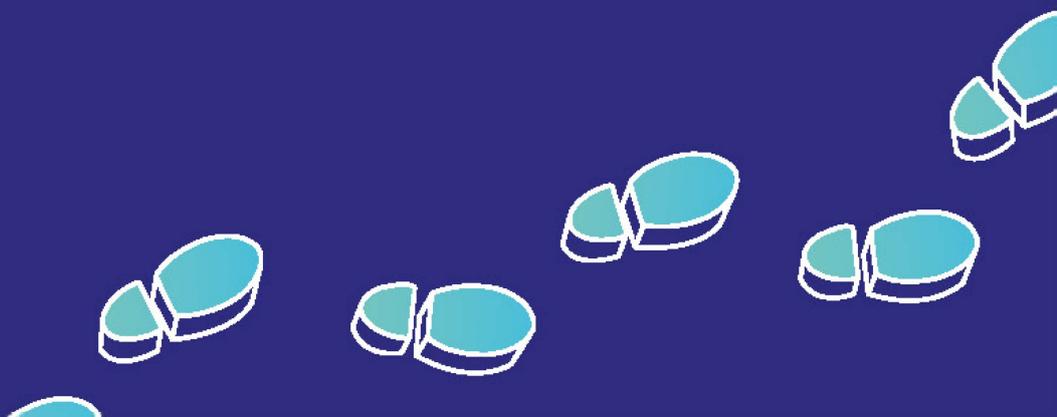


GO HIGHER
West Yorkshire



2017 - 2018

Care Leaver Covenant



CARE LEAVER COVENANT

We, Go Higher West Yorkshire, recognise the challenges that young people face when they leave the care system and begin to live independently. We recognise that all parts of society have a responsibility to support care leavers so that they can make a successful transition to adulthood. We hereby make a commitment to undertake the following actions that will help improve care leavers' life chances.

Bradford College
University Centre



University of
HUDDERSFIELD



universitycentre
at **wakefieldcollege**

Support Offered	Bradford College	University of Bradford	Calderdale College	University of Huddersfield	Kirklees College	University of Leeds	Leeds Arts University	Leeds Beckett University	Leeds College of Building	Leeds City College	Leeds Trinity University	Wakefield College
(Click for more information)												
Foster Family Fun Days	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pastoral Support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Named Contact for information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Web Support/information	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓				✓	
Summer schools and weekend activities						✓	✓	✓			✓	
Application Support	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Contextual Admissions *	✓	✓		✓		✓					✓	✓
Accommodation	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Financial Support	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transition Support				✓		✓						
Employment Support	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Staff Awareness Training	✓			✓		✓		✓				

* To find out more visit <https://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/adviser-news/news/contextualised-admissions-and-what-it-means-your-students> and <https://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/supporting-care-leavers-toolkit>



Principles of the care leaver covenant

We, **Go Higher West Yorkshire**, support the key principles of the care leaver covenant, which are:

- That all parts of society have a responsibility to help care leavers to avoid poor outcomes and make a successful transition to adulthood; and
- That action to support care leavers should be in their best interests, promote their health and well-being and secure the best possible outcomes for them.

Demonstrating our commitment

We, **Go Higher West Yorkshire**, will demonstrate our commitment to the care leaver covenant through the following actions (for details of individual partner offers, please visit <http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/care-leavers>):

Available across all partner institutions

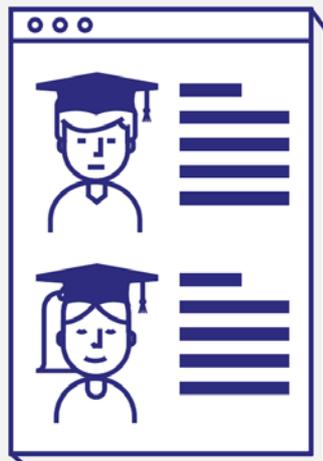
- Welcoming care experienced young people to our partner campuses, and providing them with opportunities to take part in aspiration raising activity such as our **Foster Family Fun Days**, which offer light-touch subject tasters in order to familiarise them with the idea of higher education. Bespoke visits, taster days and tours are also offered across several of our partner institutions.
- Providing care leavers with additional pastoral support throughout the student lifecycle with named care leaver contacts across the partnership. Named contacts facilitate a coordinated approach to pastoral support across each institution.

Available in selected partner institutions

- Providing care experienced young people with opportunities to fulfil their potential and broaden their horizons through targeted outreach activity. We provide opportunities for them to engage with a range of **widening participation programmes** for which the experience of care is a qualifying criterion. Several partners also offer priority places to care experienced young people wishing to attend residential summer schools.
- Providing care leavers with additional and early support when applying to University. This includes dedicated institutional contacts for support and advice during the application process; advocacy, **contextual admissions and subject-specific schemes**.
- Giving care leavers priority status, advice and reassurance when applying to and staying in accommodation. Where accommodation is supported by partner institutions, it is available to care leavers 365 days a year across the board. Several partners also support emergency housing, help with guarantors, deposits and references for care leavers.

- Providing additional support to help meet the costs of living independently whilst studying. Where partners are able to provide funding, this includes dedicated **Care Leaver bursaries, scholarships,** and **priority access to Welfare and Hardship funds.**
- Providing care leavers with enhanced transition support, to facilitate their adjustment into university life through pre-entry visits and meetings with named contacts, **dedicated programmes,** and **buddy/mentoring schemes.**
- Providing care leavers with opportunities to experience and enter the world of work and build their personal development, through support from designated advisers, targeted skills support, invitations to employability events, work placements, and **priority access to student ambassador roles.**
- Working in partnership with Local Authorities, fostering agencies, and relevant charities to better understand the needs of care leavers, and to access appropriate training and awareness raising activity for the HE staff who work with them, and to develop **collaborative events** in their support.
- Raising awareness of the needs of care experienced students amongst current staff and students through academic research and via consultation with care leavers and care leaver councils and forums.

We will publicise our commitments on our partnership website and on individual partner websites, setting out how we will seek to put them into practice, and invite feedback from care leavers on their impact.



 gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk

 GoHigherWY

