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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting Access &amp; Success</th>
<th>Bradford College</th>
<th>University of Bradford</th>
<th>Calderdale College</th>
<th>University of Huddersfield</th>
<th>Kirklees College</th>
<th>University of Leeds</th>
<th>Leeds Arts University</th>
<th>Leeds Beckett University</th>
<th>Leeds College of Building</th>
<th>Leeds College of Music</th>
<th>Leeds City College</th>
<th>Leeds Trinity University</th>
<th>Wakefield College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated care leaver web page</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiences on campus</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application support</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contextual admissions*</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellbeing support</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Named contact person for care leaver students</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year round accommodation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with the transition to higher education</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional financial support</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training to help staff understand care leavers</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment support</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**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.

**Entry Level**

- Entry Level 1, 2 or 3
- Access to Further Education
- ESOL

**Level 1**

- GCSEs
- Level 1 Awards/Certificates/Diplomas
- NVQ Level 1
- Traineeships
- ESOL

**Level 2**

- GCSEs
- Level 2 Certificate/Diplomas
- NVQ Level 2
- Level 2 Apprenticeships

**Level 3**

- GCSEs
- Level 3 Certificates/Diplomas
- NVQ Level 3
- Level 3 Access to HE
- Level 3 Apprenticeships

**Level 4-7**

- University
- HNC/HND
- Foundation Degrees
- Degrees
- Higher Apprenticeships

**Getting to higher education**

- If you’ve no formal qualifications, that’s OK. You can study at Entry Level or Access to Further Education.

**I have no formal education**

- You can study at Entry Level 1.

**I have at least two GCSEs at Grade 2/1/E-F**

- You can study at Level 1.

**I have at least two GCSEs at Grade 9-3/A-D**

- You can study at Level 2. These courses offer an ideal route into a career or act as preparation for study at a higher level.

**I have five GCSEs at Grades 9-4/A-C. This includes English and Maths.**

- You can study at Level 3. This level offers preparation for a career or progression to degree level.

**I have one of the following: A Levels, NVQ Level 3, Level 3 Diploma or Access to HE course.**

- You can study degree-level courses at University and some colleges.

Don’t worry if you don’t meet entry requirements for higher education yet, it’s never too late to start your journey!

Whatever your level or area of study, education providers will help you achieve your full potential. Entry level or access courses can be studied at many colleges, as well as other education providers across the region.

*With credit to Bradford College*
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.

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.skillsupport.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.