

WINTER 2019/20



A LIFETIME OF  
EQUALITY  
RESPECT  
AND  
**LOVE**  
FOR CARE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE



# Promising Practice

Highlighting positive Corporate Parenting practice

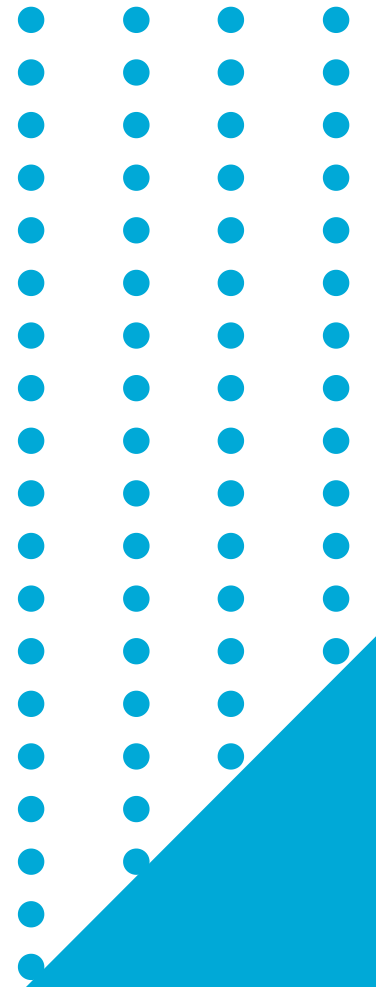
Welcome to the latest edition of our Promising Practice guide, highlighting the great work being done by Scotland's Corporate Parents supporting Care Experienced people to succeed and achieve their true potential.

This round up focusses on the theme of education and features:

- University of Stirling
- University of the Highlands and Islands
- University of Edinburgh

This round-up is only a small snapshot of the activity that is taking place across Scotland and relates to Corporate Parents we have worked with closely. If you are a Corporate Parent and have an example of promising practice you would like to share, please get in touch as we hope to develop the round-up in the future and collect even more examples of good Corporate Parenting. Our ambition is that other Corporate Parents will build on these examples so that together, Corporate Parents can make sure all Care Experienced people feel in control of their lives and able to overcome the barriers they face.

If you have an example you would like to share with us on this, please email: [corporateparenting@whocaresScotland.org](mailto:corporateparenting@whocaresScotland.org).







## REMOVING FINACIAL BARRIERS FOR GRADUATION

In 2019, The University of Stirling elected to abolish graduation fees, following a successful campaign by the Student Union. Prior to this, all fourth year undergraduate students, who received an award from the hardship fund, received £150 towards graduation. Last year the University contacted Care Experienced students and offered to cover the cost of graduation gowns, a practice which the university intend to make into an annual offer.

Care Experienced students at The University of Stirling are eligible for a £500 Care Experienced bursary by submitting an application to the appropriate hardship fund. The university processes all hardship funds by analysing incoming and outgoing funds on a case-by-case basis, and awards financial support accordingly. The Care Experienced bursary will be awarded even if no deficit is found. Care Experienced students are prioritised in the assessment process for hardship funding, with immediate consideration rather than waiting for the typical period of six weeks. Students can apply for the Care Experienced bursary/hardship fund every academic year of their course.

For students residing in university accommodation, there is additional funding available which awards up to £1000. Accommodation is offered 365 days of the year, and if students find that they are struggling over the summer break, hardship and enhancement funding can be reviewed and adjusted to offer more support. If a student opts to stay in private accommodation and rent is under £600, the university acts a guarantor if required.





# REMOVING FINANCIAL BARRIERS FOR GRADUATION



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean

The University of Highlands and Islands since 2018/19 provide a Graduation Bursary for Care Experienced students which can help with fees, gown hire, photographs, and travel/accommodation. This is for students across our partnership of 13 academic partners, wherever they are based. The bursary is intended to ensure our Care Experienced students are able to celebrate their hard work and the culmination of their journey with us, alongside their peers.

*“We are immensely proud of our Care Experienced students and understand that they face some particular barriers when it comes to participation at Graduation ceremonies. We want them to share in the joy of this celebration after all their hard work in gaining their qualification, so I am delighted that the Principals of our colleges have agreed to the establishment of this new bursary to enable them to do so. We remain committed to supporting the needs of Care Experienced students through our Corporate Parenting Plan and working with external partners, including on the newly established Highland Corporate Parenting Board.”*

Dr Iain Morrison, Dean of Students

Full details of the support the University provides for Care Experienced Students, along with links to their Corporate Parenting Plan and those of their academic partners, can be found on their website; <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/students/support/care-leavers/>







# THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## ENHANCING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CARE EXPERIENCED STUDENTS

The University of Edinburgh is committed to supporting Care Experienced students. Their vision is that each of the Care Experienced students flourish during their time at university. They want them to feel part of the University community, and supported to participate fully in University life. In recognition of the significant financial barriers that Care Experienced students may face, the University of Edinburgh is enhancing their scholarships for this student group. From 2020 entry Care Experienced students will be automatically awarded a £5000 Access Edinburgh Scholarship, on top of any other funding students are entitled to receive. They can use it how they wish, and they do not have to pay it back. There is no separate application process for these scholarships: the University has a data-sharing agreement in place with SAAS and any student in receipt of the Care Experienced Student Bursary from SAAS will automatically receive the Access Edinburgh Scholarship. These Access Edinburgh Scholarships are designed to support our care-experienced students to engage fully with the opportunities that studying at the University of Edinburgh provides, without the burden of financial worries.

*“Above all, we want our scholarships to be impactful... We are working with other Corporate Parents to address the underrepresentation of care-experienced people in higher education, and we want to make sure that every Care Experienced student that does come here has a great student experience. The Access Edinburgh Scholarships will support students to join clubs and societies, and aim to remove the burden of financial worries that weigh particularly heavily on Care Experienced students”*

Laura Cattell, Head of Widening Participation



To find out more about the University of Edinburgh’s support for care-experienced students, go to [edin.ac/care-experienced](https://edin.ac/care-experienced) or

email [wpteam@ed.ac.uk](mailto:wpteam@ed.ac.uk)

# WOULD YOU LIKE TO FEATURE IN OUR NEXT PROMISING PRACTICE ROUND UP?

We love hearing from Corporate Parents about what they're doing to ensure the best outcomes for Care Experienced people. Does your organisation have a project or policy relating to Corporate Parenting you'd like to shout about? Please get in touch to tell us all about it and we can include you in our next Promising Practice round-up to share with the whole Corporate Parenting community!

If you have an example you would like to share with us on this, please email: [corporateparenting@whocaresScotland.org](mailto:corporateparenting@whocaresScotland.org).

