



# Newsletter and Promising Practice

**Spring 2023**



**WHO  
CARES?**  
SCOTLAND

## Our Team



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We have recently said goodbye to our two fantastic Coordinators. Laurie Goldie has moved to a seconded role within our Fundraising and Communications Directorate, and Rosie has left the organisation to pursue new opportunities aligned with her counselling skills. They have both brought so much energy and passion to our team, our work and the whole organisation and we will miss them greatly.

## Our next steps

Now we have concluded financial year 2022/23, the Training and Education team is preparing how we respond to the needs of Corporate Parents as identified by you, by Care Experienced people, The Promise and The Scottish Government. One of the areas we have been increasingly aware of is the delivery of The Promise within localities and the support we could offer to local authorities to embed its recommendations. We are working alongside our Policy and Public Affairs and Evidence and Impact colleagues to collate the publicly stated commitments to Care Experienced people that local authorities have made, as well as analysing our internal advocacy evidence, to ensure we provide the appropriate training and education activity to make meaningful change.

This may see the training and education activity we deliver moving to more of a focus on local authorities and other local based Corporate Parents, rather than on national Corporate Parents that we have supported for many years.

We hope to communicate any changes to our model and the support we can offer you as early as possible into the new financial year. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss any of this or seek some support for your area of work, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

### Chloe Dobson

Training and Education Manager  
[cdobson@whocaresscotland.org](mailto:cdobson@whocaresscotland.org)



In February Jennifer and Katie from the Training and Education team travelled to Lerwick in Shetland. They had been invited by Shetland Islands Council to deliver a programme of training to local Corporate Parents and key partners, including elected members.

## The Training

57 professionals from different local authority agencies attended one of four training sessions, delivered over two days in Lerwick. Agencies included Shetland Children's Partnership, Education and Families Committee, Shetland Planning Partnership, NHS Shetland and front-facing staff from various Children's Services teams.

The sessions explored care experience and Corporate Parenting in interactive and reflective ways including:

- What is care experience and how we define it in legislation and policy.
- Exploring stories of Care Experienced people through their voices in the form of composite case studies and videos followed by reflections and discussions.
- Delving into the term Corporate Parenting and understanding how the concept applies to individual roles.
- Understanding the Corporate Parenting duties and responsibilities and the importance of collaboration.
- Exploring The Promise and its relationship with Corporate Parenting.
- Looking at the main priorities identified in the Shetland Children's Plan.



- Reflecting on strengths and successes as Corporate Parents.
- Exploring the next steps for Shetland Islands Council.

## Meeting with the #SHETLANDCREW

One evening was spent meeting #SHETLANDCREW (Shetland's Champions Board) where we heard about some of their projects, including 'Moving into Your First Home'. This project involved creating boxes including things that can make a house a home, like scented candles and blankets – thinking beyond the bare essentials required. The team have secured funding for this project to supply these boxes for up to 10 years.

This is the first time the Training and Education team have delivered a programme of training in this format. We are keen to work alongside more local authorities in an enhanced way, and this pilot was a really successful start to this work.

**If you would like to arrange training for your team please get in touch with us - [corporateparenting@whocaresscotland.org](mailto:corporateparenting@whocaresscotland.org)**

## Promising Practice



**In each newsletter we like to share some of the great work Corporate Parents and other organisations across Scotland are doing to help Care Experienced people. In this edition we hear from Catherine McCormack, Student Experience Manager and Corporate Parent Lead from Edinburgh College who explains what they have done to ensure Care Experienced students receive appropriate financial support.**

Recognising the additional barriers that can be faced by our Care Experienced students we have used our discretionary funding to support students in various different ways. Discretionary Funds is money that a college or university can give to students who experience financial difficulty while studying.

If a student is no longer eligible for the Care Experienced Student Bursary as they have used their maximum allocation from the Scottish Funding Council we will award the equivalent of the Care Experienced Student Bursary from the discretionary fund. We have 6 Care Experienced students in the current academic session we are funding this way.

We have also allocated the equivalent of the Care Experienced Student Bursary to students who have been in informal care but unable to provide evidence.

We are also taking a measured approach to evidence gathering for discretionary fund applications by Care Experienced students. Unless otherwise required, we are requesting only basic evidence in the first instance, for example - ID, Bursary Award Letter and one month's bank statement.

Our funding team and wellbeing services work closely together to minimise the amount of information our Care Experienced learners need to share when applying for discretionary funding.

As a college we have signed up to the guiding principles for discretionary funding, detailed by The Scottish Government and signposted on the Scottish Funding Council website, and are utilising these in practice.

**The HUB for SUCCESS works alongside Edinburgh College, as one of their partners, to support Care Experienced learners into, through and returning to further and higher education.**

**Edinburgh College consistently demonstrates promising practice in relation to the administration of discretionary funding to our Care Experienced students. Staff work alongside students to understand financial issues, identify need, recognise Care Experienced students as a priority group for discretionary funds and offer a measured and fair approach to distribution.**

**Their approach to discretionary funding evidences their commitment to Corporate Parenting and the guiding principles for discretionary funding, outlined by The Scottish Government. As an organisation supporting Care Experienced students, we are told by learners at Edinburgh College that the discretionary fund support is accessible, measured and inclusive.'**

**Gillian Maxwell, Operations Manager, HUB for SUCCESS**

# Collaborative Corporate Parenting Network Recap

The Who Cares? Scotland Collaborative Corporate Parenting Network is a space for Corporate Parenting partners to come together and collaborate and share Corporate Parenting plans and ambitions in an informal, exploratory way.

We held our first online meeting in January 2023 and welcomed 13 representatives from 7 different Corporate Parenting bodies. We were also privileged enough to be joined by Lynda Greig, a Care Experienced activist and member of our National Representative Body.

'For me, the Corporate Parenting Network is exactly what Corporate Parents are needing. In every sector collaboration is key to deliver the best service possible, yet until now Corporate Parents haven't had the opportunity to do just that.

Being involved with this is very close to my heart and the fact that so many Corporate Parents came along to our first meeting filled me with hope. Hope that together we can develop a network of people from every Corporate Parent organisation across Scotland. Learning from each other, making changes to their system or way of working to improve the lives of the Care Experienced people they come into contact with.

I know that just from our very first meeting relationships are already being developed. Corporate Parents are talking and actually LISTENING to each other, we know you all do an amazing job, just imagine what we could do together!

Look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting!' - Lynda Greig, National Representative Body

After Lynda set the scene and introductions were made, colleagues from The Care Inspectorate led the conversation, updating the group on some recent positive practice within the organisation. This included the removal of the age cap of 26 when supporting Care Experienced people; a Family Firm approach to securing employment opportunities to Care Experienced people; and a focus on the UNCRC. They also raised questions to be addressed in the wider group – such as the challenge of joining the dots between multiple policy landscapes such as Corporate Parenting; keeping The Promise; and the UNCRC and how do we ensure a cohesive and connected approach that benefits Care Experienced people.

The group was engaged, enthusiastic and full of ideas and suggestions. We have since held an equally as successful second meeting, where SportScotland shared the work they have been doing to hear from the Care Experienced community and grow new ideas to support their commitment to inclusion. We will confirm the date for the third meeting soon.

**If you're interested in joining the Collaborative Network please get in touch with Chloe Dobson, Training and Education Manager - [cdobson@whocaresscotland.org](mailto:cdobson@whocaresscotland.org)**



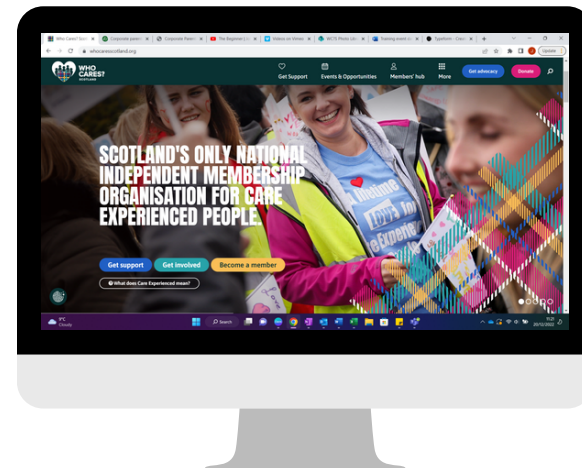
EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE

If you would like to work with us or find out more about our training offer please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

**[corporateparenting@whocaresscotland.org](mailto:corporateparenting@whocaresscotland.org)**



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