

**UHI | ARGYLL**

**UHI Argyll**

**Corporate Parenting Plan**

## Introduction

UHI Argyll provides further and higher education in one of the most geographically fragmented areas of Scotland. The college first opened in 2000 and has grown to serve more than 1700 learners in the communities of Argyll and Bute and Arran, through a network of 10 learning centres. The College purpose is to “... seek to provide high quality innovative education and training opportunities which match the needs of the communities we serve, enhancing the quality of life for the people of Argyll.”

The College values that underpin this are:

- Support - giving help and encouragement to others to help them achieve their goals
- Openness – being transparent and welcoming to different views and ideas in everything we do
- Respect – having consideration for the feeling of others
- Collaboration – working together to make things better
- Excellence – going the extra mile to achieve the best possible outcomes

These values closely align with those that drive a corporate parenting responsibility.

## Our responsibilities as a Corporate Parent

Corporate parenting is defined as “An organisation's performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted.” UHI Argyll recognises that it has a responsibility as a “Corporate Parent” under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and is proud to assume this responsibility. The college recognises that every individual within the organisation has a responsibility towards meeting the corporate parenting duties. However collectively the College, as a corporate parent, must make sure the rights of any students or potential students that are care-experienced are respected by taking the following actions:

- considering their wellbeing
- assessing their needs
- promoting their best interests
- making sure their voices and opinions are heard
- providing opportunities for them
- providing advice and assistance when they're needed
- making sure services are easy to access for them.
- collaborate with other corporate parents
- develop a plan to specifically support care-experienced students
- report on what we are doing every 3 years.

(Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland).

UHI Argyll will support every young person under the age of 26 who is in Looked After care or is a Care Leaver. A Looked After child can be defined as one who is in the care of the local authority (be it foster care, kinship care or residential care). A Care Leaver is any young person who was in care on or any time after their 16th birthday but is no longer looked after by a local authority. For the purposes of this plan either group will be referred to as Care Experienced.

The Scottish Government acknowledges that care experienced young people often have low levels of educational engagement and attainment, leading to poorer life experience, impacting on health and wellbeing. Many factors can contribute to this, such as lack of stability in home life or care arrangements, the absence in some cases of positive guidance and much more. Through corporate parenting the aim is to improve the outcomes for care experienced young people.

### [Our Corporate Parenting plan](#)

UHI Argyll's Corporate Parenting plan will detail how the college will deliver its corporate parenting responsibilities. It has been developed in consultation and collaboration with Who Cares? Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council, North Ayrshire Council, local Through Care and Aftercare groups, SDS, UHI Care Leavers group and of course our own care experienced students.

## Argyll College UHI Corporate Parenting Action Plan

Area	Criteria	Current Activities	Actions	Owner	Timescale	Projected Outcomes	Corporate Parenting duty
Management and Delivery of plan/outcomes	Continuous enhancement of provision for care experienced students	Argyll College will develop a local Corporate Parenting plan for our FE students but will also work with partners in UHI to develop and implement the UHI Corporate Parenting Plan for HE students. Argyll College will contribute to the review and processes across the Partnership through the UHI Care Leavers Group. Through this group the college will also link with external agencies, including Who Cares? Scotland, CELCIS, College Development Network(CDN), and appropriate local agencies to ensure we keep up to date with current best practice and training.	Attendance on the cross-partnership Care Leavers Group and associated activities. This includes sharing of best practice, discussion of issues affecting care experienced students, and relevant staff training. The group meet on a bi-annual basis.	Head of Student Services	December 2017  This has been achieved but the enhancement activity is continuous and therefore ongoing.	Enhancement of the student experience and improved retention rates for care experienced students	58:1 (a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies 58:1 (f) to take action to improve as a corporate parent
			Sharing of best practice within Argyll College and across the partnership (via UHI Care Leavers Group)	Head of Student Services	Ongoing This is an ongoing activity	Improved cross partnership working and communication to ensure equivalence for care experienced students	58:1 (f) to take action to improve as a corporate parent 60:2 (a,b,c) to share information, provide advice or assistance, and coordinate activities
			Develop an internal reporting system and procedures to analyse application, retention and outcome data for	Head of Student Services	Dec 2017 Complete. Reporting systems are now available.	Enhancement of the student experience and improved retention rates for care experienced students	58:1 (c) to promote the interests of children and young people to whom this Part applies

			care experienced students.				
			Consider care experienced students during strategic and operational planning	Senior Management Team (SMT)	Ongoing	Enhancement of the student experience and improved retention rates for care experienced students	58:1 (c) to promote the interests of children and young people to whom this Part applies
			Organisation of relevant training for staff	Head of Student Services, Staff Development Committee	2017/18 <i>Corporate Parenting training is now part of the routine training provision for all staff</i>	Enhancement of the student experience and improved retention rates for care experienced students through greater awareness amongst all staff	58:1 (a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies 58:1 (f) to take action to improve as a corporate parent
Raising aspirations and improving pre-entry guidance	Further strengthen links with relevant external agencies, stakeholders and partners to ensure comprehensive information and advice is available to care leavers at an early stage	Continue to develop our established relationships with our local partners in Schools and other local authority services. Argyll College is strongly represented at the local Opportunities for All groups, Through Care and After Care Forums and has close links with local SDS.		Head of Student Services, Centre Managers	Ongoing <i>This has been affected to some extent by COVID 19 restrictions but the college is now re-establishing these links</i>	Increase in the number of care experienced young people applying for our courses	58: 1 (e) access opportunities and make use of services 58:1 (f) take action to improve as a corporate parent.

		Information regarding student support and funding support is made available to local schools guidance teachers. Care experienced students are encouraged to make contact early on with college support staff for extra support to make course applications and funding applications.	Review all published information available to care experienced students to ensure it remains current.	Head of Student Services	December 2017 Complete	Applicants from care experienced backgrounds are aware of benefits and support to them.	58: 1 (e) access opportunities and make use of services 58: 1 (f) take action to improve as a corporate parent.
			Improve relevant care leaver information on the college website, ensuring it is easy to locate.	Head of Student Services	December 2017 Complete	Applicants from care experienced backgrounds are aware of benefits and support to them.	58: 1 (e) access opportunities and make use of services 58:1 (f) take action to improve as a corporate parent.
Application	Establish admissions processes that offer increased opportunities for care leavers across all our college courses and levels	Application forms have space to allow applicants to declare they are care experienced	Ensure that care experience declarations are monitored and followed up to offer relevant support	Admissions team	March 2017 Complete	Admissions processes that allow us to track and identify care experienced applicants at the earliest opportunity and to offer support throughout the application and interview process.	58:1 (c) to promote the interests of children and young people to whom this Part applies
		Care experienced applicants guaranteed an interview	Interviewers trained to encourage disclosure of care experience	Head of student Services	March 2017  Complete – although most courses now do not require an interview. Where they do they are	Admissions processes that allow us to track and identify care experienced applicants at the earliest opportunity and to offer support throughout the application and interview process.	58:1 (c) to promote the interests of children and young people to whom this Part applies

					contextualised.		
Pre-entry	Provide timely information re funding for HE and FE courses.	Funding information sent to student, also available on website	Funding information and guidance packs reviewed to ensure currency, then sent to students	Admissions team, Head of Student Services	Ongoing Complete	Enhancement of the student experience, easier transition into college	58:1 (e) access opportunities and make use of services participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing
		Students offered support to make funding applications	Centre staff and other support staff offer individual support	Centre Staff, Head of Student Services	Ongoing Complete	Enhancement of the student experience, easier transition into college	58:1 (e) access opportunities and make use of services participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing
On course support	Provide impartial progression guidance relating to further study (e.g. FE to HE), or progression routes into employment and where relevant to support transition to higher education or employment.	FE students wishing to progress to a higher level of education are supported by the Course team leaders, named centre staff link and student support team. HE students are supported by their PAT and course team leaders. For students wishing to move into employment or apply to study outside UHI they will be supported by the student support team and their course team leader.	Maintain information available to ensure it remains relevant and useful and train frontline staff to ensure appropriate signposting	Head of Student Support	Ongoing Students have access to a named Care Experience person and support plans are developed if required	Enhancement of the student experience	58:1 (e) access opportunities and make use of services
	Provision of a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) at		Provide a named person to support all care experienced	Admissions Team, Head of Student Services	Sept 2017 Complete	Improved retention rates for care experienced students and	58:1 (b) to assess the needs of those children and young

	HE level study and named centre staff contact for FE level students to provide additional support for care experienced students.		applicants and students			enhancement of the student experience	people for services and support it provides 58:1 (e) access opportunities and make use of services
	Access to a counselling service	UHI provide an online counselling service, which may be accessed by students from across the partnership. This provides additional support for care experienced students, wherever they are located.	Increase awareness of the UHI on-line counselling service to all students and staff across Argyll College.	Head of Student Services	Ongoing  Complete, college also has own in house counselling service for students now	Improved retention rates for care experienced students and enhancement of the student experience	58:1 (b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides 58:1 (d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to 58:1 (e) access opportunities and make use of services participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing
	Additional academic support provision if required	Creation of a PLSP to provide enhanced academic and organisational support if required	Ensure that teaching staff are aware that care experienced students can	Head of Student Services	Ongoing Complete	Improved retention and success rates for care experienced students	58:1 (b) to assess the needs of those children and young

			benefit from additional support				people for services and support it provides 58:1 (e) access opportunities and make use of services
Communication	Raise awareness of the duties in relation to Corporate Parenting and arrange staff training	Training to be delivered to teaching, support and frontline staff.	Promote access to the UHI online training modules	Head of Student Support, Staff Development Committee	March 2018 Complete, online training module in college VLE	Enhancement of the student experience and improved retention rates for care experienced students through greater awareness amongst all staff.	58:1 (f) to take action to improve as a corporate parent
Monitoring of Plan and Outcomes	Meet Government requirements for reporting on Corporate Parenting Plans/Actions	The college will produce a report every three years which will provide information regarding the Corporate Parenting Plan and the actions within it.	Establish a monitoring and reporting system to comply with legislative requirements	Head of Student Services	April 2018 Complete	Adherence to legislative requirements	59:1 to prepare, and keep plan under review 59:3 to publish plan