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UK Entrepreneurial University
of the Year 2013/14
UK University of the Year
2012/13

Students as partners in the development of University policies and activities relating to Care Leavers

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Today's presentation

- Care Leavers in HE
- Corporate Parenting
- Students as partners at Strathclyde
- Strathclyde Cares

Care Leavers and Higher Education

It is by no means a given, but children who spend time in the care system are less likely than other children to achieve academic success or benefit from stable relationships. They are more likely to have problems with crime, drugs and mental health than their peers

Who Cares Trust, 2010

Care Leavers and Higher Education



January 2015, <http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/publications/finding-their-feet>

- 11% of homeless young people in London have been in care
- 24% of the adult prison population in England and Wales have been in care
- 70% of London sex workers have been in care

Care Leavers and Higher Education

Within Scotland, those from care backgrounds tend to:

- leave school earlier (80% leaving at 16 or younger compared to 30% of the general Scottish population)
- have fewer qualifications, less attendance and higher risk of exclusion (Scottish Government, 2014).

Recent research from MCR Pathways suggests that just 2% of Care Leavers enter HE



Corporate Parenting

- Children and Young People Act 2014 came into force in April 2015
 - Expanded number of Corporate Parents (inc. HE and FE)
 - Corporate Parenting duties apply to all children and young people who are looked after or classed as a care leaver up to 26

Corporate Parenting



Scottish Ministers

A local authority

National Convener of Children's Hearings Scotland



Children's Hearings Scotland

Principal Reporter



The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration



A health board



A board constituted under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978



Healthcare Improvement Scotland



Scottish Qualifications Authority



Skills Development Scotland



Social Care & Social Work Improvement Scotland



The Scottish Social Services Council



Sport Scotland

The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland



Scottish Police Authority



Scottish Fire & Rescue Service



The Scottish Legal Aid Board



Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People



The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland



The Scottish Housing Regulator



Bòrd na Gàidhlig



Creative Scotland



A "post-16" education body

Corporate Parent responsibilities

- **Being alert** to matters which adversely affect the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers;
- **Assessing the needs** of those children and young people for the services and support they provide;
- **Promoting the interests** of those children and young people;
- Seeking to **provide opportunities** which will promote the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers;
- Taking action to help children and young people **access such opportunities** and make use of the services and support provided.

Corporate Parent responsibilities

- Publish, prepare and review a ‘corporate parenting plan’
- Report on how they have delivered their plan

Responsibility of all within institution but Widening Access Team is leading activities at Strathclyde

Students as partners

- Membership of Care Experience/ Care Leavers Committee
 - Designing corporate parenting plan
 - Annual report to Admissions Management Committee, Faculties, Executive Team
- Membership of working group to develop Strathclyde Cares mentoring
- Delivery of Strathclyde Cares peer support
- Widening Access Ambassadors
 - Design and deliver transition activities for new entrants
- Focus Group for Centre for Sports & Recreation

Students as partners – the benefits

- Helps us meet our corporate parenting obligations (be alert, provide opportunities, take action to allow access to those opportunities)
 - How we can know the needs and potential barriers of this group without their explicit involvement?
- Our greatest ambassadors for raising profile, winning hearts and minds
- Key to Strathclyde's access strategy
 - Involvement of students in access work
 - Support through the learner journey (inc. whilst on degree programme)

Students as partners – the challenges

- Small cohort – unfair burden?
 - Payment
 - Career enhancing rewards (e.g. volunteering and employability awards)
- Well known issues surrounding identifying care leavers

Strathclyde Cares

- Residential summer experience for S2 pupils
- Partnership with MCR Pathways
- Named Care Advisor offering pre and post application support
- Differential admissions offer
- Scholarships
- Employment opportunities
- 1-2-1 Mentoring from academic staff throughout degree
- Peer support social evenings
- Support with graduation costs

Mentoring

- Launching in September 2015
- New students allocated trained member of staff for duration of programme
- Friendly source of support, guidance and signposting

Students involved in design, delivery and evaluation of the scheme:

- Recruitment material
- Training of mentors
- Operational procedures



One to one mentoring

—

Source of information and advice

—

Adaptive system based on student feedback

—

Establish a support network

—

Learn to manoeuvre the academic system

CARE LEAVER MENTORING SCHEME

One to one mentoring scheme
This scheme is aimed at helping care leavers adjust to university life, providing them with someone they can turn to with concerns, or for advice and support. It also provides the opportunity for participants to provide feedback on their experience, ensuring the support is made as effective as possible.

Contact Debbie Duncan on
0141 548 4248,
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 **"This is exactly the kind of support structure that I wish had been available in my first year."**
— Nicola, Student representative

Peer support



Monthly 'pizza nights' to complement staff mentor

- Wholly student-led
- Informal opportunity to raise issues, form peer network and feedback about the mentoring scheme

Useful resources



Who Cares? Scotland

<http://www.corporateparenting.co.uk/about-corporate-parenting/>



Centre for excellence
for looked after children in Scotland

CELCS

http://www.celcis.org/media/resources/publications/Inform_Children_Young_People_Act_Part_9-v2.pdf



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