

Heriot-Watt University Corporate Parenting Review Report March 2018

1. Introduction

- 1.1** Corporate Parenting refers to the responsibilities placed on the University in the performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted.
- 1.2** Under section 58 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, the University is legally obliged to publish and produce a statutory report on Corporate Parenting. The University must ensure that it is alert to the needs of care experienced young people, assess their needs, promote their rights and needs, provide opportunities, improve access and improve outcomes.
- 1.3** Over 2016-18 Heriot-Watt University has been taking a range of actions in response to our obligations as a Corporate Parent. The University is currently reviewing our Corporate Parent Policy and Corporate Parenting Plan in line with our internal review cycle. It is anticipated that an updated Policy and Plan will be approved in May 2018.
- 1.4** This report highlights activities that have been undertaken over 2016-18, presented with reference to our responsibilities articulated in section 58 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014:

Corporate parenting responsibilities

(1) It is the duty of every corporate parent, in so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its other functions—

(a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom this Part applies,

(b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,

(c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,

(d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,

(e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people—

(i) to access opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph (d), and

(ii) to make use of services, and access support, which it provides, and

(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people.

* extract from www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/section/58/enacted

- 1.5** The action plan at section 2 covers our progress to date and also provides the basis for development of our refreshed Corporate Parenting Policy and Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-21.

2. Heriot-Watt University Update Position at March 2018

2.1 Below is a table updating progress over 2016-18

| Action | Area Responsible | Update at March 2018 |
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| 1. Improve information directed at looked after children and young people via social workers, foster carers with dedicated web page | Student Recruitment | Dedicated web page for care leavers, with further developments to follow Involvement in the collaborative Hub for SUCCESS (Support for University and College for Care Experienced in South-East Scotland) |
| 2. Include information regarding Corporate Parenting in Personal Tutor training | SITO/Registry Services/SSA | Information on care leavers is included in the new (2017-18) Personal Tutor Handbook |
| 3. Raise awareness of Corporate Parenting responsibilities via web based materials | SITO/Registry Services/SSA | Support for care leavers outlined on HWU webpages www.hw.ac.uk/uk/student-support/care-leavers.htm |
| 4. Provide outreach advice and guidance at pre-application | Student Recruitment | Contact details provided externally through websites such as Propel. Named contact available to answer any advice and guidance prior to application |
| 5. Provide support during application process | Student Recruitment | Potential students encouraged to self-identify and individual support communications sent out during the application process |

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| 6. Provide individual advice on funding options as a new student, ensuring access to eligible bursaries/scholarships | SSA/Registry Services | Care leavers made aware pre-entry of Access Bursaries and other funding options |
| 7. Provide individual advice on accommodation options as a new student, ensuring access to cheaper options if requested | Campus Services | Least expensive accommodation offered at the time of application and processing. New Guarantor Scheme in place from 2018. |
| 8. Provide information and communication pre entry | SITO/Registry Services | Pre-entry communications provide information on Access Bursaries, EMentoring and Summer School which care leavers are invited to participate |
| 9. Ensure pre arrival meeting and transition support | SITO/Registry Services | Invitations to pre-entry meetings and tours of the campus are sent by Student Recruitment/Student Wellbeing Services |
| 10. Personalised contact in induction | Student Recruitment | Pre-entry contact in Student Recruitment (Pat Reid) |
| 11. Arrange ongoing named contact | SITO/Registry Services | Named contact in Student Wellbeing Services (Emma Smail) |
| 12. Ensure peer mentoring if requested via named contact | SITO/Registry Services | Care leavers are invited to participate in pre-entry EMentoring and post entry peer mentoring programmes |
| 13. Ensure registration with G.P. via named contact | SITO/Registry Services | Covered as part of web based guidance for all new students and is referred to in pre-entry messages |

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| 14. Ensure access to relevant support services both University and external via named contact | SITO/Registry Services | All care leavers are aware of named contact who will deal with each on a case by case basis |
| 15. Ensure access to 'Active Students' referral scheme at Oriam via named contact | SITO/Registry Services | All care leavers are eligible to access the Active Student programme, through discussion with Emma Smail |
| 16. Provide personalised careers advice and guidance | Careers Services/Registry Services | Students receive personalised support via named careers advisers to build rapport and trust. Information regarding careers is tailored to individual interest. Should students disclose any specific circumstances the careers service ensure awareness of additional support routes |
| 17. Ensure named contact liaises with Personal Tutor | SITO/Registry Services | Liaison takes place with personal tutor as appropriate to the requirements of the individual student |
| 18. Provide personalised advice on accommodation options as a continuing student | SSA/Registry Services | Advice and information provided whilst an enrolled student |
| 19. Provide personalised advice regarding funding options as a continuing student | SITO/Registry Services | Care leavers made aware of and referred to funding advisor as appropriate by named contact |
| 20. Provide personalised advice regarding childcare or other specialist support via named contact | SITO/Registry Services | Named contact will advise and refer as appropriate |

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| 21. Ensure access to 'GO Global' via named contact | SITO/Registry Services | All Student can take up opportunities for Go Global www.hw.ac.uk/students/studies/go-global.htm support needs are responded to on an individual basis |
| 22. Ensure appropriate interventions to increase retention and progression rates | SITO/Registry Services | Regular communications via named contact at key points in the academic year |
| 23. Ensure appropriate mechanisms for disclosure of status at admission and enrolment | Admissions/Registry Services | Question relating to 'care experienced' added to online enrolment 2017/2018 |
| 24. Ensure equity of provision across campuses | SSA/Registry Services | Policies and practices are consistent across the University |
