



University
of Dundee

Corporate Parenting Plan 2022-2024

Our Core Purpose

The University's core purpose is to transform lives, locally and globally through the creation, sharing and application of knowledge.

Our Values

Our core values determine how we will achieve this ambitious vision. We will do this by valuing people, working together and with integrity, making a difference and pursuing excellence.

Our Corporate Parenting Responsibilities

University of Dundee is identified as a 'Corporate Parent' in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Corporate Parenting is defined as:

"An organisation's performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted."

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/statutory-guidance-part-9-corporate-parenting-children-young-people-scotland/pages/3/>

And

"the formal and local partnerships needed between all local authority departments and services, and associated agencies, who are responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children and young people."

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2007/01/15084446/O>

The Act is also underpinned by 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC), which is a national approach to improving the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland, and it refers to eight wellbeing indicators (often referred to as SHANARRI - These are often referred to as SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included). These distinct yet overlapping indicators highlight the flexibility of care needed, and which offer a holistic view of each young person, identifying their strengths along with their barriers to growth and development.

Care-Experienced Students

As a Corporate Parent, University of Dundee will support every young person, under the age of 26*, who is looked after by a local authority through Foster Care Placement, Supervision Order, Kinship Care Order or in Residential care. In addition, those young people who were in care on or any time after their 16th birthday but are no longer looked after by a local authority, known as a 'Care Leaver'.

*Within legislation, Corporate Parenting is defined as for those under the age of 26. University of Dundee recognises the importance of a committed approach to support and guidance for all students and endeavours to support all Care-Experienced students, as well as those who face additional barriers to learning, regardless of age.

Students who face additional barriers to learning

University of Dundee demonstrates commitment to inclusion through practice and recognises that our actions are critical in supporting not only Care-Experienced young people but reflects our ambition and vision for all students who face additional barriers to starting, maintaining, and sustaining their academic journey. Although there is no legislative requirement placed upon the University, it is our wish to widen our Corporate Parenting principles to ensure those values are reflected in supporting access and inclusion while enabling attainment and positive outcomes for our wider student community, in particular those who are Student Carers or are Estranged from family.

At present, many looked after children and Care-Experienced young people experience some of the poorest personal outcomes of any group in Scotland. Low levels of educational engagement and achievement feed into high levels of poverty, homelessness, and poor mental health. Barriers to education which Care-Experienced young people face include lack of funding, disrupted schooling, an unstable home environment, and accessing further and higher education at a later age than their non-looked after peers.

The University of Dundee is fully committed to supporting all young people who have had experience of care and to fulfilling its corporate parenting responsibilities.

The University of Dundee's Corporate parenting duties:

Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 has put the concept and policy of 'corporate parenting' onto a statutory basis in Scotland with all post-16 education bodies included in the list of corporate parents. As such, the University has a responsibility to be systematic and proactive in its efforts to meet the needs of looked after children and Care-Experienced young people. Specifically, it must:

- 58 1(a) Be alert to matters which adversely affect the wellbeing of looked after children and Care-Experienced young people;
- 58 1(b) Assess the needs of those children and young people for the services and support they provide;
- 58 1(c) Promote the interests of those children and young people;
- 58 1(d) Seek to provide opportunities which will promote the wellbeing of looked after children and Care-Experienced young people;
- 58 1(e) Take action to help those children and young people access such opportunities and make use of the services and support provided;
- 58 1 (f) Take action to improve as a corporate parent;
- 59 Prepare publish and keep plan under review;
- 60 Collaborate with other corporate parents;
- 61 Report on fulfilment of corporate parenting duties;
- 62 Provide Scottish Ministers with information on fulfilment of corporate parenting duties;
- 63 Have regard to any guidance about corporate parenting duties.

Committed as a Corporate Parent

As part of our Corporate Parenting Responsibilities, we are required to demonstrate how we are meeting the requirements in Sections 58 to 61 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014; this plan indicates how we will fulfil these.

The University of Dundee's Corporate Parenting duties are the responsibility of the whole institution and do not reside with one individual. However, a core element of our Care-Experienced provision is to have a dedicated, named point of contact for Care-Experienced or estranged students and all related inquiries, both internal and external: the University's named Care Leaver Support Emma Richards Student Support Adviser based within the University's Student Services team along with Lauren Durand, Undergraduate Admissions Manager has responsibility for the maintenance and development of our Care-Experienced student provision. Any queries about the University of Dundee's Corporate Parenting Plan and Report or our Care-Experienced provision should be directed to Emma Richards Any queries relating to admissions, contextualised offers and widening access should be directed to Lauren Durand.

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Continuing to build on the University's Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2019-21 the plan for 2021 -23 aims to improve and support the implementation of the University's Corporate Parenting and further the experience of our Care-Experienced students. The University is aiming for a "whole institution" approach to supporting the needs and improving the experience of our Care-Experienced, Estranged or Student Carer students.

Our Aims for 2022-24

Aim 1: Review and identify any outstanding actions from previous Corporate Parent Action Plan 2019-21

Aim 2: The University is an inclusive and supportive place to study where Care-Experienced students feel engaged, included, supported, and valued as part of the University community.

Aim 3: All staff are alert and aware of matters that might adversely affect the wellbeing and/or achievement of young people particularly Care- Experienced students.

Aim 4: The University will seek to promote the interest of all our young people who face additional barriers and provide opportunities designed to support achievement, progression and promote wellbeing.

Aim 5: The University will work to fulfil its role as an inclusive organisation and good corporate parent, working collaboratively with other local and national agencies and corporate parents.

Status Key - Red - Not action taken, Amber - in progress incomplete, Green complete or continuing/ongoing

Aim 1: Review and identify any outstanding actions from previous Corporate Action Plan 2019-21

Aim 1 from UoD CAP 2019-21: Review and identify any outstanding actions from previous Corporate Parent Action Plan 2016-18A. Status: all complete or ongoing apart from the following which were noted as amber

Objective	Action - Key Tasks	Lead Staff	Update and Progress	Status
5. Arrival and transition support of Care-Experienced students (continued)				
58 1(a) 58 1(b) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e) 58 1(f)	Encourage peer support between care leaver students by inviting all matriculated care leaver students to a social event with free lunch	Student Support Adviser (Care-Experienced Student Support Contact)	Complete A poor response to the event in September 2016 and September 2017 despite consulting care leaver students prior to invitations. Limited uptake of event in 2019, Further face to face events not possible due to pandemic in 2020. Online events to be held in 2021.	Amber - in progress incomplete
8. Training				
58 1(a) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(f)	Provide appropriate training for University staff (including personal tutors), on the issues, needs, challenges and support available for care leavers.	Director of Student Services Director of Academic and Corporate Governance	Ongoing A number of staff completed this online training delivered by Who Cares? Scotland, by August 2016. Hiatus caused by withdrawal of online training - staff referred to Support Smart in interim until module developed. Corporate Parenting - Support Smart - LibGuides at University of Dundee	Amber - in progress incomplete

Aim 2 from UoD CAP 2019-21: The University is an inclusive and supportive place to study where Care-Experienced students feel engaged, included, supported, and valued as part of the University community. Status: All ongoing - status green.

Aim 3 from UoD CAP 2019-21: To be alert and aware of matters that might adversely affect the wellbeing and/or achievement of young people particularly Care- Experienced student. Status: all ongoing -status green.

Aim 4 from UOD CAP 2019-21: The University will seek to promote the interest of all our young people who face additional barriers and provide opportunities designed to support achievement, progression and promote wellbeing. Status: All ongoing status green apart from the following which were noted as amber:

Objective	Action -Key Tasks	Responsibility	Timescale and Progress	Status
58 1(a) 58 1(b) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e) 60	<p>Establish named contact within Academic Schools for Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers similar to that provided currently for Disability (DSO) to ensure needs of student are met and for Student Carers a written and individual Support Plan is enacted to make any 'reasonable adjustments' if required.</p> <p>Ensure students know who their Adviser of Studies is, as well as other key contacts within Academic School and Student Services.</p> <p>Establish peer support groups holding regular meetings and social events for Care-Experienced, Estranged and Student Carer Students.</p> <p>DUSA offers independent advice and guidance, complimentary passes for Freshers' events when these resume</p> <p>DUSA to explore the feasibility of having student representation within SRC from Care-Experienced, Estranged or Student Carers</p>	<p>Academic Schools Working groups</p> <p>Student Support Adviser (named contact)</p> <p>DUSA executive and relevant DUSA staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>This has had slow progress due to pandemic lockdown and also lack of engagement with online meetings</p> <p>Offered if required but limited programme in Sept 2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Amber – in progress incomplete

Objectives	Action - Key Tasks	Responsibility	Timescale and Progress	
58 1(a) 58 1(b) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e) 58 1(f) 60	Raising staff/student awareness of the issues and problems faced by Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping up to date and informed of sector development regarding best practice to inform and develop policy and practice at University of Dundee Staff information about Corporate Parenting available here: Corporate Parenting - Support Smart - LibGuides at University of Dundee University of Dundee working group established and meets regularly. Care-Experienced, Estranged and Student Carers to be invited to participate in meetings of the University's working groups in relation to these specific students. Introduce a Dundee version of the Open Learning Training module produced by the CEECEF working group. Module modified to create University of Dundee version and planned roll out to all staff and DUSA executive/staff initially targeting staff in Admissions, Student Services, Advisers of Studies, and staff in academic schools who have a front facing role with students. 	<p>Named Contacts Student Support Adviser (Named contact) & Academic Skills Centre</p> <p>Assistant Director of Student Services</p> <p>Student Support Adviser (named contact) in collaboration with CITIL, HR Academic Schools - Senior Advisers of Studies</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing Information updated as required online</p> <p>Meets at least once per semester. Has not met due to staff resource issues within Student Services. Students attended working group meetings in 2019 but not since.</p> <p>Open learn module launched December 2020 Module modification February - March 2021 Roll out of training ongoing from June 2022 due to availability of learning technology staff from CITIL due to the demands placed on them because of online learning replacing classes HR agreed to assist with promotion of the training module.</p>	Amber - in progress incomplete

Aim 5 from UOD CAP 2019-21: The University will work to fulfil its role as an inclusive organisation and good corporate parent, working collaboratively with other local and national agencies and corporate parent. Status: Ongoing - status green

Aim 2: The University is an inclusive and supportive place to study where Care-Experienced students feel engaged, included, supported, and valued as part of the University community.

Objective	Action - Key Tasks	Responsibility	Timescale and Progress	Status
58 1(a) 58 1(b) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e)) 58 1(f) 60	<p>Raising staff/student awareness of the issues and problems faced by Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping up to date and informed of sector development regarding best practice to inform and develop policy and practice at University of Dundee Staff information about Corporate Parenting available here: Corporate Parenting - Support Smart - LibGuides at University of Dundee University of Dundee working group established and meets regularly. Care-Experienced, Estranged and Student Carers to be invited to participate in meetings of the University's working groups in relation to these specific students. Introduce a Dundee version of the Open Learning Training module produced by the CEECEF working group. Module modified to create University of Dundee version and planned roll out to all staff and DUSA executive/staff initially targeting staff in Admissions, Student Services, Advisers of Studies, and staff in academic schools who have a front facing role with students. 	<p>Named Contacts Student Support Adviser (Named contact) & Academic Skills Centre</p> <p>Assistant Director of Student Services</p> <p>Student Support Adviser (named contact) in collaboration with CITIL, HR Academic Schools - Senior Advisers of Studies</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing Information updated as required online</p> <p>Meets at least once per semester Students attended working group meetings in 2019.</p> <p>Open learn module launched December 2020 Module modification March - July 2022 Roll out of training ongoing from August 2022</p>	Amber - in progress incomplete

Objective	Action Key Tasks	Responsibility	Timescale and Progress	Status
58 1(a) 58 1(b) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e) 59	<p>Communicate with Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers in a regular and timely way</p> <p>During application process and/or post application depending on when they disclosed their status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that they have a named contact • Students are invited for a support meeting with named contact before or shortly after commencing studies (which ever suits best) • Students are offered a Peer Connections Student mentor/buddy • Information about Corporate Parenting policy and action plan is available on the University website • Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers to be contacted at time of offer by Student Support (named contact). • Information about Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers to be shared by Admissions with Student Support (named contact) 	<p>Undergraduate Admissions Officer/ Admissions</p> <p>Student Support Adviser (named contact)</p>	Ongoing	Green complete or continuing/ ongoing

Aim 3: All staff are alert and aware of matters that might adversely affect the wellbeing and/or achievement of young people particularly Care- Experienced students.

Objective	Action - Key Task	Responsibility	Timescale and Progress	Status
58 1(a) 58 1(b) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e) 60	Providing support on an individual basis to meet specific needs or address concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Support team provide support and where relevant University Health Service and/ or Disability provide "Support Plan" for student and liaise with Academic school staff and external corporate parents as required e.g. schools, social worker etc. Self-catering, accommodation provided to Care-Experienced students in the University's halls of residence. Accommodation can be provided for 365 days a year and continued at the request of the student beyond an initial 1st year at the University. Provide Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers with priority access to financial assistance via the University's Discretionary fund. DUSA Advice to offer a welcome meeting with co-ordinator of Advice Team/VPSW and tour of DUSA if desired. 	Student Support Adviser (Named contact) Res-Life Manager Student support in residences Student Support Team Disability Services Counselling Service University Health Service Residences Office Student Funding Unit DUSA executive and relevant DUSA staff	Ongoing Ongoing	Green complete or continuing/ongoing

58 1(a) 58 1(b) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e) 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish named contact within Academic Schools for Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers similar to that provided currently for Disability (DSO) to ensure needs of student are met and for Student Carers a written and individual Support Plan is enacted to make any 'reasonable adjustments' if required. 	Academic Schools Student Support Adviser (named contact)	Ongoing but requires further work	Amber – in progress incomplete
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure students know who their Adviser of Studies is, as well as other key contacts within Academic School and Student Services. 	Academic Schools Student Support Adviser (named contact)	Ongoing but requires further work	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish peer support groups holding regular meetings and social events for Care-Experienced, Estranged and Student Carer Students. 	Student Support Adviser (named contact)	Ongoing but requires further work	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DUSA to explore the feasibility of having student representation within SRC from Care-Experienced, Estranged and Student Carers 	DUSA executive	Ongoing but requires further work	

Aim 4: The University will seek to promote the interest of all our young people who face additional barriers and provide opportunities designed to support achievement, progression and promote wellbeing.

[illegible]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers with priority access to financial assistance via the University's Discretionary fund. 		Ongoing	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish named contact within Academic Schools for Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers similar to that provided currently for Disability (DSO) to ensure needs of student are met and for Student Carers a written and individual Support Plan is enacted to make any 'reasonable adjustments' if required Recurring or Enduring Circumstances system to be offered when appropriate to ensure that students are not continually having to reapply for Mitigating Circumstances if situation or issue has a long-term impact Ensure students know who their Adviser of Studies is, as well as other key contacts within Academic School and Student Services. Establish peer support groups holding regular meetings and social events for Care-Experienced, Estranged and Student Carer Students. Targeted promotion of the Career Service Provision such as one to one support, skills awards, internship module etc. Careers Team to send targeted promotional emails to Student Support Adviser who will then send directly to Care-Experienced, Student Carer and Estranged students. DUSA offers independent advice and guidance. DUSA Advice to offer a welcome meeting with co-ordinator of Advice Team/VPSW and tour of DUSA if desired. DUSA to explore the feasibility of having student representation within SRC from Care-Experienced, Estranged or Student Carer2 	<p>Student Support Adviser (named contact) / Academic Schools</p> <p>Student Support Adviser (named contact)</p> <p>Careers Service and Student Support Adviser (named contact)</p> <p>DUSA executive and relevant DUSA staff</p>	<p>Implementation expected Sept 2022 for AY2022-23</p> <p>Implementation expected Sept 2022 for AY2022-23</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Implementation expected Sept 2022 for AY2022-23 then ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Amber - in progress incomplete

Objectives	Action – Key Tasks	Responsibility	Timescale and Progress	
58 1(a) 58 1(b) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e)) 58 1(f) 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising staff/student awareness of the issues and problems faced by Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers by: Keeping up to date and informed of sector development regarding best practice to inform and develop policy and practice at University of Dundee Staff information about Corporate Parenting available here: Corporate Parenting - Support Smart - LibGuides at University of Dundee University of Dundee working group established and meets regularly. Care-Experienced, Estranged and Student Carers to be invited to participate in meetings of the University's working groups in relation to these specific students 	<p>Named Contacts Student Support Adviser (Named contact) & Academic Skills Centre</p> <p>Assistant Director of Student Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing Information updated as required online</p> <p>Meets at least once per semester</p>	Amber – in progress incomplete
58 1(a) 58 1(b) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e)) 58 1(f) 60	<p>Raising staff/student awareness of the issues and problems faced by Care-Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a Dundee version of the Open Learning Training module produced by the CEECEF working group. Module modified to create University of Dundee version and planned roll out to all staff and DUSA executive/staff initially targeting staff in Admissions, Student Services, Advisers of Studies, and staff in academic schools who have a front facing role with students. Module to be introduced as compulsory training for new staff. Named support contact to ensure that all Senior Advisers of Studies are aware of the role and liaise as required with them on matters pertaining to Care-Experienced students. 	<p>Student Support Adviser (named contact) in collaboration with CITIL, HR Academic Schools – Senior Advisers of Studies</p>	<p>Rollout of training module commencing August 2022</p> <p>Ongoing meetings</p>	Green complete or continuing/on going

58 1(a) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e) 60	Membership of national forum groups e.g. CEECEF (Care-Experienced, Estranged, Carers East Forum) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing partnership working with organisations supporting Care-Experienced young people including local authorities, third sector organisations, funding bodies, other HEIs, schools and colleges. Using sector, organisational and individual best practice to inform and develop policy and practice for Care-Experienced young people within University of Dundee 	Student Support Adviser (Named Contact)	Ongoing	Green complete or continuing/on going
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Aim 5: The University will work to fulfil its role as an inclusive organisation and good corporate parent, working collaboratively with other local and national agencies and corporate parents.

Objectives	Action - Key Tasks	Responsibility	Timescale and Progress
58 1(a) 58 1(c) 58 1(d) 58 1(e) 60	Membership of national forum groups e.g. CEECEF (Care-Experienced, Estranged, Carers East Forum) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing partnership working with organisations supporting Care-Experienced young people including local authorities, third sector organisations, funding bodies, other HEIs, schools and colleges and other Corporate Parents. Using sector, organisational and individual best practice to inform and develop policy and practice for Care-Experienced young people within University of Dundee 	Student Support Adviser (Named Contact) Student Support Adviser (Named Contact) Widening Access staff Undergraduate Manager, Admissions Student Funding Officer	Ongoing