

Newsletter and Promising Practice



The Education and Engagement Team

2025 - 2026

Issue Four

The Education and Engagement Team @ Who Cares? Scotland



The Education and Engagement team at Who Cares? Scotland is funded by Scottish Government to support Corporate Parents across Scotland. The offer includes:

- Live, bespoke training sessions to learn about care, Care Experienced people and Corporate Parenting legislation
- Support to create and develop Corporate Parenting Plans
- Digital learning materials and e-learning modules
- Spaces to work in collaboration with other Corporate Parents

If you would like to find out more about the support we offer please get in touch.



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Our newest resources



Is it time to write your new Corporate Parenting plan?

The statutory guidance from the Scottish Government recommends that Corporate Parents should refresh and update their Corporate Parenting plan every three years. We have created this new [guidance document](#) to support you when planning and writing your updated plan. The document breaks down the statutory guidance and offers advice on how to structure your plan and what detail you must include.

The Education and Engagement team can also provide support as you create your updated plan by reviewing and providing feedback on your draft plan. If you would like any additional support with or feedback on your plan please get in touch.

We also have a [Self - Assessment Tool](#) available on our website which may be useful to complete before writing your updated plan. This tool will help you to review what is currently working well in your organisation and help you to identify areas for improve upon.

Promising Practice



Could you support your employees to join MCR Pathways and become mentors?

[MCR Pathways](#) is a mentoring charity supporting over 7,800 young people each year. Their mentors, donors, staff, and partners share one belief: **every young person deserves someone to help them find their way.**



MCR Pathways works with Corporate Parenting organisations to support employees who wish to become mentors for children and young people. Supporting staff who wish to volunteer as mentors is another valuable way Corporate Parents can fulfil their statutory duties.

Our mentoring programme gives every type of Corporate Parent a simple, proven way to demonstrate their commitment in action.

Promising Practice

In their new [Corporate Parenting plan](#), Police Scotland has committed to enhanced promotion of [mentoring opportunities with MCR Pathways](#). More than 100 Police officers and staff have given their time to mentor young people over the last eight years. A further 39 staff have registered as mentors following internal communications and information sessions held recently by Police Scotland.

If you are interested in mentoring through MCR Pathways and would like copies of the brochures pictured please get in touch with Josh Morris - josh.morris@mcrpathways.org



Promising Practice



Who Cares? Scotland's National Lifelong Advocacy Helpline supports Care Experienced people, and those supporting them, by offering advice, guidance, and lifelong advocacy. One of the most common issues that Care Experienced people contact us about is obtaining proof of their care experience when applying for their Care Experienced Student Bursary. This can be a difficult process, often taking weeks or months to resolve. As a result, many Care Experienced people also reach out to us about the financial hardship they face whilst waiting for their bursary to be awarded.

Recently two managers at SAAS who support Care Experienced and Estranged student applications, got in touch with our Lifelong Advocacy workers through our Helpline. They offered a direct pathway for any queries about bursary applications. This has resulted in reduced waiting times for Care Experienced students, with bursary applications now being assessed and awarded within two working days.

This is a great example of SAAS being a dedicated Corporate Parent. They have been alert to the issues Care Experienced people were facing in relation to their bursary applications, and have sought to remove these barriers and ensure their access to their bursary is made simpler and faster. Who Cares? Scotland encourages all Corporate Parents to reflect on how their own processes can be adapted to prioritise Care Experienced people, and remove any barriers that may prevent them from accessing the services and support they are entitled to.

Education and Engagement Support for Corporate Parents

We are delighted to present our offer of Support for Corporate Parents for 2025 - 2026. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you would like to discuss any of the support available.

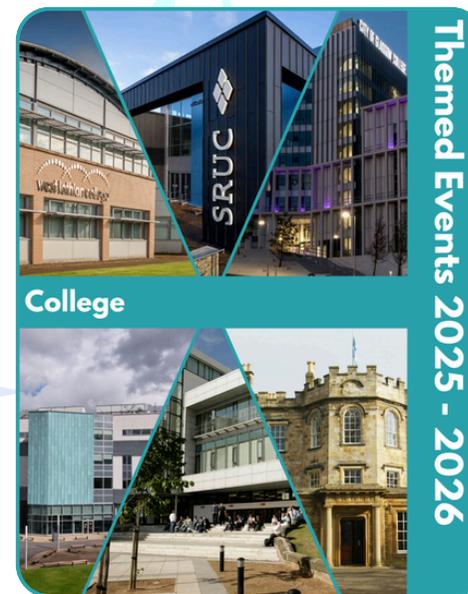
Please click the image below to view our Offer or Support:



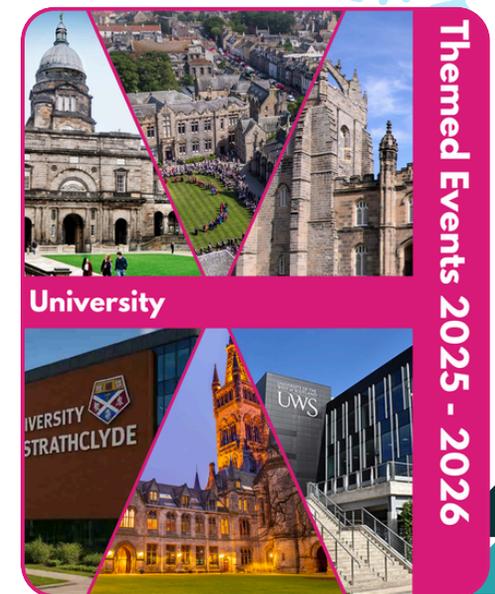
Themed Collaborative Events

There will be two **collaborative learning sessions** this year – one focused on **college**, and one focused on **university**. In these sessions, the Education and Engagement team will explore key advocacy issues that the Care Experienced community can face in tertiary education. These sessions will help you to gain a better understanding of the barriers Care Experienced students encounter while studying at college and university, and inspire you on your journey as a supportive Corporate Parent.

Click the images below to reserve your place:



Wednesday 11th February 2026



Tuesday 24th February 2026

Connected by Care - Who Cares? Scotland manifesto



For the past 47 years, Who Cares? Scotland has been at the heart of the Care Experienced community in Scotland. As Scotland's only national independent membership organisation for Care Experienced people, our mission is to secure a lifetime of equality, respect, and love for Care Experienced people in Scotland. We provide individual relationship-based independent advocacy and collective advocacy for Care Experienced people across Scotland. In the next parliament, we want to see the Promise kept in full. Our priorities for the next parliament include the Promise, voice, mental wellbeing, education and rights. We're asking Scotland's political parties and candidates to commit to the necessary love, investment and leadership for our Care Experienced community to thrive.

You can read our full manifesto and our five calls to action [on our website](#).

Our priority calls to action

- 1** Ensure the Promise is kept in full and fully resourced, with processes to track its delivery up to and beyond 2030.
- 2** Keep Care Experienced people's voice at the heart of the Promise, implementing the statutory right to independent, relationship-based, lifelong and accessible advocacy for all Care Experienced people who need it.
- 3** Every child in care should be offered mental health support, and Care Experienced people of all ages should be able to access trauma-informed support. Services providing spaces for connection including befriending should be accessible to Care Experienced people of all ages.
- 4** Adopt a whole-school approach to supporting Care Experienced children and young people, such as our 'Communities that Care' model.
- 5** Introduce the Scottish Human Rights Bill which includes Care Experienced people within the Equality duty.

2025

600+

Participants
trained

28

Training
sessions
delivered

20

Resources
created

Since January 2025 the Education and Engagement team have provided training sessions and e-learning modules to Scotland's Corporate Parents. We have also created multiple useful digital resources.

7000+

website hits
on our
resources

14

E-learning
modules
delivered

5000+

Users
completed
e-learning
module

31

Corporate
Parenting
Organisations
trained

Here's what Corporate Parents had to say about our training sessions in 2025!

2025

Really informative excellent session gave time to reflect on practice.

Emma did a great job. She always conveys her passion so so well and just inspires everyone in the room.

It was very informative and the delivery by Dionne was very engaging.

The training was delivered excellently with a great amount of time for us to feedback and present our own ideas. Dionne was able to answer all the questions we had and made corporate parenting a really interesting and inclusive topic.

Really powerful and thought provoking session thank you.

It was a fantastic session delivered by Dionne. Very engaging and very informative.

Emma did an excellent job in delivering the learning session. I had worries that the three hour session would be very dry, however it was very engaging and flew by due to the content and way it was delivered.

Very useful and engaging. Loved it. Well done!

Emma was a very inspirational trainer who clearly cares deeply about the care experienced community and the opportunities they need and deserve.

Great delivery from Emma which was authentic and heartfelt which made the training very impactful.

This was a really positive session.

Exceptional presenter!!

Making Christmas

Matter

Our Christmas Fundraising Appeal

Become part of our Care Family Christmas story and help us make sure Care Experienced people feel loved this Christmas.



'I was 17 and in my first flat on my own on Christmas Day. I saw a post on social media that said 50 young people who experienced the care system were coming together for the first time on Christmas Day to celebrate as one family. I must have read the article 10 times thinking if I had just found it earlier then I could have been there. A year later I was. I had found a family to spend Christmas Day with and it was more magical than I could ever put into words.'

- Care Family Christmas Dinner Guest

Your donations are used to send parcels out to every one of our members, host over 50 people for a traditional dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day, and to provide sacks of presents, delivered by Santa!

Each year, it costs more to deliver the same activities, as the costs of food, petrol and other essentials increase at an alarming rate. At the same time, our members need our support more than ever, as they too are impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. Every donation made to our appeal will help ensure that Care Experienced people are not forgotten this Christmas.

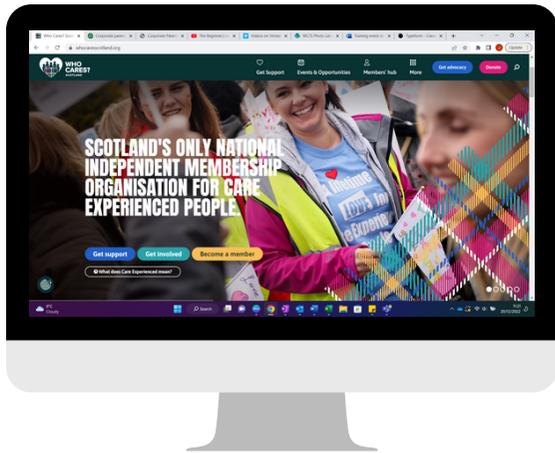


Get in Touch

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



Click above to visit our website.



ARE YOU CARE EXPERIENCED OR SUPPORTING SOMEONE WHO IS ?



Have you heard about our Helpline?

The term "**Care Experienced**" refers to anyone who is currently in care or has been for any length of time regardless of their age. This care may have been provided in many different settings, such as:

- **Kinship Care:** Living with a relative who is not your mum or dad
- **Looked After At Home:** With the help of social work
- **Residential Care:** Living in a residential home or school
- **Foster Care:** Living with foster carers
- **Secure Care:** Living in a secure accommodation
- **Adoption:** Living with adoptive parents



Our Helpline is for Care Experienced people and those supporting them. We offer connection, a listening ear, lifelong advocacy, support and signposting around these issues:

Finances . Benefits . Housing . Health . Employment . Education . Rights.



0330 107 7540



help@whocaresscotland.org

Open 12 noon to 4pm Monday to Friday