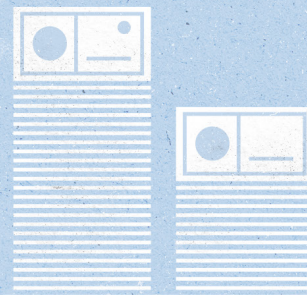
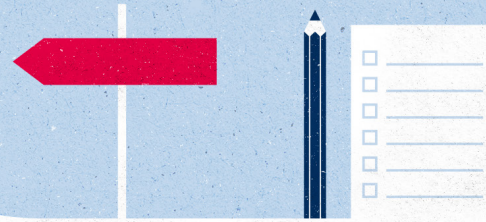




THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Corporate
Parenting
Strategy
2018 - 2021



Introduction

The University of Edinburgh is committed to widening access to higher education. The University's Strategic Plan (2016) outlines the institution's values and commitment to having a positive impact on our local and global community. The Widening Participation Strategy (2018) builds on this commitment and makes explicit the University's role to ensure that students from a wide range of diverse backgrounds have the opportunity to study at Edinburgh, thrive here, and feel a sense of belonging. **This Corporate Parenting Plan outlines the specific actions the University will take, within this wider strategic commitment, to support care-experienced individuals.**

Under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, the University of Edinburgh is a Corporate Parent. Responsibility for corporate parenting lies with the whole organisation and not any one individual.

As a Corporate Parent, the University has the following legislative duties:

- **Be alert** to matters which could affect a care-experienced person's wellbeing
- **Assess** the needs of care-experienced people for services and support
- **Promote** the interests of care-experienced people
- Seek to **provide opportunities** that promote care-experienced people's wellbeing
- **Take action** to help care-experienced people access opportunities
- Take any other action appropriate to **improve support** to care-experienced people

The University is committed to supporting care-experienced people to study at the University of Edinburgh, to make the most of their time as students, and to progress into the graduate labour market. This Corporate Parenting Plan sets out the ways in which the University will seek to identify and address barriers care-experienced students may face in accessing higher education and making the most of their student experience. It also recognises the role the University has in working with other Corporate Parents in Edinburgh and beyond to deliver a positive impact for care-experienced individuals in our communities, in line with our Community Engagement Strategy (University of Edinburgh 2017, available at: www.ed.ac.uk/local).

Further information can also be found in the University of Edinburgh Strategic Plan 2016: www.ed.ac.uk/governance-strategic-planning/strategic-planning/strategic-plan/vision-and-mission and the University of Edinburgh Widening Participation Strategy 2018: www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/about/widening-participation-strategy

Background

In 2017, there were 15,317 children and young people in care in Scotland.

15% of looked after young people left school with a Higher (SCQF level 6) qualification, compared with 62% of their peers, and 4% went on to higher education compared with 40% of their peers (Scottish Government, 2017). 71% of looked after school leavers were in positive destinations compared with 91% of their peers, but over half of these were in a destination other than further or higher education.

Care-experienced people are eight times more likely to be excluded from school, and 31% of adult prisoners self-reported as having been in care (Scottish Government 2017).

The University is required to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a care-experienced student, and applies the Scottish Government's (2012) Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) approach to improving outcomes and supporting wellbeing of this particularly vulnerable group, in particular through the promotion of a single named contact for care-experienced applicants and students, and through the use of the SHANNARI indicators of wellbeing.

These indicators are:

- **Safe:** protected from abuse, neglect or harm
- **Healthy:** having the best possible standards of physical and mental health, supported to make healthy and safe choices.
- **Achieving:** accomplishing goals and boosting skills, confidence and self esteem
- **Nurtured:** having a nurturing and stimulating place to live and grow
- **Active:** having opportunities to take part in activities
- **Respected:** being given a voice, being listened to, and being involved in the decisions which affect their wellbeing
- **Responsible:** taking an active role within their home, school and community
- **Included:** being a full member of the communities in which they live and learn, receiving help and guidance to overcome inequalities.

Principles and values

As a Corporate Parent, the University aims to give the support and provide the opportunities to care-experienced people that a good parent would.

This means that we aim to:

- Know our care-experienced students, their needs and aspirations, and promote their interests. Ensure that their needs, rights and views are paramount when we make decisions which may impact on their wellbeing.
- Anticipate what the needs of care-experienced people who engage with the University might be, whether they are participants in the University's outreach programmes or University of Edinburgh students.
- Ensure that the disadvantage that care-experienced people have faced is acknowledged and that special measures are taken to overcome such disadvantage.
- Have high aspirations for their future. Take an interest in their success and their problems and celebrate their achievements.
- Promote opportunities for them to participate in personal development, cultural, sporting and leisure activities.
- Ensure that they live in a safe and stable environment where they can develop positive and caring relationships with others.
- Promote their physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Actively support their transition to employment or further study.

Key actions

- **Outreach:** We will work closely with local partners and other corporate parents in Scotland to help care-experienced people of all ages access higher education, in particular through development and funding of the partnership project the Hub for SUCCESS.
- **Application:** To enhance our support of care-experienced people throughout the application process, we will work with our Legal Services and partnership organisations to produce new data sharing agreements and limit the need for repeated self-declaration of care-experienced people.
- **Transition:** We will develop targeted communications with care-experienced applicants so they feel supported and prepared throughout their transition into the University.
- **On-programme support:** We will work across University colleagues and external agencies to develop a clear care and referral pathway to support the mental health and wellbeing of our care-experienced students. We will develop a bespoke suite of careers support interventions to enhance employability and promote successful transitions into the graduate labour market.
- **Implementation:** This Action Plan will be overseen by a cross-institutional implementation group which will proactively promote best practice and represent the voice of care-experienced people on campus.

Definitions

- **Corporate Parenting:** An organisation's performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a care-experienced person, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted (Scottish Government 2015). Corporate parents have six key responsibilities:
- **Care-experienced person:** Someone is care-experienced if they have ever been in local authority care in the UK.
- **Looked after child:** a child or young person who is looked after by a local authority, whether at home or away from home, including a young person in continuing care after the age of 16. In this document, we use the term care-experienced.
- **Care leaver:** A person aged 25 or under who ceased to be looked after by a local authority on, or at any time after, their sixteenth birthday. In this document, we use the term care-experienced.

Monitoring and review

A review of our Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-18 took place in June 2018 and can be found at: www.ed.ac.uk/university-secretary-group/corporate-parenting-strategy/strategy-and-progress-report.

The implementation of this Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018 will be overseen by a cross-institutional implementation group, to be chaired by the Director of Student Wellbeing, which will involve care-experienced students. It will be reviewed in April 2021.

Action Plan

Outreach and Partnership Working

	Action Details	Purpose	Measure	Timeline	Lead
Action 1	<p>Working closely with other corporate parents and partners supporting care-experienced people in the local area and across Scotland, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Named contact attends Care-Experienced, Estranged and Carers East Forum (CEECEF) Funding and contribution towards activity of the Hub for SUCCESS, care-experienced Hub hosted by City of Edinburgh Council Care-experienced Practitioners' Group, hosted by City of Edinburgh Council MCR Pathways, contributing to mentor training and resources 	<p>To increase partnership working in the sector and beyond to support the best outcomes for care-experienced students.</p> <p>To amplify the voice and address the issues of care-experienced people in accessing education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal process in place for UoE to: contribute to work of CEECEF, be represented at all CEECEF meetings, inform consultations of CP and other relevant policies, support development of policy and best practice locally and nationally Examples of best practice and policy being adopted into routine working of UoE Agree and secure recurring funding from UoE for Hub for SUCCESS Training offered to all MCR Pathways mentors, 50% trained by Sept. 2019 	2018-19	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Development & Alumni
Action 2	<p>Promote commitment to accept care-experienced young people onto Widening Participation programmes and activities where they are not automatically eligible. Proactively offer travel expenses to care-experienced people engaged in WP and outreach activity.</p>	<p>To ensure that care-experienced people are able to access all of the support and outreach activities the University provides, whenever possible.</p> <p>To remove a potential barrier to the participation of care-experienced people in WP outreach activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of care-experienced people participating in at least one WP and outreach activity each year Analysis of participation, application and admissions trends over time Qualitative research with participants to improve understanding of impact. 	2018 onwards	Student Recruitment & Admissions
Action 3	<p>Promote the support the University provides to care-experienced young people and potential applicants by including information in all school presentations and having printed material at all school and HE fairs.</p>	<p>To ensure that care-experienced people are aware of the support they can access at UoE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All school presentations include information on this support 	2018 onwards	Student Recruitment & Admissions
Action 4	<p>Care-experienced people are offered individual visits to UoE, tailored activity on Open Days geared towards this group.</p>	<p>To support care-experienced people to consider UoE and make decisions about pursuing further study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year on year increase of care-experienced people visiting UoE Open Days and undertaking other visits (10 per year by 2021) 	2018 onwards	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Academic Schools

Application and transition

	Action Details	Purpose	Measure	Timeline	Lead
Action 5	Care-experienced applicants continue to be offered a place at the Access Threshold. This message is promoted to care-experienced people and their advisors. If these applicants do not meet the access threshold, feedback is proactively offered to advise them on how they could be eligible for an offer.	To combat under-representation of care-experienced students in higher education, in line with Commission on Widening Access recommendation 21. To support care-experienced students through the application process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All qualified care-experiences applicants are offered a place at UoE Yearly increase in acceptance rate of care-experienced applicants at institutional level and within each College All care-experienced applicants offered feedback within one month of unsuccessful decision All eligible care-experienced applicants are supported to re-apply Care-experienced applicants feed back positively on the support they were offered 	Ongoing	Under-graduate Admissions teams
Action 6	Applicants who self-declare as having spent time in care are asked to confirm their care experience via the named contact. Clearance check includes information of support available at UoE	To promote the support available at UoE, to build relationship with named contact from an early stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Named contact engages with all care-experienced applicants to ensure that available support is discussed. Care-experienced applicants feed back positively on the support they were offered 	Ongoing	Under-graduate Admissions teams, Student Recruitment & Admissions
Action 7	Students are presented with multiple opportunities to self-declare as care-experienced.	To provide support to all our care-experienced students, to combat stigma associated with self-declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a system of self-declaration by September 2019 and develop a system of promotion in collaboration with Academic Schools and the Students' Association 	Sept. 2019	Student Systems, Student Recruitment & Admissions, Students' Association
Action 8	Opportunities for data sharing with other agencies explored to reduce need for repeated self-declaration	To support care-experienced people to access a range of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a policy on information sharing within the UoE by March 2019 Convene a meeting by March 2019 with Director of Legal Services to explore parameters of information sharing with external organisations Convene a meeting with Social Work Scotland and COSLA by June 2019 to explore feasibility of information-sharing between local authorities and UoE Record of feasibility of data-sharing explored with SAAS 	March 2019	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Scholarships & Student Funding
Action 9	Care-experienced applicants are proactively contacted on SQA & A-level results days to offer congratulations or advice	To support care-experienced students through the application process, to celebrate their successes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All care-experienced applicants contacted Care-experienced applicants feed back positively on the support they were offered 	August 2019 and on-going	Student Recruitment & Admissions

	Action Details	Purpose	Measure	Timeline	Lead
Action 10	Develop targeted communications for care-experienced offer holders in collaboration with Pre-Arrival and Induction, Admissions and School colleagues. Review suitability of communications regularly.	To ensure that communications with care-experienced offer holders are timely, useful, welcoming and appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care-experienced students report that they feel prepared to come to University Analysis of conversion trends over time 	March 2019 and on-going	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Academic Schools
Action 11	Provide detailed information on all available sources of funding to care-experienced people and their advisors prior to application, and to care-experienced offer-holders.	To ensure that care-experienced people and their advisors are aware of the support available to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication to Chief Social Work Officer in each local authority and relevant third-sector organisations such as Who Cares? Scotland at the start of each academic year to advise of the financial and other supports available at UoE for care-experienced people A year-on-year increase in the number of enquiries to named contact from care-experienced applicants and potential applicants, and their advisors 	Sept. 2019 and on-going	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Scholarships & Student Funding, City of Edinburgh Council, FE/ HE partners
Action 12	Ensure that information about the University of Edinburgh accommodation guarantee is available to care-experienced applicants and potential applicants	To ensure that care-experienced applicants and offer-holders are fully aware of the accommodation guarantee when deciding whether to apply to the University, or to accept an offer from the University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All care-experienced offer-holders supported to apply for student accommodation, all advised of the 365-day accommodation guarantee All care-experienced students are offered support in applying for private or continuing student accommodation 	Ongoing	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Accommodation, Catering and Events

On-programme support

	Action Details	Purpose	Measure	Timeline	Lead
Action 13	Awareness-raising training about care experience added to Personal Tutor induction, and more detailed training and resources offered to Personal Tutors, student support staff, Residence Life staff, and other relevant staff.	To ensure that those supporting students understand care experience and are equipped to support care-experienced students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 50% of all Personal Tutors have completed the training on care experience by 2021 At least one member of staff from every Student Support team has received some training about care experience by 2021 All Residence Life staff have information about care experience included in their induction training Relevant support staff feel confident in supporting care-experienced students 	March 2021	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Director of Student Wellbeing, Student Support teams, Personal Tutors
Action 14	Care-experienced students are matched to Personal Tutors who have undertaken some training around care experience	To ensure care-experienced students feel understood and are receiving the best support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2021, all known care-experienced students matched to a PT who has undergone training about care experience 	Sept. 2021	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Director of Student Wellbeing, Personal Tutors
Action 15	Extra- and co-curricular opportunities are promoted to care-experienced students and they are supported to apply. Care-experienced students prioritised for relevant activities (e.g. Local Insights, Principal's Go Abroad Fund). Care-experienced students prioritised on Undergraduate Peer Mentoring Programme and later supported to become mentors.	To support care-experienced participate fully in University life and to succeed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All selective extra- and co-curricular programmes include care experience as a priority group in selection. Proportion of care-experienced students who take part in Principal's Go Abroad Fund and Local Insights programmes increases by 50% from 2018/19 baseline by 2020/21 All new care-experienced students taking part in mentoring programme Feedback from care-experienced students on their experiences of mentoring programme 	Sept. 2019 and on-going	Student Recruitment & Admissions
Action 16	Students' Association Participation Fund promoted to care-experienced students to support them to engage in sports and societies. Monitor use of fund by care-experienced students and explore feasibility of topping-up funding where necessary.	To support care-experienced students to participate fully in University life and to succeed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and proportion of care-experienced students accessing Participation Fund and amount awarded 	Sept. 2019	Students' Association, Student Recruitment & Admissions

	Action Details	Purpose	Measure	Timeline	Lead
Action 17	Develop tailored suite of Careers support for care-experienced students throughout their degree	To support care-experienced students to participate fully in University life and to succeed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All care-experienced students have engaged with the Careers Service by the time they graduate Care-experienced student outcomes tracked, in graduate-level occupations a year after graduating 	March 2019 and on-going	Career Service
Action 18	Provide scholarships for all undergraduate care-experienced students. Review and enhance current scholarship provision. Explore feasibility of providing funding for postgraduate study	To support care-experienced students to participate fully in University life, to remove barriers to care-experienced students excelling academically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All care-experienced students receive the Scotland Scholarship (Scot) or University of Edinburgh Scholarship (RUK) To undertake review of scholarship offer in 2018-19, action plan based on findings to be presented to implementation group by June 2019 	June 2019 and on-going	Scholarships & Student Funding
Action 19	Develop and promote a clear care and referral pathway involving internal and external agencies to support the mental health of care-experienced students	To support care-experienced students to participate fully in University life, to acknowledge and address the high instance of mental health support needs among the care-experienced population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and promotion of mental health support pathway by June 2019 	June 2019 and on-going	Director of Student Wellbeing, relevant Academic Schools, Student Recruitment & Admissions
Action 20	Support care-experienced students with graduation costs	To support care-experienced students to participate fully in University life. To celebrate the achievements of our care-experienced students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly increase in proportion of care-experienced students taking up offer of support for graduation costs 	June 2019	Scholarships & Student Funding

Other

	Action Details	Purpose	Measure	Timeline	Lead
Action 21	Develop an Implementation Group to oversee implementation of Corporate Parenting Action Plan, to engage with issues that may affect care-experienced students, and to improve our support for care-experienced people at UoE and beyond	To enhance the support we offer our care-experienced students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation group and terms of reference established by October 2018. Group meet at least 3 times per year and report to University Executive. 	October 2018 and on-going	Director of Student Wellbeing, Student Recruitment & Admissions, Academic Schools, Student Support Teams
Action 22	Develop recommendations for Academic Schools to support them in implementing academic concessions to the benefit of care-experienced students, where appropriate	Care-experienced students are less likely to have scaffolding around them in their personal lives and are more likely to be vulnerable to negative effects of circumstances. The University's student support processes should be sensitive to this, in particular where it comes to academic concessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with care-experienced students and Student Support staff through Implementation Group. Recommendations disseminated before Special Circumstances processes in Summer 2019 	June 2019	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Academic Services
Action 23	Promote visibility of our care-experienced students and celebrate their successes through publicity campaigns, conferences and other advocacy.	To advocate for care-experienced people in Scotland the UK. To celebrate the successes of our care-experienced students. To promote positive role models of care-experienced people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership working with Academic Schools and Communications and Marketing to identify and promote success of care-experienced students 	June 2019 and on-going	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Academic Schools, Communications & Marketing
Action 24	Promote and offer this full support to those in kinship arrangements under Section 11 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. Use expertise from academic staff and external agencies to identify and reach this group.	To support care-experienced people in the broadest sense.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Mentor UK and other identified kinship carers organisations to promote UoE support Meet with local authority partners to develop strategy for targeting those in kinship care arrangements Staff with expertise co-opted onto Implementation Group Strategy for identifying and targeting those in kinship care completed by June 2019 	June 2019 and on-going	Student Recruitment & Admissions, Academic Schools, Scholarships & Student Funding

Further resources

- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/contents/enacted
- Corporate Parenting Statutory Guidance
www.gov.scot/publications/statutory-guidance-part-9-corporate-parenting-children-young-people-scotland/
- University of Edinburgh Strategic Plan 2016
www.ed.ac.uk/governance-strategic-planning/strategic-planning/strategic-plan/vision-and-mission
- University of Edinburgh Widening Participation Strategy 2018
www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/about/widening-participation-strategy

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