

# Corporate Parenting Plan

2025 - 2028



**Proudly rooted in the culture, location, and landscapes of the North and West Highlands, Skye, and Outer Hebrides, we are connecting our rural and island communities and delivering relevant and distinctive learning and research opportunities, shaped by their needs and ambitions.**

We also provide a skills pipeline for the region's growth sectors, including net zero decarbonisation, renewable energy, engineering, advanced manufacturing and technologies, space ports and land and sea-based industries, as well as Gaelic.

As an anchor institution in the region, our aim is to have a transformative impact on our communities by encouraging people to live, work and study here by providing opportunities for people to shape their futures in a changing world.

We do this by providing courses to suit more people, at more levels, for more reasons, equipping them with the skills they need for learning, life, and work, now, and in the future.



# Introduction

UHI North, West and Hebrides is identified as a corporate parent under Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. It is widely accepted that many care experienced and looked after children have some of the poorest personal outcomes of any group in Scotland. Low levels of educational engagement and achievement lead to poverty, homelessness and poor mental health. Care experienced young people in particular face considerable barriers to accessing further and higher education including access to appropriate levels of funding, a lack of schooling or disrupted schooling, a challenging home environment, low self-esteem and a lack of confidence and positive role models. These factors mean that they often do not perform as well as their peer group in terms of academic achievement and career progression. Published in June 24, Who Cares Scotland released the first in a series of research papers, to show that Care Experienced people currently do not have the same life outcomes as their non-Care Experienced peers, with some of the key issues being noted as Finance, Housing, Belonging and Connection along with Health and Wellbeing.

UHI North, West and Hebrides is a partner of UHI, a regional further and higher education partnership serving the communities of the Highlands and Islands, Moray, and Perthshire. With 19 campuses and centres across the North and West Highlands, Skye, and Outer Hebrides, we are one of the largest partners in UHI.

The college corporate parent plan focusses on building a culture and infrastructure across our 19 campuses and centres to ensure a consistency of approach and support for care experienced young people applying to study at both FE and HE levels across our curriculum offering. Although the college has its own corporate parent plan under the legislation which is designed to meet the needs of our local area, we are also engaged with the overarching university plan which focuses on collaborative work across the partnership [www.nwh.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.nwh.uhi.ac.uk)

UHI North, West and Hebrides is committed to providing all our students with a positive experience whilst they are studying with us and to offering the support and opportunities that help them fulfil their potential.

We appreciate the impact that care-experience can have, we also recognise estranged learners or those with extra consideration needs may not have experienced the same support or intervention from statutory services and often require a broad range of support. Whilst corporate parenting is a legislative responsibility to our care-experienced applicants and learners we also extend the same level of care and support to our estranged students.



# Corporate Parenting Responsibilities

## Corporate Parenting is defined by the Scottish Government as:

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 defines corporate parenting as “the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers”.

As a Corporate Parent we will support every care leaver who is under the age of 26 (and was on their 16th birthday or at any subsequent time) but is no longer looked after by a local authority.

## It is our duty as a Corporate Parent to:

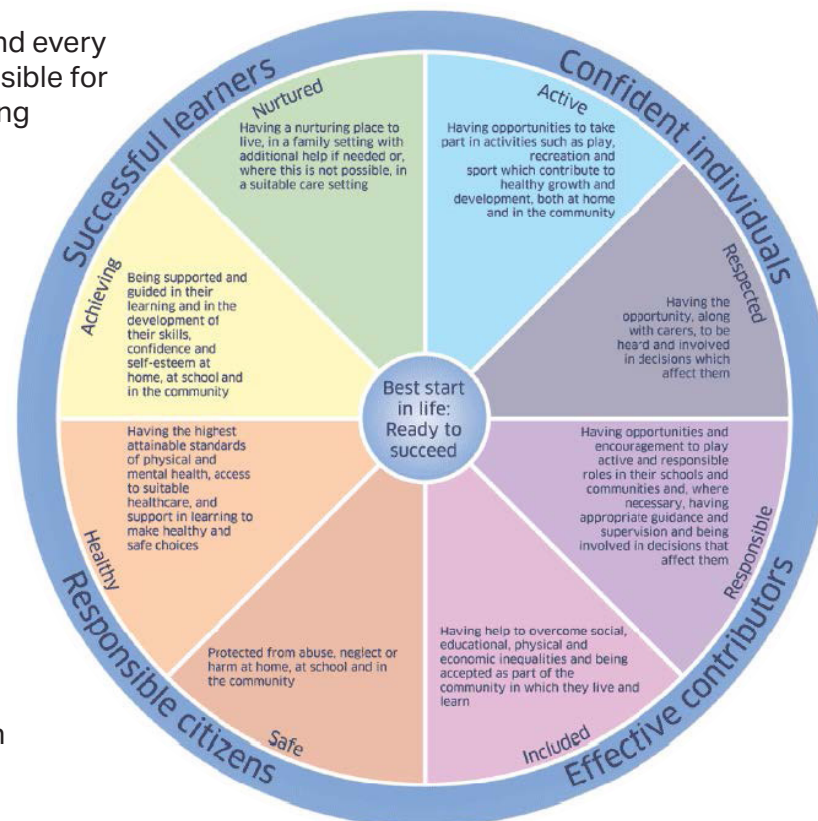
- + Be alert of issues which might adversely affect the wellbeing of the care experienced learner.
- + Assess the needs of care experienced learners for services and support provided.
- + Promote the interests of those care experienced learners and provide opportunities and activities designed to promote their wellbeing.
- + Act and support care experienced learners in accessing opportunities, making use of services and receiving support.
- + Take action to improve and review our performance as a corporate parent.

We are committed to widening access to further education in relation to supporting care leavers (only 4% of care leavers in Scotland go from school to university compared with 37% of all school leavers).

The college aims to create a culture to support the duties of a corporate parent under the legislation, by ensuring appropriately trained and qualified staff and developing a commitment to shared values throughout the organisation. The college is committed to ensuring that care experienced young people are fully supported during their time with us, to enable them to successfully complete their course and to prepare them for the future by developing skills to ensure they leave us as.

The whole organisation, and every member of staff, is responsible for fulfilling corporate parenting duties.

Section 96(2) of the Act describes the term of wellbeing in terms of eight indicators. These eight indicators are known collectively by the acronym SHANARRI, as illustrated in the SHANARRI wellbeing wheel below. In practice the right indicators can be interconnected and overlapping. When considered together they give a holistic view of each child or young person.



# What we do

The following table shows either ongoing practice or additional progress made for care experienced students including Care Leavers. This has been split into various aspects to show support given pre-entry, on-course and then the monitoring and implementation of the plan. It is considered that this format will be used going forward so that we can develop our services linked to each of these specific areas.

## Corporate Parent Plan Actions 2025-2028

In addition to working collaboratively and having a shared action plan with The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/t4-media/one-web/university/students/support/care-leavers/UHI-Corporate-Parenting-Plan---Jul-22.docx> UHI North, West and Hebrides

Area	Criteria	Activities and Actions	Progress 2025
Pre-course activity	Pre-entry information available	Availability of information by Website or through contact by individuals or advocates.	Information reviewed and updated regularly, including prospectus and website.
	Application	Applicants can flag if they are Care Experienced during the application process. FE Admissions Policy allows for priority Interview.	Part of cross UHI application processes.
	Pre-Enrolment	Reporting available to identify those disclosures, and contact made by allocated support person. Creation of support plan if agreed.	Use of admissions reports and SITS reporting to identify students at pre-entry stage so early contact can be made. Supported the development of a care-experienced support plan with associated privacy notice.
		Information shared in relation to support and funding available, and appropriate accommodation if they need to move for studies.	Provided additional and specific information for care experienced students, for example: <a href="https://nwh.uhi.ac.uk/en/student-services/student-support/care-experienced/">https://nwh.uhi.ac.uk/en/student-services/student-support/care-experienced/</a>
	Enrolment	Support through enrolment if required, and provision of information through induction. Note: Potential for additional disclosures.	Support for students can be provided for enrolment, and this also gives an additional opportunity to disclose. Induction materials provide students with information and may lead to disclosures.
	Get Ready to Study Days/Campus Tours	Provide pre course familiarisation, support to enrol, meet key staff, apply for funding and campus tours	

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Area	Criteria	Activities and Actions	Progress 2025
On course support	Personal support	FE and HE students are allocated a key course contact or Personal Academic Tutor. Care Experienced students are also assigned a member of the support team as additional resource and support. Curriculum and Support staff meet weekly to review any student issues, non-attendance, engagement etc	Provision of key course contacts provides a single point of contact for care experienced students. Some students may disclose they are care experienced at this stage. All care experienced students are also allocated a member of the support services team and are given the opportunity to develop a personal support plan.
		Creation of an online student information and guidance module which also allows students to revisit at any time, and review/recap the breadth of support available to them.	The Brightspace online student information and guidance module was developed due to the Covid pandemic. It is recognised that the materials in here are a useful source of information for students and can be referred to at any time during their studies with us. This will continue to be supported and developed.
		Key staff members to continue to engage to build relationships with external stakeholders, including other organisations and agencies.	
	Study support	UHI have created an online resource "Essential study skills" which is designed to be access by students at all stages of the journey.	Resource is updated and maintained through UHI to ensure it remains relevant and useful. Students are referred to this during induction.
		Additional class or individual study sessions available through LRC support staff.	As part of the induction our LRC support is highlighted. They also provide study support either on an individual or group basis.
	Student Engagement and Wellbeing	Continue to deliver and provide resources, raising awareness covering topics like budgeting, e-safety etc. All students have access to counselling services. Continue to develop and deliver activities, events and campaigns to support mental health and wellbeing, such as Time to Talk: Healthy Relationships; Celebratory Days; Stress Awareness; Sexual Health Matters; Mental Health Awareness	Continue to promote all the services that support learning, including additional support, counselling, health and wellbeing services. Additional access to 24/7 support via Spectrum Life. Provide Holiday toolkits and signpost to out of hours support.
	HISA	Continue to work collaboratively with HISA	Actively listen to feedback from students and exploring further opportunities with regards to clubs and societies.

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Area	Criteria	Activities and Actions	Progress 2025
	Cost of Living	Continue to offer initiatives to support the cost of living, building good links with local food banks and food retailers offering "too good to go" Also offering access to toiletries and clothing.	Ongoing
Monitoring and implementation of plan	Adhere to Scottish Government requirements for reporting	Respond as appropriate to surveys and provide reports as required.	Respond to future surveys as required. A dashboard has been created within UHI which allows the analysis of outcome trends down to course level. The data can also be broken down to protected characteristics which enables us to identify particular groups who may require more support.
		Continue to use KPI's and the Regional Outcome Agreements to form bases of reporting.	Further development of the Care Experienced reporting as required and identified.
	Continued membership at the UHI Priority Groups Forum and Safeguarding	Continue to ensure relevant staff attend the Priority Forum Groups. Provide input to requests for information and act on issues that are identified or arise.	Continue to respond to, and share good practice as identified at the UHI Priority Groups Forum.
	Raise awareness of the duties of Corporate Parenting and provide staff training	Mandatory staff training on induction. Training package is available on Brightspace and can also be reviewed at any time.	The online training module was developed by Who Cares? Scotland and is part of our induction processes. This can also be reviewed at any time.



[www.nwh.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.nwh.uhi.ac.uk)



UHI North, West and Hebrides is a trading name of The Board of Management of UHI North, West and Hebrides which is a registered charity, number SC021215.

'S e UHI a Tuath, an Iar is Innse Gall an t-ainm malairt a th' air Bòrd Stiùiridh UHI a Tuath, an Iar is Innse Gall a tha na charthannas clàraichte, àireamh SC021215.