

Corporate Parenting Plan

2021 - 2024

Making Learning Work

Forth Valley College





Introduction

Forth Valley College is Scotland's first regional college, delivering from four campuses in Alloa, Falkirk, Raploch and Stirling to students on a range of full-time, part-time, flexible and work-based learning programmes.

Our mission is Making Learning Work and our vision, shaping the future, developing a world class service and driving our momentum.

The College has over 600 staff and 14,500 students per academic session with around 95% of students regularly progressing to further studies or employment upon completion of their course.

Our curriculum areas are divided into four teaching departments;

- **Business and Communities**
- **Engineering and Science**
- **Care, Sport and Construction**
- **Creative Industries, Hospitality and Tourism**

Within these departments there are more than 1,300 diverse courses covering a wide range of levels and disciplines and offering qualifications from numerous awarding bodies from across the United Kingdom.

Statement of Intent

This Corporate Parenting Plan reaffirms and enhances our commitment to supporting care experienced students to reach their full potential. Our first Corporate Parenting Plan focused on the application and enrolment and support processes for care experienced students and much of this has been achieved. This plan was the foundation of our corporate parenting work and the new plan seeks to build on and enhance this work, focusing on developing our support and processes to best support our care experienced students.

The new plan has been created in collaboration with care experienced students, our partners in local authority Through Care and Aftercare teams and staff involved in supporting care experienced students. The aim of this next phase of our corporate parenting work is to develop robust support systems for care experienced students that are consistent, flexible and meet their individual needs. The plan also seeks to mainstream support for care experienced people across the organisation in order to ensure that all staff are aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities.

Care Experience Baseline Data

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2016/17 %	2017/18 %	2018/19 %	2019/20 %	Retention 16/17	Retention 17/18	Retention 18/19	Retention 19/20	Achieved 16/17	Achieved 17/18	Achieved 18/19	Achieved 19/20
No	14,201	16,117	17,394	22,349	1	95%	95%	96%	93%	93%	94%	96%	86%	85%	83%	83%
Yes	376	502	426	761	3%	3%	2%	3%	86%	87%	82%	92%	75%	71%	64%	70%
Overall	14,969	17,023	18,347	23,356	100	100%	100%	100%	90%	93%	94%	96%	81%	85%	83%	83%

Commitment

To support care experienced students from the very start of their college journey, all the way through.

What

- Encouraging care experienced people to disclose their care experience status as soon as possible
- To send out a physical welcome package to Care Experienced students as well as specific information in 'keep warm' mail as a reminder of support available
- Targeted marketing throughout the year in order to support care experienced people access the information they need
- Workshops, support and information offered in a targeted in a manner appropriate to the students, including support to complete forms, applications and explain information.
- Specific Funding information, delivered in various ways, for prospective and current care experienced students along with outlining the different funding models for different courses and the difference between FE funding and SAAS funding for care experienced students
- Provide a clear and consistent message across the college about what it means to be a corporate parent and what being care experienced means and explaining why this may vary in different places
- To actively engage and participate with events such as 'Care Experienced Week' and to encourage staff, Student Association and students' involvement
- Celebrating the successes of our care experienced students, small or large, through a variety of ways
- To offer a suite of training to all staff around the needs of those who are care experienced that includes sharing the lived experience of care experienced people

How

- Create a place on MyInfo that allows students to disclose a variety of information, including being care experienced and to 'untell' us information too **Business Transformation (BT)**
- Ensure that a care experience disclosure feeds at application feeds through to Funding systems **BT**
- Develop a suite of marketing materials and a timeline of information to ensure care experienced people are aware of the support and resources available to them and incorporate the benefits of disclosing care experienced status in appropriate generic communications to students **Marketing (MKT)**
- Ensuring that our online information is readily available to care experienced students to access when they need it, before they start college and all the way throughout their college journey. **MKT, Student Funding (SF) and Inclusion and Student Services (ISS)**
- Create a Forth Valley College definition of what care experienced means and explaining where this differs = for example, with Student Funding. **ISS, SF, Student Records (SR) and MKT**
- Make the Who Cares? online training package available to all staff and arrange the delivery of appropriate training to certain staff groups/roles/level as required **Senior Management Team (SMT) and Human Resources (HR)**
- Create a link from the application form that explains what a disclosure of being care experienced means and the support available **BT, SR & ISS**
- Develop a suite of workshops to be delivered at specific times of the year that help support care experienced people **ISS**
- Develop a process for prioritising care experienced student funding applications and building this into processes and procedures **BT and SF**
- Establish a loan bank of IT equipment and develop appropriate training to support care experienced people to use this equipment **ISS**

Commitment

To communicate with Care Experienced people in different ways throughout the year in a way that works for them.

What

- Creation of a 'care experience timeline' so that those who are care experienced get consistent information
- An effective, evidenced based marketing strategy to ensure that information gets to care experienced people when they need it
- Develop staff awareness of information and support available to care experienced people
- Better utilisation of text messaging services (that don't use up lots of data/credit)
- Sharing the experience of our care experienced students on social media throughout the year to convey information, support available and to share success stories

How

- Pulling together the timelines created by ISS and Marketing for commitment one to ensure a consistency of approach for care experienced people year on year and reflecting on what works well and what does not **ISS and MKT**
Using our connections with local authorities, schools and charities to allow those partners to market the college to care experienced people with confidence **Business and Communities (BC), ISS and L&Q**
- Using focus group and survey feedback to tailor our contact with our care experienced students and prospective students **ISS, FVSA and MKT**
- Engaging with care experienced people to find out the best platforms to communicate with them **ISS and MKT**

Commitment

To provide care experienced students with the support they need, in the right way, at the right time.

What

- To take a needs-led approach to care experienced people
- Ensure that all named contacts and other key staff have the appropriate training in order to support, empathise and engage with care experienced people and to understand the barriers that they face
- All staff understand what part they play and what their responsibilities are as staff within a Corporate Parent
- All staff to have access to corporate parenting training and information. This training should include the lived experience of care experienced people and should support staff to understand what support care experienced people may need from them
- Ensuring that care experienced people have the same named contact for their whole college journey and, where the named person leaves or goes off sick, a handover/ introduction takes place with the care experience person

How

- Devise a mini-needs assessment for named people and deliver training to ensure that they can tailor support to the individual **ISS**
- Devise a suite of training for named people and other key staff **ISS**
- Managing the continuity of named people for those they are supporting, building in a procedure that ensures that care experienced people are not left without support **ISS**
- Ensuring that care experienced people get the support they need, no matter their age, and acknowledging that the support may be different at different stages of life **ISS and SF**
- Ensuring that all systems are working for us to support the students in the best way we can and in a way that is GDPR compliant **BT and ISS**
- Reminding staff that we are a Corporate Parent and sign posting them to information and training on a regular basis through staff bulletins, e-Focus and Moodle **ISS and MKT**

Commitment

To provide opportunities for care experienced students to engage with the college to improve our services and improve our knowledge of their experiences.

What

- Create an opportunity for care experienced people to meet (if they want to)
- Create opportunities for care experienced people to give us their feedback (F2F, encouraging student experience survey responses, surveys) and ensuring that the relationship between FVC and care experienced students goes two ways and is based on mutual respect
- Feedback to those involved in feedback and collaborative work so that they can see the impact of their thoughts and experiences on the college and support systems
- Consult on the creation, development and revision of the Corporate Parenting Plan with care experienced people
- Engage with the Students Association to find a place for care experienced people to provide feedback and shape change for the care experienced student population.
- Consider care experience as a protected characteristic and monitor in the same way as other protected characteristics.
- Engage with responses from care experienced students to college surveys and compare their experience to other groups of students and the wider student population with a view to improving their experience. Where there is a lack of engagement, commit to finding out why

How

- Holding annual focus groups on the college's Corporate Parenting Plan and ad hoc focus groups on changes that may affect care experienced people e.g. changes to the funding process **ISS and any other department making changes that impact on care experienced people**
- Using PIs and existing survey information to create a baseline of information, highlighting gaps in our empirical knowledge and streamlining to avoid over surveying care experienced people **ISS, MKT and Learning & Quality (L&Q)**
- Finding out where we are not meeting the needs of our care experienced students; who is not engaging and why through surveys, focus groups and asking students who choose to opt out of support as they opt out **ISS**
- Creating a role along the lines of Care Experienced Ambassadors or Liberation Officers **Student Association (SA)**
- Facilitating the creation of a network for Care Experienced students at the College **FVSA**

Commitment

To forge strong partnerships with other corporate parents to make accessing support and information as easy as possible for care experienced students before, during and after they leave college.

What

- Forge and maintain strong links with Local Authorities and third sector organisations
- Create robust and clear data sharing processes that inspire confidence in our care experienced students - allowing them to tell us what they do and do not want to be shared
- Undertaking outreach work and encouraging care experienced students to view FVC as a realistic destination.
- Build closer relationships with organisations like WhoCares?Scotland and Staf
- Explore the idea of introducing staff Care Experienced Champions and the impact that a voluntary role like this could have

How

- Working towards ensuring that we have robust data sharing agreements with our local authority partners **GO and DPO**
- Working towards becoming an active participant in Corporate Parenting forums rather than only being seen as a positive destination **ISS and BC**
- Creating a document that we share with our partners that outlines the role we will play as a corporate parent and how we would like to work together with other corporate parents **ISS, L&Q and BC**
- Making use of all of our external partners and sharing information with them to ensure that they are aware of support available at the college for care experienced people **ISS, BC, FVSA and L&Q**

Feedback

We welcome feedback on our Corporate Parenting Plan and the experiences of those who are care experienced and those who are supporting them. If you have any such feedback, please contact Anna Vogt, Head of Inclusion and Student Services, and Corporate Parenting lead on: **01324 403113** or **anna.vogt@forthvalley.ac.uk**

