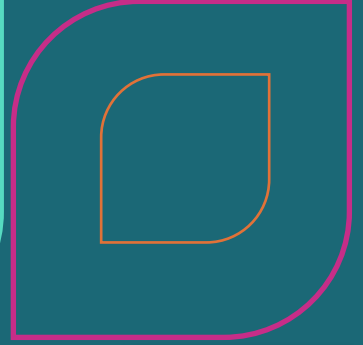
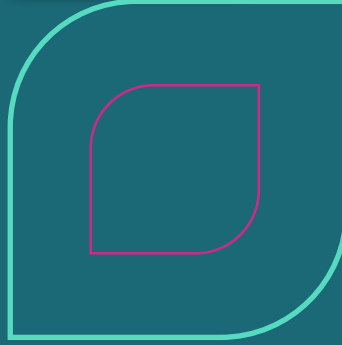
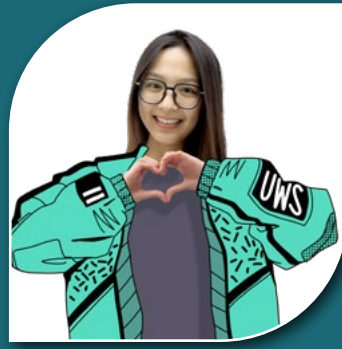


UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND

UWS



Corporate Parenting Plan 2024



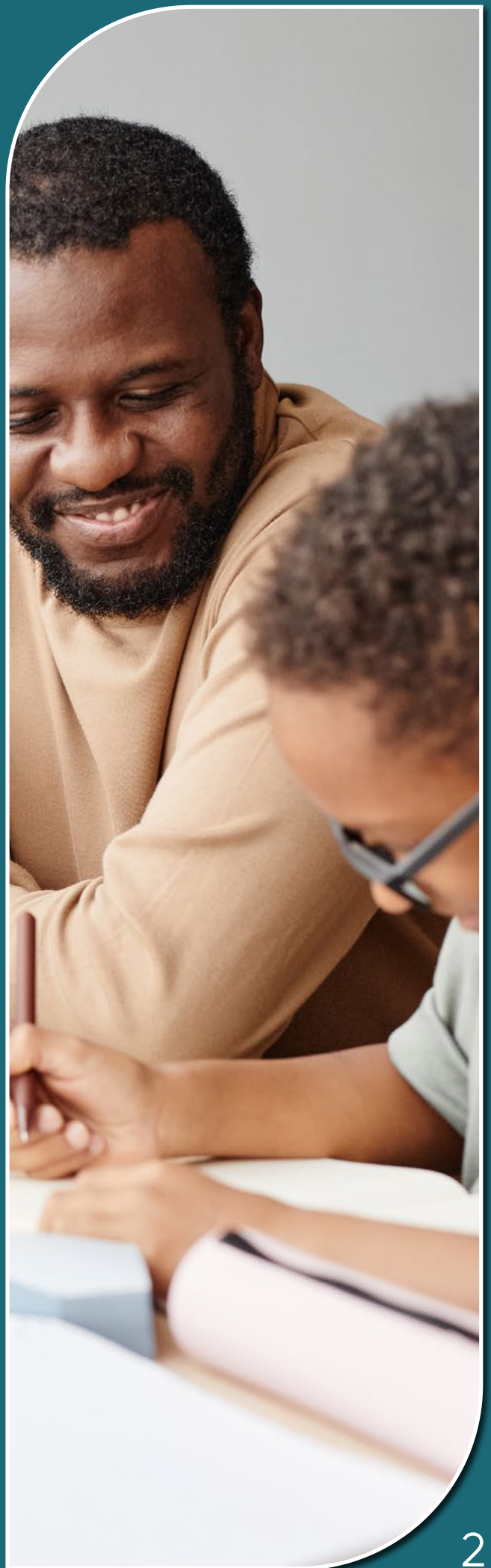
Outlining the University of the West of Scotland's continued commitment to supporting our care experienced students.

This document follows on from the previous Corporate Parenting Plans. Firstly, the current guidelines around Corporate Parenting and what it continues to mean for the University of the West of Scotland as a Higher Education provider in Scotland are outlined.

The document then summarises support that UWS currently offers to our care experienced students and key activities that have taken place over the period 2021-2024 which relates to our commitments from the first Corporate Parenting Plan. Finally, the document shows a fully updated plan demonstrating what the University has achieved, what it is currently working towards for 2027 and how we ensure we continue to support our care experienced students at UWS.

The Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 named a number of organisations, including all post-16 education providers as "Corporate Parents" who have a responsibility to support Care Experienced Young People and provide them with opportunities to be able to achieve their potential. All colleges, universities and higher education institutions in Scotland are therefore corporate parents, subject to the duties (excluding section 64) set out in Part 9 of the Act and detailed below:

- **Duty 1:** Consider Wellbeing and be alert to matters which may affect care experienced young people
- **Duty 2:** Assess the needs of care experienced young people for the services and support provided
- **Duty 3:** Promote the interest of Care experienced young people
- **Duty 4:** Provide Opportunities to participate in activities promoting well being
- **Duty 5:** Take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people to (i) access the opportunities it provides, and (ii) make use of services, and access support, which it provides.



- **Duty 6:** Take such action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to the children and young people to whom corporate parenting applies.

The Statutory Guidance on Corporate Parenting defines it 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. Staff who work for or within any of those bodies or groups of bodies listed in the **legislation as a Corporate Parent**, have duties towards all looked after children and care leavers in Scotland up to the age of 26.

Under the act, these Corporate Parents have the above duties to deliver on to care experienced people. Overall, they have a responsibility to promote the wellbeing of Care Experienced people. To do so they must understand the lives of Scotland's looked after young people and care leavers and respond to their needs as any parent should. Originating in the late 1990s, the concept of Corporate Parenting has actively informed Scottish Government policy since its 2007 report, 'Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better'. More recently, The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, came into effect on the 1st of April 2015. Section 96 of the 2014 Act lists eight basic requirements of children and young people which help them to develop and reach their full potential. These requirements also lie at the heart of **'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC)**, the Scottish Government's national approach to improving outcomes for children and young people.

Policies have continued to be developed to support care experienced young people in Scotland. On Wednesday 5 February 2020, **the Independent Care Review** published seven reports. The Promise laid out five foundations and over 80 calls to action. On the same day, in The Scottish Parliament, the First Minister pledged to #KeepThePromise, a commitment that gained the support of all political parties. Organisations, institutions, bodies, communities and groups all across Scotland also pledged to #KeepThePromise.



On the 25th July 2019 all 18 Scottish Higher Education Institutions agreed to a guaranteed offer at all Scottish HEIs. The institutions set out a **new commitment** that care experienced applicants who meet minimum entry requirements will be guaranteed an offer of an undergraduate place at university. This bold, sector-wide move was aimed at driving a significant increase in the number of care experienced people going to university. UWS joined its Scottish partner Universities in this commitment.

In September 2019, the **upper age limit of the SAAS care experienced bursary** was removed for entry 2020. This means that hundreds more care-experienced students have been eligible for the bursary. There is also an **Accommodation Grant** available to care experienced students through SAAS.

Supporting Care Experienced students at UWS The University of the West of Scotland (UWS) has a long tradition of supporting students from all different backgrounds to achieve their potential and as such aims to support its care experienced young people and care experienced students to achieve their very best, through a wide range of initiatives and developments from pre-entry to graduation and beyond. At UWS widening participation has always been central to the University's purpose. UWS believe in supporting and enabling students to achieve their potential regardless of their background. UWS works with prospective students from groups that are currently under-represented through many pre-entry initiatives to encourage applicants from all backgrounds. The proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first-degree entrants from the 20% most deprived postcodes was 30.7% 2021/22 (CoWA measure), an increase of 0.8 percentage points from the previous year. UWS has continued to exceed its target to maintain the proportion of students from SIMD20 postcodes above 25%, which substantially increases the Scottish sector's overall proportion and ability to meet the 2026 target.

At UWS we continue to support our care experienced young people as a priority group for UWS.

The following tables summarise UG Scottish and RUK applicants and enrolment data for care experienced students at UWS.

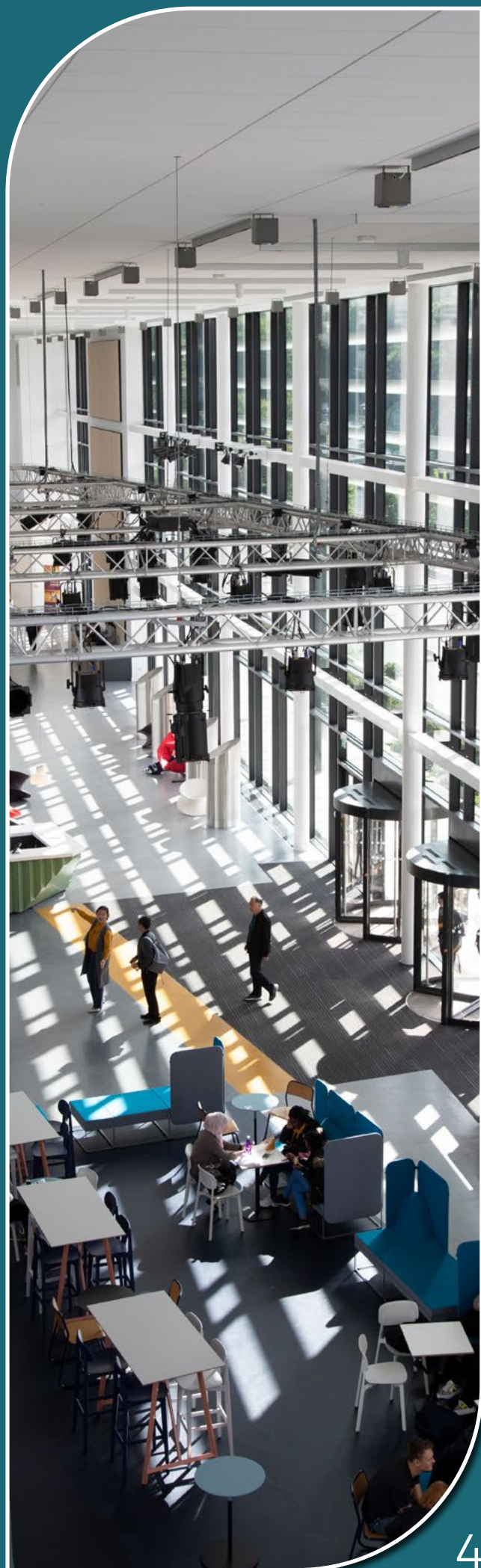


Table 1a and b show the percentage and then the number of UG applicants from Scotland and RUK with care experience (rounded to the nearest 5) to UWS, from 2021/22 until 2024/25. Please note this data is reliant upon students providing this information at the point of application.

Table 1a, Banner Data - % UG Applicants with Care Experience

Domicile	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
RUK	1.0%	1.7%	1.6%	5.5%
Scotland	2.0%	2.8%	2.5%	3.0%
Overall	1.9%	2.8%	2.5%	3.0%

Table 1b, Banner Data - UG Applicants with Care Experience (Rounded to nearest 5)

Domicile	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
RUK	5	5	10	10
Scotland	310	390	340	310
Overall	315	395	350	320

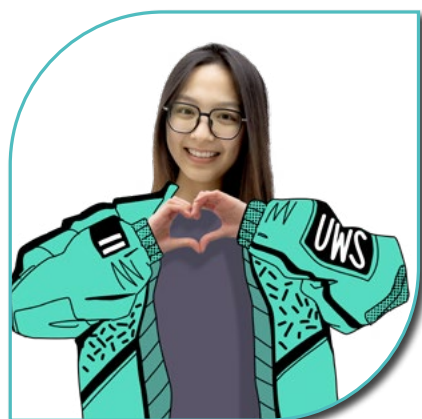
Table 2 a and b show the percentage and then the number of UG enrolled students from Scotland and RUK, with care experience (rounded to the nearest 5) at UWS from 2018/19 to 2022/23. Students can identify at the point of enrolment to the university.

Table 2a, HESA Data - % UG Students with Care Experience

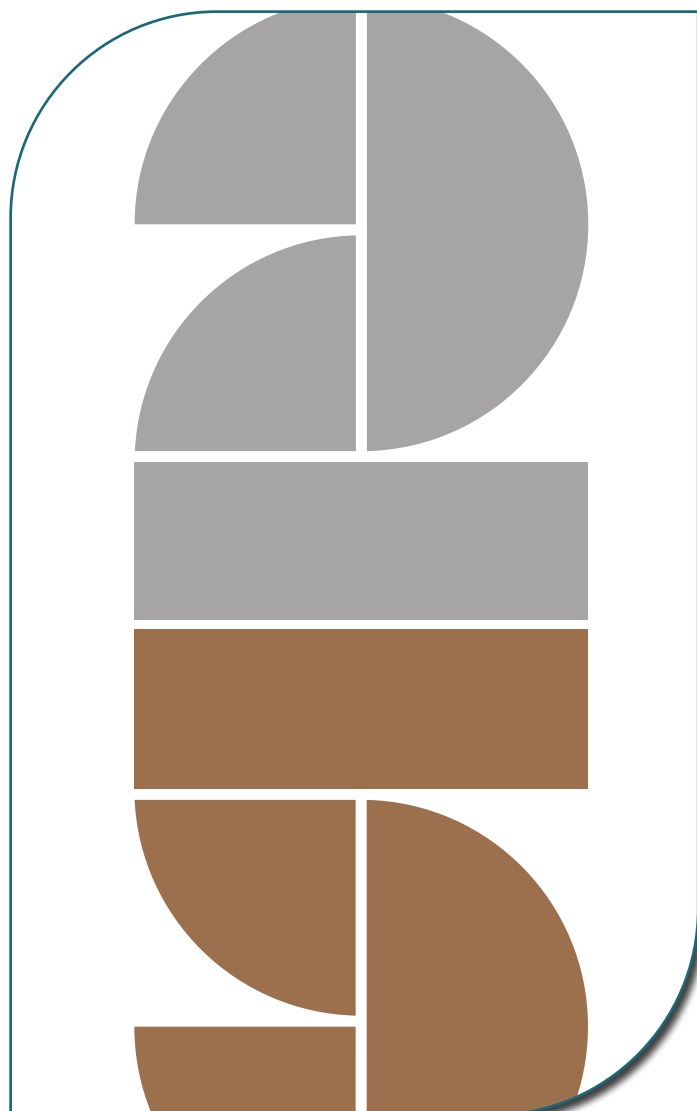
Domicile	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
RUK	1.2%	2.8%	3.2%	4.0%	2.4%
Scotland	0.8%	1.1%	1.5%	1.7%	2.0%
Overall	0.8%	1.2%	1.6%	1.9%	2.0%

Table 2b, HESA Data - UG Students with Care Experience (Rounded to nearest 5)

Domicile	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
RUK	10	25	30	40	25
Scotland	115	150	220	240	250
Overall	125	175	250	280	275



Back in 2009 and 2012 the University was awarded the Buttle UK Quality Mark to recognise the standard of support we provided to this vulnerable group and has continued to maintain and develop our standard of care and support for care experienced young people (CEYP) and this is reflected in our **Corporate Strategy 2025** and our most recent **Outcome Agreement**.



Recommendations 37 and 38 made in the report by the **Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Work Force (2014)** specifically relate to looked after young people and in the **Blueprint for Fairness Report (2016)** the Commissioner for Widening Access, Sir Peter Scott, made recommendations to make degree level study more accessible for CEYP. This Report introduced the Care Leavers Bursary, which has lessened the financial burden for those students who have a care background. The report **Implementing a Blueprint for Fairness Report (2017)** details the progress made on the recommendations.

The most recent **Fair Access Report** from the SFC by the new Director for Fair Access, Professor John McKendrick, shows a continued agenda for widening access and supporting our widening access students. Nationally, the CoWA Core Target for 2021 (16%) was achieved in advance (2019/20) and has continued to be met/exceeded (2020/21 and 2021/22) with a record number of entrants from disadvantaged backgrounds. The highest ever number of entrants from Scotland's most deprived areas was achieved in 2021/22 (5,595 demonstrating steady progress in increasing the number of entrants from deprived backgrounds. The number of CoWA Core Target entrants has increased in each of the last five years. There has been a 45% increase in the CoWA core target group since 2013-14 (from 3,850 to 5,595 in 2021-22). As mentioned above UWS continues to exceed the National Targets by a significant percentage and continues to keep up to date with the **latest Access Reports**.

Support for Care Experienced Students at UWS

UWS identifies CEYP at the application stage and at the point when an offer of a place is made; they are then contacted by email to let them know what transitional support we can provide. 1-1 support is available from UWS WeCare Team for CEYP and in collaboration with our Student Success Team and Student Services Team at UWS, staff can address any issues such as accommodation, counselling services, academic skills or disability if required. By engaging with Care Experienced Students at an early stage, this can alleviate stress; address barriers for the student and ensure that the appropriate support is in place before the start of the academic year. care experienced students can self-identify at the application stage but also can notify us at any point throughout their studies. UWS does not ask students to provide evidence of care experienced to receive support. All care experienced students receive a welcome phone call at the start of term 1 and term 2 to ensure they have everything they need to settle into university life and are aware of the UWS We Care Team; we also check to see if they have advised SAAS that they are care experienced to ensure they receive the Care Experienced bursary. Students are also asked to complete a Care Plan to help us direct their support to the right place and to help identify needs.

To meet previous commitment to support care experienced students, UWS has developed a wide range of support services to ensure that all students fulfil their potential, achieve their goals and enjoy their time at UWS. This is a strategic priority for UWS and the University will continue to work in partnership both internally and externally to provide support such that care experienced students will have a positive experience at UWS from pre-entry to post- graduation. The UWS We Care team provides 1-1 advice sessions for care experienced students, estranged students and student carers. The team signposts and supports students to access the wider support available at UWS depending on the situation, which includes disability services, funding and advice, accommodation, counselling, health and well-being, academic skills and the careers teams. Care experienced students are given priority access to UWS student accommodation, 365 days of the

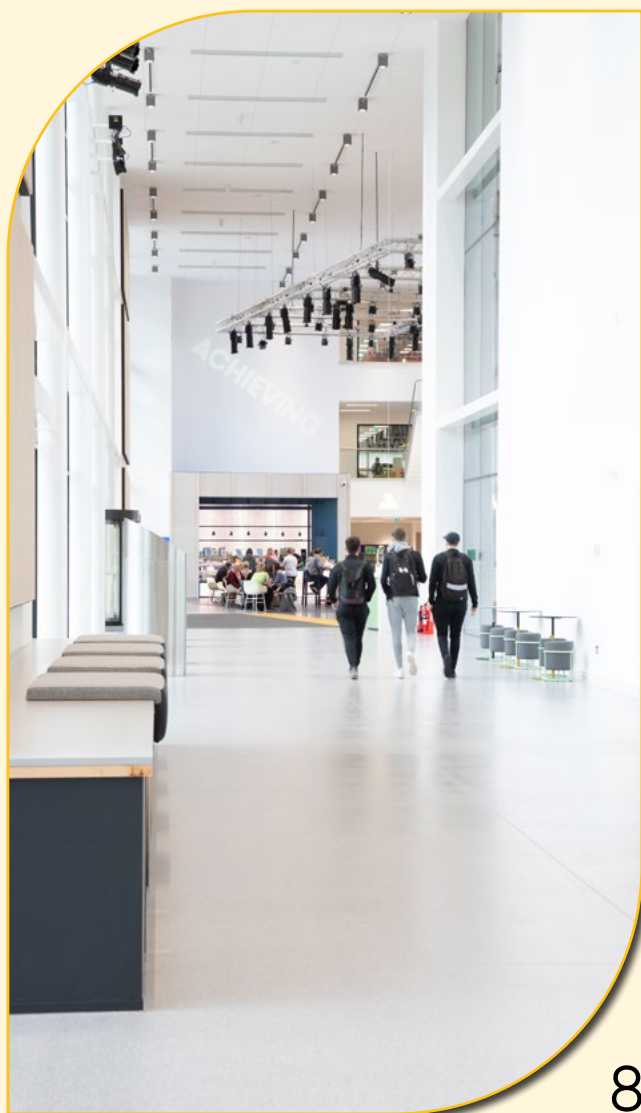


year and access to discretionary funds to help during their studies. Care experienced students also get priority access to the digital hardship scheme. The UWS team regularly hosts events for WeCare students to raise awareness and point to resources available to them. UWS is also a proud corporate parent and aims to support care experienced students early in the process of starting university and right through to graduation and beyond.

UWS strives to support care experienced pupils within local schools through working with colleagues within local authorities and relevant organisations to promote the support available to CEYP, their families and those who support them in the community. We aim to provide pupils who are considering going to university key information advice and guidance to be able to make informed choices regarding their education. A meeting with the young person and their teacher or Throughcare Support Worker can be arranged to ascertain the level of pre-entry support needed and to provide an opportunity for them to meet with the WeCare Team at UWS. This contact is very important helping the CEYP to make a successful transition from school, college or the community. The UWS College Team also supports articulating students and all staff on the team have all attended corporate parenting training and can flag to WeCare team if specific care experienced support needed. Support is available throughout the year for all students and continues through university. In addition, advice on further study or employability is also available to all graduates through the Careers Service up to 5 years after they graduate.

At UWS we provide support for not only CEYP but also adults who have returned to education later in life. We are aware that for many students, who have experience of care, they also have encountered issues such as interrupted education, a loss of self-esteem and confidence, and they do not have the knowledge that there are opportunities to continue their education. Many CEYP and adults come to UWS through a variety of routes such as: advanced entry to Year 2 or Year 3 from an HNC or HND; progression from a Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP) to Year 1 of a degree programme or by gaining the required Highers that meet our entry requirements.

Information on the support available at UWS is a key factor for this group. In addition to the information available on the UWS website and publicity materials, colleagues in our Student Recruitment Team and Applicant Enquiry Teams disseminate this information to prospective students in both schools and colleges.



Working with other Corporate Parents

Working in Partnership

Since being awarded the Buttle Quality Mark in 2009, UWS has built relationships and worked in partnership with local Education Services; Throughcare and Aftercare Services and Social Work Services around our Scottish Campuses; the Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (Staf); Skills Development Scotland; the College Development Network; the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children (care experiencedLCIS) and other relevant organisations. UWS aims to continue to work in collaboration with a range of other Corporate Parents to support CEYP in the community who are thinking about going to university. Some examples of this are detailed below.

In partnership with the named contact for care experienced students at the University of Glasgow, UWS helped to create the West of Scotland Care Leavers Forum and was a group member for many years which had representatives from colleges and universities in West, Central and Southern Scotland. The Forum, which was chaired by the named contact from the University of Glasgow, also worked in collaboration with Care Experienced and Carers East Forum (care experiencedcare experiencedF) to provide a national forum to discuss issues that affect CEYP and share good practice.

UWS has representation through one of the named contacts on the Scottish Widening Access Managers Group and SCAPP (Scotland's Community of Access and Participation Practitioners). In addition, UWS works with prospective students from groups that are currently under-represented through many pre-entry initiatives to encourage applicants from all backgrounds. This includes as part of the SFC's National Schools Programme and the Schools for Higher Education Programme (SHEP), UWS delivers the FOCUS West Routes for All Programme. UWS works in close partnership with the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP) with a high percentage of SWAP students choosing UWS each year. UWS also works closely with MCR Pathways to support students who can be from care experienced backgrounds and also has a number of Robertson Trust Scholars each year that we match fund, some of whom are care experienced.



UWS works in partnership with the **MCR Pathways Programme** by providing information on alternative routes to university information to both secondary pupils and their mentors and by supporting those pupils who are thinking of going to university pre-entry and throughout their studies. We had MCR Pathways staff during our Welcome week 2023 to talk to students and communicated to staff and students' opportunities for volunteering to support the programme.

We also work in partnership with partner universities in secondary schools with low progression to higher education and do this through the **FOCUS West** initiative **'Routes for All'** which is part of the national initiative, the **Schools for Higher Education Programme (SHEP)**.

UWS works very closely with external partners to collaborate and support our care experienced students from application through to graduation. We work with Who Cares Scotland and other local support organisations, including Throughcare and Aftercare Services, to ensure our care experienced students feel supported and achieve their potential.

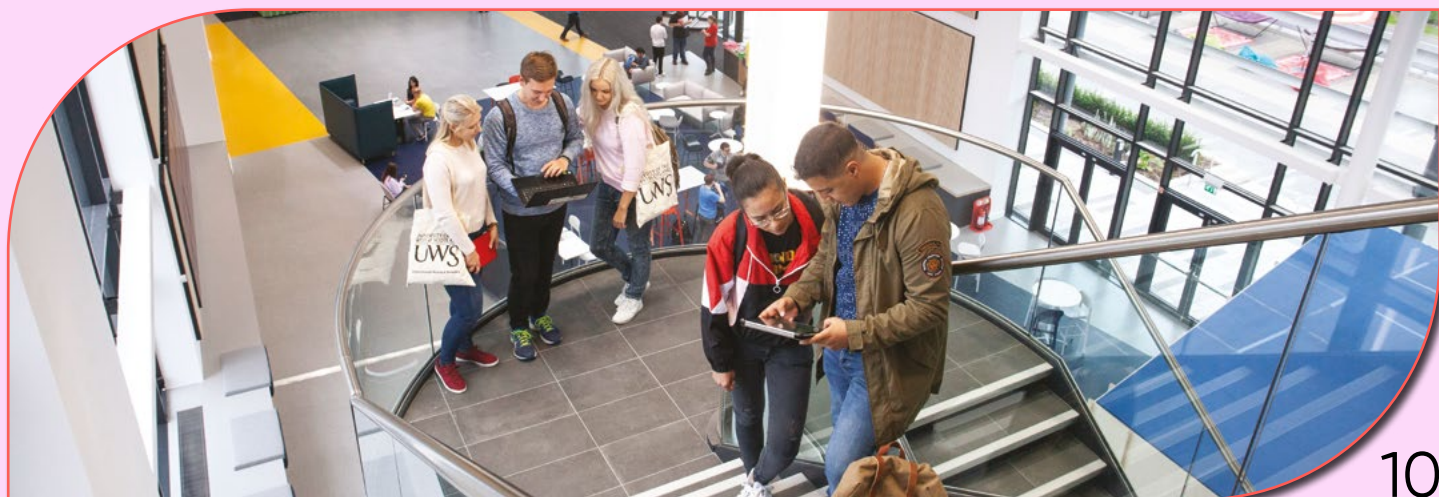
The WeCare Team host events for WeCare students and for example, Friday the 17th of February 2023 was Global Care Day and the WeCare team raised awareness for care experienced students. We hosted an in person & virtual stall (through padlock tech) at UWS Paisley Campus to ensure any students who could not attend campus did not miss out. The stall had printed resources from the Care Aware Organisation website as well as two activities focused on spreading awareness and breaking down specific terminology.

The UWS WeCare Team works closely with Carer Support Centres across the West of Scotland who provide support for unpaid carers in Ayrshire, Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire. We have attended events at the support centres on awareness days such as Young Carers Action Day in March 2023/24. We provide information on the support available for unpaid carers in higher education and guidance on how to declare you are an unpaid carer to access support.

At the UWS Welcome Week in September 2023, the UWS WeCare Team invited external partners such as local carer centres and MCR Pathways to host stalls at each campus displaying the support and opportunities on offer for students whilst studying at UWS.

In October 2023, during Care Experienced Week, the UWS WeCare Team took part in the Who Cares? Scotland Love Rally to show commitment and support for the Care Experienced community across Scotland. As Corporate Parents, UWS are proud to support Care Experienced students with many staff and students joining the rally. Attending the Love Rally will be an annual event for the UWS WeCare Team.

The UWS WeCare Team also post information, guidance and advice for prospective and current students on UWS social media throughout the year. We often link in with other corporate parents to promote opportunities and external events that students can join.



Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluating

UWS has developed and maintained partnerships internally and will continue to develop the procedures and relationships created to support Care Experienced Students. The WeCareteam reports to the Recruitment and Conversion Manager in the first instance and reports are provided regularly on activity regarding Care Experienced Students. Internal reports are also produced for Departmental meetings, including the UWS Cares Working Group.

The UWS Cares Working Group was set up early 2021. This group replaced the UWS Corporate Parenting Steering Group which was originally established to review targets set in our Corporate Parenting Plan 2015-2018; the **UWS Outcome Agreement** and the recommendations made in the various reports produced by the Commissioner of Widening Access regarding Care Experienced Students. The UWS Cares Working Group continues this remit, and in addition reviews and develops activity across UWS for care experienced and estranged students as well as student carers. This group consists of colleagues from across the University and strives to include care experienced students.

Reporting is done in conjunction with colleagues within the Student Success Team. Both named contacts and the WeCareteam work in partnership with colleagues in Strategic Planning and Business Intelligence Teams at UWS, to gather information and data for reports.

Support for care experienced students has been highlighted within the University through recent Corporate Parenting training, the most recent session taking place in October 2023 and this is planned to take place annually. All members of the UWS Cares Working Group were asked to attend, and staff within the Student Success, WeCare and Early Intervention Specialists areas as well as wider staff within Student Recruitment, Marketing and Academic Schools were also invited to attend.

By monitoring the engagement of care experienced students with the UWS WeCare Team, colleagues in Professional Services, Student Services, Academic Schools and other support services within the University we can ascertain the number of students in order to gauge accessibility and if the procedures in place are working effectively.

An online module on Corporate Parenting that was developed by the Open University has been made available to staff on the UWS training site for the last few years.

We continue to work in partnership with MCR Pathways in Local Authority Areas around our Scottish Campuses and now within the new areas of Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire.



Future Developments

The UWS WeCare Team keep up to date with developments within the sector and will continue to take part in relevant training/events throughout the year to raise awareness of care experienced students and the requirements of being a corporate parent. The team also ensure any new training opportunities are regularly highlighted to staff across the university to ensure awareness is raised in all departments and at all levels.

The team plan to increase the number of staff involved in WeCare activity and extend the current membership of the UWS Cares Working Group to include more members of academic staff and more students to ensure all voices are heard and relevant areas of improvement can be implemented. A recent communication to people managers and academic staff to raise awareness of the team and the work we do has had a good response so far.

The UWS WeCare Team are currently reviewing the possibility of introducing a Mentor Scheme in which Care Experienced students would be supported either by a member of staff or a fellow student; it is anticipated that a pilot of the scheme can be implemented by T1 of AY 2024-25.



The Plan

The University of the West of Scotland is committed to ensuring that its care experienced young people and all its care experienced students are supported on their learner journey from pre-entry through to graduation and will work to meet the needs of these students. The University through its Corporate Parenting commitment for young care experienced students offers a range of support, however, all students who identify as care experienced, regardless of age are offered the support which is outlined below. Therefore, the terms of CEYP and care experienced students are used below. The UWS Cares Working Group will continue to share ideas, recommendations and information across the university and ensure that the Corporate Parenting plan is delivered and reviewed.

The following plan was put in place with the previous Corporate Parenting plan and has been recently revised and looks to continue our activity over the next three years.

As a result of our Corporate Parenting Plans being in place, since 2015, UWS has developed a clear understanding of the needs of CEYP and care experienced students and has worked to support them in all areas of their student journey. The plan has been a key driver for change and improvement and this update shows a great deal of progress and achievements of the UWS WP and UWS WeCare Team and wider staff towards our goal to ensure that we continue to support care experienced students during their time at UWS. We are proud of our continued high number of applicants who are care experienced, which is reflective of the support that is available at UWS.

Progress on activities so far is shown in the far right-hand columns.



Duty 1: Be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of CEYP to whom corporate parenting applies

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Keep up to date with policy, papers, recommendations, and legislation regarding care experience.	UWS WeCare Team keep abreast of Government Legislation, Independent Care Review outcomes and papers and keep staff at UWS up to date with developments.	UWS Cares Working Group meet twice a year to share information and best practice.	All stages	UWS WeCare Team/care experienced Named Contacts	Ongoing	Knowledge is constantly updated.	
	Policy Awareness through linking with Partners and external organisations.	Maintain links/ attend events with organisations Who Cares? Scotland, Become Charity, Stand Alone Charity, National Widening Access Group, Universities Scotland, Local Authorities and Throughcare and Aftercare Service as well as Local Support Networks, Social Work, SWAP West and MCR Pathways.	All stages	care experienced Named contacts, UWS WeCare Team and UWS Cares Working group members	Ongoing	Partnerships are maintained with all external agencies listed and meetings attended to keep up to date with developments and opportunities for working together.	

Duty 1: Be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of CEYP to whom corporate parenting applies

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
<p>Keep up to date with policy, papers, recommendations, and legislation regarding care experience.</p>	<p>Inform staff of developments/ legislation across UWS through training and awareness raising events.</p>	<p>Raise awareness among all staff regarding care experience through website, publications, and social media.</p> <p>Training for senior leadership teams annually – internally and inviting external partners for delivery.</p> <p>Working with Training and Development to create a Corporate Parenting training module that is being developed in partnership with WhoCares? Scotland available to UWS staff.</p>	<p>All stages</p>		<p>Ongoing/ annual process</p>	<p>Website is currently being reviewed to update recent changes.</p>	<p>Publications for care experienced students and UWS WeCare Team–have been produced and sent to staff.</p> <p>Training took place twice in 2023 and is planned for next academic term.</p> <p>Understanding Corporate Parenting online module has been promoted to all staff through e-bulletin and staff emails.</p>

Duty 1: Be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of CEYP to whom corporate parenting applies

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
<p>Keep up to date with policy, papers, recommendations, and legislation regarding care experience.</p>	<p>Student Services, UWS WeCare Team, Student Success Team and Early Intervention Specialists and named contacts to be aware of issues/impact on CEYP and care experienced students and keep contact with all care experienced students as relevant issues arise.</p>					<p>UWS WeCare Team working with partners and colleagues at UWS to support students from pre-entry to graduation.</p>	<p>Joined up approach to provide support for CEYP and care experienced students has been implemented through the UWS UWS WeCare Team.</p> <p>Strong links between Support services and named contacts/ UWS WeCare Team. Team of 5 now within the UWS WeCare Team with shared responsibility and increased capacity to support students.</p>

Duty 2: Assess the needs of CEYP for the services and support they provide

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Identify CEYP and care experienced students	<p>CEYP and care experienced students are identified prior to entry through UCAS tick box.</p> <p>Information pulls through to the university systems and an email is sent to all students who tick the box which outlines support available and asks if support needed.</p> <p>Enrolment form also asks students to identify as care experienced, this enables an additional opportunity for students to let UWS know they are care experienced.</p> <p>Care experienced students asked to complete a Care Plan each year, to help direct support and identify any needs.</p>		Pre-entry/ induction	Named contacts/ UWS WeCare Team / Admissions	Annually reviewed	Due to the cyber incident at UWS in 2023 this has been challenging but working with Registry to ensure going forward we continue to get this data, accurately and timely.	This process is in place and continues each year.

Duty 2: Assess the needs of CEYP for the services and support they provide

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Continued communication and contact with CEYP and care experienced students.	<p>Face to face meeting offered prior to starting studies.</p> <p>One to one meetings offered to students throughout studies.</p> <p>Regular emails are sent out to identified students.</p> <p>Outreach calls to care experienced students each term.</p> <p>Students are made aware of the support from the UWS WeCare Team.</p>	Continually reviewing communications to ensure key information gets to students at the key points of the student cycle.	Pre entry/ induction/ during studies	Named contacts/ UWS WeCare Team/ Student Success Team	Ongoing		<p>These processes are in place and continuous each academic year.</p> <p>Outreach calls are completed each term to students to help provide support and identify any issues with engagement.</p> <p>Information re external support organisations leaflet has been produced.</p>

Duty 2: Assess the needs of CEYP for the services and support they provide

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Listening to CEYP and care experienced students.	<p>Regular contact with care experienced group to match needs to support.</p> <p>Request care experienced students to be on the UWS Cares Working Group.</p> <p>Plan to set up a mentoring scheme with care experienced students and staff and/or current students.</p>	<p>Care experienced students to re-establish this group – it currently is not active within the Students Union.</p> <p>Recent request gone out to students and information event in March to aim to establish membership.</p> <p>Discuss outline for mentoring scheme at the next UWS Cares Working Group in June 2024.</p>	All stages	UWS WeCare Team/ Named contacts, Students Union to promote this as opportunity to students.	<p>Regular meetings/ updates/involve in CP Plan and UWS Cares Working Group meetings and events.</p> <p>Once identified, plan to meet to keep up to date with students' opinions on policy and activity and include their voice within the plan.</p>	Ongoing Continuing to aim to engage care experienced students in Working Group.	
	Survey current CEYP and care experienced students to assess needs/support required.	An annual survey of CEYP and care experienced students to be done to ask them what support they have accessed and what they would like to see from UWS in the future in terms of support. Feedback to UWS and UWS Cares Working Group.	All stages	Named contacts/ UWS WeCare Team	Annual process of survey and feedback from students.	New survey to be sent Spring 2024.	Survey sent out to students annually.

Duty 2: Assess the needs of CEYP for the services and support they provide

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Review needs across full student journey from pre-entry to graduation.		<p>Work with UWS Cares Working Group to look at the student experience and ensure we meet the needs of all CEYP and care experienced students within delivery and at all parts of the student journey.</p> <p>Work with Careers team at UWS to review support after graduation.</p>	All stages	All staff	Ongoing	<p>UWS Cares WG meetings planned twice yearly to work together to consider needs.</p> <p>Meeting arranged May 2024 with Careers Team to support care experienced students after graduation.</p> <p>To discuss at UWS Cares Working Group in June 2024.</p>	

Duty 3: Promote the interests of CEYP

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Pre-entry information to prospective students.	<p>Information to schools and colleges re support for care experienced students.</p> <p>Leaflets with key support for care experienced students as well as UWS WeCare Team and supporting organisations.</p> <p>Students are given information prior to entry about support available to CEYP and care experienced students through communications, presentations in schools and university website.</p>	Utilise social media to provide information to prospective students.	Pre entry	Marketing and Recruitment Teams, Widening Access Programmes, Named Contacts, and Induction Teams.	Annually reviewed and updated	This has recently been improved with a communications/ social media plan created in conjunction with the social media Officer at UWS. Key dates and opportunities identified to highlight the UWS WeCare Team and support for care experienced students	Yes, social media plan in place and activity ongoing each year.

Duty 3: Promote the interests of CEYP

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Support for CEYP and care experienced students during studies through to graduation.	<p>UWS WeCare Team offers support to all CEYP and care experienced students.</p> <p>1-1 tailored support pre-entry and during studies.</p> <p>Assistance with UCAS and SAAS applications.</p> <p>Key link with Support services/external agencies.</p>		Pre entry and during studies and beyond.	Named contacts / UWS WeCare Team/All Staff.	Ongoing	2 named contacts at UWS. WeCare Team includes a team of 5 staff across Student Success and Student Recruitment teams, providing key resource to support CEYP and care experienced students.	This has been in place since 2015, the UWS WeCare Team has been a more joined up and efficient way of supporting care experienced students.
	Priority access for 365 days accommodation for CEYP and care experienced students at UWS residences.	UWS WeCare Team work closely with Accommodation team to ensure support for CEYP and care experienced students.	During studies	Accommodation team and named contacts and UWS WeCare Team.	Ongoing		This has been in place since 2015-2016.

Duty 3: Promote the interests of CEYP

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Support for CEYP and care experienced students during studies through to graduation.	Student funding and money management support through the UWS Funding and Advice Team.	Support from Funding and Advice Team for applications to SAAS for Care Experienced Bursary and Accommodation Grant and to additional sources of funding such as Discretionary and Childcare Funds.	Pre entry, during studies and graduation.	UWS Funding and Advice Team.	Ongoing		This has been in place since 2015.
	Academic Schools working with named contacts to support students.	Working with Academic Schools to ensure understanding of CEYP and care experienced students' needs and that they are being met.	Pre entry and during studies and graduation support/ placement support.	Academic Advisers/ Personal tutors	Ongoing	New Early Intervention Specialists within each Academic School are a key link to ensure joined up support for care experienced students.	This has also been in place since 2015 and continually developing.

Duty 3: Promote the interests of CEYP

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
<p>Support for CEYP and care experienced students during studies through to graduation.</p>	<p>Wider Student Services Teams providing support to CEYP and care experienced students.</p> <p>Joined up approach between Funding and Advice, Disability Support and Counselling and Wellbeing and Academic Skills and Careers Service to ensure appropriate support for care experienced students.</p>	<p>Continue to develop and maintain support.</p>	<p>During studies and pre-entry</p>	<p>Student Services staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>This has been in place since 2015 – continue to look at new ways to support care experienced students.</p> <p>Representatives from Funding and Advice and wider Student Services Team on the UWS Cares Working Group.</p>

Duty 3: Promote the interests of CEYP

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Support for CEYP and care experienced students during studies through to graduation.	Care Experienced group at Students Union to be re-established. Students Union Keyworkers also provide support to CEYP and care experienced students – from one-to-one meetings and support with appeals and mitigation.	Provide care experienced students opportunities to meet other care experienced students. Peer Support System for CEYP and care experienced students to be introduced to support all new care experienced students in transition.	All stages/ induction	Students/ Students Union and UWS WeCare Team/Named Contacts as well as wider UWS staff to promote.	Ongoing	<p>Students Union Keyworkers have worked with care experienced students since 2015 and continue to provide one to one support and advice.</p> <p>Currently the care experienced association is not running due to lack of membership interest by students. Look at providing other opportunities for care experienced students to meet.</p> <p>Peer support system to be discussed at next working group meeting in June 2024.</p>	

Duty 3: Promote the interests of CEYP

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Contextual Admissions	Guaranteed offer for care experienced students in line with Scottish Government Agenda and 18 HEI agreement.	<p>UWS continues to guarantee an offer for care experienced students who meet the minimum entry criteria for most courses. For UWS controlled subjects that require an interview, an interview will be offered.</p> <p>Care experience is considered on offer along with other Widening Access Indicators.</p>	Pre entry	Admissions	Ongoing		This has been in place since entry 2020.

Duty 3: Promote the interests of CEYP

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
UWS care experienced Grant/West Scholarship Funding	Grant for care experienced students at UWS 2020/21	Applications were open for 2020/2021.	During studies for new care experienced students.	Funding and Advice Team and named contacts.	Autumn 2020		<p>This process was in place for 2020-21 but the grant was not continued into future years.</p> <p>Currently students can apply for the <u>West Scholarship Fund</u> instead.</p>
Provide key and up to date communications for CEYP and care experienced students.	Publications, website and social media information for current students.	Regularly updated leaflet is issued out to Hubs at all campuses and to relevant staff.	Pre entry and during studies.	Named contacts, UWS WeCare Team, social media Team within Marketing and Communications.	Ongoing	Website to be updated and new social media plan now in place.	New leaflets for care experienced students have been produced and have been issued out to Hubs at all campuses and to relevant staff.

Duty 4: Provide those CEYP with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
<p>Aid transition to UWS and inform early about support available. Offer opportunity to meet other CEYP and care experienced students.</p>	<p>Transition Events for all subject areas and support for CEYP and care experienced students' information provided to all students who attend.</p>	<p>Transition event for CEYP and care experienced students to continue during the summer and to work in partnership with Induction and Student Success Team on programme of activity to ensure smooth transition to UWS for care experienced students.</p>	<p>Pre entry/ induction</p>	<p>Named contacts/UWS Cares Team / Induction team.</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>Online or in-person events have been held each year for care experienced students to help with transition and representation at Induction week to introduce the service.</p> <p>On campus Transition Event planned for Summer 2024 in partnership with Student Success and Induction Team at UWS.</p>	

Duty 4: Provide those CEYP with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Aid transition to UWS and inform early about support available. Offer opportunity to meet other CEYP and care experienced students.	Online videos/ social media to reach out to care experienced students to show support and other student experiences.	Develop this further and offer more online support and CEYP and care experienced students experiences.	Pre entry/ induction	Named contacts/UWS WeCare Team/ Induction team.			This was completed 2019.
Promote Student Ambassador Role to CEYP and care experienced students.	Discussed with current students re peer support and mentoring role.	To be promoted and mentors established and trained.	Induction	Named contacts/UWS WeCare Team	Annual	Recent comms to include care experienced as Ambassadors	
Peer Support System set up.	A peer support network for new care experienced students.	Discussions taken place to identify plan for this to take place.	All stages	Named contact	Ongoing	This is currently being discussed among staff.	
Events for CEYP/ care experienced students.	Partnership events for CEYP and care experienced students.	Continue to run partnership events for CEYP and care experienced students.	All stages	All staff	Ongoing	Ongoing	

Duty 4: Provide those CEYP with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Events for CEYP/ care experienced students.	Events organised during National Care Experience Week and other key dates in the year, including the Love Rally with Who Cares Scotland.	Continue to organise events during key dates throughout the year.	During studies	Named contacts/UWS WeCare Team/ wider UWS staff/ Students Union	Annually		Achieved
	Presence of UWS WeCare Team at Freshers Week and University Open Days information.	Raising awareness to care experienced Students of the support available during welcome week and at University Open Days.	Pre entry/ induction	Named contacts/UWS WeCare Team/ academic staff and student services.	Annually	Each year	Achieved
	Link to Silvercloud – online CBT support tool.	Promoted on UWS website and linked from support pages. Info sent to care experienced students if support requested.	During studies	Named contacts/ UWS WeCare Team/all staff/ counselling and wellbeing.	Ongoing	If students contact UWS, the named contact information is sent to them.	Achieved – referred to in our leaflets and in comms to students.

Duty 5: Take such action as it considers appropriate to help those CEYP to (i) access the opportunities it provides, and (ii) make use of services, and access support, which it provides

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Regular communications and contact maintained with CEYP and care experienced students from pre-entry to graduation.	Face to face contact offered and one to one meeting from application stage and regular emails sent. CEYP and care experienced student email group set up to maintain contact.	After initial contact made at offer stage, regular emails to be sent informing of events/relevant support/support networks and key policies or issues that are important.	Pre entry/ during and post studies	Named contacts/UWS WeCare Team	Ongoing		This has been in place since 2015.
Advertise support for CEYP to wider networks and organisations.	Ensure key external organisations are aware of support offered at UWS.	Information to schools, colleges, MCR pathways, Who Cares Scotland, and other relevant organisations that will link to care experienced prospective students.	Pre entry	Named contacts and Student Services	Ongoing	Website to be updated and linking with partners to ensure they know what UWS can offer students.	

Duty 6: Take such action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to the CEYP to whom corporate parenting applies

Aim	Current Activities	Actions	Stage of Learner Journey	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress	Achieved
Continuous review and development of support and provision for care experienced students based on feedback and informed by CEYP themselves.	UWS Cares Working Group established and twice-yearly meetings to ensure interests of care experienced students are met.	<p>Maintain regular meetings of group to ensure support maintained and developed on recommendations of the group.</p> <p>Get CEYP and care experienced students involved in contributing and feeding into the group.</p>	All stages	Named contacts, UWS WeCare Team and all CP WG members	Ongoing		UWS Cares Working Group twice yearly meetings and ensure appropriate actions taken.

