



Care Leaver Covenant 2019-20

Your higher education journey



OUR DECLARATION

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 help improve care leavers' life chances by widening their access to and supporting their success in higher education (HE) and beyond.



SUPPORT OFFERED BY HE PROVIDERS	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 College of Music	Leeds City College	Leeds Trinity University	Wakefield College
GETTING TO HIGHER EDUCATION													
Dedicated care leaver web page	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Experiences on campus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Application support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Contextual admissions*	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
SUCCEEDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION													
Wellbeing support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Named contact person for care leaver students	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Year round accommodation	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Support with the transition to higher education		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Additional financial support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Training to help staff understand care leavers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
SUCCEEDING AFTER HIGHER EDUCATION													
Employment support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	

*This is when HE providers can consider additional information (such as background factors) to make decisions on individual applications and achievement.

SUPPORT OFFERED COLLABORATIVELY



Succeeding in higher education

- **Sharing ideas and successes** – Higher Education Providers work together to share what has worked well and develop new ideas to support the success of care experienced students
- **Student participation opportunities** – Go Higher West Yorkshire welcomes the involvement of care leaver students in our outreach work, incl. creative case studies and speaking at events



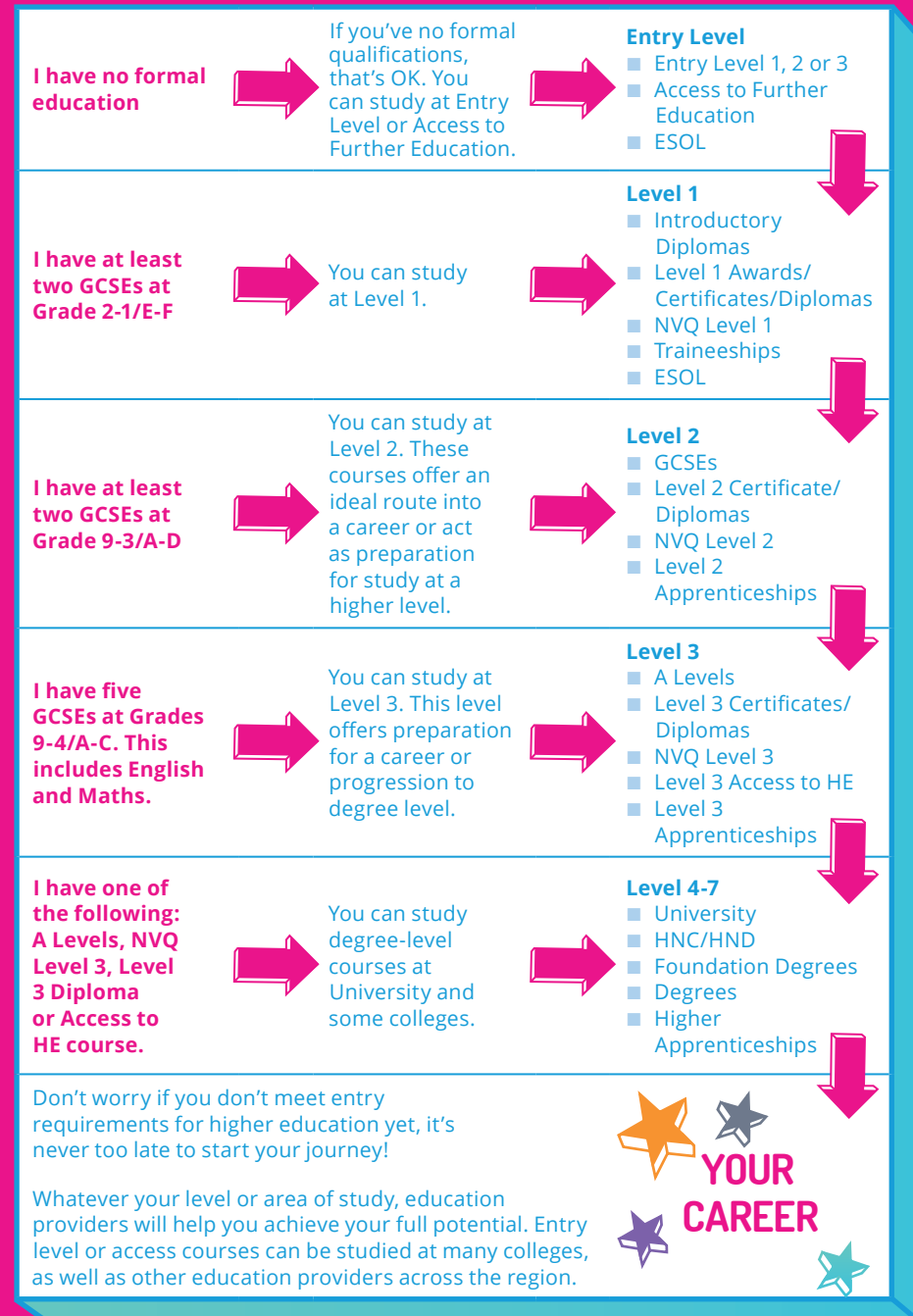
Succeeding after higher education

- **Professional mentoring** – A small-scale mentoring project is ongoing, matching care experienced students with a professional mentor to support their career development. Eligible individuals will be contacted by their Local Authority to participate
- **Employer links** – Go Higher West Yorkshire has excellent links with local employers, creating opportunities for us to champion the skills and potential of care leavers in the workplace



Getting to higher education

- **Activities and events** – Go Higher West Yorkshire runs and attends events for care experienced children and young people aged 5-25, aiming to inspire, inform and support your educational choices
- **Training and resources for carers** – Carers are your main source of support and influence, which is why Go Higher is piloting a training programme to help them to help you make informed choices



TOP TIPS

1. Talk to people you trust about the benefits of higher education, what may be important for you to consider as a care leaver and what is the best path for you.
2. You can contact a 'care leaver contact' at all higher education providers in West Yorkshire. They may meet you to answer questions and show you around campus. They can direct you to colleagues to discuss your personal circumstances; anything from caring responsibilities to a criminal record. You can find their contact details on our website.
3. Check what financial support is offered by your local authority to care leavers who would like to go into higher education. Your personal advisor should be able to help you with this.
4. When applying for courses through UCAS tick the 'care leaver' box to ensure you have access to all the support on offer. This information will be treated in confidence, and will not affect the outcome of your application in any way.
5. You can email Go Higher West Yorkshire at hello@gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk and we will help signpost you to further support.

BEING A CARE LEAVER HAS NOT STOPPED ME FROM ACHIEVING MY FULL POTENTIAL AND THE UNIVERSITY FULLY SUPPORTED ME THROUGHOUT; I CAN'T THANK THEM ENOUGH.

I FELT VERY WELCOMED TO [MY HE PROVIDER] AS A CARE LEAVER AND HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS BOTH EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.



FIND OUT MORE!

GHWY Covenant online:
www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/care-leaver-covenant

More details about the support from higher education providers outlined in this booklet, as well as links to case studies and more.



IMO Hub: www.imohub.org.uk
A voice for teenagers in care and care leavers to share stories, give advice and access opportunities.

Become:
www.becomecharity.org.uk
Information and resources to help improve the lives of care experienced young people.

Propel:
www.propel.org.uk
A directory informing care leavers about the support available from higher education providers across the UK.

Learning & Work Institute:
www.skillssupport.org.uk
Information to help care leavers make decisions about education and work.

Prospects:
www.prospects.ac.uk
Careers advice including a skills quiz, with information on study options and work experience.

Discover Uni:
www.discoveruni.org.uk
Brand new resource to help young people decide about their higher education choices and compare courses.

Not Going to Uni:
www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
Portal for training and development opportunities, incl. degree apprenticeships and higher education at colleges.

UCAS:
www.ucas.com
Portal for young people applying to university, including finance information and career options.

Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP):
www.the-lep.com/for-individuals
Information about jobs and working in the Leeds City Region.





17 Blenheim Terrace, Leeds LS2 9JT

Web www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk Email hello@gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk

University Centre
Bradford College



University of
Huddersfield

