Good, Bad and Ugly . . . . .

Being in the moment

the moment is everything and can be remembered forever. . . . .   but can pass quickly . . . . .

Creating Moments and Memories

Create connection, relationship and belonging . . . . .

Maintaining Connections

Open door

Family connection, belonging and relationships usually last a life time . . . .

Maintaining Connections
Christmas Buffet

An annual gathering of celebration . . . .

Maintaining Connections

Aftercare and current young people football

every Monday from 5 to 6pm
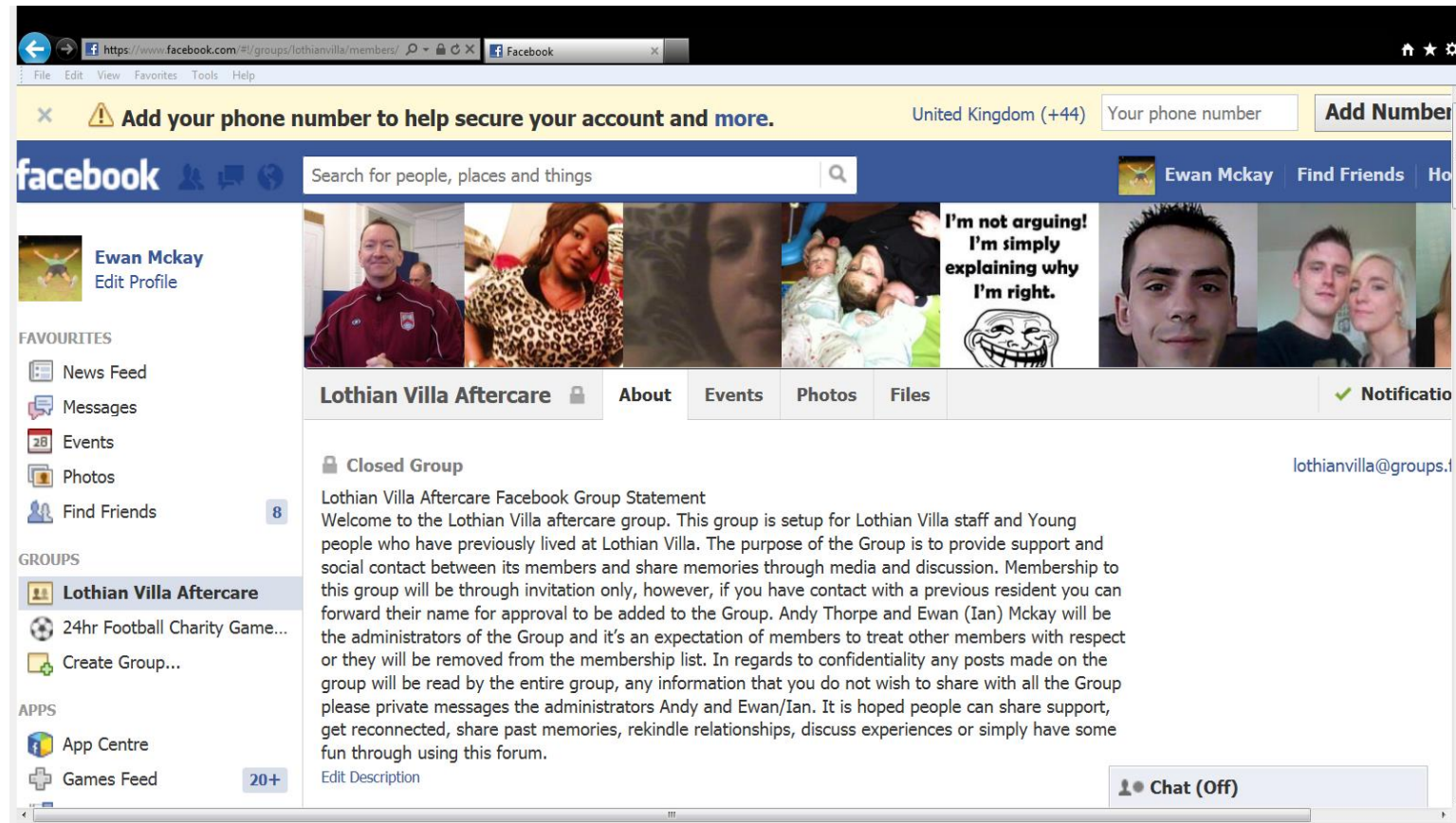*its not about the skills or the score . . . . .*
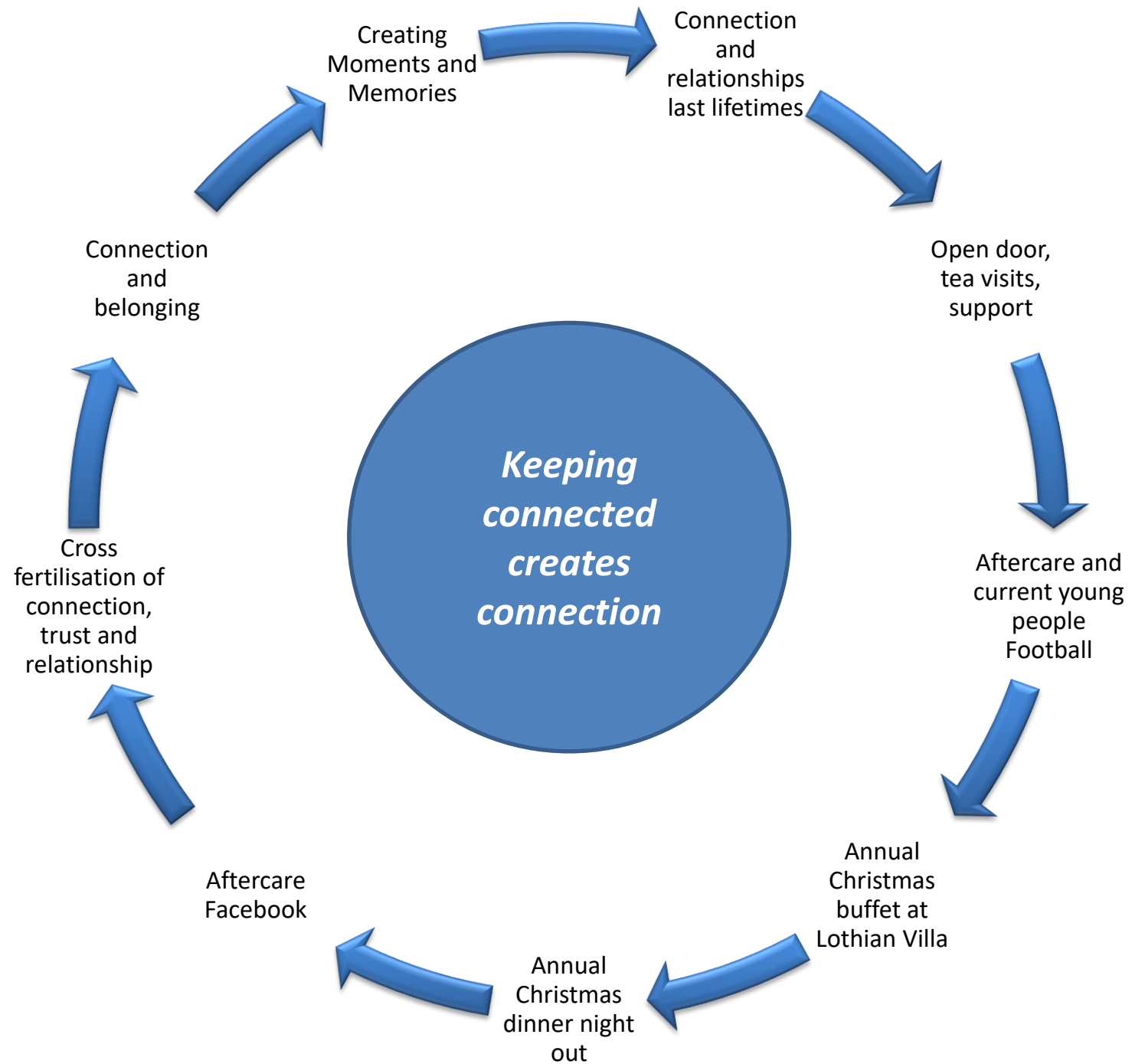
Maintaining Connections
aftercare annual night out

after care young people, family, friends and staff . . . . .

Maintaining Connections
Aftercare Facebook group

https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/lothianvilla/members/

Creating Moments and Memories → Connection and relationships last lifetimes → Open door, tea visits, support → Aftercare and current young people Football → Annual Christmas buffet at Lothian Villa → Annual Christmas dinner night out → Aftercare Facebook → Cross fertilisation of connection, trust and relationship → Connection and belonging → Creating Moments and Memories

Keeping connected creates connection

Care Home Kid
BBC

You never leave the Villa *a different kind of family . . . . .*

Any questions?