



*Supporting our students with*

*care experience*

QMU Corporate Parenting Plan

2022-2025

“My experience at QMU has completely transformed my life … QMU are totally invested in helping students be all they can be. At last, I have found people who believe in me, so I can start believing in myself.”

Daniel Pauley, QMU Graduate, BSc (Hons) Podiatry



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# Introduction

QMU is committed to widening participation amongst students who may require more support to thrive in Higher Education for social, economic or cultural reasons and has long striven to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for care experienced people to progress on to and successfully complete a university degree.

Our Widening Participation and Outreach (WPO) team seeks to increase student numbers from non-traditional groups including those that are first generation to go to Higher Education; from low progression schools; reside in communities in the lowest 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (MD20); articulating students from Scotland’s Colleges, and those who are care experienced.

Pre-entry, WPO aims to ensure that those with experience of care are fully informed about courses, admissions procedures and the student experience to enable them to make informed choices. Our care experienced students coming from college have the option to take part in Direct Entrant Induction Week, and all care experienced students having priority access to a range of services such as QM Advance (induction programme) as well as study skills, well-being, accommodation and financial support.



In March 2022, we recruited an additional staff member to the WPO team to lead on our support for members of QMCares, our support group for students with care experience, those estranged from their families and student carers - demonstrating the University’s on-going commitment to ensuring successful outcomes for our care experienced students.

We are active partners in the Hub for Success, CEECEF, East Lothian Council’s Corporate Parenting Board and in recent years have worked closely with Who Cares? Scotland and East Lothian’s Champions Board to support care experienced applicants and entrants to QMU.



*QMU Film and Media Lecturer Graham Drysdale showcasing a series of films produced with East Lothian’s Champions Board members at the Scottish Parliament.*

# What is Corporate Parenting?

Queen Margaret University is a Corporate Parent as defined by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

A corporate parent is an organisation or individual who has special responsibilities for care experienced young people. Corporate parenting responsibilities extend to all care experienced children and young people aged from birth to when they cease to be looked after.

This includes children and young people:

• in residential care

• foster care

• kinship care

• secure care

• who are looked after at home with social work involvement

• care leavers who were looked after on their 16th birthday (or subsequently)

“*Corporate Parenting responsibilities continue to apply until the care leaver reaches their 26th birthday, however, at QMU we have extended our policy to support all our care experienced students, regardless of age*.”

Callum Maguire, Head of Widening Participation and Outreach, Queen Margaret University

# What are Corporate Parenting duties?

Corporate parents have many of the same roles as parents. Corporate parents should do as much as they can to make sure children and young people feel in control of their lives and able to overcome the barriers they face. Section 58 of the Act outlines the following six statutory duties:

• **To be alert** to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of a care-experienced individual

• **Assess the needs** of care experienced young people for any services or support provided

• **Promote the interests** of this group of young people

• Seek to provide care experienced young people with **opportunities** to promote their wellbeing

• Take appropriate action to ensure care experienced young people **can access opportunities** and make use of services available to them

• To **review, evaluate and improve** our practice and procedures to Corporate Parenting

• To **collaborate** with other Corporate Parents when exercising corporate parenting responsibilities.



# Why do we need a Corporate Parenting Plan?

As a Corporate Parent, QMU is committed to working towards the National Ambition for Care Experienced Students set by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) ‘for there to be equal outcomes between care experienced students and their peers by 2030’.

We know care experienced children and young people can achieve brilliant successes and positive outcomes but sometimes those with care experience need a bit more support to thrive.

The Scottish Government 2019 data indicates:

• 44% of looked-after children left school at age 16 or earlier compared with 11% of all school leavers aged 16 or younger in 2017-18

• 39% of looked-after children have one or more qualifications at National 5 (SCQF level 5), compared with 86% of all pupils

• Only 12% of school leavers who were looked-after left school in 2017-18 with a Higher (SQCF 6) level qualification, compared with 62% of their peers.

**However, with the right support from corporate parents more care experienced children and young people can achieve their full potential.**



# How has this plan been developed?

The Queen Margaret University Corporate Parenting Plan 2022-2025 is ambitious and has been developed in partnership with key agencies such as Who Cares? Scotland and, in particular, members of QM Cares - ensuring the student voice and lived experience underpins our on-going commitment to Corporate Parenting.

Over the last twelve months, we have undertaken a series of student surveys, on campus workshops with staff and members of QM Cares, as well as engaging with external agencies such as Who Cares? Scotland and student ambassadors from The Hub for Success.

We are committed to ensuring these voices will continue to set the agenda for Corporate Parenting at QMU, reflecting our commitment to keep The Promise. The Promise Scotland is responsible for driving the work of change demanded by the findings of the Independent Care Review, undertaken from 2017 to 2020 that gave voice to over 500 people with lived experience of the care system, including young people, families and carers as well as professionals working in the care system.



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# Students with Care Experience at QMU

We have been humbled in recent years by the increasing number of care experienced students who choose to study at QMU and we are committed to ensuring they receive the student experience they so richly deserve.

The information below shows the number of students at both undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) level of study who indicate they have care experience.

*Chart 1. Cumulative number of students with care experience at QMU.*

*Table 1. Data showing cumulative number of students with care experience at QMU.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Students with Care Experience**  **at QMU** | | | |
| Year | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
| UG | 44 | 53 | 63 |
| PG | 7 | 6 | 12 |
| Total | 51 | 59 | 75 |



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# Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2022-25

As a Corporate Parent, QMU aims to provide an environment where an individual’s needs are met at all stages of the student journey.

Our Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2022-2025 is aligned to the University’s Strategic Plan 2020-2025, with an over-arching strategic aim of becoming a sector leader in access for students from under-represented groups in our communities. The plan also aligns with the University’s Widening Access and Participation Strategy 2022-2025 that sets out our vision for ensuring students of all backgrounds see QMU as a University for them, where they are supported to succeed and thrive, and are enabled to pursue fulfilling and rewarding careers that benefit themselves and wider society.

The following tables detail the University’s three-year plan for fulfilling our role as a Corporate Parent. For ease of reference, the plan is divided into four sections:

1. *Pre-Application Advice, Guidance and Promotion*
2. *Application and Admissions Process*
3. *On Course Support and Promoting Awareness within QMU*
4. *External Partnership Work*

Within each section, we describe, in turn:

• Our core actions

• Aims and Outcomes

• Where these actions and their outcomes relate to the specific responsibilities laid out in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

• When each action will be completed and reviewed

In line with recommendations in the Children and Young People (Scotland) 2014 Act, our Corporate Parenting Plan will be kept under continual review, and we will ensure it is aligned with ‘The Promise Scotland Change Plan 2021-2024’.

This Corporate Parenting Plan is referenced in our latest Outcome Agreement with the SFC, and we will report on progress in our Care Experienced provision via the Outcome Agreement.

“*Corporate Parenting is as great a privilege as it is a responsibility. As corporate parents, we must ensure that the ways in which we work, independently and in partnership, enhance the wellbeing and outcomes achieved by our care experienced students*.”

Sir Paul Grice, Principal and Vice Chancellor, Queen Margaret University



## Pre-Application Advice, Guidance and Promotion

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action** | **Activity** | **Duty / Duties** | **Date** |
| **1.1**  **Targeting of those with experience of care within QMU Widening Participation activity** | **1.1.1**  **SCHOOLS PROGRAMME**  Each year WPO support more than 2500 prospective S3 to S6 students (and their families and advisers) via our partnership work with the Schools for Higher Education Programme (SHEP). SHEP supports regional collaboration between schools, colleges and universities to increase progression to higher education in both colleges and universities. The programme supports schools in each region where less than 22% of pupils progress to higher education. The majority of this work is delivered via our partnership with our local SHEP agency, the Lothian Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPS) who work with the 73 high schools across Edinburgh, Lothians, Borders and Forth Valley. WPO will continue to play a key role in the delivery of LEAPS programme of activity and ensure those with experience of care are prioritised in QMU’s outreach work with schools opportunities wherever possible. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **1.1.2**  **MCR PATHWAYS**  Since 2022, the WPO teamhas been working with MCR Pathways to deliver aspiration raising, and advice and guidance sessions to care experienced pupils in local schools. The WP team attends meetings with key school staff and facilitate appropriate provision on and off campus. WPO are currently working with MCR and colleagues from The Hub for Success to develop a regular programme of engagement with eligible pupils.  In addition to our work with LEAPS and emerging work with MCR Pathways, we have developed QMU specific programmes of engagement that prioritise opportunities for care experienced young people. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **1.1.3**  **STEP INTO HEALTH**  Step into Health @ QMU is a Widening Participation and Outreach project for LEAPS eligible pupils in S5 and S6, to which pupils with care experience have priority access. The project is aimed at pupils interested in studying Nursing, Paramedic Science or any of the Allied Health Professions we offer here at QMU. This programme aims to provide experience of studying these subjects at university and give an opportunity to gain more insight into the subject of choice as well as providing experience to reflect on as part of a UCAS personal statement. Over S5 and S6, we run subject and career exploration events, which provide an insight into different subject areas. All activities are free of charge and are accompanied by a workbook containing all the instructions and materials required to take part in the programme. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | Ongoing |
| **1.1.4**  **ENHANCED LEARNING TUTORING INITIATIVE (ELTI)**  In response to the educational challenges faced by young people due to COVID-19, we have developed our Enhanced Learning Tutoring Initiative (ELTI) which, since January 2021, has provided graduate-led 1-2-1 and/or small group tutoring to over 600 disadvantaged young people in 4th - 6th year attending High Schools in East Lothian and Midlothian. ELTI targets care experienced pupils and delivers the programme within partner schools and in-community settings targeting excluded/dis-engaged senior phase pupils. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | September 2022 to July 2023 |
| **1.1.5**  **FURTHER SCHOOLS VISITS AND ENGAGEMENT**  In addition to the coordination of the above Schools Programmes, members of the WPO team regularly visit schools across the east of Scotland, providing information sessions on our schools provision, and guidance on the UCAS application process. WPO staff regularly attend UCAS and Careers events in schools across the east of Scotland, to deliver talks and Q&A sessions for pupils, parents, guardians and teachers. At these events the team often meet with care experienced pupils and/or guidance staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with care experience, enabling us to highlight the support offered via QMCares at QMU. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **1.1.6**  **COLLEGES PROGRAMME**  QMU’s College Partnership Manager maintains contact with relevant staff within the college sector, and regularly attends HE Fairs at FE colleges throughout Scotland, during the UCAS application cycle, promoting progression opportunities and QMCares support and provision in place at QMU. In addition, the College Partnership Manager develops and delivers a series of programmes aimed at supporting the transition and induction of target students joining QMU from our partner colleges throughout Scotland. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **1.1.7**  **DIRECT ENTRANTS WEEK**  All our new care experienced Direct Entrants (students entering year 2, 3 or 4 of an undergraduate degree) have priority access to our dedicated induction programme. The programme is designed as a response to feedback from Direct Entrants collected over a number of years and is an invaluable opportunity to:   * Meeting key members of staff * Meeting your fellow Direct Entrants * Finding out from current Direct Entrants what QMU is really like * Finding your way around campus * Finding out about your timetable * Getting to use the library and QMU's electronic resources and develop your academic skills while learning how to write a piece of university level work | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **1.1.8**  **QM ADVANCE**  Care experienced students have priority access to this course, which helps new first year students to ease their way into life and study just before the first semester officially commences. QMAdvance has been designed to give participants the opportunity to meet and spend time getting to know other new students who have also come to QMU via an access course, another course at a college or straight from employment. The course aims to ensure that participants feel confident in their abilities while giving early access to a range of key services and staff. The course takes place over 3 days, just before the start of semester each year. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | September 2022, 2023 and 2024 |
| **1.1.9**  **SCOTTISH WIDER ACCESS PROGRAMME (SWAP):**  The QMU WPO Team works closely with SWAP colleagues to ensure that students with experience of care are made aware of the support provision in place at QMU, and the role of the WPO Team. This effective partnership ensures continuity of support for those with experience of care looking to continue their learner journey as mature students. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **1.1.10**  **QMCARES LEAFLET**  Dedicated leaflet detailing information on support and provision at QMU for students with care experience, as well as contact details for the named contact at QMU. This leaflet is widely available to teachers, LA & third sector contacts and distributed at Open Days, FE College events, Careers Fairs etc. Leaflet to be updated for 2023/24. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going – new leaflet produced by August 2023 |
| **1.1.11**  **QMU WEBSITE**  The following dedicated webpage detailing support for students with care experience will be reviewed and updated in 2022/23.  <https://www.qmu.ac.uk/study-here/student-services/support-for-care-leavers/> | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | Refresh webpage completed by May 2023 |
| **1.1.12**  **QMCARES WEBPAGE**  In 2022/23 we will develop a new QMCares landing page. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | New webpage launched January 2023 |
| **1.1.13**  **PROSPECTUS**  Support for those with care experience mentioned explicitly within QMU Prospectus, including contextual admissions alongside information about QMCares. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |

## Application and Admissions Process

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action** | **Activity** | **Duty / Duties** | **Date** |
| **2.1**  **Contextualised Admission for all applicants with care experience** | **2.1.1**  **OFFER/INTERVIEW GUARANTEE**  QMU guarantees to make an offer of admission to care experienced students with the potential to meet minimum entry requirements. In cases where the course requires an interview or audition as part of the application process, care experienced applicants are guaranteed this opportunity provided they have the potential to meet minimum entry requirements for their chosen programme of study. | ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’ ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **2.2**  **UCAS Checkbox information recorded, monitored and acted upon** | **2.2.1**  **APPLICANT ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**  QMU Applicants with care experience are identified via the UCAS tick box and at matriculation. This information is added to QMU student records for support and monitoring purposes. The WPO team works closely with Admissions during each application cycle, contacting applicants and securing verification of care-experience as required. The WPO team contacts applicants who have ticked the UCAS checkbox to outline QMU provision, e.g. QMCares, Care Experienced Bursaries, and Accommodation support. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’ | On-going |
| **2.3**  **Monitoring and reporting on applications, entry and progression patterns** | **2.3.1**  **APPLICANT DATA**  We monitor our care experienced applicants and entrants with the intent of increasing the numbers entering and being successfully retained each year. Anonymised data regarding our care experienced population is collected for reporting purposes each year. | Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’ ‘Improve’ | On-going |

## On Course Support and Promoting Awareness within QMU

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action** | **Activity** | **Duty / Duties** | **Date** |
| **3.1**  **On-course contact from QMCares and WPO team** | **3.1.1**  **ONGOING SUPPORT**  The QMCares WP Officer is available throughout the academic year to provide tailored and personalised information, advice, guidance, and support to care experienced students, whenever necessary. The Head of WPO is available as an alternate in case of leave/absence/non-availability. The QMCares WP Officer proactively contacts care experienced students in their first year of study as follows:   * Initial contact in September, includes: introduction to QMCares, offer of informal meeting to provide in-person introduction and welcome, as well as induction and orientation support. * Information on other forms of financial support available, e.g., Discretionary Fund. * Offer to receive the QMCares newsletter containing relevant and informative information for care experienced students * Invitation to attend informal group QMCares meetings held monthly on campus over lunchtimes. * Further contact in term 2, includes: follow-up offer of informal meeting, and opportunity to review first term. Further signposting of HEI Discretionary Funds and, if necessary, other forms of general student service support. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Improve’ | September 2022 to  June 2023 |
| **3.1.2**  **QMCONTACT**  In 2023/24, subject to funding, we will re-introduce QM Contact – a student phone call mentoring service. Existing QMU students contact WP students (giving priority to care experienced students) in their first year by telephone at 5 key points in the academic year (pre-entry, one month into the term, exam time, post-Christmas and at the end of semester 2. Students are offered peer support, guidance, and signposting, supervised by a member of the WP team. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Improve’ | September 2023 to  June 2024 |
| **3.2**  **Priority access to relevant student support staff and services** | **3.2.1**  **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**  As the central point of contact for care experienced students at QMU, the QMCares WP Officer acts as a liaison between students and relevant academic and student support services staff. The QMCares WP Officer maintains close working relationship with QMU staff members within, for example: Student Services, Accommodation, Finance Support, Counselling and Wellbeing, Disability Service, Admissions, Registry and The Student Union. If any care experienced student requires support or intervention from any of the above, the QMCares WPO can advocate on their behalf and ensure their case is considered sympathetically and as a matter of priority. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **3.2.2**  **CAREERS SUPPORT**  QMU to offer priority access to a dedicated Careers Adviser for WP students, including those with care experience. The QMCares team will liaise with careers staff to make direct referrals, to identify those students who would benefit from extra support in making decisions around their career and securing graduate level jobs. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Improve’ | On-going from 2023 |
| **3.3**  **365-day accommodation guarantee** | **3.3.1**  **365 ACCOMMODATION**  QMU guarantees that care experienced students can have access to University accommodation 365-days of the year. Accommodation is available to students on campus. The QMCares WP Officer liaises with Accommodation and care experienced students to ensure suitable accommodation is identified and secured. Accommodation staff are aware of context regarding care experienced students, allowing maximum flexibility and full support. | ‘Assess needs’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’ | On-going |
| **3.4**  **Finance Support** | **3.4.1**  **DISCRETIONARY FUND**  The WPO team contacts care experienced students directly to draw attention to the HEI Discretionary Fund and other funding opportunities. The QMCares WP Officer supports completion and submission of forms if required and liaises closely with the Student Finance Officer to advocate on behalf of care experienced applicants. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **3.5**  **Introduce all-staff training on the subject of Corporate Parenting, with additional training opportunities offered where appropriate including the**  **dissemination of information regarding care experienced provision and Corporate Parenting responsibilities within QMU** | **3.5.1**  **UNIVERSITY-WIDE SUPPORT**  The WPO Team liaises regularly with relevant staff members to ensure that Corporate Parenting responsibilities are widely known, and that care experienced students are supported accordingly throughout their studies. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **3.5.2**  **STAFF UPDATES**  Information and updates regarding QMU’s support provision for care experienced students is disseminated widely across QMU, through Moderator, WISeR Group and other internal meetings. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **3.5.3**  **INSIGHT SESSION**  In 2022/23 we will work with Who Cares Scotland to deliver an all-staff Corporate Parenting insight session. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | February 2023 |
| **3.5.4**  **STAFF AWARENESS TRAINING**  In 2023/24 we will work with colleagues in Student Services to introduce Corporate Parenting into training for our network of Personal Academic Tutors. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | September 2023 |
| **3.5.5**  **OU MODULE**  In addition, during 2022/23, we will continue to work with colleagues in HR and across the QMU community of staff to promote enrolment in the Open University’s Corporate Parenting in Higher Education online learning module. | ‘Be alert’  ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Help access’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |

## External Partnership Work

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action** | **Activity** | **Duty / Duties** | **Date** |
| **4.1 Supporting the Care Experienced Community in Scotland** | **4.1.1**  **CEECEF**  Attend Care Experienced, Estranged & Carers East Forum (CEECEF) meetings and play an active role in group discussions and acting upon any relevant action points as appropriate. | ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **4.1.2**  **HUB FOR SUCCESS**  Attend regular meetings and support on-going development of the Hub for Success – the support and advice service for care experienced applicants to university and college. WPO staff attend Steering and Advisory Group meetings and regularly host meetings with associated colleagues and staff. | ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **4.1.3**  **EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL**  Attend East Lothian Corporate Parenting Board meetings and contribute to the strategic goals of ELC in provision of support for care experienced young people residing in East Lothian. | ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **4.1.4**  **EAST LOTHIAN CHAMPIONS BOARD**  Host weekly meetings (free of charge) at QMU for the East Lothian Champions Board, throughout 2022/23 with a view to extending into 2023/24. As well as providing a meeting space, we will continue to support the group’s aims and objectives in supporting positive outcomes for young care experienced people in East Lothian. | ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | October 2022 to  June 2023 |
| **4.1.5**  **RESEARCH**  The WPO team will continue to seek opportunities to support research into the student experience of students with care experience. For example, the Graduate Transitions of Care Experienced Students Seminar Event held at QMU in May 2022, presented by Dr Zoe Baker. | ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | On-going |
| **4.1.6**  **CARE EXPERIENCE WEEK**  The WPO team will continue to promote Care Experience Week – the annual event to celebrate the care experienced community in Scotland. | ‘Promote interests’  ‘Provide opportunities’  ‘Collaborate’  ‘Assess needs’  ‘Improve’ | November 2022 to 2025 |

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# Named Point of Contact

Queen Margaret University’s Corporate Parenting duties are the responsibility of the whole institution, and do not reside with one individual. However, a central strand of our provision is to have a dedicated, named point of contact for care experienced or estranged students, and all related inquiries, both internal and external.

The University’s Named Point of Contact is Callum Maguire, Head of Widening Participation and Outreach. Any queries about QMU’s Corporate Parenting Plan or our support provision for care experienced applicants and entrants should be directed to Callum or in his absence, Gayle Green, Widening Participation Officer (Support).

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**Callum Maguire**

*Head of Widening Participation and Outreach*

*Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh*

**0131 474 0000**

[**cmaguire@qmu.ac.uk**](mailto:cmaguire@qmu.ac.uk)





**Gayle Green**

*Widening Participation Officer (Support)*

*Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh*

**0131 474 0000**

[**ggreen@qmu.ac.uk**](mailto:ggreen@qmu.ac.uk)

(Document produced by WPO, Oct 2022.)