

Care-experienced, Estranged & Student Carers – West Forum (CEESCW)

Background

The West Forum has been in existence since 2009 (initially under the name 'West of Scotland Care Leaver Forum'), and originally comprised those Universities in the west of Scotland that had achieved or were working towards the Buttle Quality Mark for Care Leavers.

The Forum was re-established, and its membership expanded in 2014 (as the Buttle QM scheme came to an end), as a means for the HE institutions involved to maintain the close contacts and momentum that had been built up through the work with Buttle.

In 2015 membership of the Forum was extended to include Colleges in the west of Scotland, and to acknowledge the important role of the college sector in widening access to HE for those with experience of care. SWAP West and Focus West were also included as members from this point.

The remit of the Forum has further broadened in this past year, to include students who are estranged and studying without family support, and students who have caring responsibilities.

Remit

The Forum meets 3-4 times per year and is made up, primarily, of the 'named points of contact' for care-experienced students at each institution. A list of the relevant contacts is included below.

Membership of and participation in the Forum evidences a commitment to supporting and improving the educational outcomes of those students who are care-experienced, estranged from family, and/or who have caring responsibilities. Members recognise the importance of working together to support these students, and the Forum provides the platform for this collaboration, as well as the opportunity to share best practice and keep abreast of developments in these key areas. Links with the equivalent Forums in the East and North of the country affords the opportunity to extend this collaboration nationwide. The Forum also maintains close links and a collaborative function with other relevant organisations and groups – e.g. the Glasgow Colleges Corporate Parenting Forum, Glasgow City (GCHSCP) Corporate Parenting Forum, MCR Pathways HE Group, the StandAlone Estranged Student Stakeholder Group and the Care-Experienced Governance Group.

Guest speakers are invited to meetings regularly, to inform our work and the support we offer students, and to further establish those important links outwith FE/HE. Organisations invited to speak recently include:

- Carers Trust Scotland. This meeting focussed on the Carers Trust's *Going Higher / Going Further for Student Carers* awards; and allowed for a roundtable discussion of institutional practice/provision in this area.
- Skills Development Scotland. This meeting focussed on the SDS *Young Talent Programme* and other initiatives and opportunities SDS provide for care-experienced people. It was a great opportunity to improve and strengthen the links between FE/HE institutions and SDS.
- Open University. OU provided an update on the Corporate Parenting e-module being designed in partnership with WhoCares?Scotland. There was agreement at this meeting that the Forum contacts could act as points of contact for the adaptation and dissemination of the e-module within their respective institutions.
- Kibble. This meeting offered members the opportunity to learn more about Kibble's *Care Leavers' Advisory Support Service* (CLASS), and the support this programme could provide to care-experienced students in local authorities across the west of Scotland.

Member institution	Representative(s)
Ayrshire College	Doreen Wales
Argyll College UHI	Liz Richardson
City of Glasgow College	Lisa Hardy
	Julie LoughDennell
Dumfries & Galloway College	Shona Scott
Focus West	Bernadette Sanderson
Forth Valley College	Jean Duff
	Angela Smith
	Mhairi Harvey
Glasgow Caledonian University	Rachel Hyslop
	Christina Kelly
Glasgow Clyde College	Clare Walker
Glasgow Kelvin College	Maggie Murphy
	Tricia Currie
Glasgow School of Art	Suzanne Kay
	Margaret Robertson
The Open University	New contact tbc
New College Lanarkshire	Carolyn Laird
	Linda Williamson
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	Carol Williams
South Lanarkshire College	Rose Harkness
	Karen Pirie
SWAP West	Kenny Anderson
SRUC (Scotland's Rural College)	Alison Halliday
The University of Glasgow	Dan Keenan
The University of Stirling	Amy McDermott
The University of Strathclyde	Louise Martin
	Debbie Duncan
University of the West of Scotland	Alison Hillis
West College Scotland	Scott Campbell