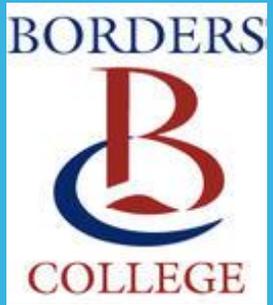


Care
Aware



BORDERS COLLEGE

HOW ARE WE BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR CARE
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS?

CARE AWARE @ BORDERS COLLEGE

THE ROLE

Care Aware Adviser, Full-Time dedicated role

THE SERVICE

Care Aware is a support service for looked after young people, care leavers and young adult carers. Key principles of the service is to provide an effective support by providing guidance, advocacy, encouragement and support to attend, progress and successfully achieve their chosen programme.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR.....

- ❖ Developed an initiative – ‘Care Aware’ and promoted this internally and externally.
 - ❖ Built relationships with key external organisations to further develop my knowledge and to raise awareness of the support available within the College.
 - ❖ Part of the Student’s Association support network forum where local organisations discuss any issues and update on any organisational projects/initiatives eg 16+ transitions team
 - ❖ Built internal relationships with Lecturers and Departments eg student funding and welfare teams, this allows issues to be resolved at an earlier stage to alleviate crisis point.
 - ❖ The College has signed the Who Cares? Scotland Pledge and the Care Leavers Covenant to show care experienced students we care.
 - ❖ Our Corporate Parenting Plan is approved and is available in our Website.
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HOW DO WE BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS?

Having a dedicated role has allowed the College to start building key relationships with Care Experienced students.

Here are some of the key features that's important when supporting CE students:

- ❖ Someone they can trust
- ❖ Be honest
- ❖ Non-judgemental
- ❖ Willing and has the time to listen
- ❖ Someone who acts on their behalf
- ❖ Open door/flexible
- ❖ Approachable
- ❖ Empathy

Having a good relationship with the student and their contacts externally also allows me to follow up on students who withdraw or keep in touch when they leave college to see how they are. *Eg student who has left at the summer and is due to graduate, I kept checking she was organised and had someone going along to celebrate with her.*

Over the last session I have been working to develop partnerships with agencies and schools as this is key in building relationships with the CE students and to aid transition into College

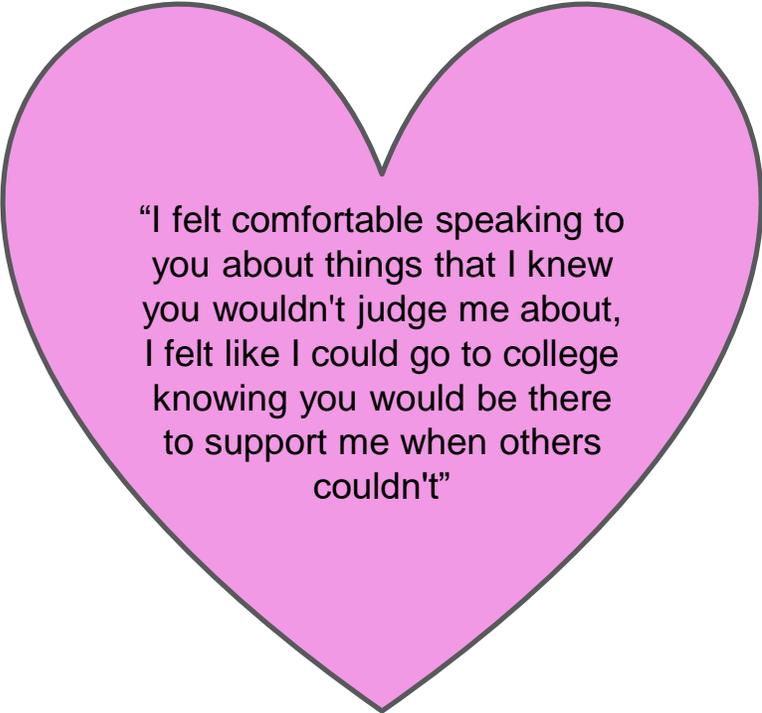
CASE STUDIES/EXAMPLES

Accompanying a student to their first appointment at the local mental health support service, showing that someone cares and has the time for them.

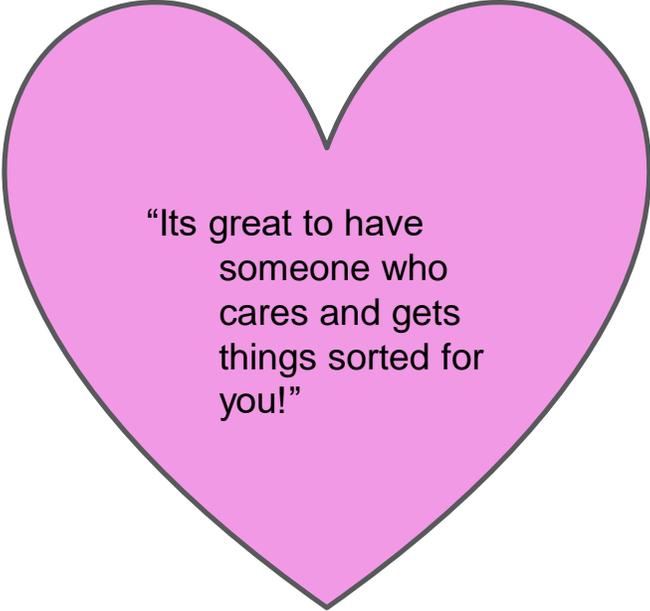
Meeting a student weekly who was experiencing mental health/suicidal thoughts, she just needed to know that there was someone at the College who cared and had the time to listen.

Student moving out of a long term foster placement to live independently, she needed someone who understood and would support her during her time of absences while she settled into her new home on her own. Advocating for her so that she was not penalised and losing funding.

QUOTES FROM STUDENTS

A large pink heart with a black outline, containing a student quote.

“I felt comfortable speaking to you about things that I knew you wouldn't judge me about, I felt like I could go to college knowing you would be there to support me when others couldn't”

A medium-sized pink heart with a black outline, containing a student quote.

“Its great to have someone who cares and gets things sorted for you!”

A large pink heart with a black outline, containing a student quote.

“You made a tough year a lot easier and without your help I don't think I could of got through it, thank you x”

PLANS FOR THIS SESSION

- ❖ Continue to build effective relationships with students and support them to successfully achieve their chosen programme. The numbers have doubled this session so its going to be a busy year with us currently sitting at 50+ disclosed students.
 - ❖ Start to action the outcomes that we have committed to in our Corporate Parenting Plan and ensure that this is reviewed on a regular basis.
 - ❖ Work alongside the SA to raise awareness and break the stigma for CE students. Planned event for Care Leavers week which is really exciting for the College.
 - ❖ Continue to maintain and develop effective relationships with external organisations including secondary schools.
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SUMMARY

- ❖ Early intervention that aids transition into College eg meeting with the student to discuss their options
- ❖ Contact with students from application stage or earlier if we are aware of the student, mostly through agencies or schools
- ❖ FT Adviser Role is an advantage and is critical to the College in supporting CE students

Building relationships with students that are:

- ❖ Trusting
- ❖ Non-judgemental
- ❖ Makes them feel safe, nurtured, loved and cared for
- ❖ Thinks about their wellbeing and welfare

QUESTIONS?