

# Student Carers Action Plan

2024-27

Ayrshire  
College 

Empowering People  
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# Introduction

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**The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 came into effect on 1st April 2018. The Act extends and enhances the rights of carers. The legislation helps ensure better and more consistent support for both adult carers and young carers. Education and training for carers is one of the areas included under part 6 of the Act.**

There are currently estimated to be around 800,000 unpaid carers in Scotland. In 2022-23, the Scottish Funding Council reported that there were 21,520 student carer enrolments across the 24 colleges in Scotland.

Ayrshire College aims to provide an inclusive learning environment that is responsive to the needs of all students. We recognise that many of our students have to deal with the demands of caring for a friend or relative whilst studying, and we are committed to removing barriers to learning for students who have caring responsibilities.

This Action Plan outlines the steps we will take from 2024-27 to improve how we identify, support and report on the achievements of Student Carers at Ayrshire College.

## Principle 1: Identity

Carers are being proactively identified and awareness is being raised throughout the College.

Key Action(s)	Responsible	Timescale	Outcomes
<b>Work with external partners to increase the number of Student Carers identified before coming to College.</b>	Student Engagement and Wellbeing Team	Ongoing	Increased number of Student Carers identified before coming to College.
<b>Review and update website information for Student Carers and develop new resources, as required, to highlight support available.</b>  <b>Promote information to students, staff and external partners through the website, social media platforms and Viva Connections.</b>	Student Association and Student Carers, Care Experienced and Estranged Students Working Group	June 2025	Student Carers are aware of the support available. Students are encouraged to declare their Carer status. KPIs show an increase in the number of Student Carers who declare their Carer status.

<b>Continue to promote CDN's online Supporting Student Carers at College course to all staff and monitor uptake. Work with partner organisations to identify further training opportunities for staff.</b>	Staff Learning and Development Advisor and Student Carers, Care Experienced and Estranged Students Working Group	Ongoing	Staff report an increased awareness and understanding of how to effectively identify and support Student Carers. Increased number of staff complete online learning module.
<b>Explore opportunities to develop new online staff learning module focusing on supporting priority group students in collaboration with CDN.</b>	Head of Student Experience	September 2025	Staff across the sector report increased awareness and understanding of how best to support priority group students including student carers.
<b>Incorporate questions into the Wellbeing Plan/PLSP Needs Assessment to identify students with a Young Carers Statement or Adult Carers Support Plan.</b>	Student Experience Team	August 2025	An increased number of students are identified with a Young Carers Statement/Adult Carers Support Plan.

## Principle 2: Support

Carers are being supported to give them a fair chance to be successful in their studies

Key Action(s)	Responsible	Timescale	Outcomes
<b>Develop mechanisms to ensure that Student Carers with lived experience are included in decision making and evaluating systems and processes to support Student Carers.</b>	Student Association and Student Carers, Care Experienced and Estranged Students Working Group	Ongoing	Student Carers are involved in developing and evaluating systems and processes.  Systems and processes to support Student Carers are relevant and reflect the experiences of students.
<b>Improve pre-entry and onward transition support for Student Carers.</b>	Student Engagement and Wellbeing Team  Transitions Support Advisor	Ongoing	Improvement in retention and attainment rates. Improvement in positive destinations.
<b>Continue to review existing policies and ensure Student Carers are considered in the ongoing development of policies and procedures.</b>	Equality and Diversity Performance Lead	Ongoing	Impact on Student Carers is considered in the development of all policies and procedures.

<p><b>Organise and deliver a range of activities and events to support and recognise the achievements of Student Carers.</b></p>	<p>Student Carers, Care Experienced and Estranged Students Working Group and Student Association</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The contribution and achievements of Student Carers is acknowledged. Student Carers feel welcomed and supported at Ayrshire College.</p> <p>Staff and students across the College are more aware of Student Carers.</p>
<p><b>Continue to invite Carers Services, local authorities and other external support organisations to team meetings and other relevant College events.</b></p> <p><b>Increase the visibility of Carers Services on campus.</b></p>	<p>Student Engagement and Wellbeing Team Leader</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff and students have an increased knowledge of services to support Student Carers in the community.</p>
<p><b>Promote, support and increase engagement in national campaigns and events ie. Young Carers Action Day (March), Carers Week (June) and Carers Rights Day (November).</b></p>	<p>Student Carers, Care Experienced and Estranged Students Working Group and Student Association</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Increased College involvement and visibility in relation to national Carers campaigns and events.</p>

## Principle 3: Report and Evaluation

The College monitors and evaluates the progress and impact of the Student Carers Action Plan and actions to support Student Carers

Key Action(s)	Responsible	Timescale	Outcomes
<b>Monitor and analyse Student Carer KPIs and ensure data is shared as necessary.</b>  <b>Student Carer KPIs are monitored as part of the Curriculum Team Evaluation process.</b>	Assistant Principal Student Experience and Quality Enhancement and Head of BIIS	Ongoing	College staff have a clear understanding of KPIs in relation to Student Carers.  Curriculum teams and cross-college groups can identify actions to improve support for Student Carers.
<b>Continue to share Supporting Student Carers Procedure and Student Carers Action Plan with staff, students and external partners using Viva Connections, the College website and social media platforms.</b>	Student Carers, Care Experienced and Estranged Students Working Group, Student Association and Marketing	Ongoing	Students, staff and external partners are aware of the College's commitment to Student Carers.  Engagement with Student Carers and Carers organisations is enhanced.  The College's reputation as an inclusive organisation is enhanced.

<p><b>Evaluate remit and impact of Student Carers, Care Experienced &amp; Estranged Students Working Group.</b></p> <p><b>Share information on impact of the work of the Group with staff and students.</b></p>	<p>Student Carers, Care Experienced and Estranged Students Working Group</p>	<p>Ongoing annually</p>	<p>Staff, students and external partners are aware of the impact of the Student Carers, Care Experienced &amp; Estranged Students Working Group</p>
<p><b>Create an impact summary report to evaluate the progress and impact of the Student Carers Action Plan 2021-24.</b></p>	<p>Assistant Principal Student Experience and Quality Enhancement</p>	<p>June 2025</p>	<p>Progress and impact of Student Carers Action Plan is clearly detailed. Follow up actions are determined with clear timescales and accountability.</p>





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