

CURRICULUM QUALITY AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

5 MARCH 2026

BORDERS COLLEGE CORPORATE PARENTING ACTION PLAN

1.0 PURPOSE OF PAPER

For decision

- 1.1 To present the Corporate Parenting Action Plan associated with the recently published Borders College Corporate Parenting Plan 2025-2028. The paper seeks the Curriculum Quality and Student Experience Committee's approval of the Action Plan and oversight of the proposed arrangements for delivery, monitoring and reporting.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Borders College has now published its Corporate Parenting Plan 2025-2028, setting out a clear vision and four core commitments to support students with care experience: Compassionate Language, Nurturing Relationships, Scaffolding and Sustainability.
- 2.2 The accompanying Action Plan translates these commitments into specific time-bound actions across the college, with ownership and alignment to statutory Corporate Parenting duties under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 2.3 The Action Plan, created through consultation with staff, students and external partners, focuses on embedding trauma-informed practice, improving consistency of support, strengthening partnerships, enhancing student voice and improving monitoring of outcomes for students with care experience.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)/ACTION(S) REQUIRED

- 3.1 I recommend that the Curriculum Quality and Student Experience Committee:
- 3.1.1 Discuss and approve the Corporate Parenting Action Plan

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Borders College is a statutory Corporate Parent and has a legal duty to safeguard, promote wellbeing, and improve outcomes for people with care experience. The Corporate Parenting Plan 2025-28 was developed through engagement with students with care experience, staff, the Students' Association, local authority partners and national organisations including Who Cares? Scotland.
- 4.2 The Action Plan provides an operational framework to ensure these commitments and delivered consistently and effectively.

5.0 CORPORATE PARENTING ACTION PLAN

- 5.1 The Action Plan (Appendix 1) is structured around the four commitments within the Corporate Parenting Plan:

Compassionate Language

Actions focus on promoting respectful, inclusive and trauma-informed language across the college. The includes staff training development of a language guide and review of policies and communications to reduce stigma and promote wellbeing

Nurturing Relationships

This strand strengthens relational support for students with care experience through trauma-informed staff training, allocated of named Trusted Adults, targeted student communications, and inclusive campaigns delivered in partnership with the Students' Association

Scaffolding

Actions aim to reduce barriers and improve outcomes through stronger transitions, simplified processes, regular wellbeing check-ins, partnership working and improved data tracking to identify and support students at risk of withdrawal.

Sustainability

This strand ensuring long-term impact by embedding Corporate Parenting responsibilities into workforce development, leadership practice, and continuous monitoring of policy and sector developments.

- 5.2 A quarterly Corporate Parenting Working Group, including students with lived experience of care, will monitor and collate updates on progress. Updates will be reported regularly to the Equality and Inclusion Committee and onward to the Curriculum, Quality and Student Experience Committee.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

It is anticipated that actions will be delivered within existing staffing structures and training budgets.

6.2 Learner Implications

The Action Plan is expected to positively impact students with care experience by:

- Improving access to support and information
- Strengthening relationships with trusted staff
- Increasing feelings of safety, belonging and inclusion
- Improving retention, progression and success.

The wider student population will also benefit from trauma-informed and inclusive practices embedded across the college.

6.3 Staff Implications

Staff will be supported through:

- Enhanced training in trauma-informed practice and Corporate Parenting responsibilities
- Clear guidance and shared expectations
- Opportunities to engage in reflective practice and cross-college learning.

6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications/Equality Impact Assessment

Students with care experience are a priority group for the college. The Action Plan directly supports equality of opportunity by addressing structural barriers, reducing stigma, amplifying student voice and embedding inclusive practice across systems, policy and culture.

6.5 Sustainability/Environmental Implications

There are no environmental impacts associated with the Action Plan.

7.0 RISK COMMENTARY

- 7.1 Failure to implement our Corporate Parenting Action Plan may result in poorer student outcomes, including lower retention and success, potentially widening existing inequalities.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Corporate Parenting Action Plan provides a clear structured approach to delivering Border College's statutory responsibilities to students with care experience. Approval and ongoing oversight by the Equality and Inclusion Committee and Curriculum Quality and Student Experience Committee will support implementation and continuous improvement in the outcomes for this group.

Amy Brydon

Director of Student Support Services

05/01/2026

Previous Board or College Committee Approvals:

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For publication ☒	Not for publication ☐ If not, why not?
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Corporate Parenting Plan 2025-2028

Not started	
Complete	
Some slippage but will be complete by deadline	
In progress – Ongoing	
Will not be complete by deadline	

Actions	Team(s) Responsible	Timescale	Link to Corporate Parenting Duty	Progress	Update
Compassionate Language: We will use kind, respectful and inclusive language when referring to students with care experience.					
Develop and publish a Compassionate Language Guide for staff and students	Student Support Services/People Services/Marketing	Aug 2027	Promoting wellbeing and respect		
Staff training to include trauma informed principles and language awareness	People Services/Student Support Services	Ongoing	Safeguarding and promoting wellbeing		
Review key policies, procedures and communications through a compassionate and trauma-informed lens	Senior Leadership Team/Policy Owners	Ongoing	Acting in the best interests of students with care experience		

Nurturing Relationships: We will foster nurturing, supportive relationships with students with care experience at every stage of their college journey.					
Deliver trauma-informed training for all staff, including de-escalation and managing behaviours	People Services/Student Support Services	Ongoing	Safeguarding and promoting wellbeing		
Allocate named Trusted Adults to support transitions and provide ongoing support	Student Support Services	August 2026	Providing stability and advocacy		
Launch respect and inclusion campaigns to challenge stigma, build understanding and foster belonging	Students' Association/Student Support Services	August 2027	Promoting positive identity and participation		
Develop targeted materials for students with care experience to improve awareness of available support.	Student Support Services	May 2026	Ensuring access to support		
Enhance Student Support Officer (SSO) and Course Tutor roles through advanced Corporate Parenting training	Student Support Services/Delivery teams/People Services	August 2027	Providing informed and consistent support		
Continue partnership working with the Students' Association to deliver inclusive events and activities that promote the voices of students with care experience	Students' Association/ Student Support Services	Ongoing	Participation and voice		
Scaffolding: We will build strong partnerships with external organisations and support networks to create a unified approach that provides a scaffolding of support.					
Explore opportunities to simplify application processes and offer IT	MIS team/IT&Digital Team/Student Support Services	May 2026	Removing barriers to education		

support via drop-ins and workshops					
Strengthen links with schools, social work and throughcare teams to improve transitions	Student Support Services	Ongoing	Supporting smooth transitions		
Assign named staff to contact to all students with care experience during pre-enrolment, offering campus tours and support with enrolment, funding and learning support	Student Support Services	Aug 2026	Early intervention and advocacy		
Ensure named staff meet students with care experience at least every 6 weeks to review wellbeing and support needs.	Student Support Services	Ongoing	Monitoring and safeguarding		
Establish a quarterly Corporate Parenting Working Group for monitoring and evaluation	Director of Student Support Services	May 2026	Continuous improvement		
Invite individuals with lived experience of care to join the Corporate Parenting Working Group.	Director of Student Support Services	May 2026	Participation and co-production		
Development Power BI dashboards to track progression and outcomes for students with care experience.	Director of Student Support Services/Director of MIS & Quality	Aug 2027	Monitoring outcomes and accountability		
Identify students at risk of withdrawal through tracking and monitoring meetings, ensuring	Delivery and Support teams (including named staff contacts)	Ongoing	Preventing harm and promoting stability		

timely and coordinated interventions.					
Deliver money advice and financial wellbeing workshops	Student Support Services	Aug 2027	Supporting independence and wellbeing		
Sustainability: We will invest in the development of both current and future staff, providing opportunities to grow their skills and understanding to enable students with care experience to thrive at college.					
Raise awareness of the college's Corporate Parenting responsibilities across all departments	Wider Leadership Forum	Ongoing	Corporate accountability		
Host a formal launch of the new Corporate Parenting Plan to reinforce the importance of our role as Corporate Parents and our shared commitments within the plan.	Senior Leadership Team	Jan 2026	Leadership and governance		
Actively monitor sector developments, policy changes and best practice	Student Support Managers/Director of Student Support Services/Delivery teams	Ongoing	Informed decision-making		