



CORPORATE PARENTING AT FIFE COLLEGE

Presented by:

Carol Hunter, FCSA President (Education & Representation)

Fiona Morrison, Student Adviser (Engagement & Employability)

I AM NOT
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME,

I AM
WHAT I CHOOSE
TO BECOME

- CARL JUNG



 LIFE
QUOTES
thebestlifequotes.com

 LIFE
QUOTES
thebestlifequotes.com

About Fife College

- **Annual Turnover: £48m (83% public funding)**
- **Campuses: Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Levenmouth and Rosyth**
- **Full range of provision from learning support to degree level**
- **Delivering: 30% Higher Education / 70% Further Education**
- **Four Faculties:**
 - **Business, Enterprise, Tourism and Supported Programmes**
 - **Care, Social Sciences and Education**
 - **Creative Industries**
 - **Engineering, Science, Technology and Built Environment**
- **Award winning Fife College Students' Association**



ACTIONS GROUP

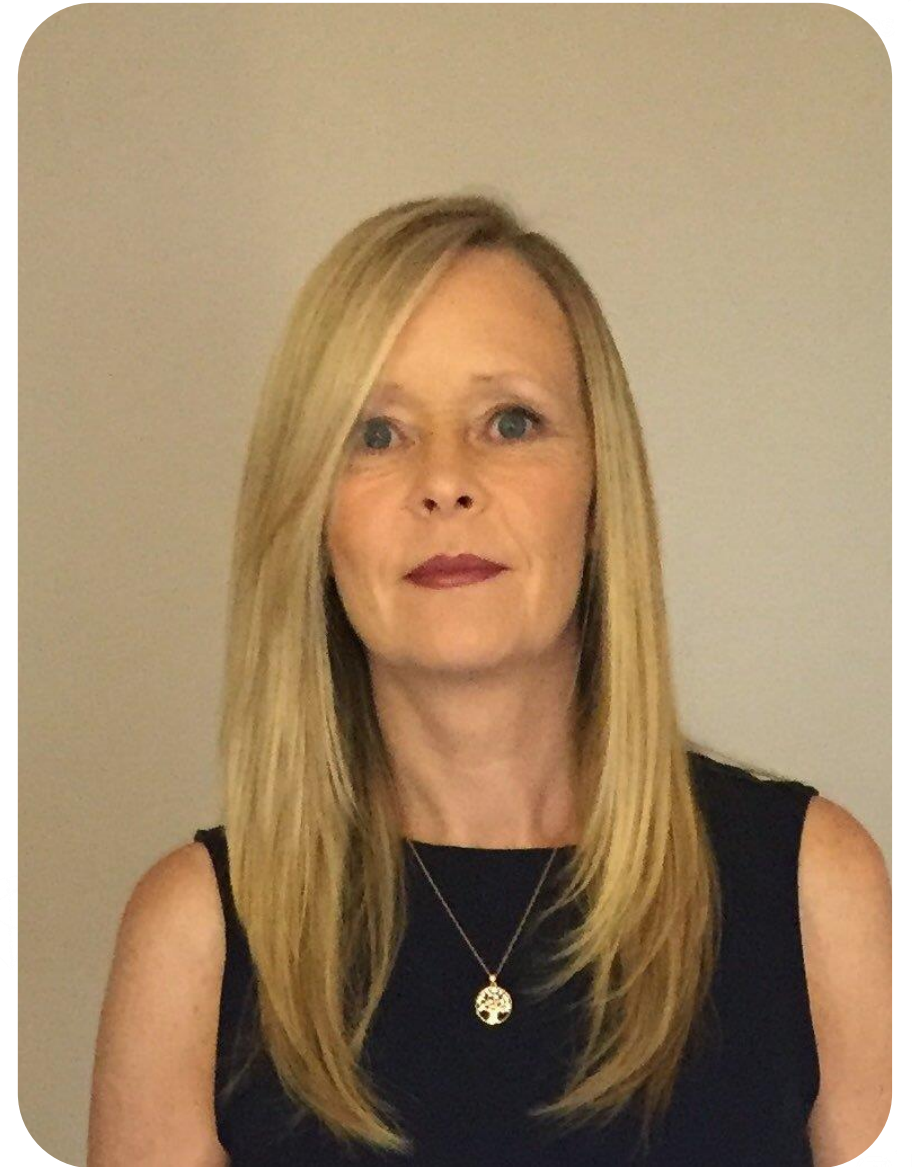
Chaired by Dawn Clark, Manager of Engagement & Employability.

Strategy Group which oversees and steers the college Corporate Parenting Plan and the strategies required.

Made up of Academic Heads, Managers etc with Student Representation in the form of the FCSA.

Clear focus and direction of the aims and the work required including fundraising requirements.

Decisions are then taken to the champions group where the operational requirements are taken forward.



CHAMPIONS GROUP

- **Chaired by Dawn Clark, Manager of Engagement & Employability**
- **Made up of 40+ members of staff, rotating in responsibility and attendance**
- **This is a voluntary role for staff and sometimes involves evening or weekend activities**
- **Paul Sullivan (Care Review) recently attended the Champion Group to find out more about what we are doing – he was very impressed!**



FUNDRAISING

- Ongoing fundraising throughout the academic year
- Christmas Raffle raised £500 and Principal Hugh Hall matched this to £1000
- Christmas gifts – Principal Hugh Hall and FCSA raised funds so that every care experienced student received a £20 gift card at Christmas
- T- shirts!
- Currently in the process of arranging festive fundraising for 2019
- Each faculty has committed to a financial contribution to the festive fund
- Some staff took part in the Kilt Walk and also the Love Rally



Guidance Team

- Liaise with two named high schools each to meet Care Experienced students.
- Contact applicants as welcome, offering tours and funding application help.
- Help with UCAS and SAAS applications.
- Meet with our Care Experienced students throughout the year, some on a regular basis; others as needed. Refer to Who Cares? Scotland for advocacy support.
- Partner with other internal and external partners to provide more comprehensive support as corporate parents.



CARE EXPERIENCED BURSARY

- Currently 185 students are currently in receipt of the Care Experienced bursary of £202.50 per week.
- College staff have also been supporting HE students to apply for the Care Experienced bursary through SAAS.
- We know that some students haven't formally disclosed their care identity and expect this to grow as they learn about the support and events that take place throughout the academic year
- If the age cap comes off in 2020, we anticipate that the support required will be beyond what anyone has considered!



FCSA CARE EXPERIENCED OFFICERS

- The FCSA Care Experienced officers have been working hard to get more Care Experienced students involved.
- Carol was also invited to speak as a key note speaker at the Sparqs Conference regarding how to engage care experienced students. This led to a shared practice event with leading colleges and universities wishing to learn more about the Support that the FCSA and Fife College have in place support our Care Experienced students.
- To date there are 4 Care Experienced officers who are all dedicated to supporting our students. For next academic year we hope to double this.
- We were the first educational institution to introduce a Care Experienced Officer and are fundamental in developing the strategy within Fife College.



THE FIRST FCSA EVENT!

- First FCSA event was the Care Experienced Creative Writing contest called "Turning Point. This proved to be a very popular contest
- The prize was presented by Jenny Fagan, a care experienced author.



COMPETITION

"Turning Point"



Where did it all change for you?

We want to hear about your experiences, when or what caused the turning point in your life for the better?

Submit your creative writing entry to us!

Max 1000 words & can be in the form of a story, poem, reflective journal or even a song.

Prizes to be won!

Email your entries to fesa@fife.ac.uk

Closing date is 5pm on the Thursday 24th May

FCSA CARE EXPERIENCED OFFICERS EVENTS

- Awareness Days – National Care Leavers Week and Care Experienced Week
- Dedicated Care Experienced Days where external agencies were invited to raise awareness within Fife College
- Social Media Campaigns including Facts & Figures as well as celebrating success of students
- 4 Drop-in Sessions every month



SEEN+HEARD

Fife College was delighted to host an exciting creative and moving engagement exhibition organised by the Children's Parliament recently to highlight the rights of children.

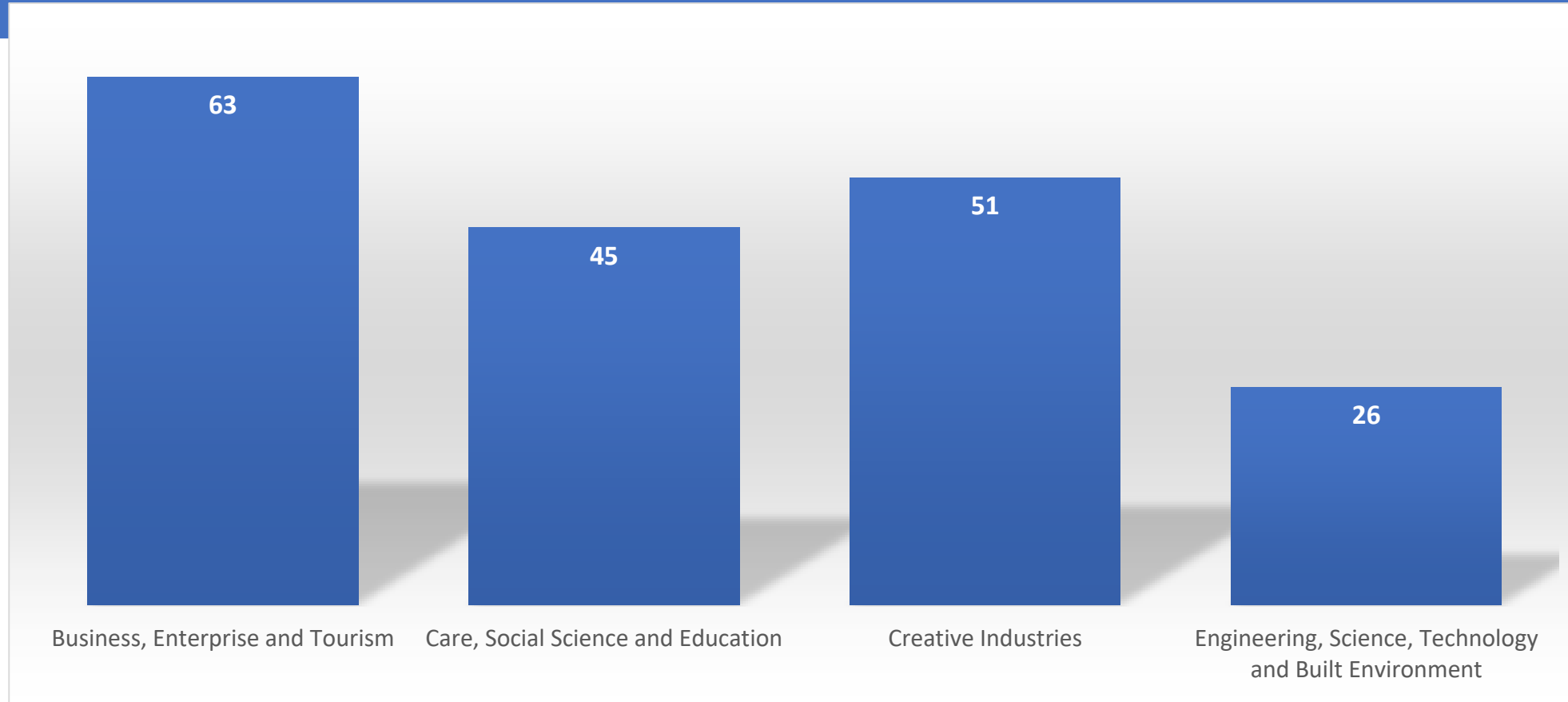
The College welcomed children from the Seen + Heard In Fife, a group of 12 children aged 11-13 who put on the exhibition using creative approaches to explore messages that they want to share with adults who can make a difference for children with care experience.

The work of the Children's Parliament is based on the UNICEF Rights of the Child and the youth theatre provision at Fife College has run for the past 18 years on the same philosophy which is to provide a safe environment for children to express themselves, develop their confidence and self-esteem and to feel that they have adult advocates to meet their basic needs. Our local council used to pay for the children to attend our youth theatre classes when it was run commercially but we have now been able to remove the financial barrier by maximising on our accreditation and educational awarding body powers to promote access for all children.

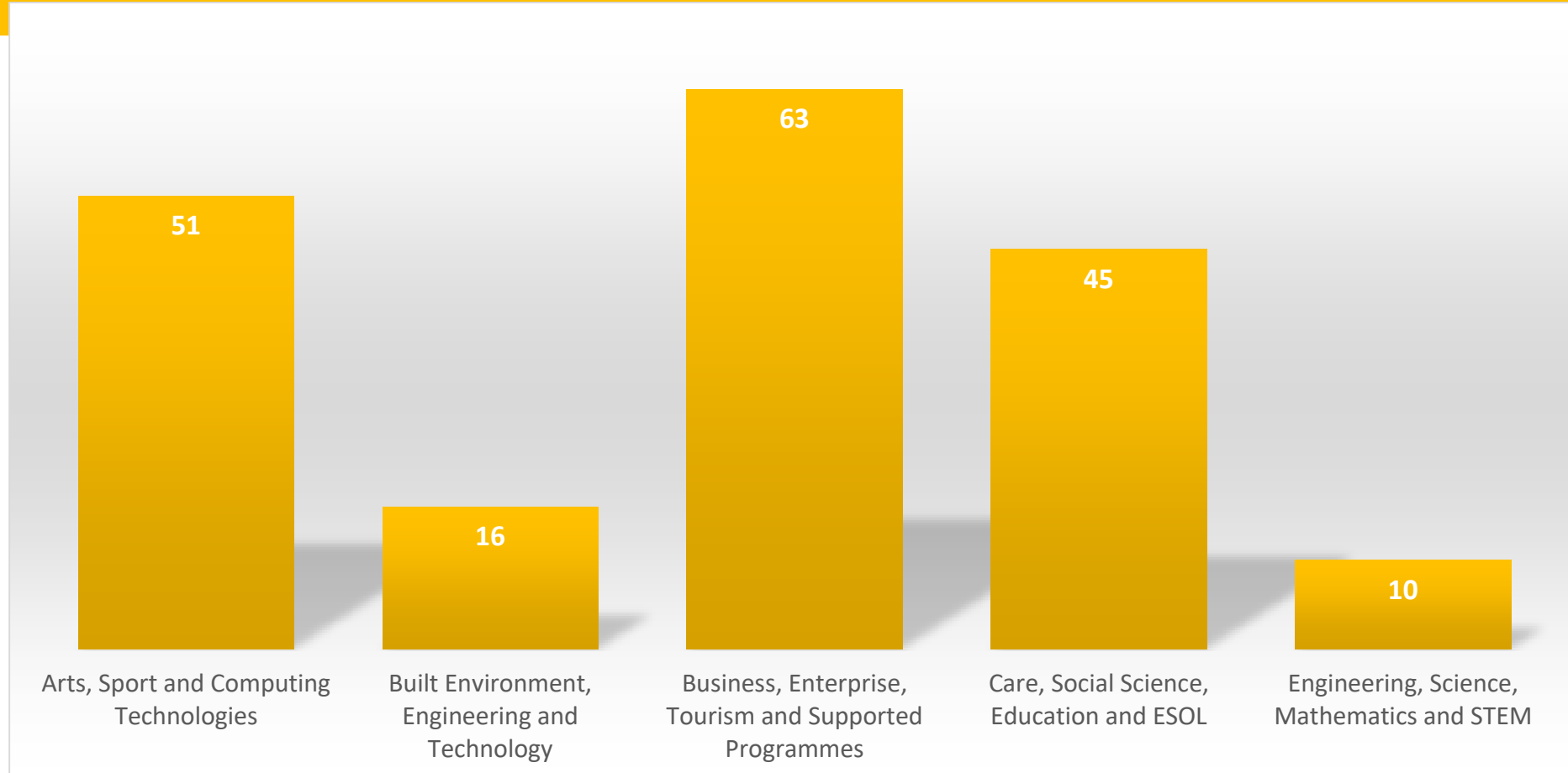
Our work continues in partnership and Fife College is proud to be a corporate parent.



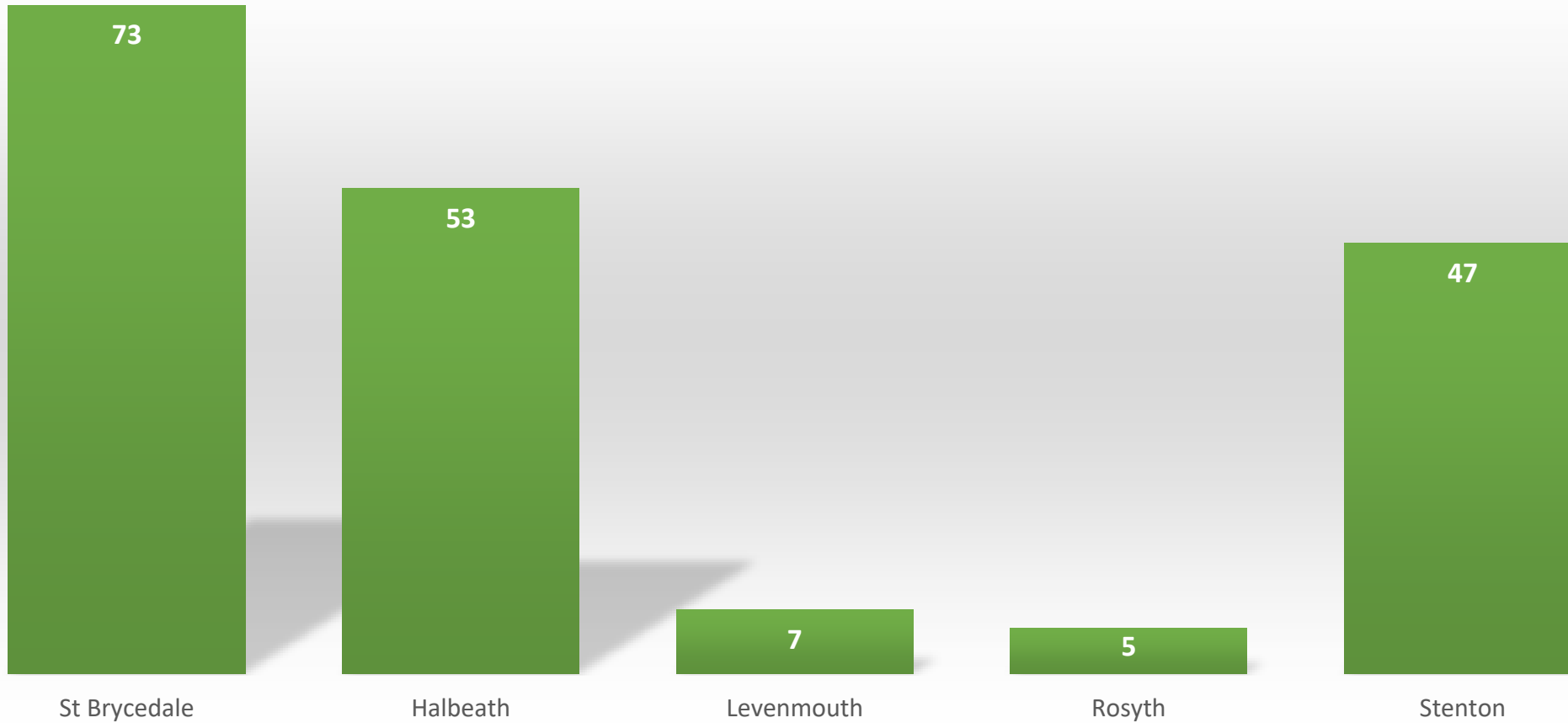
CE STUDENTS BY FACULTY



CE STUDENTS BY ACADEMIC AREA



CE STUDENTS BY CAMPUS



Who Cares? Scotland Advocacy



Who Cares? Scotland Advocacy

- Fife College & Who Cares? Scotland joined together in 2018 to deliver a partnership approach to advocacy.
- Initially ½ day per week, however this increased to 2 ½ days per week
- This has proved to be really successful and has sparked discussions around more sustainable options for Fife College.



STAFF TRAINING



Who Cares? Scotland have completed 2 rounds of training throughout this year with various staff.

100% of attendees who completed their feedback questionnaire said that they would recommend this training to a colleague.

Feedback from staff was very positive.

I think this needs to be compulsory for all staff

Excellent session
- need more of these

Very well delivered with hard hitting examples of factual situations that are shocking to say the least

Amazing session, thank you!

Would love to see this rolled out so every member of staff to facilitate understanding

OUR PARTNERS

Some of our partners include:

2bheard

Seen+Heard

Who Cares Scotland?

Fife Council

Delivering Differently

SPARQS

Open University

Napier University

West Lothian College

Forth Valley College

SDS

Recent events:

- **Alpaca Trecking**
- **Tentsmuir beach day**



PARTNERSHIPS

Fife Council - We have been working in partnership with Fife Council and have offered them the use of College premises for LAC reviews.

Edinburgh College – Working with representatives from Edinburgh College to offer ideas and advice in how to implement their Corporate Parenting Plan.



SHOW WE CARE DAYS



Help us show We
Care at Fife College
Care Experienced Week
19th to 27th October





SOME OF OUR AMAZING CARE EXPERIENCED STUDENTS

Jeannette Miller



From Jeannette:

“The college supported me well as a care experienced student, encouraging me to stay engaged in my education when times got tough. Also encouraging me to take the support that was available, which has led to me engaging with similar services at university.”

The FCSA have been a great support network to me as a care experienced student and officer. They helped me increase my confidence, to open up about my feelings inside and outside of college, teaching me valuable life lessons.”

Jeannette has gone on to be successful in the Fife College articulation route after graduating with her HND in Social Sciences, she is now at Queen Margaret University studying for BSc in Public Sociology.

Leeanne Clark



From Leeanne:

“The Care Experienced Officer allowed me to work alongside people from all backgrounds, staff and students. Where I was able to connect and feed into discussions surrounding the issues facing care experienced students. It really helped me build on my confidence, meet new friends and gave me extra opportunities..”

Sharon Johnstone



Fife College

Transforming Lives



From Sharon:

“The support from the Fife college and the We Care at Fife Team has helped to bring awareness around the barriers faced by Care Experienced Students, It has also educated students that it isn’t anyone’s fault that they have been in care.”

The Care Experienced Officer Role with the FCSA has made me become more confident within myself. To not be ashamed of being care experienced but to be proud of who I am.”

Carol Hunter



Fife College

Transforming Lives



Carol was our very first Care Experienced Officer!

Now our student President, Carol has been fundamental in raising awareness of Care Experienced in the College. She is an excellent role model, and won a Highly Commended award in the Student of the Year category at a national college awards ceremony organised by College Development Network (CDN).

Carol has won many awards, including the “*outstanding contribution by college student award*” from the Herald Higher Education awards. Carol has shared her own personal story through online blogs, Scottish Parliament and the Childrens Hearing Scotland Civic reception, where she is now a newly appointed member of the Children’s Panel.

Carol gained a HND from Fife College and graduated in 2019 with a first class Bachelor of Arts with Honours degree in Social Science with The Open University (OU). Carol is continuing her studies with a MSc Crime and Justice (OU).



Care Experienced Staff



Fife College
Transforming Lives



Fiona Morrison

- **Openly shares care identity with students**
- **Promotes the work of Champions Group to students within classroom delivery**
- **Promotes the Kirkcaldy Employability Hub as a “check-in point” for care experienced students.**

COLLABORATIVE WORKING AND SUCCESS

Staff from Guidance, Inclusion and Faculty worked together as a team to support a student throughout his journey from starting NC Level 5 Acting and Performance and who is working towards completing his HND this year.

Alongside Who Cares? Scotland, College Staff supported him through recent difficulties with housing and social work which could have impacted negatively not just on his life but on his academic achievement and future.

This inspirational student secured temporary summer employment within the college, which he couldn't have been more proud of!



SUPPORT IN ACTION

A care experienced student who had newly moved into independent living become unwell and was admitted to hospital. The student reached out to one of the corporate parenting group expressing how terrified she was to be alone and in hospital.

The member of staff brought essential personal items and clothing to the young person and then visited her daily, checking in with hospital staff for updates on progress. When the young person was well enough to go home, the member of staff took her home.

The young person made a full recovery and was very vocal about her appreciation for everything that we did for her.

The young person is now back at college and also working part time, as well as being a Care Experienced Officer and Class Rep.



SOCIAL MEDIA



Fife College

Transforming Lives

Twitter - @WeCareAtFife

Facebook - @wecareatfifecollege

Please follow us – we would love to connect with you!





- We held our first scholarship for students who are Care Experienced or Young Carers.
- The Independent Living scholarship allowed students to apply for up to £500.
- 3 Care Experienced students were successful in their applications and were awarded these scholarships.



If that wasn't enough...!

Through discussions within the Champions Group various social events such as pizza nights and 'Monday Meet Ups' were organised to encourage our Care Experience students to come together and chat.

We celebrate key milestones with our Care Experienced students and recognise important events such as birthdays, exams, and house moves, by sending greeting cards which have been designed by fellow students.

We will continue to listen to our Care Experienced students as part of the development of all future plans and processes.



What people are saying about us...

“You can totally see in Fife College that we take our responsibilities about the corporate parenting of Care experienced people really seriously. It is palpable in the Student Experience and Engagement team, and you can clearly see that there is loads of specific and attuned support that comes through from the Guidance team, Inclusion, Employability, FCSA and funding initiatives.

I feel very proud to be a part of a college and a department that makes sure that Care Experienced people receive love, support, education and care throughout their learner journey at Fife College.”

John Blakey. Health & Wellbeing Adviser, Fife College.



THE FUTURE

- **More dedicated staff committed to providing support and fundraising for Care Experienced Students**
- **More Care Experienced Officers**
- **Mandatory training for all staff**
- **An increased number of students empowered to disclose their care identity**
- **Age cap removed from statutory bursary and other associated funding & support**



Fife College
Transforming Lives



fife.ac.uk

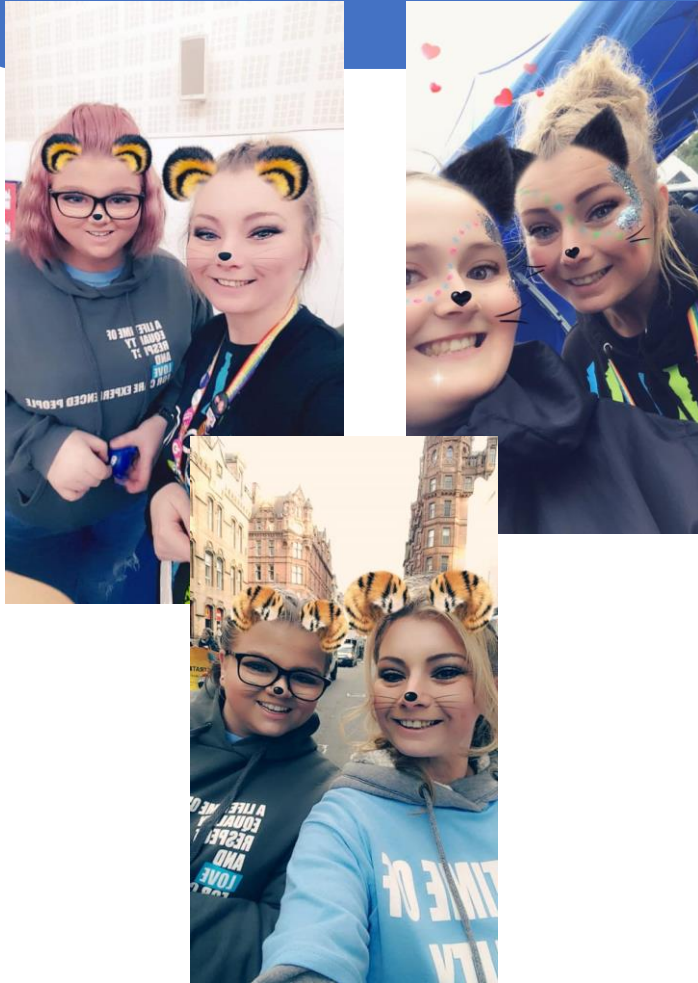
Any questions?



Fife College
Transforming Lives



Thank you!



Remember to connect with us:

Email – wecare@fife.ac.uk

Twitter - @WeCareAtFife

Facebook - @wecareatfifecollege