



## **Care Experienced Governance Group Minute**

The eighth meeting of the Care Experienced Governance Group (CEGG) was held on 20 March 2018 at Apex 1, 99 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh.

**Present:**

- Fiona Burns, SFC (Chair)
- Nick Stansfeld, SFC
- Lorna Caldwell, SAAS
- Lizzie Morton, CELCIS
- Dr Graham Connelly, CELCIS
- Andree Carruthers, CDN
- Lorna Jenkins, West Lothian College
- Jonathan Hinds, Social Work Scotland
- Louise Piaskowski, Scottish Government
- Karen McGuire, Skills Development Scotland
- Sarah Young, Become Charity
- Dr Peter Tormey, Edinburgh Napier University
- Dr Iain MacRitchie, MCR Pathways
- Sandy Wood, MCR Pathways
- Dr Kemi Adesokan, SFC

**Apologies:**

- Kevin Browne and Claudia MacDonald, Who Cares? Scotland
- Jimmy Paul, Care experienced advocate
- James Dunphy, RGU
- Mark Wild, Universities Scotland
- Ruairi Hunter, STAF
- Vincent Docherty, ADES
- Liz Brabender, Secretariat of Care Review
- Sarah Kirkpatrick, SFC

### **Welcome**

1. The Chair welcomed Iain MacRitchie, Sandy Wood and Peter Tormey to their first CEGG meeting. Sandy and Peter will continue on the Group, representing MCR Pathways and the HUB for S.U.C.C.E.S.S respectively.

### **Minutes from last meeting (GG/17/Min 6)**

2. Members approved the minutes from the last meeting.

## **Matters arising**

3. There were two matters arising from the minutes:
  - CEGG will receive an update on the independent Care Review from Liz Brabender at its next meeting.
  - The event on COWA recommendation 21 'guaranteed place' is taking place at the Scottish Universities' Insight Institute, Glasgow on 24<sup>th</sup> April.  
Note: Propel would like to update their website once universities have confirmed their contextualised offer.

## **Care experienced news update (GG/18/01)**

4. CEGG noted this paper.
5. LP confirmed that the Minister for Childcare and Early Years will update Parliament on The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 in June 2018 before the summer recess. The Minister has written to all corporate parents, all 124 of them, to ask for their web link to their Corporate Parenting Plan and a summary of progress during past three years. The level of detail in the report to Parliament is still to be decided. LP will forward the Ministerial letter to SFC and would welcome feedback and input from SFC and SAAS on how corporate parenting is being implemented across the sector.
6. NS welcomes news items from members for inclusion in future papers as 'news update' will remain a fixed item on the agenda.

## **MCR Pathways update**

7. Iain MacRitchie gave a compelling background to the MCR Pathways mentoring programme which he founded just over ten years ago. The first five years were spent at St Andrews Secondary, Glasgow honing the programme which focusses on relationship based mentoring in a school setting to help radically improve outcomes. Their vision is that all disadvantaged Scottish young people get the same education outcomes, career opportunities and life chances as any other. The aim was always to be mainstreamed for sustainability, and to find those pupils, to help them grow and to use their talent.
8. The growth and impact of the programme has been extraordinary. MCR Pathways are now in every secondary school in Glasgow and they want to be in 100 secondary schools within the next three years. They are already working with 7 other local authorities. Eventually they would like to be in all 357 secondary schools in Scotland. Where previously only 48% of care experienced Glaswegian pupils went to a positive destination, now this figure is at 81% of mentored pupils.
9. In the discussions that followed:
  - MCR is looking to work with the DYW regional groups to make Talent Tasters more systematic and also open them up for the mainstream.
  - The programme works only in partnerships with education.

- MCR involves parents/guardians at the beginning of the programme and asks for their consent. Given the feedback from the young people in the early days, contact thereafter is more limited as the relationship is solely between the MCR young person and the mentor and all about them and their future.

### **Draft Outcome Agreements 2018-19 (GG/18/02)**

10. NS confirmed that the majority of the draft OA's were received in December. The focus in the drafts has been on target setting and CEGG heard that overall colleges were targeting 1.5% of sector enrolments to be CE students while the university sector was less promising though some HEIs were still to report. Institutions have been reminded of the published retention targets in the National Ambition.
11. CEGG also heard that most colleges and universities have published their Corporate Parenting Plan. SFC is confident that all institutions will meet the deadline of 31 March 2018 or shortly thereafter.
12. We had a discussion on how we can get more applicants to declare their care experience at enrolment. This would give a more accurate record of CE students at college or university. The Access Measures Group is looking at CE description as part of their work to develop more individual measures of access to supplement the COWA target used in the Blueprint for Fairness,

**Action:** SFC to check whether deadline by when institutions can update HESA data

13. It was agreed that more work was required to understand the barriers that those with experience of care face, and why some progress and achieve success while others don't.

**Action:** Become Charity is holding some research seminars to try to understand these issues. They will report back at an upcoming meeting.

### **Care experienced students in college and university (GG/18/03)**

14. KA presented data on the four years of available data which included the university statistics which were published on the day.
15. Some headlines from the college 2016-17 data:
  - There were 3,053 CE students, 1.0% of enrolments which is up by 42.7%, which is 2,138 students, 0.7% of enrolments in 2015-16.
  - CE students were more likely to study at FE level (90%) though those studying in college at HE level rose by 25%.
  - CE students were more likely to be aged between 16-17 years old (846 students). The largest increase was those under 16 years. Together they represent 43.3% of all CE students.
  - CE students were more likely to be female across all age groups. This perhaps explains why CE students are less likely study subject areas like Engineering.

- CE students had a higher rate of disability, like dyslexia, than their peers, 30.7% compared to 13.7%.
  - The successful completion rate is 12.2 percentage points lower for CE students, and they are more likely to withdraw from their course (by 11.4 percentage points).
16. Some headlines from the university 2016-17 data which were published on the day:
- There were 334 CE students, 0.5% of SDUG entrants, up from 286 in 2015-16.
  - The largest growth of age group, in terms of numbers, are those aged over 25 years old (128 students). This is a growth of 40.6% from 2015-16.
  - There is a far higher proportion of CE females studying at university even compared to their peers.
  - The retention of SDUG CE students, those progressing to year 2 of their course, is 83.7% which is 7.3 percentage points lower than their peers.
17. In the discussions that followed SFC said that they would like to see the numbers of CE students rise to 1.5% of overall enrolments in both the college and university sectors. Successful completion rates and retention statistics is the barometer of no difference between CE students and their peers and will remain the emphasis in National Ambition.

**Action:** SFC to publish a combined FE and HE stats paper on their website.

#### **Take up of SAAS bursaries**

18. LC said that the take-up of SAAS bursaries will be published in October 2018 which includes HE data at colleges. Two thirds of applicants were not eligible for funding.
19. The age limit for those applying for a bursary is 26 years old. The point was made that over 800 CE students in the college and university sector in 2016-17 were over 25 years old which in terms of SDUG is 38% of CE entrants. Most of these students would be eligible for funding.

#### **Stakeholder event on Corporate Parenting**

20. CEGG agreed a cross sector event on corporate parenting to celebrate success, good practice, build relationships would be beneficial.

**Action:** A planning group consisting of WC?S, CDN, CELCIS and SFC to take the idea forward.

#### **CEGG work plan (GG/18/04)**

21. NS updated the Group on future priority areas which were identified at an earlier meeting and identified proposed actions to take these areas forward.
22. A few points to note:

- The tracking of learner progress and sharing of data to support fair access will be discussed in more detail at the CELCIS Care to Achieve 'Long Term Education Outcomes for Looked After Children' workshop on 29<sup>th</sup> March.
- The Scottish Government wants swifter implementation of COWA recommendations which includes better tracking of learner progress and sharing of data to support fair access. A unique learner number (ULN) for all children from the time they start school would be key development.

23. We will continue to update CEGG on progress on priority areas at subsequent meetings.

### **Agenda items at future meetings (GG/18/05)**

24. The agenda for the June meeting looks quite full now with publication of OAs, finalised OA Guidance text and updates from the Care Review, SDS activities and HUB for S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

25. In June we will decide whether there is a need for a November meeting though tentative items could be SAAS bursary statistics and an update from Become Charity on their research seminars.

### **AOB**

26. LP said that the Minister for Childcare and Early Years was updating the Parliament's Education and Skills Committee on [funded childcare and care experienced people](#) at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Also, the Children's Social Work statistics for 2016-17 will be published on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

### ***The Hub for S.U.C.E.S.S.S***

27. PT updated the Group on The Hub for S.U.C.E.S.S.S, previously called the South East Scotland Hub. It brings together the expertise and resources of the region's universities (four plus OUIS), colleges (currently Edinburgh College and Newbattle Abbey College), City of Edinburgh Council and other bodies to improve the educational outcomes of CE young people.

28. The Hub aims to improve educational outcomes for people with experience of care, particularly in relation to improving access to further and higher education. The Hub will be located at City Chambers, Edinburgh and hopes to be live within 6-8 weeks. There is no age limit for advice and guidance and there will be outreach and satellite venues to maximise reach. It is a three year project with funding in the first year from the Scottish children's lottery and from the HEIs involved.

### **Next meeting**

29. Tuesday 19 June, 10.30 start at Apex 1, next door to SFC offices. Date arranged after meeting.