

University of Aberdeen

North Forum – 1st Meeting – 08/10/19

Update for Scottish Funding Council / Care Experienced Governance Group

1. Current composition of the North Forum

Organisation:	Name:	Title:
Aspire North	Anne Haggart	Regional Co-ordinator
SRUC	Audrey Channing	Senior Tutor
UHI	Lyndsay MacColl	Student Support Manager
UHI	Barbara Brown	School Link and Transition Coordinator
RGU	Brian Webb	Access Pathways Lead
Aberdeen Young Carers (Barnardo's Scotland)	Lisa McCulloch	Project Worker
Who Cares Scotland	Peter Melrose	Development Officer
NESCOL	Alison Cross	Learning Development Centre Manager
Stand Alone	Susan Mueller	HE Director
Aberdeenshire Council	Jacqueline Dinnes	Quality Improvement Officer
Aberdeenshire Council	Alison Robertson	Curriculum for Excellence Officer
Aberdeenshire Council	Emma Allan	Virtual School Head Teacher
Carers Trust Scotland	Scott Lafferty	Development Manager for Scotland
Aberdeen City Council	Larissa Gordon	Virtual School Head Teacher
University of Aberdeen	Chris Sojka	Lead Access and Articulation Officer
University of Aberdeen	Dr Sally Middleton	Access and Articulation Manager

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2. Update re first meeting and focus of the forum

The first meeting of the North Forum was held on Tuesday the 8th of October at the University Aberdeen. Representatives from UHI, Aberdeenshire Council and the University of Aberdeen were in attendance.

It was agreed that the forum would primarily focus on the following categories of students / applicants:

- Care Experienced
- Carers (i.e. applicants and students who have an unpaid caring role)
- Estranged

The possibility of adding Veterans and other “vulnerable groups” in to the remit and composition document for the Forum was discussed at the first meeting. As a next step it was agreed that an updated remit and composition document would be circulated to the membership of the Forum for approval.

The venue for the Forum will rotate round different sites (e.g. one meeting will take place in Aberdeen, followed by another in Elgin and then a third in Inverness and so on). The chair for the Forum will also rotate so that a representative from the host organisation can lead the meetings.

The forum also agreed that where relevant and appropriate, guest speakers will be asked to attend Forum meetings.

University of Aberdeen

Aberdeen City Council Virtual School & UoA

Update for Scottish Funding Council / Care Experienced Governance Group

1. Data Sharing Agreement

Work is on-going with Aberdeen City Council Virtual School to develop a data sharing agreement. RGU and NESCOL are still involved in these discussions – although please note that each institution may have a separate data sharing agreement with the local authority. Please also note that these will most likely differ in order to meet each of the partners needs / regulatory requirements.

Some initial, preparatory work involving each institution's data protection teams (or their equivalent) has taken place and conversations with local authority are on-going.

2. Emerging Literacy Volunteering Project

The University of Aberdeen and Aberdeen City Council's Virtual School are now engaged in the third year of the Emerging Literacy Volunteering project. This project sees Undergraduate Students, from the University, volunteer in local primary schools to help care experienced and other pupils to develop their literacy skills.

Over 20 students have been recruited to take part in the project during the 2019/20 academic year.

3. Corporate Parent Training

The University, alongside the Virtual School, is part of a working group made up of different corporate parents in Aberdeen that is developing shared CP / Care Experienced awareness raising training for staff.

The aims of this group are to produce (or share existing) training materials across all of the institutions / agencies and work towards common goals for staff uptake of this training (e.g. city-wide or regional uptake targets.)

In brief the group is looking at both e-learning or online training for all staff in the relevant institutions / agencies and in-person training for specific staff.

4. Awards Ceremony Planning Group

The University, alongside the Virtual School, is part of a planning group, made up of different corporate parents in Aberdeen, that is working to improve and implement the annual city-wide care experienced young people's awards ceremony.