



Care Leaver Covenant

2022-23

Your higher education journey

Introduction

Welcome to Go Higher West Yorkshire's collaborative Care Leaver Covenant, which has been designed to support you on your journey into Higher Education (HE).

We are a partnership of 13 HE providers that represent a huge range of higher education options, from universities and HE-in-FE provision, to a specialist training provider and conservatoire.

Our resource outlines the support our member institutions offer to care-experienced young people in terms of HE access, success in HE, and progression (succeeding) after HE.

It also includes a 'Your Career' graphic, which identifies routes into HE depending on your level of education; the story of a care leaver's HE journey; Top Tips and Useful Links for you to find out more about support that is available from a range of organisations, including UCAS and the Become charity. It concludes with a comprehensive glossary that explains terms used in this resource and throughout HE.

The Care Leaver Covenant is a part of the Government's strategy to help young people leaving care to live independently. It enables any organisation to pledge their support for care leavers aged 16-25.

We encourage you to read and talk through the document with a friend or trusted adult, such as a foster carer, personal advisor or teacher.

Disclaimer: All information accurate as of 19 October 2022.



Support offered collaboratively

Getting into Higher Education

- **Activities and events:** Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) runs and attends events for care-experienced children and young people aged 5-25, aiming to inspire, inform and support your education choices.
- **Training and resources for carers:** Carers are your main source of support and influence, which is why we have developed our Care to Go Higher CPD programme to help them to help you make informed choices.
- **Spotlight feature:** Our website features up-to-date profiles on our 13 members and what support they offer, including bespoke campus tours and financial support. Find out more: www.rebrand.ly/care-leavers

Succeeding in Higher Education

- **Sharing ideas and successes:** Our 13 member institutions work together to share what has worked well and develop new ideas to support the success of care experienced students.
- **Student participation opportunities:** We welcome the involvement of care leaver students in our outreach work, including creative case studies and speaking at events.
- **Increasing staff awareness:** We are piloting an e-learning training course that will raise awareness and ways in which to support care-experienced students.

Succeeding after Higher Education

- **Employer links:** We have excellent links with local employers, creating opportunities for us to champion the skills and potential of care leavers in the workplace.
- **Collaborative networks:** Representatives drawn from across our 13 member institutions attend a Care Experienced and Estranged Students Network, which shares best practice.

Support offered by our members

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 into 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 Conservatoire	University Centre Leeds	Leeds Trinity University	Wakefield College
GETTING TO HIGHER EDUCATION													
Dedicated care leaver web site	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Experiences on campus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Application support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Contextual admissions*	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
HEP acts as rent guarantor						**					✓		
Graduation costs support				✓		✓		✓		✓***	✓	✓	
SUCCEEDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION													
Wellbeing support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Named contact for care leaver students	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Year round accommodation	✓	✓	n/a	✓	n/a	✓	n/a	✓	n/a	n/a	n/a	✓	n/a
Support with 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 to identify potential, particularly where this may not be evidenced through grades

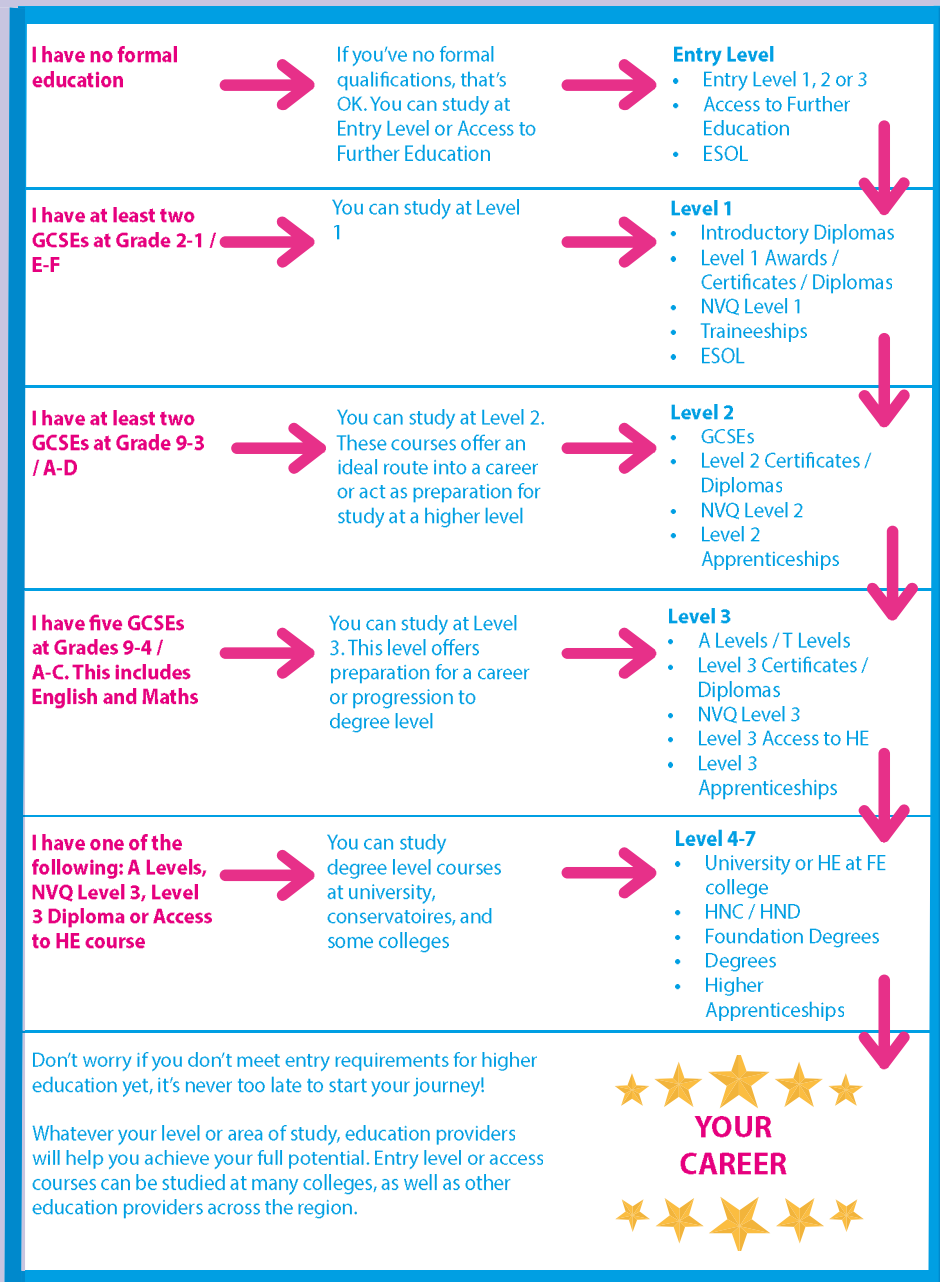
** Provides the name of two services that offer guarantor support and pay the fee for it

*** Available on a case by case, year by year basis

n/a HE provider does not own accommodation but may be able to offer support in securing somewhere to live



Qualification routes



With credit to Bradford College

Top tips

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.

As a care leaver, I had all the support that I needed. There was always someone there for me whenever I needed help.

Contact a 'care leaver contact' (sometimes referred to as a 'named contact') at one of our 13 members. They offer dedicated support to care-experienced young people and can answer your questions and show you around campus. They can also direct you to colleagues to discuss your personal circumstances; anything from caring responsibilities to a criminal record. Find their contact details by using the handy search filter on our website: www.rebrand.ly/care-leaver-covenant

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.

Tick the 'care leaver' box when applying for courses through UCAS 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.

The University's support network for me as a care leaver is amazing. Every time I have an issue, even non-academic, I know I can reach out to someone.

You can email us at hello@gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk and we will help to signpost you to further information.

Mike's care leaver story

Being a care experienced student in HE is a leap of faith but there's always someone there who will help.

When I first went to university I struggled with financial problems and my mental health. I also needed to learn how to study, how to send a professional email, and how to ask for help.

I decided to talk to someone about these challenges and reached out to my personal tutor. They were honest and said they didn't know all the answers, but they would help me find out and were invested in getting things right.

It was a two-way street. I was receptive to their suggestions as we worked together to identify my needs. Their help and ability to prioritise my more intensive support needs enabled me to become a much more independent student by the end of my first year.

I feel incredibly lucky to have received my tutor's support. They got a raw, rough package but they recognised my value and nurtured my potential. Thanks to their support I'm now thriving.

I'd encourage other care experienced young people entering HE to be persistent in finding someone they can trust who can offer them help and support.

Read more unique care leaver stories on our website: www.rebrand.ly/care-leaver-stories



Find out more

GHWY: More details about the support offered by our 13 member institutions, as well as links to case studies and more. www.rebrand.ly/care-leavers

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

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

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

Learning & Work Institute: Information to help care leavers make decisions about education and work. www.learningandwork.org.uk/what-we-do/social-justice-inclusion/care-leavers

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

Discover Uni: A resource to help young people decide about their HE choices and compare courses. www.discoveruni.org.uk

Not Going to Uni: Training and development opportunities, including degree apprenticeships and HE at colleges. www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

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

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

NNECL Quality Mark: Find out which universities and colleges have demonstrated their support for the inclusion and success of care experienced students. A number of our members are in the process of being accredited. www.nnecl.org

Glossary of Higher Education terms

Access to Further Education is a qualification that prepares students (usually aged 19+) who do not have traditional qualifications for study at university. Find out more: www.accesstohe.ac.uk

Apprenticeship - A paid job where the employee learns and gains valuable experiences through on-the-job training, supplemented with 20% of their time completing classroom or distance learning with a college, university or training provider. It leads to a nationally recognised qualification.

Conservatoire (or Conservatory) is an institution that specialises in the performing arts. The programmes they offer focus on practical learning and performance.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a combination of ideas, approaches, and techniques that will help individuals manage their own learning and growth.

Entry Level qualifications provide learners with an introduction to education. They are designed for people who do not feel ready for GCSEs, or equal qualifications, or have not studied in a long time. They are offered in a wide range of subjects including Mathematics and Computer Science.

Foundation degree is a combined academic and vocational qualification that is the equivalent of two-thirds of a Bachelor degree or a Higher National Diploma (HND).

Further Education (FE) refers to any education after secondary school that is not an undergraduate or postgraduate degree (e.g. A-levels).

Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) is a partnership of 13 Higher Education Providers that works to achieve common goals on access to, success in and progression from HE for those from under-represented groups. Refer to the back page for a full list of our members.

Graduate - a person who has successfully completed a course of study or training, especially a person who has been awarded an undergraduate or first academic degree.

Higher Education (HE) takes place at universities and Further Education colleges and normally includes undergraduate and postgraduate study.

HE-in-FE - Many FE colleges offer a wide range of HE programmes. These might appeal to people who want to stay close to their home to study, or want to continue studying at the FE college they have already attended.

Higher Education Provider (HEP) is any institution that provides higher education qualifications, including universities and other approved organisations.

Higher National Certificate (HNC) is a vocational, work-related Higher Education qualification that prepares students for a particular job and/or career. It is equivalent to the first year of a degree.

Higher National Diploma (HND) is a vocational, work-related Higher Education qualification that prepares students for a particular job and/or career. It is equivalent to the first two years of a degree.

Higher Technical Qualification (HNQ) is an alternative to apprenticeships or degrees. It has been developed in partnership with businesses to ensure learners get the specific training and skills they need for their chosen careers.

Specialist training providers offer 60% or more of their courses in one or two subjects.

T Levels are technical-based qualifications that have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses. They are broadly equivalent to 3 A Levels.

Undergraduate (or Bachelor) degrees are an academic step up from A-levels (or their equivalent). They are typically completed at a university or other higher education institution.

Universities are institutions of higher education where people can study for degrees in several academic disciplines. They also carry out academic research.

University Centres offer Higher Education courses in a Further Education setting.



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



