

Care Experienced Governance Group Minute

The tenth meeting of the Care Experienced Governance Group (CEGG) was held on 5th December 2018 at Apex 1, 99 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh.

Present: Fiona Burns, SFC (Chair)
Nick Stansfeld, SFC
Chloe Dobson and Gregor Clunie, Who Cares? Scotland
Carly Telford, Corporate Parenting Ambassador
Dr Graham Connelly and Lizzie Morton, CELCIS
Dr Peter Tormey, Edinburgh Napier University & CEECEF
Alan Scott, SAAS
Andree Carruthers, CDN
Sam Turner, Become Charity
Sandy Wood, MCR Pathways
Dr Dan Keenan, University of Glasgow & CEESCW
Patricia Currie, Glasgow Kelvin College
Sandra Bonilla, SQA
Jane Scott, SFC
Lee Davidson, WC?S Learner Alumni Group
Lynda Greig, WC?S Learner Alumni Group
Chloe Wyper, WC?S Learner Alumni Group

Apologies: Karen McGuire, Skills Development Scotland
Louise Piaskowski, Scottish Government
James Dunphy, RGU
Lorna Jenkins, West Lothian College
Mark Wild, Universities Scotland
Jonathan Hinds, Social Work Scotland

Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed Patricia Currie, Sandra Bonilla, Gregor Clunie and members of Who Cares? Scotland's Learner Alumni Group to their first CEGG meeting.

Minutes from last meeting (GG/18/Min 2)

2. Members approved the minutes from the last meeting.

Matters arising

3. There was one matter arising from the previous minutes:

- Teaching training: How care experienced is incorporated in teaching training is being discussed at Scottish Council of Deans of Education at its meeting next week. We will provide an update at the next meeting.

Care experienced news update (GG/18/13)

4. This paper was noted. There were a few discussion points:
 - Survey of CE students at college and university: CELCIS and SFC are co-ordinating promotions and ask that CEGG members also share the survey with their networks to ensure a high response rate. The survey now closes on 6th January – date changed after the meeting.
 - CE Student Bursary: Some further clarification required particularly on Nursing Midwifery Bursary and Accommodation Grant for CE Students.
Action: SAAS to circulate responses to Frequently Asked Questions.
 - Mental health: The First Minister has announced funding to support 80 additional mental health counsellors in colleges and universities. This is a new policy area for SFC and the first step is to agree a baseline figure with institutions. SFC confirmed the 80 new counsellors have a 3 year timeframe.

Learner Alumni Group ‘Scaling New Heights’ (GG/18/14)

5. Gregor introduced three members of the Learner Alumni Group (LAG): Lee, Lynda and Chloe. They spoke eloquently about the Group’s activities and the background to ‘Scaling New Heights’. The report makes two formal recommendations on mechanisms to inform and monitor the fulfilment of colleges and universities corporate parenting duties which are:
 - Rec 1: Establish a national reference group. To work proactively with institutions to ensure improved access and outcomes for care experienced students.
 - Rec 2: Develop an experience-led accreditation model for universities and colleges. A new accreditation model, driven by the CE voice, to evaluate the content and effectiveness of institutional corporate parenting plans.
6. There are also 18 substantial recommendations on specific aspects of the learner journey. Some are highlighted as follows:
 - Rec 3: Implement a model self-declaration question consistent across all institutions.
 - Rec 4: Treat care experienced as a protected characteristic and provide protection and support to all students with care experience, irrespective of age.
 - Rec 5: Develop and implement national high-quality practice-level training for teaching and support staff. Those staff members who engage directly with CE students should be trained on trauma-skilled practice (Rec 9).
 - Rec 6: Identify designated points of contact.
 - Rec 10: Remove age-restricted eligibility for the care experienced bursary.

- Rec 11: Secure flexibility in the scheduling of bursary/loan payments and provide additional support to alleviate hardships during summer.
 - Rec 12: Provide 365-day, uninterrupted and appropriate accommodation for CE students. This is particularly an issue during the summer months.
7. CEGG thanked the LAG for this thorough and insightful report. The recommendations will challenge institutions to enhance their CPPs and the level of support offered to CE students. Our challenge is to make the institutional CPPs consistent across the sector. In the discussions we heard:
- Protected characteristic: possibly through amendment of 2014 act though that would only apply to public bodies. The 2010 UK Equality Act with an amendment in Scotland could be more fruitful?
 - The Scottish Government is looking at spreading bursary and loan payments during the year.
 - Mentoring was an effective way of supporting care experienced with the provision of guidance and ongoing encouragement. MCR Pathways is looking to improving transitions from school to college. Some institutions provide their CE students with mentors e.g. Glasgow Kelvin College is matching mentors through their Care Leavers Forum.
 - We heard that information/data sharing between institutions has regressed due to GDPR.
 - We heard of good practice involving institutions which offer 365-day accommodation, and those that act as a 'guarantor' to help students rent accommodation. Some institutions also help with additional costs like graduation and discounted gym memberships.
 - CDN provide guidance to colleges on corporate parenting through their website and facilitate the sharing of good practice. CDN is willing to update their information and share with the rest of the sector.
8. The full report will be published formally before Christmas and SFC will discuss the report further with the Learning and Education team at Who Cares? Scotland. The East Forum and West Forum said that they would also discuss LAG's recommendations at an upcoming meeting.

Workshop on Guaranteed offer/admissions

9. There was no time for this workshop at the meeting. SFC will decide best approach; it will probably be included as an item at the next meeting.

National Ambition for Care Experienced Students (GG/18/15)

10. SFC said they always expected to review the National Ambition (NA) after the initial 3-year outcome agreement cycle and the ambition remains for there to be no difference in the outcomes of care experienced students and their peers.
11. In line with other Scottish Government widening access milestones the Group agreed to extend the ambition to 2030. The more immediate timeframe is first

draft of NA at March's CEGG meeting with publication in next year's OA Guidance around September.

12. There was a discussion on the additional challenges felt by CE students if they resided in the most deprived SIMD quintiles (SIMD10/20) as reflected in the recent SFC data. NA targets will remain high level in terms of total number of enrolments and entrants, and outcomes in terms of successful completions and retention. The Group agreed that an articulation target would be helpful as we know many CE students matriculate to university via a college pathway.

Action: SFC, Who Cares? Scotland and Scottish Government to meet to discuss the next phase of our National Ambition and how the SFC can support reporting on Corporate Parenting through our Outcome Agreements.

Who Cares? Scotland Outcomes project (GG/18/16)

13. Chloe spoke about the new WC?S/SFC two-year project which is focused on retention, attainment, success rates and destinations. The implementation of this project will enhance the transitions of CE students thereby supporting their eventual positive outcomes.
14. We heard that WC?S will organise larger, more collaborative events where corporate parents will be able to network, share best practice and learn from each other. They will look to reduce the stigma and the criminalisation of care, and want all college and university staff to know what being a corporate parent actually means. WC?S will produce high quality digital materials to reinforce and support the embedding of key messages. They are developing an e-module with the OU and they would love the training to be mandatory. CEGG spoke positively about this project.

West Forum (CEESCW), East Forum (CEECEF) and HUB for SUCCESS updates

15. Dan gave a brief history of the West Forum which started in 2009. Since then they have grown larger, now involve the named contacts at 7 HEIs and 10 colleges plus Focus West and SWAP West, with a wider remit to include carers and estranged students. We heard that the forum meets 4-5 times a year and provides a platform for collaboration and engagement. Guest speakers are invited to the meeting regularly to inform their work and the support they offer students.
16. Peter said CEECEF had first met in 2015 and their aims are similar to the West Forum. They have in excess of 40 members representing 25 organisations including 9 HEIs and 6 colleges. Stirling and Forth Valley are the only institutions which sit on both forums. CEECEF also hosts events including information days for CE, unpaid carers and estranged students, and those who support or guide individuals from these groups.
17. The HUB for SUCCESS is a collaborate project, developed in partnership with City of Edinburgh Council, supported by the colleges (x2) and universities (x5) in Edinburgh and Lothians. The official launch of the Hub is scheduled for 12

February 2019 which all CEGG members are invited; they should contact Claire Biggar (c.biggar@napier.ac.uk) if interested. Lorraine Moore, Hub for SUCCESS manager, would like to update CEGG at an upcoming meeting.

Action: Nick and Peter to liaise as to when Lorraine updates CEGG.

18. The Group commended both the West and East Forums and the Hub for SUCCESS on progress to date. Colleges and universities working collaboratively together, sharing good practice and providing a platform for discussion and improvement, though an expectation from the Act was highly commended by CEGG.
19. There is not yet a North Forum. There has been discussion, perhaps to be led by University of Aberdeen. When this materializes they will also be invited to attend CEGG. In theory then all college regions and universities in Scotland will be represented by at least one of the forums.

Become charity research seminars (GG/18/19)

20. Sam reported on the three research seminars called 'Where next for care leavers in HE and FE' which brought academics and practitioners together and aimed to bridge the gap between them. Much of the research is from the CE survey and the subsequent report [Moving On Up](#) the like of which is being duplicated in Scotland through the CELCIS/SFC Survey. Many of the issues are familiar to us for example robust data, early engagement with CEYP, and the importance of named contacts and mentors. We heard of some good practice:
 - [University-Go!](#): A collaboration between two HEIs in Coventry and Warwickshire allowing CEYP between the ages of 11-13 to spend extended time at a university campus to demonstrate that HE is a definite possibility. The programme aims to increase CE numbers entering HE.
 - [To Care Is To Do](#): A project to engage and inspire LAC and care leavers through a range of support services to help improve educational attainment, increase employability, develop life skills and promote healthy and active lifestyles.
 - [New Beginnings](#): A course at University of East London that offers access to degree programmes for mature people and those without formal qualifications.
 - The [University of Sussex](#) introduced a successful model that saw each department within the university appoint a WP lead.
21. The [Propel](#) website is going to have some improvements for example it will be easier to compare institutions, with easy print functions. Promotion of Propel remains another priority area as it is a useful resource to prospective CE students once found. Sam offered to present the data gathered from the website at a future meeting.
22. There have been discussions on some form of care experience accreditation of institutions in England either through a quality mark, similar to Buttle, or the

development of national standards framework. We will update Group of any developments.

SAAS: Care Experienced Student Bursary (GG/18/20)

23. Alan presented this paper which said that 545 students successfully claimed the CE Student Bursary in 2017-18, 43% of whom were studying at college. There were a large number of error applications but these have reduced in 2018-19 and the early indications are that there has been a sizable increase in the overall number of successful applications. This data will be available in September 2019. It is unlikely that SAAS will be able to identify CE students who claim the Nursing/Midwifery bursary in 2020-21 due to GDPR.

Action: SAAS data on Care Experienced Accommodation Grant 2017-18 at next meeting

24. We heard that not all eligible CE students apply for the grant perhaps due to stigma or that they could receive more funds from other grants. Also, some local authorities were treating the bursary as income with the bulk of the funds going towards accommodations costs.

Agenda items at future meetings (GG/18/21)

25. Universities Scotland, not at the meeting, was asked to give an update on the work around contextualised admissions and minimum entry requirements.
26. The support to post-graduate CE students was mentioned as an area to explore so that they are incorporated into the institution's corporate parenting plans. According to SFC data there were no CE post-graduate students in 2016-17; no-one ticked the CE box though this is due perhaps to them being over the age of 26.

AOB

27. It was reported that some institutions do not have access thresholds for some degree programmes like vocational subjects or degree programmes developed in collaboration with professional bodies. SFC confirmed the guaranteed offer of a place applied to all degree programmes if CE applicants met the minimum entry requirement. Universities Scotland will confirm this at the next meeting.
28. Care Day, the world's biggest celebration of children and young people with care experience, is planned for 15th February 2019.

Next meeting

29. Thursday 14 March, 10.30-13.00, SFC offices.