

NEWBATTLE ABBEY COLLEGE

CORPORATE PARENTING PLAN

Introduction - The College and its Context

Newbattle Abbey College is Scotland's national adult education residential college set in an historic 16th century building within a stunning landscape. The college provides a high standard of education to the local community, and the wider communities across Scotland and the UK.

The college offers adults of all ages the chance to re-engage with learning and transform their lives. The curriculum has been developed to provide opportunities for adults and for younger learners at points of transition. Newbattle aims to promote access, particularly to disadvantaged learners, plan progressions routes with partners and enable learners to progress to positive destinations.

Residential accommodation is offered to students on all full-time courses. This supportive residential experience enhances the learning of students, who also gain from extensive guidance and Support for Learning provision.

Corporate Parenting Responsibilities

Newbattle Abbey College is defined as a Corporate Parent under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Corporate Parents have a responsibility to understand the lives of Scotland's care experienced and looked after young people and respond to their needs.

Care experienced and looked after children include:

- Those in residential care
- Those in foster care
- Those in kinship care, who live with a family member other than a parent
- Those who are looked after at home

Every looked after child and care leaver, who was looked after at their 16th birthday, is entitled to corporate parenting support until their 26th birthday.

Care experienced learners tend to have lower educational outcomes, with only 4% of care leavers in Scotland going to school to university compared with 37% of all school leavers.

The Scottish Funding Council 'National Ambition and Vision' aims for there to be no difference in the outcomes of care experienced learners comparative to their peers by 2021. Newbattle Abbey College is committed to improving outcomes of care experienced learners and will contribute to this vision by implementing our Corporate Parenting Plan and closely monitoring outcomes for our care experienced learners.

Under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Corporate Parents have the following duties:

- To be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people
- To assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides
- To promote the interests of those children and young people
- To seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing
- To take such action as they consider appropriate to help those children and young people to access opportunities provided for activities designed to promote their wellbeing, to make use of services, and access support.
- To take such other action considered appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which they exercise their functions in relation to those children and young people

As Corporate Parents, we have a duty to produce a Corporate Parenting Plan, which details how we will deliver on our corporate parenting responsibilities.

Demonstrating our Commitment

The majority of Newbattle Abbey College students are not recruited straight from school, but are enrolled on the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP) for adults who have not been in education for 3 years. We offer two SWAP Courses: Arts & Social Sciences and Celtic Studies. These offer progression to higher education courses across Scotland. The ethos of the college is to support adults to achieve,

especially those who have encountered failure and difficulty in the past. Supporting transition into further and higher education is, therefore, embedded into our practice, and much is already in place in terms of criteria for supporting Care Leavers. Classes are small, all students have a dedicated Guidance teacher, and weekly staff meetings are held to share information about individual student progress and any concerns. Support for Learning tutors liaise with local GP services and Mental Health support services in the area, as well as with the dedicated college counsellor.

Specific actions that illustrate our commitment to supporting care leavers include:

- Who Cares? Training for staff 3/4/17.
- SFL tutor attended Corporate Parenting Training Event at the College Development Network on 26/4/17.
- Our Corporate Parenting Plan identifies areas for development, e.g. reviewing the college application form to ensure it gathers the relevant information and monitoring the interview process to ensure early identification of needs and support required.
- A Care Leaver is the on the Student Representative Council (SRC), and can provide direct feedback on college support.
- An Activity Survey was carried out at Induction to identify the kind of activities students would like to take part in. Staff support the SRC to create opportunities for student events which encourage socialising in positive ways.
- There is well-being support in place through Support for Learning and Counselling sessions with the dedicated college counsellor are provided free for students who request them.
- Mindfulness sessions: a free 8 week programme of Mindfulness was available to students in the Spring term and Autumn term in 2017 - this will be repeated in 2018.
- Student Sport Scotland: staff are working with college SRC and SSS for funding to support activities.
- Student Residency: the college can offer residential accommodation which has two resident wardens available for support.
- Travel: students who are not residential and require support with transport costs are given a bus pass to enable them to attend.

- Let's Get Together: Support for Learning tutor attends networking events of local support groups for addiction, homelessness disability and mental health twice a year to gather up-to-date information and network with other support workers who can provide information and support for students
- Support for Learning service provides dyslexia and scotopic sensitivity screening and one-to-one support for individual learners.
- Personal Learning Plans are created for students with identified learning needs and a record of contact is kept to track support and outcomes.
- Students complete Individual Learning Plans with their Guidance tutor; milestone interviews take place 3 times during the year and there is a final interview to assess if goals have been achieved. This level of monitoring ensures that we can identify barriers that students may experience and work with them to overcome them
- Support for Learning Staff are undertaking CELCIS on-line training and a member of the Corporate Parenting team will attend CELCIS conference in May 2018 to keep abreast of new initiatives and best practice.

Collaboration

Collaboration with outside support agencies tends to be on a one-to-one basis between the Curriculum Manager and Support for Learning tutors, who liaise with schools guidance staff, social workers, key workers, GP practices, Mental Health Support Teams, agencies such as Deaf Action, Trauma centres and Homeless shelters to share the information, support and resources that students may need during their time in college.

In order to ensure students progress to positive destinations, the college works in partnership with other FE colleges, including SRUC Oatridge Campus and Borders College as well as Queen Margaret University and local employers.

The college has developed Adult Achievement Awards partnership with Education Scotland and the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQF). These award are now being rolled out and will impact on the educational achievement of many people in communities across Scotland, of whom some, inevitably, will be Care Leavers.

The Review and Revision Process

Corporate Parents are required to report to Scotland Ministers every three years on how they are carrying out their responsibilities.

Regular internal review and revision of our progress will ensure that we are successfully delivering our plan. Our internal Corporate Parenting Working Group is responsible for driving the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Plan and for reviewing progress. Progress is reported to our Senior Management Team, and shared with the SRC and our Board of Directors, on a regular basis. The review process also involves consultation with looked after children and care experienced students to ensure their views inform improvements to the support they receive.

Systems are in place to monitor and analyse data in relation to trends in applications, retention and success of care experienced students.

Publishing the Plan

Our Corporate Parenting Plan will be published on our website to ensure it is openly accessible.

Section of the Act	Current Activity	Areas to improve	Actions required to progress	By When	Expected outcomes
58 1(a) To be alert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What systems do we have in place to remain aware of any risks posed by our service or organisation to looked after children and care leavers? <p>Application Form, interview, ILPs, PLPs Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What have we learned from them? <p>The range of complex needs of individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do we know how many looked after children and care leavers engage with us? <p>Application and enrolment data</p>	Improve communication at an earlier stage with teaching/support staff	In house training for all staff	August 2018	
58 (1)(b) Assess the needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What steps have we taken to assess the needs of the looked after children and care leavers who engage with us, either directly or indirectly? <p>Assessed via application form, interview, ILPs, PLPs, Guidance, Contact with key workers and social workers.</p>	More in depth questioning at interview stage	Incorporate specific questions into interview, PLSPs	August 2018	
58 (1)(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Have we identified 	Introduce these activities	Involve learners at an early	August	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What steps have we taken to address these? <p>SfL tutor part of local networks and shares information with staff. New guidance to be integrated into college policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How successful have these been? 	First year of implementation no evidence available.			
59 Prepare, publish and keep plan under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has our plan been prepared? <p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has our plan been published? <p>March 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is it accessible? <p>NAC website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has our plan been kept under review? <p>First publication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How has our plan developed over time? 	<p>To be reviewed annually or as required</p> <p>No evidence as this is first plan to be published</p>			
60 Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Who have we collaborated with? <p>Local support networks, CDN, Who Cares Scotland, Hub for Success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What was the aim of our collaboration? <p>To share good practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How successful was it? <p>Enables NAC to produce a</p>				

	more robust approach to supporting students				
61 Report on fulfilment of Corporate Parenting Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Have we prepared a report? <p>First report March 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does it outline how we have met each of our duties and responsibilities? <p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does it suggest areas where we could improve? <p>Yes</p>				
62 Provide Scottish Ministers with information on fulfilment of Corporate Parenting Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Are we in a position to provide Scottish Ministers with information on the fulfilment of our corporate parenting duties? <p>Yes</p>				
63 Have regard to any Guidance about corporate parenting issued by Scottish Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do we know what guidance has been issued? <p>Scottish Government, CELCIS, Who Cares Scotland, CDN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Have we been fulfilling our duties and obligations in line with this? 	Integrate new BSL guidance	Collaboration with BSL Scotland		

	Yes				
64 Comply with relevant Direction issued by Scottish Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do we know what directions have been issued? Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Have we been fulfilling our duties and obligations in line with this? Yes				