

## **Care Experienced, Estranged & Carers East Forum (CEECEF)**

### Corporate Parenting

College and university members are currently updating their respective Corporate Parenting Plans.

Removal of the SAAS Care Experienced Bursary's upper age limit is welcomed by the group however challenges accessing (university or private) rented accommodation without a guarantor may affect some students and requires monitoring.

Members, as part of a working groups consisting of members from Scottish tertiary education providers, have contributed to the development of the Open University's Corporate Parenting e-module (on Moodle). The module was due to go live in September 2019 however delays were incurred (content has been create; technically issues still to be overcome).

Edinburgh College have waived graduation fees for care-experienced graduates. Other membership offer financial support to graduates.

### Non-Corporate Parenting work

Members are collaborating with Young / Student Carer groups to develop *Going Higher for Student Carers in Higher Education Plans* in partnership with Carers Trust Scotland.

Work to support estranged students is ongoing with some members committed to signing a Stand Alone Pledge.

Guarantor (rent deposit) schemes are available at some member institutions, but not all. Some rent guarantor schemes only cover a university's own student accommodation. Care-experienced learners without a guarantor for rented accommodation are typically covered by such schemes.

## Forum History

CEECEF first met in May 2015 with representatives from six universities, one college and two education-focused organisations (\* signifies attendance of the first meeting, on table 1) initially under the group title of '*Care Leaver East Forum*'. The record of minutes from this first meeting documents areas of discussion focused on: care experienced definition; identifying care experienced students; practises of documenting care experience on application to HE/FE; the forthcoming introduction of corporate parenting; and, agreement of including students with unpaid caring responsibilities as an area of interest for the Forum - it was agreed to change the Forum's name to '*Care Experienced and Carers East Forum*'. Estranged – an individual who no longer has the support of their family due to a breakdown in their relationship – was added as a student group of interest in 2016. The Forum meets once per trimester with members hosting meetings on a rotating basis.

The aims of the Forum include sharing best practise, coordinating efforts to develop change e.g. contextualised admissions, institutional funding and bursaries, dedicated initiatives and student accommodation. In February 2017 a Chairperson (Patricia Reid, Heriot Watt University) and a Forum Secretary (Jen McKenzie, Borders College) were appointed, with the Forum adding outreach and dissemination of information to its remit. Funding was secured (Edinburgh Napier University) to hold an information event specifically for student/individual groups of interest, with Your Dynamic Future held in June 2017.

The Forum now has in excess of 40 members representing over 25 organisations, with the welcomed inclusion of members from the Third Sector, Local Authority and Governmental agencies. In addition to hosting CEECEF organised events, collaborations on an institutional basis or as short-life working groups have developed, for example an online corporate parenting resource between the Open University in Scotland and Who Cares? Scotland (Nick Stansfeld will update in detail). The last meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Queen Margaret University.

## Forum Contact Details

Chairperson – Patricia Reid, Heriot Watt University ([P.Reid@hw.ac.uk](mailto:P.Reid@hw.ac.uk))

Secretary – Jen Mackenzie, Borders College ([JMack@borderscollege.ac.uk](mailto:JMack@borderscollege.ac.uk))

Table 1. CEECEF Membership.

<b>Colleges</b>	<b>Universities</b>	<b>Third Sector, Local Authority or Education</b>	<b>Third Sector, Local Authority or Education - Organisation Descriptor</b>
Borders College	Abertay University	Barnardo's Scotland	16+ Service
Dundee & Angus College	Edinburgh Napier University*	Carers Trust Scotland	Provider of carer support services
Edinburgh College	Heriot Watt University*	CELCIS	The Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland
Fife College*	Open University in Scotland	College Development Network*	College sector development
Forth Valley College	Queen Margaret University*	City of Edinburgh Council TCAC	Throughcare Aftercare service
West Lothian College	St. Andrews University*	Edinburgh Young Carers Project	Voluntary organisation working with and on behalf of young carers throughout Edinburgh
	Stirling University*	In Your Corner / Cornerstone	Provides support, advice and guidance to young adult carers aged 16-25 living in Edinburgh
	University of Dundee	Hub For SUCCESS	Support for University and College for Care Experience across South East Scotland – Edinburgh collaborative project
	University of Edinburgh*	LEAPS	Schools Higher Education Programme covering Edinburgh, Lothians, Borders, Falkirk & Stirling
		Move On	Supports vulnerable young people and those affected by homelessness
		Stand Alone	Provides support to adults that are estranged from their family
		SWAP East*	Promotes and supports access to higher education for adults (East of Scotland)
		Who Cares? Scotland	National voluntary organisation, working with care experienced young people and care leavers