

CORPORATE PARENTING ACTION PLAN

Our Action Planning Grid below outlines our current Corporate Parenting activities and sets out our proposed actions for improvement to 2023, as detailed within Sections 58-60 of the Act.

This has been set out in four main sections – Before, During, After and Evaluation/Monitoring.

The first three sections reflect the learners’ journey from their pre-entry steps and transition into college life; their journey through their college course through to their transition into Higher Education or employment. The final section highlights the work we do to ensure our Plan is relevant and that the support we provide to our care experienced learners is what they want and need.

SECTION 1 - BEFORE COLLEGE			
Current Relevant Activities	Actions to Improve & Expected Outcomes	To be completed by whom / Timeline	Corporate Parenting Duty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Named staff contact for care experienced students. A dedicated information area on our website. Care Leaver information leaflet circulated to South Lanarkshire Council Social Work; Skills Development Scotland Careers Advisors; local schools; all applicants attending interview. Tick boxes on enrolment/bursary/discretionary forms + an improved definition of ‘care experienced’ and a clear explanation of why we look for this information. Bursary and discretionary funding applications are fast tracked. Staff training provided by Who Cares? Scotland. Links with Who Cares? Scotland advocacy workers in Lanarkshire. Collaborating and working in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council Social Work, Skills Development Scotland, other FE/HE organisations in the Region through involvement in the Care Experienced, Carers & Estranged West Forum and attendance at Corporate Parenting conferences. 	Complete development of online application system.	Head of Student Services/IT October 2021.	58 1 (a) To be alert; (b) To assess the needs; (c) To promote the interests; (e) To take action to ensure access to opportunities
	Develop a new step by step guide, specifically for care experienced people, on the entire pre-entry process from searching & applying for their course; the interview process; and applying for funding. This process can be daunting, and a straightforward guide will help answer FAQs and will hopefully ease the transition into further and higher education for potential students and will also be a helpful guide for carers/support workers/teachers etc.	Guidance & Support Advisor/Head and Depute Head of Student June 2021.	58 1 (a) To be alert; (c) To promote the interests
	Continue to promote support available for Care Experienced learners and continue to connect with other local Corporate Parents, i.e. Schools, Social Work Dept. This will hopefully increase the number of students disclosing this care status and will ease transition for students moving into further/higher education.	All relevant staff Ongoing throughout each academic year. Review June 2021.	58 1 (a) To be alert; (c) To promote the interests; (e) To take action to ensure access to opportunities
	Continue to monitor and update our website information to ensure it remains relevant and continue to build links with other relevant Corporate Parents. Again, this will hopefully increase the number of students declaring their care status and will ease their transition into further/higher education.	Student Services Staff Ongoing throughout each academic year. Review June 2021.	58 1 (a) To be alert; (b) To assess the needs; (c) To promote the interests; (e) To take action to ensure access to opportunities; 60 To collaborate

SECTION 2 - DURING COLLEGE

Current Relevant Activities	Actions to Improve & Expected Outcomes	To be completed by whom / Timeline	Corporate Parenting Duty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named staff contact e-mails all care experienced students to highlight support available and is there to discuss this and provide emotional support. • Named staff contact is a member of the College Safeguarding Group. • Tick boxes on enrolment/bursary/discretionary forms + an improved definition of 'care experienced' and a clear explanation of why we look for this information. • Bursary and discretionary funding applications are fast tracked. • Induction process updated to include a series of short induction videos to be viewed over the first 2-3 weeks of term – including a video by the named staff contact for care experienced students. • Information available in Student Handbook and induction checklist on our Corporate Parenting duties and the services we provide for our care experienced learners. • Care experienced 'flag' on online class register allows tutors to identify students who are care experienced. • Our Senior Leadership Team, faculty and support staff and SLC SA have received Who Cares? Scotland training on barriers faced by care experienced learners and Who Cares? have also delivered Empowerment Sessions to staff as part of designated Staff Development Days. • In-house training provided to Faculty staff to highlight the steps they should take if they have concerns for a care experienced student in their class. • The 'forever' button on Moodle allows students to notify us of the care experienced status at any point during their course of study. • Our Extended Learning Support Team assess learning needs and can provide additional support to ensure students have the skills required to successfully complete their courses i.e. core skills workshops are offered throughout the year and additional learning tools/aids are available. • We offer a 1:1 counselling service, mindfulness classes, have a Community Pastoral Support Team and have joined Togetherall where our students can access online mental health and well-being support. • We have links with South Lanarkshire Council Social Work and SDS who liaise with the named staff contact to support care experienced students. • Several events are organised by Student Services, HR and the Students' Association throughout the year to promote various opportunities i.e. volunteering; higher education; health and well-being; equality & diversity; LGBT+; mental health. • Our faculty staff create and promote industry specific opportunities for their students. • We offer to pay the UCAS fees of our CE students. • Staff and students participate in Who Cares? Scotland campaigns and will continue to do so i.e. Christmas Gift Appeal/Kiltwalk. • We are collaborating in-house with colleagues to improve current processes and to ensure all staff are updated on their Corporate Parenting responsibilities. • We have links with Who Cares? Scotland advocacy workers. • Collaborating and working in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council Social Work, Skills Development Scotland, other FE/HE organisations in the Region through involvement in the Care Experienced, Carers & Estranged West Forum and attendance at Corporate Parenting conferences. 	<p>Continue to promote the involvement of care experienced learners in all aspects of college life i.e. involvement in the Students' Association. By listening to care experienced young people, we can better tailor our services to them and can assess what changes should be made to improve these services. This would improve the student experience and would help care experienced learners achieve their goals and positive outcomes.</p>	<p>Head and Depute Head of Student Services and Guidance & Support Advisor.</p> <p>Ongoing throughout each academic year. Review June 2021.</p>	<p>58 1 (a) To be alert; (b) To assess the needs; (c) To promote the interests; (e) To take action to ensure access to opportunities</p>
	<p>The Open University are in the process of creating an online Care Experienced training module. SLC will sign up for this as soon as it is rolled out. This module will be compulsory for new staff as part of their induction and will be completed by all current staff as part of Staff Development – the training will ensure staff understand their roles and responsibilities under the Corporate Parenting legislation and understand the challenges faced by care experienced learners.</p>	<p>Head of HR & Head of Student Services.</p> <p>December 2020.</p>	<p>58 1 (a) To be alert; (b) To assess the needs; (c) To promote the interests; (f) To take action to improve</p>
	<p>SLC will offer short money advice courses to its care experienced learners, delivered by our Guidance & Support Advisor, who is the named staff contact. Our CP Plan was reviewed by a care experienced SA Officer who highlighted that some CE students would appreciate information on budgeting and life skills. This could particularly benefit younger learners but would be open to all.</p>	<p>Head of Student Services, Guidance & Support Advisor.</p> <p>November 2020.</p>	<p>58 1(a) To be alert; (c) To promote the interests; (d) To seek to provide opportunities; (e) To take action to ensure access to opportunities</p>
	<p>We will create a process to collect feedback from our care experienced learners, throughout the academic year, on their experiences and what we are doing well and what could be improved. To ensure our care experienced learners have a say in what opportunities and services are available to them, it is essential to communicate with them and to listen to them as their feedback will ensure the support we provide is relevant relevant and continues to improve and develop.</p>	<p>Head & Depute Head of Student Services and Guidance & Support Advisor.</p> <p>April 2021.</p>	<p>58 1(c) To promote the interests; (d) To seek to provide opportunities; (e) To take action to ensure access to opportunities</p>
	<p>We will work with our Students' Association and our care experienced learners to raise awareness of the issues faced by care experienced people and will celebrate and promote Care Experienced Week, which is typically held in October.</p>	<p>Student Services Staff, Faculty Staff, SLC SA.</p> <p>October 2020.</p>	<p>58 1(c) To promote the interests; (d) To seek to provide opportunities; (e) To take action</p>
	<p>The named contact for care experienced learners will work with faculty staff to ensure that care experienced students withdrawing from their course, who do not have a positive destination, are referred to Skills Development Scotland. If a withdrawing student does not have a positive destination, a referral to SDS could be an important next step.</p>	<p>Guidance & Support Advisor.</p> <p>Ongoing throughout each academic year. Review June 2021.</p>	<p>58 1(a) To be alert; (b) To assess the needs; (c) To promote the interests; 60 To collaborate</p>
	<p>Faculty staff will continue to create and promote opportunities for our care experienced learners and will continue to participate in Who Cares? Scotland campaigns. This will continue to raise awareness of the barriers faced by care experienced learners and will hopefully encourage disclosure of CE status.</p>	<p>All relevant staff.</p> <p>Ongoing throughout each academic year. Review June 2021.</p>	<p>58 1(c) To promote the interests; (d) To seek to provide opportunities; (e) To take action</p>
	<p>SLC will hold an event at the end of the academic year specifically for our care experienced students to celebrate their achievements. This will help create a sense of well-being and will be a positive environment for students to share their experiences.</p>	<p>Head & Depute Head of Student Services and Guidance & Support Advisor, SLC SA.</p> <p>June of each academic year.</p>	<p>58 1(c) To promote the interests; (d) To seek to provide opportunities; (e) To take action</p>
	<p>To continue to collaborate with other Corporate Parents and to involve care experienced young people in our discussions and planning processes. The Corporate Parenting Plan is not static but is a working document that will be continuously reviewed and updated. Continuing to collaborate with other Corporate Parents and involving care experienced learners in the decision-making process will ensure all work is relevant and will ultimately improve the experiences and outcomes of our learners.</p>	<p>Head & Depute Head of Student Services and Guidance & Support Advisor.</p> <p>Ongoing throughout each academic year. Review June 2021.</p>	<p>58 (f) To take action to improve 60 To collaborate</p>
	<p>All care experienced students will have specific help with CV writing and employability skills from the SDS Careers Advisor who works with SLC year round. This will maximise the opportunity to gain meaningful employment during and after their college course.</p>	<p>Guidance & Support Advisor.</p> <p>Ongoing throughout each academic year. Review June 2021.</p>	<p>58 1(a) To be alert; (d) To seek to provide opportunities; (e) To take action to ensure access to opportunities</p>

SECTION 3 - AFTER COLLEGE

Current Relevant Activities	Actions to Improve & Expected Outcomes	To be completed by whom / Timeline	Corporate Parenting Duty	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLC offers many opportunities to students and organises events to promote these i.e. Higher Education Event, Next Steps event, Volunteering event. We offer our care experienced students a graduation package which includes a ticket for the Graduation Dinner and the cost of gown hire for the Graduation Ceremony. 	All care experienced students will have specific help with CV writing and employability skills from the SDS Careers Advisor who works with SLC year round. This will maximise the opportunity to gain meaningful employment during and after their college course.	Guidance & Support Advisor. March/April 2021.	58 1 (a) To be alert; (d) To seek to provide opportunities; (e) To take action to ensure access to opportunities	
	Care experienced students will be able to access funds to buy an appropriate post-course interview outfit. Clothes can boost confidence and self-esteem and we want our care experienced students to feel good about themselves and focus on their interview performance.	Head of Student Services, Guidance & Support Advisor. March/April 2021.		
	To continue to collaborate with other Corporate Parents and to involve care experienced young people in our discussions and planning processes. The Corporate Parenting Plan is not static but is a working document that will be continuously reviewed and updated. Continuing to collaborate with other Corporate Parents and involving care experienced learners in the decision-making process will ensure all work is relevant and will ultimately improve the experiences and outcomes of our learners.	Head & Depute Head of Student Services and Guidance & Support Advisor. Ongoing throughout each academic year. Review June 2021.	58 1(a) To be alert; (c) To promote the interests; (d) To seek to provide opportunities; (e) To take action to ensure access to opportunities	

SECTION 4 - EVALUATION/MONITORING

Current Relevant Activities	Actions to Improve & Expected Outcomes	To be completed by whom / Timeline	Corporate Parenting Duty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLC is part of the Care Experienced, Carers, Estranged West Forum and regularly attends Conferences and Workshops on Corporate Parenting. We have reviewed resources and guidance from the Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland (CELCIS) and Who Cares? Scotland on our Corporate Parenting responsibilities and are collaborating and sharing practices with other Corporate Parents in order to assess, review and improve what we do for our care experienced young people. We have reviewed resources and guidance from the Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland (CELCIS) and Who Cares? Scotland on our Corporate Parenting responsibilities and are collaborating and sharing practices with other Corporate Parents in order to assess, review and improve what we do for our care experienced young people. SLC's updated Corporate Parenting Plan is published on the SLC website and paper copies are on display in Student Services and the Library. The Plan can be accessed easily and can be downloaded - other formats are also available on request. We are collaborating in-house with colleagues to make improvements to our current processes and the services we offer. Corporate Parenting is the responsibility of everyone at SLC and staff work together to ensure our care experienced learners are supported in the best way they can be. Care experienced students are included as a priority group in strategic and operational planning and have been highlighted in the Regional Outcome Agreement. The outcomes of our care experienced students are reported and discussed at Board Meetings, SLT, CLT and Academic Board, alongside those with protected characteristics and are highlighted within the Lanarkshire Regional Outcome Agreement as a priority group. 	The Plan will be formally reviewed every 3 years and informally reviewed annually. The current updated plan was reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team, Safeguarding Group and the Student Association.	Head of Student Services and Guidance & Support Advisor.	59 To prepare, publish and review Plan
	We will continue to collaborate with other Corporate Parents to ensure we are up to date on any legislative changes which may occur and to ensure we continue to work together to improve the educational outcomes of our care experienced learners.	Head of Student Services and Guidance & Support Advisor.	60 To collaborate