



**WHO
CARES?**
SCOTLAND

EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE

Newsletter and Promising Practice

Winter 2023

The Education and Engagement Team

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2023

This year the Education and Engagement Team have....

Delivered

61

learning sessions

Trained

1487

people

Trained

37

Corporate Parents

Delivered

8

**Themed
Learning Events**

Produced

9 Videos

3 Newsletters

3 Guidance Documents



Some feedback from our Corporate Parenting Learning Sessions

‘Really great session that I think a lot of my colleagues would benefit from too.’

‘Really excellent, such a great focus on different experiences and really based on real care experience, not just buzzwords.’

‘The videos were very helpful and encouraging. Sometimes it's hard to know where to start [when supporting] Care Experienced young people, but I have more confidence now to start this work.’

‘Thanks so much. Clear, concise and learning that I needed. Hugely valuable and useful for moving forward personally and professionally.’

‘The session has greatly improved my knowledge of the experiences of Care Experienced people and how being Care Experienced impacts areas of life not limited to education, employment, career, etc.’

Who Cares? Scotland and Scottish Police Authority Nominated for Scottish Public Sector award



Lynsey, Sam and Emma at The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood.

Scottish Police Authority and Who Cares? Scotland recognised as runner up at the Scottish Public Sector Awards.

On Wednesday (6 December 2023) Deputy First Minister, Shona Robison and Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Liam McArthur announced the winners of the Holyrood Communications Scottish Public Service Awards (SPSA) in the Garden Lobby of the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Police Authority ('the Authority') and Who Cares? Scotland nomination was in the Voluntary Sector Partnership Award category, and recognised the joint work undertaken to amplify the voices of Care Experienced people. The Voluntary Sector Partnership Award, supported by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), was ultimately awarded to Edinburgh's community and voluntary sector partnership for Edinburgh's Warm Scots Welcome, a multi-agency response to the displacement of Ukrainian refugees. The Authority and Who Cares? Scotland are proud to have been nominated among such outstanding initiatives.



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**SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY**
ÙGH DARRAS POILIS NA H-ALBA

Videos

We have added some new video resources to [our website](#). These new videos were created in collaboration with Disclosure Scotland. These videos were designed to address some of the most frequently asked questions from those applying for disclosure. You can see all the videos at the links below, please share them with the people you support.

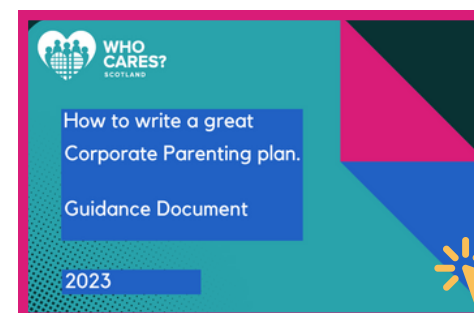


Guidance Documents

We have also launched two new guidance documents for Corporate Parents. A guide for colleges to support the administration of the Care Experienced Student Bursary and a new document with helpful guidance around writing your next Corporate Parenting plan.



[Care Experienced Student Bursary - Guidance for Colleges](#)



[How to write a great Corporate Parenting plan.](#)



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 Falkirk council.

The Falkirk Champs have been working alongside the Falkirk Council services to ensure that all its employees know and understand 'The Promise' that has been made to Scotland's care community and the duties and responsibilities of the people in Corporate Parenting positions. In Falkirk we call it Council Family and Friends not Corporate Parents as the young people didn't feel a connection with this term. The Champs have been delivering training on what it means to be part of the Council Family and Friends and The Promise in its compulsory induction training for all new employees. To date they have trained over 600 people.

The next step was ensuring that the barriers and prejudice that the Care Experienced community can face be recognised and challenged. The Falkirk Champs took the request for care experience to be a protected characteristic to their board meeting to ask for support. The Board comprises of the chief executive of the council Kenneth Lawrie and the leader of the council Cecil Micklejohn among others. While we had the full support of the board including the police, Fire service, NHS it was Cllr Siobhan Paterson who worked along side us to bring the motion to committee.

The young people spoke to the motion and shared the reasons they felt it was important that care experience be recognised this way. It was powerful, emotive, and compelling.

On the 28th June the motion to have care experience to be recognised as being on the list of protected characteristics was passed unanimously.

Cllr Paterson shared after that she was proud as *'Not only will we now be able to offer protection, but I hope that we can start to dismantle the barriers and discrimination faced by the Bairns of Falkirk who have been disadvantaged through no fault of their own'*

The champs who spoke on the day shared that they *'felt really nervous and out of breath, you can hear it in my voice. I was speaking for so many other voices but I felt powerful, heard and supported'* and *'One person even told me how the changes Falkirk Champs are helping to make "heals my inner child" I think that statement alone made me realise how much of a big deal this actually is :)'*

Kenneth Lawrie Chief Executive

'Great presentations, a brilliant outcome and a really important step forward for all of us. My thanks to all the Champs for their fabulous work.'

Sara Lacey Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Children's Services Social Work

'Yesterday was one of my favourite work days ever!! To hear our young people speak up and deliver strong, perfectly pitched messages on behalf of thousands of care experienced children and young people in Falkirk was a pinch me moment. With unanimous support from Council, some cheerleading from their other Falkirk Council Family and Friends, they made real change happen that will make a difference to many lives in the future. Super proud of all our children and young people 🧡💚💙 and thank you to our Champs!!'

LIFELONG RIGHTS

FOR CARE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE

CAMPAIGN



WHO
CARES?
SCOTLAND

During **Care Experienced Week 2023** we launched our Lifelong Rights Campaign.

For the past 45 years, Who Cares? Scotland has endeavoured to be at the heart of the Care Experienced community in Scotland.

Because when we ensure everyone in our community has access to the support they need, when they need it, everyone benefits.

However, our learning from our work since we were founded by a group of social workers and Care Experienced people in 1978, tells us that Care Experienced people, from birth to old age, continue to have their rights diluted, infringed, or disregarded altogether.

Our commitment to recording and evidencing what we hear from Care Experienced people reinforces the limited national data available, which shows that Care Experienced people currently do not have the same life outcomes as their non Care Experienced peers.

Our Calls for Change

Change is not just necessary, but very possible, and within reach with a different approach. To achieve equality with their non-Care Experienced peers, we have identified two campaign calls. These are:

- **Extra protection for Care Experienced people of all ages to access their rights.**
- **Independent, relationship-based, lifelong advocacy for every Care Experienced person in Scotland who needs it.**



You can read our report in support of the campaign [here](#).

You can also pledge your support to the campaign [here](#).

Pledge your support!

Themed Collaborative Learning Events

2023 - 24

Our collaborative learning events are useful ways to connect with other Corporate Parents and share practice and learning. An important duty of a Corporate Parent is to **collaborate** with other Corporate Parents to ensure support is provided to Care Experienced people.

Utilising our advocacy evidence, gathered from across Scotland and from Care Experienced people of all ages, we are able to design and deliver thematic and collaborative learning events for Corporate Parents. These sessions are open to anyone working within a Corporate Parenting body.

Each of these learning events is offered twice, on different dates and presented live on MS Teams. The content remains the same. You can sign up for our final event at the links below.

Education & Training



Join Who Cares? Scotland for an online collaborative training event for Corporate Parents across Scotland where we will share some of the insights gained from our Care Experienced members about their experiences of education and training, and how Corporate Parents can best support them.

23rd Jan
17.00 - 19.30

SIGN UP

1st Feb
10.00 - 12.30

SIGN UP

Live on MS Teams



Feedback from our recent Themed Collaborative Learning events

Maintaining Relationships

'Great to talk in breakout rooms with such practitioners and leaders in a range of agencies'

As a result of this learning session on care, Corporate Parenting and The Promise, I pledge to:

'remember "is this the response/level of care that I would want for my children". I think this is an excellent mantra to use to inform my work.'

'Use the information that I have gained to be empathetic to the young people that I work with and build strong, professional relationships.'

Moving Around

'Really valuable session and beautifully led. Thank you very much.'

As a result of this learning session on care, Corporate Parenting and The Promise, I pledge to:

'do everything in my power within my role to do the best I can for all Care Experienced children that I come into contact with'

'Try to find better ways of engaging with young people so that I truly hear their voice and use it to inform my service offer.'

'Make a difference to all young persons in care and go the extra mile to ensure they feel secure, cared for and valued.'

#Pay4AParcel

This year, amid a cost-of-living crisis, more families than ever will struggle to afford presents. We need your help to **#Pay4AParcel** for a Care Experienced person. With your help, we can reach more Care Experienced people than ever to ensure that they have the best Christmas ever!

Every ten pounds donated to our **#Pay4AParcel** campaign will pay for one of our members to receive a handwritten Christmas card, a festive edition of our SpeakOut magazine and a little gift.

We know this Christmas will be tight for many. We are grateful to anyone who is able to make a donation and help us have the best Christmas ever! Just ten pounds will **#Pay4AParcel** and ensure a Care Experienced person is sent a parcel in the post. The more you can give, the more parcels we can send.



[Click here](#)
[to donate](#)



Get in Touch



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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.



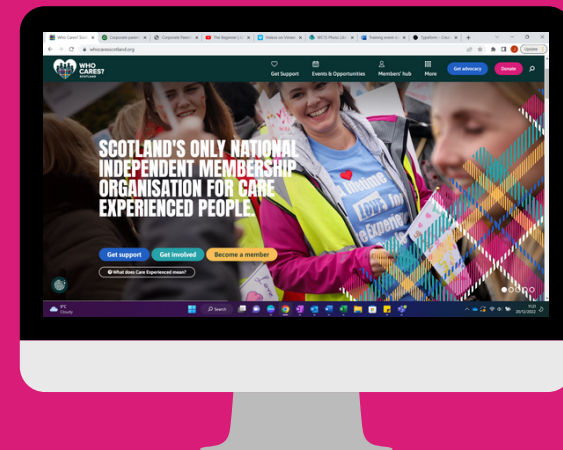
corporateparenting@whocaresscotland.org



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