



Revised Corporate Parenting Commitments 2018–21 (Draft)

Outcome 1 — SQA understands and is alert to the needs of care-experienced children and young people to inform its policy, planning and practice.

We will:

- 1.1 Ensure our commitments to care-experienced children and young people are reflected in our Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 Keep informed about the issues which impact on the life of care-experienced children and young people and ensure young people are represented on our corporate parenting planning group.
- 1.3 Engage with the Young People’s Champions Boards to ensure we listen to care-experienced children and young people.
- 1.4 Research, report and use care-experienced young people’s preferred communication channels. We will do this by gathering direct feedback from young people through online surveys and engagement with the Young People’s Champions Boards.
- 1.5 Liaise with external organisations and other corporate parents to share good practice.
- 1.6 Ensure SQA’s exams timetable is sent annually to the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA) and Children’s Hearings Scotland (CHS) to allow children’s hearings to be organised out-with exam time. We will continue to engage with the SCRA to evaluate the impact of sharing SQA’s exams timetable.
- 1.7 Provide replacement Scottish Qualifications Certificates or authentication of results to care-experienced learners (26 years and under) without charge. Requests should be made to SQA through the learner’s local authority social work official.
- 1.8 Ensure SQA’s Equality Impact Assessment process considers the needs of care-experienced young people — treating care experience as if it were a protected characteristic covered by the Equality Act 2010.

Outcome 2 — Care-experienced children and young people benefit from access to a range of SQA services designed to meet their emotional and physical needs.

We will:

- 2.1 When designing qualifications, ensure the views of care-experienced young people are considered so that their care needs can be met.
- 2.2 Ensure experiences and interests contribute to the thinking and design of Care qualifications for the Care sector. Where qualifications are being developed for the Care sector, people with care experience will be invited as appropriate to contribute to the development process. This may include for example qualification development teams, qualification support teams and/or validation panels. This will ensure their voice is heard and that the qualification takes due account of their care needs.
- 2.3 Work in partnership with appropriate organisations to ensure care-experienced young people are prepared and trained and feel confident to support SQA's qualification development process in a meaningful way.
- 2.4 Consider how SQA qualifications can assist in decreasing the stigma and increase the status and awareness of care-experienced children and young people — particularly within SQA's qualifications in Childcare and Social Care, including Playwork.
- 2.5 Ensure that qualifications for Children's Panel members specify that direct input from care-experienced people is mandatory in the delivery of those qualifications. (This condition is a shared responsibility between SQA and Children's Hearings Scotland, collaboratively confirmed through approval and external quality assurance processes.)
- 2.6 Ensure SQA fully understands the impact of care experience and promotes supportive assessment practices for learners disadvantaged by their experience of the care system.
- 2.7 Consider opportunities to revise SQA's Equality Review of Qualifications process to incorporate consideration of the needs of care-experienced young people — to treat care experience as if it were a protected characteristic covered by the Equality Act 2010.
- 2.8 Explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership with other corporate parents to share good practice. We will do this through our participation on a number of corporate parent collaboration groups.

Outcome 3 — The ambition and achievements of care-experienced young people are supported, recognised and acknowledged by SQA.

We will:

- 3.1 In collaboration with Who Cares? Scotland and MCR Pathways, hold an annual results day celebratory event for care-experienced young people.
- 3.2 Demonstrate and celebrate the success of care-experienced young people through the publication of case studies to inspire other learners.

Outcome 4 — Improve access to Modern Apprenticeships, routes to work experience and employment within SQA.

We will:

- 4.1 Promote work experience, Modern Apprenticeship and employment opportunities in SQA to care-experienced young people.

Outcome 5 — SQA employees and appointees understand and are aware of the needs of care-experienced young people and SQA's corporate parenting responsibilities.

We will:

- 5.1 Ensure SQA employee induction and staff development processes continue to provide opportunities to learn about care-experienced children and young people, and SQA's corporate parenting responsibilities.
- 5.2 Deliver revised online training to all staff to raise awareness of the needs of care-experienced young people and SQA's corporate parenting responsibilities.
- 5.3 Work in partnership with Who Cares? Scotland, to deliver annual face-to-face training with input from a care-experienced ambassador.
- 5.4 Continue to create and promote volunteering opportunities to support the aspirations, and raise the profile, of care-experienced young people. We will do this through SQA's Responsible Business Volunteering Strategy and in collaboration with Who Cares? Scotland, MCR Pathways and other voluntary organisations.
- 5.5 Work with MCR Pathways to support their mentoring programme and offer work-experience programme placements for care-experienced young.
- 5.6 Promote the MCR Pathways mentoring programme as a volunteering opportunity to encourage SQA employees to become mentors.
- 5.7 As a responsible business and proud corporate parent, work in partnership and explore further opportunities to support Who Cares? Scotland.