



Newsletter and Promising Practice

Summer 2024



EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE

The Education and Engagement Team

Education and Engagement Team Updates



Chloe Dobson
Education and Engagement Manager

After 6 years leading the education team at Who Cares? Scotland, I have decided to move on. There have been some unforgettable moments during that time and Corporate Parents have been responsible for many of them, obviously alongside the incredible Care Experienced community. A particular highlight was working to see the removal of the upper age limit on the Care Experienced Student Bursary, opening further and higher education up to those who had previously been 'aged out' of taking the next step in their educational journey. It was, and is, incredible to see lifelong support for Care Experienced people in action.

I say goodbye to my role supporting Corporate Parents by returning to the higher education sector and becoming a Corporate Parent again myself. I will be managing the social work and social policy department at University of Strathclyde so will maintain my connection with the Care Experienced community.

Thank you to all I've worked alongside these past 6 years. Please continue to fight for a lifetime of equality, respect and love for Care Experienced people. And use the incredible resource that is the Education and Engagement team to support your work – Lynsey, Emma, Jen and Dionne are truly remarkable at what they do.



Lynsey Carey
Education and Engagement Manager



[Email Me](#)

I know you will join me in wishing Chloe all of the best as she embarks on her exciting new adventure.

I am pleased to announce that I will now be continuing in the role of Education and Engagement manager on a permanent basis. I have absolutely loved fulfilling this role over the past year and I am very excited to continue working alongside you all to create a lifetime of equality, respect and love for Care Experienced people.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter which is bursting with examples of promising practice from committed and dedicated Corporate Parents.

Thank you for all that you do and as always remember that the Education and Engagement team are here to support you.

Education and Engagement Team



Lynsey Carey

Education and Engagement Manager



[Email Me](#)



Emma Brannigan - McQueen

Education and Engagement
Coordinator



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Dionne Harty

Education and Engagement Officer



[Email Me](#)



Jennifer Flynn

Digital Education and Engagement
Officer



[Email Me](#)



The Education and Engagement team at Who Cares? Scotland offers fully-funded support to Corporate Parents across Scotland

Click the image above to find out more about our offer of support.

Emergency Services Engagement Event



In May 2024, the Emergency Services, often called the 'Blue Light Corporate Parents', came together to create the first Emergency Services Engagement Event for Care Experienced people. This event welcomed Care Experienced people aged 16 and above to meet and engage with uniformed and non-uniformed members of each emergency service. This provided an opportunity for those with lived experience of care to gain an understanding of the emergency services, learn more about the wide range of roles that exist across all services, and to speak to officers and staff from different areas of each organisation in an open and relaxed environment. The event also provided a chance for attendees to fight a fire with a hose, meet Police Horses and Fire dogs, learn some important First Aid skills, use the VR headsets and see Police dogs in action! We even had a surprise input from a Care Experienced Firefighter at the end of day with opportunities for attendees to ask him questions about his role and career as someone with experience of care.

The Education and Engagement team work closely with the Emergency Services to ensure they are loving and progressive Corporate Parents. This event allowed them to demonstrate how keen they are to continue to improve relationships between themselves and the Care Experienced community.

This event also created a legacy, meaning there are plans to repeat this event across different areas of Scotland! Stay tuned!



Empowered Voices Programme



In July we saw 22 people with experience of care graduate from our first ever Empowered Voices Programme. This programme was designed to help the care community learn vital campaigning, activism, and public speaking skills. Empowered Voices created a safe space for connection and confidence building, with graduates of the programme gaining the skills and belief in themselves to drive and influence change.

Over the course of the programme we welcomed speakers and facilitators to lead sessions on topics such as interview skills, campaign planning, article writing and debating. The participants created a warm and nurturing environment, recognising and promoting each others' strengths and contributions in sessions.

The second cohort have just completed the first module of the programme and will have the opportunity to learn and develop similar skills across the next two modules of the programme.

Keep an eye on our social media to find out when the next round of applications is open. This may be the perfect opportunity for some of the Care Experienced people you support. For all our latest opportunities visit: [Events & Opportunities](#).



Corporate Parenting Awards



This event aimed to celebrate positive and progressive Corporate Parenting practice from the last decade while recognising the key role that Corporate Parents play in the lives of Care Experienced people, particularly as Scotland strives to Keep the Promise.

We would like to thank all those who nominated Corporate Parents for these awards, Corporate Parents across Scotland and the Care Experienced community for their dedicated time and effort in the creation of this event.

Thank you also to our judging panel, which was comprised of a diverse group of Care Experienced people and representatives from Who Cares? Scotland who dedicated their free time to helping shortlist the nominations, which was no easy task! And congratulations to all the winners:



- **Care Conscious Employer** – Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration
- **Changing the Narrative** – St Peter’s Primary in Renfrewshire
- **Creating Financial Equality** – North Ayrshire Council
- **Creating Transformation** – Police Scotland
- **Equality, Respect & Love** – Sam Curran & Amanda Reynolds
- **Excellence in Innovation** – East Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership
- **Lifelong Rights** – Student Awards Agency Scotland
- **Outstanding Corporate Parent** – Midlothian Council
- **Outstanding Educational Practice** – Further Education – West Lothian College
- **Outstanding Educational Practice** – Higher Education – University of Strathclyde
- **Outstanding Educational Practice** – Schools – Duncanrig High School in South Lanarkshire
- **Positive Partnerships** – Kirklandneuk Primary School (Renfrewshire),
Active Schools Renfrewshire & One Ren
- **Stable Foundations** – Midlothian Council



You can read our blog about the event [here](#). And you can read more about the work of the awards nominees in our [event programme](#).





Also included in the [event brochure](#) was a compilation of examples of **Promising Practice** from many of Scotland's Corporate Parents over the last 10 years. We feature examples of Promising Practice in each of our newsletters and we'd like to ask you to share your practice with us for future issues. What have you and your organisation been doing to ensure that Scotland's Care Experienced community are fully supported and thriving. What other Corporate Parents have you worked with? How have you been actively listening to people with experience of care?

Here's to the next decade of promising Corporate Parenting practice!

Please send your examples of Promising Practice to: corporateparenting@whocaresscotland.org

Gala for Love 2024

On 23rd August 2024, Who Cares? Scotland held our second ever Gala for Love at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow. It was a very special evening with wonderful food, amazing performers, inspirational speakers, messages from our members, a fundraising auction, dancing, and more! We are delighted to share that we raised over £20,000 at the Gala - a fantastic total which will enable our Care Experienced members to come together in connection and belonging at events such as our Love Rally and Care Family Christmas. We want to thank all of the Corporate Parents who were involved in the Gala, such as Scottish Qualifications Authority and Scottish Police Authority for your continued support!

You can see more photos from the Gala [here](#).



THEMED LEARNING EVENTS

2024 - 2025



EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE

Calling all Corporate Parents!! We are excited to announce the next in our series of Themed Learning events.

The Education and Engagement Team will be hosting an online session for Corporate Parents exploring key issues relating to Finance as identified by the Care Experienced community.

This session will take place on Monday October 14th 2pm - 4pm, find out more and how to register in the 'Events' section of our website.

Finance

Monday 14th October

2pm - 4pm



Belonging

Tuesday 10th December

2pm - 4pm



Health

Tuesday 4th February

10am - 12pm



Experience of Services

Monday 31st March

10am - 12pm



Care Experienced Week 2024

19TH - 27TH OCTOBER

It's nearly time for Care Experienced week which this year will be taking place from October 19th to October 27th with the theme for the week being 'Belonging'. There will be many events taking place across the week including our Time to Shine Festival. On October 26th we will take to the streets of Glasgow for our Love Rally, demanding a lifetime of equality, respect and love for Care Experienced people, we'd love to see you there!

We'll be in touch soon with more details and ways you can support Care Experienced week.

How will you celebrate?



FIREWALK

20th November 2024



Do you Care 2 Dare?

Our second Firewalk is taking place on 20th November. Registration is free and includes a t-shirt, taking part in the event with motivational training before and a hot drink and snack after. All you need to do is raise £125 in sponsorship. If you would like to take part but would like support with your fundraising you can get in touch directly with our team fundraising@whocaresScotland.org to have a chat.

Afterwards, you will also be sent a photo of you walking through the flames to prove your bravery to your sponsors! You can see some photos from our first Firewalk in February below.

You can sign up here: <https://www.whocaresScotland.org/event/november-firewalk/>



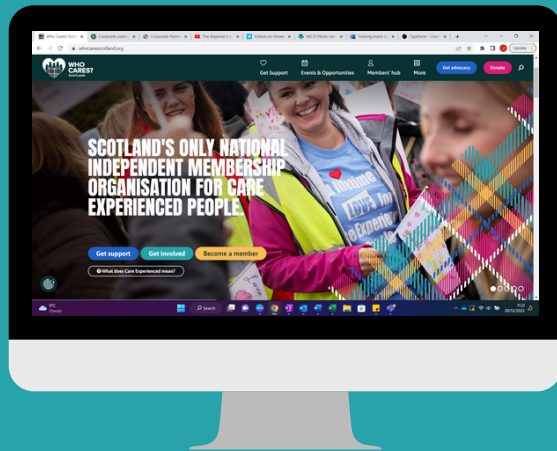
Get in Touch



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