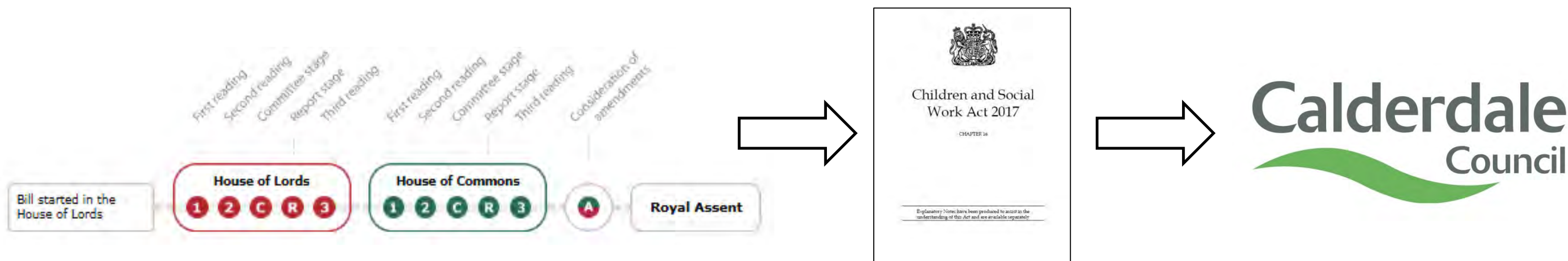


The Children and Social Work Act 2017 – Sections, 1, 2 and 3 Corporate Parenting and looked-after children



Doing our best to meet your needs is so important that a new law has been passed by the Houses of Parliament. This law is called the ‘Children and Social Work Act 2017’ and gained Royal Assent on 27 April 2017.

When you are in care, your local authority (or council) is responsible for looking after you. That means doing everything possible to help you feel listened to, happy and safe. Your council should make sure you are supported in the best way for you. You may have heard the words ‘corporate parent’. This means that every part of the council should be doing its best for you when you are in care and leaving care.

As set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017, councils will be required to publish a local offer for you as a care leaver. The local offer is a document that provides information about all the services and supports that is available to you in the local area where you live when you leave care. It should include information about your legal entitlements (rights) as well as any extra support that the council might choose to give you.

The law currently says that we must appoint a personal adviser to support you until you reach age 21 (or to age 25 if you are in education or training). Following changes that will be made through the Children & Social Work Act 2017, you will be able to ask to have support from your personal adviser up to the age of 25 whether you are in education or training or not. This is to try to make sure care leavers receive similar support to young adults who live with their families.

More information and have your say

If you would like more information and to have your say please contact Julia Clough, Commissioning Project Coordinator, Tel: 01422 392028 or email: julia.clough@calderdale.gov.uk

What does that mean?

Royal assent - This is when the Queen formally agrees to make the bill into an Act of Parliament (law).

Duties – what the Council must do

PA – Pathways Advisor

Consulting – asking people what they think about something

Pathway Plan – a written plan that includes information, support for a young person leaving care and their needs.



Section 1 of the Act says **Calderdale Council** should have the following seven corporate parenting principles;

1. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people

2. to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings

3. to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people

4. 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

5. to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people

6. for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and

7. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Section 2 of the Act says **Calderdale Council** should consult on and publish a 'local offer' for our care leavers. Our local offer should provide information about all the services and support that is available to our care leavers in the local area where they live.

Our local offer will include details of the services and support that we provide including; Health and wellbeing, Relationships, Education and training, Employment, Accommodation and living as part of the community.

When we develop our local offer, we will consult with people including our care leavers and organisations or people that represent our care leavers.

We will publish our local offer by 1st April 2018

Our local offer will be easily available and accessible to all our care leavers. It will be available in different ways for example; printed copies, online digital copies and in different languages.

Section 3 of the Act introduces a new duty on local authorities, which requires them to offer **Personal Advisor (PA)** support to all care leavers up to age 25

For our care leavers aged 16 and 17, we will accommodate them and provide them with support.

For our care leavers aged 18 to 20 we will actively keep in touch with our care leavers and provide them with support

For our care leavers aged 21 or over, we will keep their pathway plan up to date, check it is right and develop a new one if needed when they ask us for support.