

Care Experienced Students at College 2018-19

Introduction

1. This paper outlines the numbers of care experienced (CE) students in the college sector in AY 2018-19. The data presented in this paper is provided with the aim of helping the understanding and reporting of data of college enrolled CE students.
2. SFC has a deep commitment to improve the life chances of CE students. At the beginning of the calendar year we published our [National Ambition for Care Experienced Students](#) with a vision of equal outcomes between CE students and their peers by 2030.
3. For clarity we ask our colleges and universities to use this definition for **care-experienced**:
Anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked-after background at any stage of their life, no matter how short, including adopted children previously looked-after. Care may have been provided in one of many different settings such as in residential care, foster care, kinship care¹ or looked after at home with a supervision requirement.
4. We have been collecting the data on CE students for 6 years, since AY 2013-14. During this time data collection and reporting has improved as we see more students self-declare their care-experienced background each year. This is because colleges and universities are creating safer environments for CE students to disclose their care identity. They have been raising awareness, promoting the interests, and making the support more visible for those who have had an experience of the care system.

College data 2018-19

5. Table 1 shows the number of full-time and part-time enrolments of CE students in the last 3 years of data by college region and by small specialist college. It also shows the number of enrolments of CE students who are just currently studying full-time (a course with 600 or more learning hours), and by headcount of all modes of study (full-time and part-time). Please note headcount and enrolment data may not match as a student may be enrolled on more than one course.
6. The 2018-19 data shows there were 6,790 CE student enrolments, an increase of 2,225 (or by 48.7%) from 2017-18. CE students represented 2.1% of overall college enrolments; this figure was 1.6% the previous year.
7. The Glasgow region continued to have the largest number of CE enrolled students (31% of the total) with the majority of these studying at Glasgow Kelvin College (70%). There was a large increase of CE enrolled students at West College Scotland and notable increases at Ayrshire College, Dundee and Angus College and the Lanarkshire region in 2018-19.

¹ Kinship care when a child is looked after by their extended family or close friends if they cannot remain with their birth parents. This would involve some sort of involvement by the local authority (as opposed to private family arrangements).

8. The 2018-19 data shows a higher proportion of CE students are studying full-time (3.9% compared to 2.1 in 2017-18) with each region reporting larger percentages. The significance of CE full-time students is that they may be eligible for the Care-Experienced Student Bursary (Table 4 shows breakdown by age). We should also note that the two college regions with the largest number of CE students (Glasgow and West) have a much larger majority of students studying part-time.
9. The final column shows the actual headcount of CE students in 2018-19 where these proportions reflect the enrolment proportions. It could be interesting to note the actual number of CE students studying at college so they can be compared to other data sources e.g. the Scottish Government's [Education Outcomes for Looked After Children](#).

Table 1: Care-Experienced Enrolments by College Region 2016-17 to 2018-19 (all modes of study), by Full-Time Enrolments only, and by Headcount in 2018-19 (all modes of study)

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19		2018-19		2018-19	
	Enrolments	Enrolments	Enrolments	%	FT enrolments	%	Headcount	%
Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire	125	95	75	0.3%	70	1.1%	75	0.3%
Ayrshire	250	270	685	4.0%	340	6.1%	570	3.9%
Borders	270	105	95	2.0%	55	5.0%	90	2.1%
Dumfries and Galloway	45	90	80	1.3%	50	3.9%	80	1.5%
Edinburgh	265	310	420	1.4%	255	3.4%	355	1.4%
Fife	*	85	185	0.5%	160	3.0%	175	0.6%
Forth Valley	250	350	395	2.2%	165	5.2%	260	1.9%
Glasgow	430	2,150	2,135	3.0%	715	3.8%	1,785	3.2%
Highlands & Islands	280	245	275	0.9%	170	4.2%	260	1.0%
Lanarkshire	315	195	385	1.8%	195	2.3%	330	1.7%
Scotland's Rural College	5	5	30	0.5%	30	4.0%	30	0.6%
Tayside	310	335	670	3.1%	310	6.4%	500	2.9%
West	495	250	1,175	4.3%	305	4.7%	1,070	4.6%
West Lothian	15	65	180	2.2%	110	5.8%	165	2.3%
Newbattle Abbey College	0	10	0	-	0	-	0	-
Sabhal Mor Ostaig	0	5	0	-	0	-	0	-
Total	3,055	4,565	6,790	2.1%	2,935	3.9%	5,750	2.0%

* All figures in this report have been rounded to the nearest 5

* Asterisk indicates the number of CE students is lower than 5

* In 2016-17 the 3,055 CE students represented 1.0% of student enrolments; in 2017-18 it was 1.4%.

Level of Study

10. Table 2 shows that the number of CE student enrolments studying at FE and HE level have increased by considerable amounts in 2018-19, from 4,150 to 6,075 at FE level (by 46%) and from 415 to 715 at HE level (by 72%).
11. Most CE students studying at FE level are part-time (62%) whilst the majority of HE enrolments are full-time (87%). The 715 CE student enrolments studying at HE level is greater than the number of CE undergraduate entrants in the university (there were 505 in 2018-19). This means more CE students are studying HE at college than at university.

Table 2: Level of Study in College 2016-17 to 2018-19, and 2018-19 Full Time/Part Time split

Level of study				2018-19 Level of study by FT/PT split				
Level	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Level	Mode	Total	%	
FE	2,760	4,150	6,075	FE	FT	2,315	38%	100%
					PT	3,760	62%	
HE	295	415	715	HE	FT	620	87%	100%
					PT	95	13%	
Total	3,055	4,565	6,790	Total		6,790		

Age

12. Table 3 shows the breakdown by age. CE student enrolments across all age groups except under 16 years have increased in 2018-19. The first percentage in the table is the proportion of CE students in their age group, e.g. 4.0% of students aged 16-17 are care-experienced. The second percentage is the breakdown of the CE cohort. It shows that 30% of CE students were under the age of 17 (2,060 students), 37% were aged between 18-24 years, and 33% were over the age of 25 years.

Table 3: Care-Experienced Students in College by Age Group 2016-17 to 2018-19

College	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19		
			Total	CE% of all students	% Breakdown
Under 16	475	645	530	0.9%	
Age 16-17	845	1,030	1,530	4.0%	30%
Age 18-19	605	780	1,400	3.4%	21%
Age 20-24	445	680	1,095	2.3%	16%
25 and over	680	1,425	2,235	1.5%	33%
Total	3,055	4,560	6,790	2.1%	100%

13. Table 4 shows the breakdown by age and those studying Full-Time in 2018-19. Only FT students are able to claim the Care-Experienced Student Bursary though in 2018-19 only students up to the age of 26 years old were eligible. The majority of CE FT students are aged between 18-19 years (33%) with most of them studying at FE level (79.1%). The majority of HE CE students are aged 20-24 years.

Table 4: Care-Experienced Students studying Full-time in College by Age Group, split by HE and FE in 2018-19

College	Full-Time		Total	% Breakdown
	FE	HE		
Under 16	40	0	40	
Age 16-17	755	35	785	28%
Age 18-19	775	205	980	33%
Age 20-24	435	230	665	23%
25 and over	310	150	460	17%
Total	2,315	620	2,935	100%

Gender

14. Table 5 shows there was a relatively balanced gender split except in the 25 and over age band in 2018-19. Although there are more female CE enrolled students, the number of male CE students in the college sector is continuing to rise from 1,985 in 2017-18 to 2,750 in 2018-19.

Table 5: Care-Experienced Students in College by Gender 2018-19

College	Male	Female	Other, or Prefer not to say	Total	% Female
Under 16	235	290	10	545	54%
Age 16-17	770	750	5	1,525	49%
Age 18-19	675	710	10	1,390	51%
Age 20-24	500	595	-	1,095	54%
25 and over	570	1,655	10	2,235	74%
Total	2,750	4,000	40	6,790	58.9%

Ethnicity

15. Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) is widely recognised as an appropriate way to report and analyse ethnicity. Table 6 shows that during 2018-19 there were 550 CE students from a BME background or 8.1% of the care-experienced student enrolments with a high proportion 25 and over. As a comparison, non-care-experienced students from a BME background represented 6.9% of overall college enrolments.

Table 6: Care-Experienced Students in College by Ethnicity 2018-19

College	White	BME	Not Known	All	% BME
Under 16	505	25	0	530	4.7%
Age 16-17	1,445	70	20	1,535	4.6%
Age 18-19	1,290	95	10	1,395	6.8%
Age 20-24	1,010	80	10	1,100	7.3%
25 and over	1,910	290	35	2,235	13.0%
Total	6,165	550	75	6,790	8.1%

Subject Studied

16. In 2018-19, the largest subject areas for CE students in colleges continued to be Care, Special Subjects, and Computing and ICT. The subject area with the largest proportion of CE students was in Special Programmes (4.0%) which are courses specifically designed for students that require more support in their learning.

Table 7: Care-Experienced Students in College by Programme Group 2018-19

Dominant Programme Group	CE Students	%
Care	1,595	3.2%
Special Programmes	1,185	4.0%
Computing and ICT	705	3.0%

Hospitality and tourism	530	3.1%
Hairdressing, Beauty and Complementary Therapies	420	3.4%
Construction	405	1.9%
Engineering	320	0.7%
Sport and Leisure	275	2.7%
Business, management and administration	250	0.8%
Social subjects	205	3.0%
Languages and ESOL	175	0.9%
Science	150	0.9%
Art and design	135	1.6%
Media	110	1.6%
Education and training	105	1.5%
Land-based industries	105	1.3%
Performing arts	95	1.6%
Nautical studies	25	0.4%
Total	6,790	2.1%

Disability

17. Table 8 shows that in 2018-19 CE students had a higher rate of disability compared to their peers with 34.6% of students declaring a disability, around the same proportion as previous years. This compares to 14.3% of non-care experienced students declaring a disability, a difference of 20.3 percentage points.
18. The table also shows that a higher proportion of CE enrolled students reported having multiple disability (12.7%), dyslexia (9.1%) or mental health difficulties (7.0%) than non-care experienced students when looking at one disability category per student.

Table 8: Care-Experienced Student in College by Disability 2018-19

College Care-Experienced Students			Non-CE students	
Disability	Number	%	Number	%
No known disability	4,440	65.4%	276,140	85.7%
Multiple disabilities	860	12.7%	11,830	3.7%
Deaf/have a hearing impairment	40	0.6%	1,235	0.4%
Blind/are partially sighted	25	0.4%	545	0.2%
Dyslexia	615	9.1%	11,690	3.6%
Wheelchair user/have mobility difficulties	35	0.5%	1,920	0.6%
Mental health difficulties	470	7.0%	8,585	2.7%
An unseen disability not listed above (e.g. diabetes, epilepsy, asthma)	95	1.4%	3,000	0.9%
Social/Communication Impairment	205	3.0%	7,155	2.2%
Total	6,790	100%	322,100	100%

College Successful Completion

19. The college successful completion rate is a key performance indicator (KPI). Targets are set in SFC's [National Ambition for Care-Experienced Students](#) which indicated that in 2018-19 we were aiming to reduce the gap between full-time CE students and their peers from 15.6% for those studying at FE level and from 10.5% for those studying at HE level in 2017-18.
20. Table 9 shows the outcomes for CE students studying full-time at FE level from 2016-17 to 2018-19. The successful completion rate gap between CE students and their peers studying at FE level has reduced to 7.6 percentage points. This means they were 7.6 percentage points less likely to successfully complete their course compared non-CE enrolled students in 2018-19.

Table 9: Outcomes for Care-Experienced Students studying Full-time at FE level 2016-17 to 2018-19

PI Outcome	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19		
	CE Students	Non-CE Students	Gap	CE Students	Non-CE Students	Gap	CE Students	Non-CE Students	Gap
Completed Partial Success	11.9%	9.5%		11.8%	8.7%		14.1%	9.9%	
Completed Successful	52.5%	65.6%	-13.1%	51.0%	66.6%	-15.6%	58.0%	65.6%	-7.6%
Early Withdrawal	13.0%	8.9%		13.7%	8.8%		8.2%	8.7%	
Further Withdrawal	22.7%	16.0%		23.6%	15.9%		19.8%	15.8%	

21. Table 10 shows the outcomes for full-time CE students at HE level during the same period. The successful completion gap for FT CE students has widened since 2016-17 and was 12.0 percentage points in 2018-19. It should be noted that the data is based on a small cohort of students, i.e. 655 CE FT HE students of which 380 are completing successfully.

Table 10: Outcomes for Care-Experienced Students studying Full-time at HE level 2016-17 to 2018-19

PI Outcome	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19		
	CE Students	Non-CE Students	Gap	CE Students	Non-CE Students	Gap	CE Students	Non-CE Students	Gap
Completed Partial Success	12.0%	11.1%		13.1%	10.3%		16.3%	11.6%	
Completed Successful	65.4%	71.7%	-6.3%	60.9%	71.4%	-10.5%	58.1%	70.1%	-12.0%
Early Withdrawal	10.1%	4.7%		7.8%	5.0%		6.1%	5.1%	
Further Withdrawal	12.4%	12.5%		18.2%	13.3%		19.5%	13.2%	

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

22. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying concentrations of deprivation in Scotland. Table 11 shows the number of full-time and part-time CE student enrolments studying at FE level and HE level by SIMD with the successful completion comparison with non-CE students.
23. The data shows there were 1,375 CE students living in the 10% most deprived areas of Scotland in 2018-19. Interestingly this group (MD 0-10) are performing marginally better (61.8%) than the overall CE successful completion average (61.6%) however there are considerable gaps between CE students and their peers in 2018-19.

Table 11: Full-Time and Part-Time Care-Experienced student enrolments studying FE and HE level, by SIMD with success rates 2018-19

College Care-Experienced Students				Non-CE Students	
SIMD Decile	CE Students	% CE Students	Successful Completion %	Non CE Students %	Gap
MD 0-10	1,375	25.1%	61.8%	71.1%	-9.3%
MD 0-20	985	18.0%	61.4%	71.5%	-10.1%
MD 20-30	715	13.1%	60.8%	72.4%	-11.6%
MD 30-40	560	10.2%	63.9%	74.1%	-10.2%
MD 40-50	480	8.8%	57.8%	76.2%	-18.4%
MD 50-60	400	7.3%	60.7%	77.0%	-16.3%
MD 60-70	305	5.6%	64.2%	78.7%	-14.5%
MD 70-80	260	4.8%	61.3%	78.6%	-17.3%
MD 80-90	255	4.7%	68.2%	77.9%	-9.7%
MD 90-100	130	2.4%	64.4%	76.9%	-12.5%
Total	5,470	100%	61.6%	74.8%	-13.2%

Care-Experienced students declaring a Disability, Mental health condition and Caring responsibility with Outcomes

24. Table 12 explores whether having an additional responsibility or health condition can affect success rates of full-time CE students at FE and HE level. The success rate comparison is with non-CE students, same categories. Due to low numbers the data should be treated with a degree of caution.

Table 12: Care-Experienced enrolments with a declared caring responsibility, disability and mental health condition, with successful completion percentage compared to non-care experienced students 2018-19

	Number of CE Enrolments	Success Rate		Success Rate* comparison		What is the Gap?	
		FE FT	HE FT	FE FT	HE FT	FE FT	HE FT
Care-Experienced with a disability	1,900	58.8%	58.5%	64.4%	65.6%	-5.6%	-7.1%
Care-Experienced with a mental health condition	795	53.4%	55.4%	56.5%	60.2%	-3.1%	-4.8%
Care-Experienced who are also Carers	870	55.6%	64.3%	65.9%	70.1%	-10.3%	-5.8%
All CE students	5,480	58.0%	58.1%	65.6%	70.1%	-7.6%	-12.0%

* The Asterisk is comparing carers/disabled students/students with a mental health condition that are not care-experienced.

Withdrawal rate

25. Table 13 shows the number and proportion of full-time and part-time CE students who have withdrawn from their FE or HE course by college region, with the comparison proportion for non-CE students. Overall the 2018-19 data shows you are more likely to withdraw from your course if you are care-experienced, early withdrawal by 2.8 percentage points and further withdrawal by 6.7 percentage points.

Table 13: Care-Experienced Students who have withdrawn from their course, by college region 2018-19

	Care-Experienced Students				Non-CE Students	
	Early Withdrawal	%	Further Withdrawal	%	Early Withdrawal %	Further Withdrawal %
Aberdeenshire	5	5.3%	20	27.6%	5.1%	9.4%
Ayrshire	50	8.5%	100	16.6%	7.1%	11.4%
Borders	10	9.0%	20	22.5%	4.9%	10.4%
Dumfries and Galloway	20	6.8%	55	18.3%	2.4%	7.9%
Edinburgh	10	13.3%	20	25.3%	7.2%	13.3%
Fife	35	8.3%	95	22.2%	5.7%	12.1%
Forth Valley	5	3.7%	35	19.5%	4.3%	8.9%
Glasgow	90	6.3%	185	13.1%	5.1%	10.2%
Highlands & Islands	20	6.6%	60	22.3%	3.2%	6.3%
Lanarkshire	50	12.1%	65	16.4%	6.8%	11.2%
SRUC	0	6.1%	5	15.2%	0.7%	3.4%
Tayside	15	3.2%	60	12.6%	4.5%	8.9%
West	50	5.5%	120	13.1%	4.1%	8.2%
West Lothian	10	5.6%	30	18.0%	3.4%	7.6%
Total	370	6.8%	880	16.1%	4.8%	9.4%

College Leaver Destinations

26. The 2018-19 data is not due until around October 2020. Table 14 shows what CE students are doing 3-6 months after qualifying/leaving college during the past three years of data. In 2017-18 the CE cohort represented 1.9% of those tracked, up from 1.5% the previous year.

Table 14: CLD for Care Experienced Students 2015-16 to 2017-18

Destination of Leaver	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	CE students	National	CE Students	National	CE Students	National
Further study/training	75.4%	75.4%	78.3%	75.0%	80.8%	74.4%
Work	18.1%	19.6%	15.7%	20.0%	12.6%	20.9%
Other destination	1.5%	1.2%	1.5%	1.3%	2.2%	1.8%
Negative destination	5.0%	3.9%	4.4%	3.7%	4.4%	2.9%

- Other destination: Temporarily sick/Unable to work or Looking after the home or family; Taking time out to travel; Permanently unable to work/retired
- Negative destination: Unemployed and looking for work; Not employed but not looking for employment, further study or training

27. When comparing confirmed destinations for 2017-18, we observe that 93.5% of care-experienced qualifiers moved into positive destinations compared to the national figure of 95.4%. Breaking this down shows CE leavers are more likely to continue their studies than we see nationally: 80.8% compared with 74.4% for the national figure. Looking at those moving into work we see the CE qualifiers have a much lower likelihood of moving into work: 12.6% compared to the national figure of 20.9%, while they are more likely to become unemployed: 4.4% unemployment for CE compared with the national 2.9% - half as many again as the national figure become unemployed.
28. The most positive story for CE qualifiers involves those qualifying from courses at SCQF level 7+ (HE level). CE qualifiers at this level account for 0.9% of confirmed destinations (145/45,520). For this group we find CE qualifiers find positive destinations 97.2% of the time compared to the national 95.9%. Breaking this down we get 75.2% CE moved into further study and 22.1% into employment compared to 69% to further study and 26.9% to work nationally.

Further information

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