

Newsletter and Promising Practice



The Education and Engagement Team

2025 - 2026

Issue One

The Education and Engagement Team @ Who Cares? Scotland



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

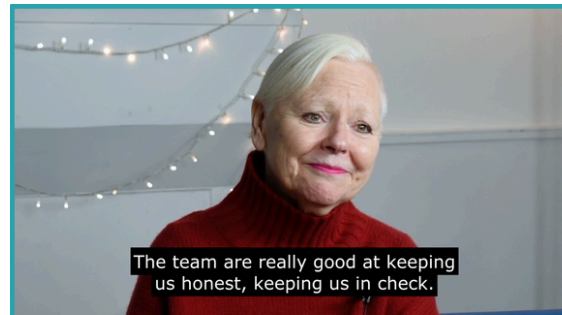
We have just published a series of new resources for Corporate Parents to our website.

Corporate Parenting: A guidance documents



We've written a series of guidance documents to support non operational roles within Corporate Parenting organisations to understand their Corporate Parenting duties and how to fulfil these in practice to support the Care Experienced community to thrive. These two documents look specifically at Finance and Human Resource departments. Click the images to view the documents.

Corporate Parenting: New Videos



Earlier this year we invited Corporate Parents from five Corporate Parenting organisations into our National Office to ask that what Corporate Parenting means to them and why they think it is important. They also reflected on the support they have received from the Education and Engagement team. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all Corporate Parents who supported us with these videos. Your support was very much appreciated! You can view them at these links:

- [What is Corporate Parenting – For Corporate Parents](#)
- [What is Corporate Parenting – For the Care Experienced community](#)
- [Support from the Education and Engagement team](#)

Our newest resources



Alex's Story

In our new animated series of videos we meet Alex as she reflects back on her experiences of care and how it has impacted her life. This is a composite case study informed by Who Cares? Scotland's advocacy evidence.

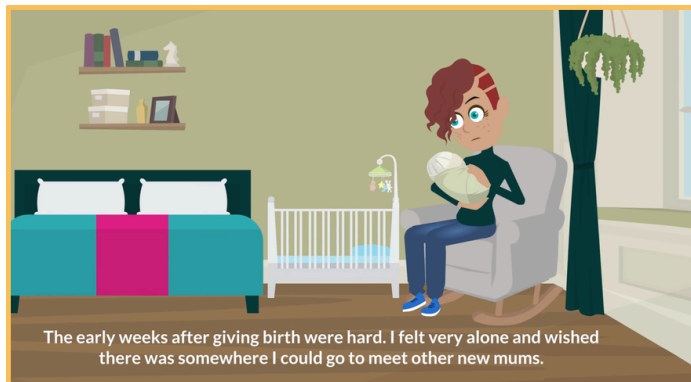
In Part One Alex talks about moving into care and how that affected her relationships and education.

In Part Two Alex reflects on when she moved into independent living at the age of 17 and how that felt.

In Part Three Alex discusses how her experiences still impact her in adulthood and how she sought help to navigate life's challenges.

You can view the videos in our resource library on our website at the links below:

- [Alex's Story – Part One](#)
- [Alex's Story – Part Two](#)
- [Alex's Story – Part Three](#)



Promising Practice - SQA Teacher's Resource

A GUIDE FOR SCOTLAND'S TEACHERS ON CARE EXPERIENCE AND CORPORATE PARENTING



This booklet was produced in partnership with SQA

Last year, we successfully launched our digital guide for Scotland's teachers on care experience and Corporate Parenting. This resource was produced in partnership with Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), who have recently commissioned printed copies of the guide. In April 2025, SQA sent five copies to every secondary school in Scotland. We want to say a huge thank you to SQA for their support!

All learners need positive and stable relationships with adults who believe in their strength, talents, and skills. It is important that teachers understand the specific barriers that Care Experienced learners face, and how their role as a Corporate Parent can mitigate against these barriers. With the right support at the right time, Care Experienced learners can thrive in education and achieve their potential. The guide will help teachers to understand the statutory Corporate Parenting duties placed upon them in legislation, and how they can fulfill these duties to ensure that Care Experienced pupils have an equitable chance to thrive and succeed in their journey through education.

You can view the digital version of the guide [here](#).

Language Matters

In this booklet we'll generally use the term **'Care Experienced'**. This term refers to anyone who is currently in care or has been for any length of time regardless of their age.

In some contexts, you may come across legal terminology, such as **'Looked After'** or **'Care Leaver'**. The legal definitions of these terms are as follows:

- **'Looked After'**
Under section 17 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, 'looked after' children are defined as those in the care of their local authority. It is a legal status in which the local authority has specific duties of care.
- **'Care Leaver'**
A care leaver is a young person who ceased to be looked after on, or at any time after, their 16th birthday.

“Scotland must understand that **'language creates realities'**. Those with care experience must hold and own the narrative of their stories and lives; simple, caring language must be used in the writing of care files.”

The Promise, 2020

The term Care Experienced is generally preferred by the Care Experienced community for a number of reasons:

Firstly, Care Experienced people have expressed that the term 'Looked After (and Accommodated) Child' can be stigmatising, especially when shortened to 'LAC/LAAC'. The term 'LAC/LAAC' can be felt to imply a lack of family or parents or that they themselves are lacking in some way or not good enough, reinforcing that feeling of being different from one's peers. Language such as this can have a detrimental impact on one's identity.

The term 'Looked After' only applies to situations where a legal order is in place which has been granted through the Children's Hearings system.

The term Care Experienced is **more inclusive of the entire community** as not everyone who is Care Experienced will be 'Looked After' i.e. those who have left care, or those who have lived in informal kinship care.

Many Care Experienced people do not like the term 'Care Leaver' as Care Experienced people often share that 'they may leave care, but care doesn't leave them.' The term Care Experienced recognises the lifelong impact of care, and that care is an experience someone has, rather than something that was 'done to them'.

It is important to recognise that Care Experienced people are not a homogenous group, and individuals may have different preferences in terms of the language they would want to be used to describe their experience. It is always good practice to check with individuals what language and terms they themselves prefer to use.

Each and Every Child have created an evidence-based training toolkit which supports individuals and organisations to reframe the way they speak about Care Experienced people.

Action on Advocacy Campaign

We are campaigning to ensure that every Care Experienced person in Scotland can access independent, relationship-based, advocacy throughout their life.

What is independent advocacy?

Independent advocacy ensures Care Experienced people know their rights and can make informed choices about their lives.

Whether it's helping a young person reunite with their brother or sister, signposting Care Experienced adults to critical housing support, or accompanying a young person to their Children's Hearing, **independent advocacy is a vital and valuable service for all Care Experienced people who need it.**

Why now?

Five years after the Promise, Care Experienced people still struggle to access independent advocacy when they need it most.

This right remains unfulfilled, with inconsistencies in provision across Scotland. **With the upcoming Promise Bill this year, we have the opportunity to change this and make this a statutory right.**

How can you get involved?

Issue a statement of support – If your organisation would like to back the campaign, get in touch [here!](#)

Visit the [Action on Advocacy](#) campaign website for:

- Downloadable social media graphics to help spread the word.
- An email template to contact your MSPs.
- Advocacy in Action comic strips—real-life case studies showing the impact of independent advocacy.

Read our stories in the [Advocacy in Action](#) series!

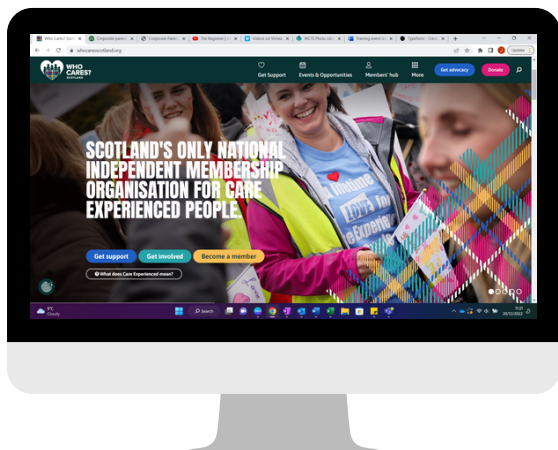


Get in Touch

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