



CORPORATE PARENTING PLAN 2025-28

MAKING LEARNING WORK



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SUPPORTING
Our Care Experienced Community



www.forthvalley.ac.uk

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What is a Corporate Parent?

A Corporate Parent is an organisation with a special responsibility to support young people who have experience of care. This means ensuring that students with experience of care feel safe, supported, and able to access the same opportunities to succeed as anyone else.

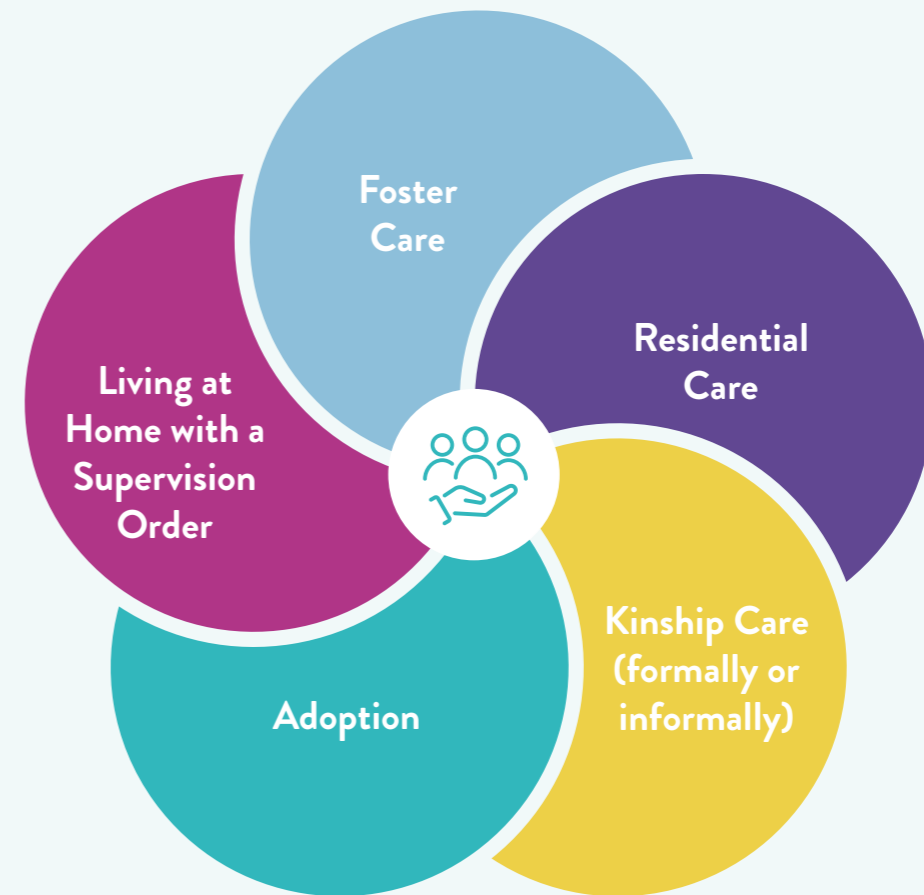
Forth Valley College is one of the organisations named as a Corporate Parent under the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which sets out protections and support for people with care experience.

While we take our legal duties seriously, being a corporate parent is about more than meeting statutory requirements - it's about doing what is right. It means listening, respecting rights, and helping everyone achieve the best possible outcomes.



Who this Includes:

People with care experience may have lived in:



Our Responsibilities as a Corporate Parent

As a Corporate Parent, we are committed to looking out for our care experienced community and ensuring a safe, supportive and inclusive environment where every voice is heard.

In practice this means:

Staying aware of factors that may affect wellbeing

Whether challenges arise in personal life, studies, or day to day experiences, support is available.

Understanding the support they may need

Everyone's circumstances are different. We will work to identify what services, or assistance could make a positive difference.

Making support easy to access

From wellbeing and financial support to academic guidance or simply someone to talk to, we will ensure clear information is available on the help available and how to reach it.

Promoting interests

We advocate and celebrate achievements, and make sure voices are heard.

Creating opportunities to thrive

We want our students with experience of care to feel part of a community. That includes access to extracurricular activities, leadership opportunities, and wellbeing initiatives that help them grow.

Working with other Corporate Parents

We collaborate with a wider network of organisations to ensure support is consistent, coordinated, and effective.

Using Respectful Language

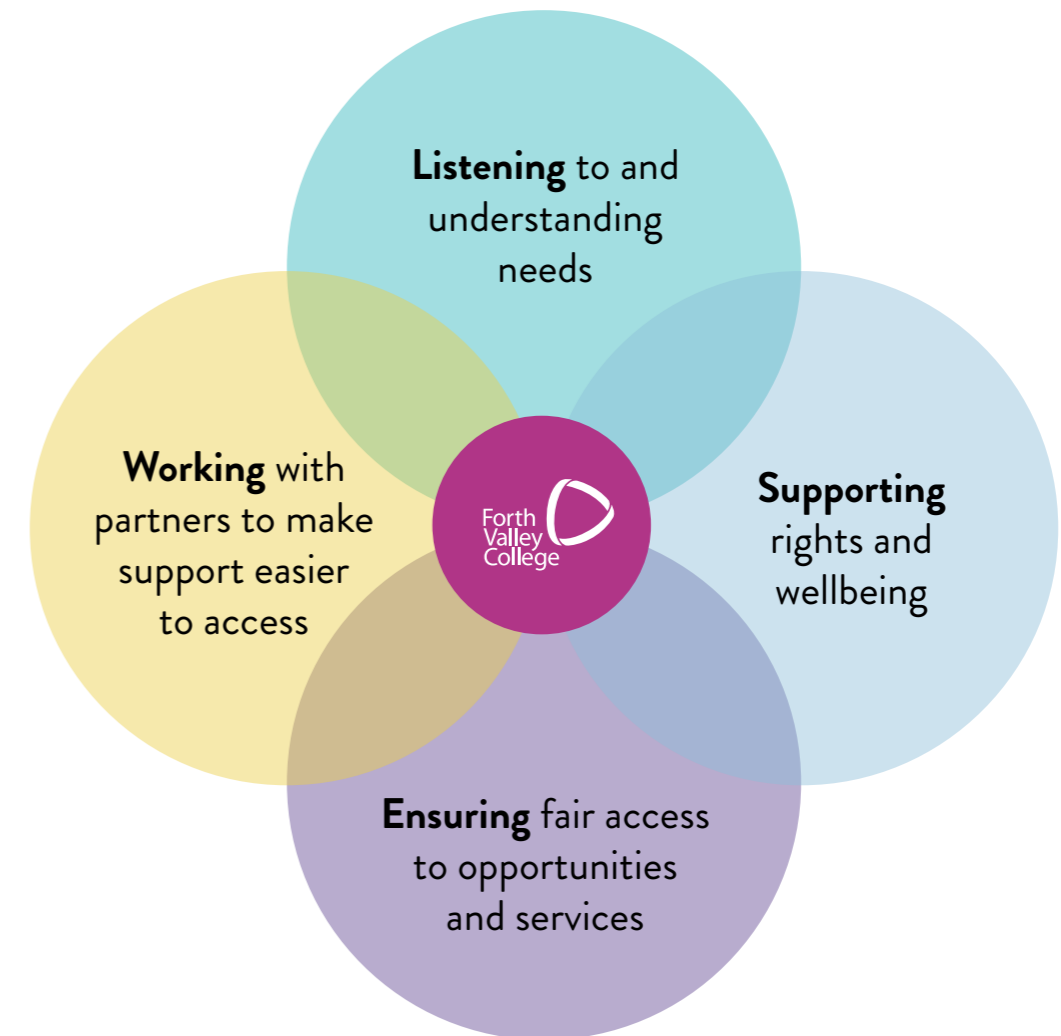
We are committed to using language that is positive, supportive, and reflective lived experience. From wellbeing and financial support to academic guidance or simply someone to talk to, we will ensure clear information is available on the help available and how to reach it.



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Our Role

Everyone at Forth Valley College has a part to play in supporting our care experienced community. While individual responsibilities may differ depending on staff roles, we are all working towards the same shared goals:



By working together in this way, we aim to create a caring, inclusive environment where students with experience of care feel valued, supported, and able to thrive.

Listening to Understand

How we listened

Many people contributed to shaping this plan, but the most important voices came from students with experience of care. Feedback highlighted what works well, what needs to improve, and what truly makes a difference.

This input has guided our priorities and influenced every part of this plan.

- External partners, including Who Cares? Scotland, NHS, Falkirk Council, SDS, Stirling Council, and the Falkirk & Stirling CHAMPS groups
- Staff from across the College, including Lecturers, Curriculum Managers, and Corporate Services teams
- These conversations helped us understand the wider picture and identify where we can strengthen our support.



What We Learned from Students

Throughout our consultation, several key themes emerged.

These insights have shaped our commitments and will continue to guide how we work.

- A warm, supportive welcome early on makes a big difference.
- Information needs to be clear, accessible, and easy to find.
- Trusting relationships with staff are essential.
- Celebrating success matters - recognition helps people feel valued.
- Face to face conversations are preferred over email.



Celebrating Success So Far

We are proud of the progress already made to support students with experience of care. Key achievements include:

Dedicated Support Contacts

Every student with experience of care has access to a named staff member who provides guidance, advocacy, and a consistent point of contact.

Staff Training

Our trauma informed training programme has strengthened awareness, understanding, and empathy across all departments.

Financial and Practical Support

We have improved access to the Care Experience Bursary and expanded wellbeing services, helping to reduce financial and practical barriers to success.

Student Voice

Students with experience of care are increasingly shaping decisions through focus groups and engagement activities, ensuring lived experiences influence how we work.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Accountability

We are committed to ensuring that this Corporate Parenting Plan delivers meaningful outcomes for students with experience of care. To achieve this, we will monitor progress, evaluate impact, and remain accountable to the students we serve.

Oversight & Governance

The Head of Inclusion and Student Services holds overall responsibility for implementing and overseeing this plan. They lead the 'Corporate Parenting' Champions Group - a team that includes Lecturers, Curriculum Managers, and student representatives to ensure actions are delivered, monitored, and evaluated effectively.

Annual Progress Reports

We will publish yearly updates outlining achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement. These reports will be shared with staff, students, and external partners.

Mid-Plan Review

A formal review will assess progress against our commitments and identify any adjustments needed to stay on track.

Final Evaluation

At the end of the plan, we will conduct a comprehensive evaluation to measure impact and inform future planning.

Student Voice in Evaluation

Students with experience of care will play a central role in evaluating this plan. We will continue to gather feedback through:

- Focus groups and surveys
- Advisory roles and student-led reviews
- Informal feedback channels

Accountability

We will hold ourselves accountable by:

- Acting on feedback and being transparent about any changes we make
- Reporting outcomes to senior leadership and external partners.
- Ensuring staff across all campuses understand their responsibilities and are supported to fulfil them.
- By embedding evaluation and accountability into every stage of this plan, we aim to build a culture of continuous improvement and trust.

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Our Commitment

We are proud to champion students with experience of care and to foster a college culture where everyone can thrive. Our commitment is to ensure everyone feels supported, heard, and valued throughout their journey - through clear communication, meaningful connections, and opportunities that empower them to succeed.

From their first day to graduation, we will provide tailored support that helps our students flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. Whatever their goals, we are here to walk alongside them every step of the way.

How We Will Keep This Promise?

The Right Support, at the Right Time

Starting College

We heard that the move into college can feel daunting. That's why we will make sure everyone feels welcomed, informed, and supported from day one.



How we will do this:

Early identification and outreach

We will provide opportunities to tell us about care experience on application and at enrolment. This allows us to reach out early and offer support throughout the full process.

Transition activities

We will provide activities and guidance to help prepare for starting college and feel confident about the journey ahead.

A dedicated staff member

We will introduce to a named staff member before consistent point of contact and support throughout the entire college experience.



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Collaborating

With agreement, we will connect with other key people involved in supporting the student, working collaboratively to provide the most beneficial support.

1

While They Are Studying

Once enrolled, we will provide consistent, proactive support throughout.

How we will do this:

Regular check-ins

A dedicated staff member will stay in touch to make sure they feel supported and to help them address any challenges early.

Priority access to support services

They will have streamlined access to wellbeing services, financial support, and academic guidance whenever they need it.

Mentoring and wellbeing activities

Opportunities for mentoring, peer support, and wellbeing initiatives will help them stay connected and confident throughout their studies.

Staff who understand their responsibilities

Our staff are trained in their corporate parenting responsibilities and are confident in supporting their college journey in the ways that work best for them.

2

Preparing For Their Next Steps

We're here to help them get ready for their next steps - whether that's further study, employment, or independent living.

How we will do this:

Support with applications

Support is available to help with applications for next steps, including UCAS applications, college progression routes, apprenticeships, or employment opportunities.

'Moving On' workshops

Access will be provided to workshops covering topics such as career planning, personal finance, and independent living skills to help them feel prepared and confident.

Clear referral routes

Straightforward pathways will be provided to external support services so they can access specialist help when they need it.

Support with transitions to other institutions

When moving onto another college, university or training provider, guidance will be offered throughout the transition. With permission, we can also share support plans to ensure continuity of care.

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3

Using Respectful, Accessible Language

We will use language that is respectful and easy to understand - because words matter.

How we will do this:

Clear, accessible information

We will make sure all college information is written in a way that is relevant and easy to understand.

Visible, proactive support

We will communicate support options clearly and make them easier to find, so they don't have to search for help.

A student led glossary

We will work with students to create a glossary of preferred terms that reflects lived experiences and the language they want us to use.

Trauma aware communication

Staff will receive training to ensure they use positive, trauma aware language in all interactions.



4

Building Trusting Relationships

We are committed to building trust through consistent, caring relationships – so they always have someone to turn to.

How we will do this:

Listening to their views

We will regularly gather your feedback through focus groups and surveys to ensure their voice shapes our work.

Celebrating their achievements

We will recognise their successes and share stories that highlight the strength, resilience, and brilliance of our students with experience of care.

5

Working in Partnership

We will work with partners to create more opportunities for learning, careers, and life experiences.

How we will do this:

Strengthening existing partnerships

We will continue our work with current partners - including SDS, DWP, MCR Pathways, and others - and look for ways to further develop and strengthen our corporate parenting network.

Exploring new opportunities

We will seek additional external partnerships that can enhance the support, opportunities, and experiences available to them.



Our Ongoing Commitment

We know that real change comes from listening, learning, and acting together. That's why we will continue to work in partnership with students, with our staff, and with external stakeholders to create a college culture where students with experience of care can thrive - not just academically, but in every aspect of their lives.

We will keep striving to do better, strengthening our support, and ensuring that every student with experience of care has the opportunity to reach their full potential.



FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE
is Proud to be a
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