

<b>Session Title:</b>	Supporting our Care Experience Students
<b>Speaker(s):</b>	Al Blackshaw, Widening Access Manager Debbie Duncan, Senior Widening Access Support Officer
<b>Chair:</b>	Fiona Curry
<b>Reporter:</b>	Ellie Lloyd Davies

<b>Speaker/Institution Bio/Information:</b>	Both presenters from University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.  Al's team are responsible for Care Experienced students. In pre-entry and when they're current students.  Debbie (in Al's team) focuses on current students.
<b>Overview/Aim of session:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Strathclyde is a city centre university in the middle of Glasgow city centre.</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> largest institution in Scotland.</li> <li>• x4 Faculties.</li> </ul>
<b>Workshop Content</b>	Group discussion and feedback (see below)
<b>Case Studies/Examples:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage students to tick Care Experience on their UCAS form. This means internal teams at universities can contact them and offer necessary support.</li> <li>• University of Strathclyde have their own entrance form. They encourage students to declare on that form and then again once they're UF – important to note that students can become care experienced at different points, so this way ensures multiple opportunities to declare.</li> <li>• University of Strathclyde have a clear definition as to what Care Experienced means at the University, so that students are clear whether this applies to them or not. They (and other institutions) have seen this declared incorrectly.</li> <li>• At University of Strathclyde there's bespoke, 1:1 support for them.</li> <li>• University of Strathclyde – anyone in care is given support. They don't look at difference, i.e. length/time in care etc.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Strathclyde explained through their slides what they do for 'Getting Ready', 'Getting In', 'Staying In', and 'Getting On'.</li> <li>• At University of Strathclyde Care experienced students are guaranteed an offer or interview for a course – apart from two courses (Social Work and Primary Education)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scenarios/Roundtable discussions:</b></p>	<p><b>Each group has been asked to discuss what support you think is relevant to each of these stages in the higher education journey.</b></p> <p><b>Getting Ready</b> (prior to application)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Academic support Pre-entry support – Open Days/Applicant days Working with supporters and carers Working with local authority.</li> <li>o Social worker – personal assistant – 16-19 support worker.</li> <li>o Where to start with the support – open lines of communication, students' journey can change throughout.</li> <li>o Individual level – it's good to have multiple points for students' to declare and identify themselves.</li> </ul> <p><b>Getting In</b> (application)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mock Interviews</li> <li>o Bursary and financial support</li> <li>o Identify things CE student can apply for</li> <li>o Single Point of contact</li> <li>o Accommodation info</li> <li>o Contextual Offers</li> <li>o Mentoring with current students</li> <li>o Residential Summer schools – creating feeling of belonging.</li> <li>o Specialist communication – build into wider comms, but have specialised comms.</li> <li>o</li> </ul> <p><b>Staying In</b> (retention, support)</p> <p>Student Accommodation – grantor. Some universities sign post or act as as grantor for care experience students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Longer term contracts to house students over holidays – x52 week provision.</li> <li>o Financial support and bursaries – is the student</li> </ul>

	<p>accessing the right financial support?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Signposting role – name contact, care experienced student can go to that person.</li> <li>Peer support – student success advisor.</li> <li>o Support for internal staff and training.</li> <li>o Academic staff not knowing who is care experienced in their cohort and can they support that student more?</li> </ul> <p>University of Strathclyde – does student know if they declare that they are declaring to that individual or to the University as whole? Important to be clear about this.</p> <p><b>Getting On</b> (value added, societies, careers, building confidence etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Network Advantage – Zero Gravity. Care experienced students don't have networks and links.</li> <li>o Role models, mentoring, coaching.</li> <li>o Extended access – care experienced students get access to careers support for life at some institutions.</li> <li>o Accommodation for longer.</li> <li>o Continued relationships with university – social activities etc.</li> <li>o Working with charities – moving onto next steps with their life.</li> <li>o Study skills – next steps, leaving university and next steps.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Questions and Answers:</b></p>	<p><b>Does University of Strathclyde explain what Care Experienced means to students when they're asked to declare?</b></p> <p>Yes, University of Strathclyde explains what this means very clearly. In the past students have declared by mistake.</p> <p><b>How do you verify these students?</b></p> <p><i>One institution:</i> We don't verify. Risk management basis.</p> <p><i>University of Strathclyde:</i> Numbers declaring are low and manageable currently. You have to keep an eye on it. UCAS application – tutors put this in the reference a lot of the time too, so it's good to be able to refer to that.</p>
<p><b>Summary/ Key takeaways:</b></p>	<p>Ensure you have a clear definition of what Care Experience means for your institution, when students are declaring.</p> <p>Ensure you have multiple opportunities for students to</p>

declare they are Care Experienced (they all have a different journey and will have different experiences and in different lengths)

Think about how you can join the dots up for students – speaking with tutors, different departments about support available.

If you're responsible for pre-entry – find out who is responsible for current students and work together.