



University
of Dundee

Corporate Parenting Plan 2025-2028.

August 2025

Introduction

The University has a long-standing commitment to supporting care-experienced young people into higher education and through to successful graduation.

Our Corporate Parenting Plan for 2025-2028 builds on the success of previous plans and looks to extend our scope and ambition as previous innovations mature into established, mainstream practice.

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.

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.

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'.

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 meets the university's obligations under Section 61. Continuing to build on the University's Corporate Parenting Action Plans 2019-21 and 2022-24, the plan for 2025 -28 sets out the following objectives:

Objective 1: The University should grow as an inclusive and supportive place to study where Care-Experienced students feel engaged, included, supported, and valued as part of the University community.

Objective 2: The University will seek to promote the interest of our care-experienced students and alumni who face additional barriers and provide opportunities designed to support their achievement, progression, employability and wellbeing.

Objective 3: The University will continue to ensure strong and widespread understanding among staff of matters that might adversely affect the wellbeing and/or achievement of care-experienced young people.

Objective 4: 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.

Corporate Parenting Plan, 2025-28: Objectives, Actions and Owners.

Objective 1: The University should grow as an inclusive and supportive place to study where Care-Experienced students feel engaged, included, supported, and valued as part of the University community.

Action – Key Tasks	Lead(s)	Update and Progress	Status as at 12.25
Ensure that student recruitment and admissions policies and processes continue to encourage and support care-experienced applicants and entrants.	Globalisation.	New objective for 2025-28.	
Communicate with care-experienced applicants/students in a regular and timely way through the application, transition and entry stages.	Globalisation, Student Services.	Continuing objective for 2025-28.	
Students are invited for a support meeting with named contact before or shortly after commencing studies.	Student Services.	Continuing objective for 2025-28.	
Students are offered a Peer Connections Student mentor/buddy.	Student Services.	Continuing objective for 2025-28.	
Develop a corporate parenting plan oversight group with care-experienced students to meet twice-yearly to review progress against the plan and recommend developments.	ASET, Student Services.	New objective for 2025-28.	

Objective 2: The University will seek to promote the interest of our care-experienced students and alumni who face additional barriers and provide opportunities designed to support their achievement, progression, employability and wellbeing.

Action – Key Tasks	Lead(s)	Update and Progress	Status as at 12.25
Encourage peer support between care-experienced students with informal social events through the academic year.	Student Services	Continuing objective for 2025-28.	
Ring-fence discretionary funds (<~5% of total) for care-experienced students and provide a streamlined application process so they do not need to resubmit their full evidence to help make applying for small funds more feasible.	Student Services	New objective for 2025-28.	
Continue to offer extended on-campus accommodation contracts.	Student Services.	Continuing objective for 2025-28.	
Commission from DJCAD graduands a series of cards marking key occasions, including birthdays, graduation, accommodation moves.	ASET, Student Support, DJCAD	New objective for 2025-28.	
Provide a small 'house-warming' packs of a mix of essentials and 'nice-to-haves'.	ASET, Student Support	New objective for 2025-28.	
Offer priority access to key Welcome Week and semester 1 transition activities, including the STEP programme and Big Green Giveaway.	Student Services	New objective for 2025-28.	
Life Skills check-ins – managing budgeting, domestic chores,	Student Services (RSAs).	New objective for 2025-28.	

navigating bureaucracy – in-house support/CAB referrals?			
Personalised Career Service provision such as one-to -one support, skills awards, internships with the development of Advancement support to support the costs of placements, etc.	Student Services, Advancement.	Updated objective for 2025-28.	

Objective 3: The University will continue to ensure strong and widespread understanding among staff of matters that might adversely affect the wellbeing and/or achievement of care-experienced young people.

Action – Key Tasks	Lead(s)	Update and Progress	Status as at 12.25
Provide appropriate training for University staff (including personal tutors), on the issues, needs, challenges and support available for care leavers.	Student Services, People	Request to People team to host and promote the existing OU module ; work with sector partners on a new HE staff training package through the CEECEF network.	
Develop a briefing pack on corporate parenting and the university’s commitments under the corporate parenting plan for distribution among staff supporting open days and offer-holder days	ASET, Student Services	New objective for 2025-28.	
Establish named contact(s) within Schools, Directorates and DUSA for Care- Experienced Young People, Estranged students and Student Carers similar to that provided currently for Disability (DSO) to share effective practice, ensure needs of student are met and a written and individual Support Plan is enacted to make any ‘reasonable adjustments’ if required.	Faculties, Student Services	Updated objective for 2025-28.	

Objective 4: 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.

Action – Key Tasks	Lead(s)	Update and Progress	Status as at 12.25
Keep up to date and informed of sector development regarding best practice to inform and develop policy and practice at University of Dundee through active engagement in sector networks, including CEECEF.	ASET, Student Services.	Updated objective for 2025-28.	
Engage with local and regional partners, including local authorities, colleges, sister universities, Who Cares? Scotland and The Promise to develop our support for care-experienced students and especially their transition to a degree.	ASET, Student Services.	Updated objective for 2025-28.	
Ensure that information about the University’s corporate parenting commitments remains up to date and published on the institutional website.	External Relations.	Continuing objective for 2025-28.	