

Enabling Positive Destinations for Care Experienced Learners

Outcome1: Care Experienced learners are better supported throughout their learning journey.

Outcome 2: Reduced numbers of Care Experienced learners will repeat SCQF levels unnecessarily.

To enable these outcomes, two models of training and education sessions have been employed:

1. Sessions with individual Corporate Parents, with only staff from that Corporate Parent in attendance
2. Collaborative training events, with attendees from a variety of different Corporate Parenting bodies

Since June 2019 the following training and education sessions have been delivered with the sector:

Session	Details	Date
University of Edinburgh	Mentor training – 16 attendees	28.8.19
Corporate Parenting and Careers Support – collaborative training session	78 attendees across: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ayrshire College 2. Borders College 3. City of Glasgow College 4. Disclosure Scotland 5. Forth Valley College 6. Glasgow Caledonian University 7. Glasgow Kelvin college 8. Heriot-Watt university 9. Inverclyde Council 10. New College Lanarkshire 11. Open University in Scotland 12. Queen Margaret University 13. Robert Gordon University 14. Skills Development Scotland 15. South Lanarkshire College 16. South Lanarkshire Council 17. Glasgow School of Art 18. University of Dundee 19. University of Edinburgh 20. University of Stirling 21. University of Strathclyde 22. University of the West of Scotland 23. West College Scotland 24. West Lothian College 	5.9.19

University of Strathclyde	Mentor training – 15 attendees	19.9.19
Glasgow Kelvin College	All staff conference – numbers TBC	27.11.19

There was much positive feedback in response to these training sessions, with specific learnings to be taken from the careers themed training session. Responses to this collaborative training session varied, with most feeding back that they found it extremely engaging and positive:

“Excellent please organise more”

“Very informative and helped me to improve my understanding of the challenges Care Experienced people face.”

“Fantastic session which starts the collaborative journey for Corporate Parenting. What do we do next to keep the motivation going?”

However, there were also attendees who fed back that they found it challenging to tangibly see the links between their Corporate Parenting responsibilities and the careers support they offer and that the training team were required to be clearer on this. The content of subsequent collaborative training events will take this feedback into consideration and strive to work with attendees to understand the tangible actions they can take.

In the coming months, the following training and education sessions are planned:

Session	Details	Intended date
Glasgow regional colleges	Senior staff from the Glasgow colleges are invited to attend a collaborative training session to explore their Corporate Parenting duties, the National Ambition for Care Experienced Students and how they can effectively collaborate with one another and other Corporate Parents.	10 January 2020
Stirling area	Staff from University of Stirling, Forth Valley College and the surrounding local authorities will come together at University of Stirling to explore their Corporate Parenting duties. There will be involvement from the local Champions Boards.	20 January 2020
Borders College	Refresher session for Borders College staff.	24 February 2020

Corporate Parenting and Careers Support	A similar session to the collaborative training delivered in September but delivered in the north of Scotland (likely Inverness).	Around February 2020
Aberdeen area	A collaborative training session hosted by Robert Gordon University with attendees invited from University of Aberdeen and NESCOL.	Around March 2020

Outcome 3: Care experienced learners have increased understanding of, and access to, employment opportunities following their FE / HE achievement.

On 30 July the first Care Experience and Employment Summit was delivered at Glasgow Caledonian University bringing together 139 Care Experienced people, employers and relevant policy makers to explore Care Experienced journeys into employment and the importance of lived experience in the workplace. The day consisted of panel discussion including the Director of Health Equity & Director of Health and Work at NHS Health Scotland and the Race Relations Lead for DWP and a keynote address from the Director for Children and Families at the Scottish Government alongside workshops exploring:

- The Family Firm Approach, with Falkirk Council
- Barriers around Convictions, with Disclosure Scotland
- Trauma Informed Approaches, with a trained Psychotherapist
- Education into Employment, with the Training and Education team at WC?S

Outcome 4: National policy and practice affecting Care Experienced learning journeys will be shaped by their experiences.

On 23 July WC?S members attended the launch of the Guaranteed Offer at Glasgow Caledonian University, facilitated by Universities Scotland. Members were given the opportunity to share their experiences with the Principals of GCU and University of St Andrews as well as the First Minister. Key considerations for Care Experienced learners across Scotland were discussed, and in particular the barrier that the upper age limit on the Care Experienced Bursary presents to many. The Programme for Government announcement that the age limit would be lifted from AY 2020/21 is therefore hugely welcomed by our members.