**CUR3 Student Carers’ Support Policy**

All College policies and procedures adhere to the guidelines and ethos of Equality and Diversity

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| **Date of**  **Origin** | **Last**  **Updated** | **Proposed**  **Review Date** | **EQIA**  **Date** | **Responsibility**  **For Review** |
| March 2018 | Oct 2020 | June 2022 | March 2018 | Assistant Principal: Learning and Teaching |

**1** Purpose and Benefits

The purpose and benefits of this policy are:

* To provide guidance and support to students who have an unpaid caring role outside of college (it includes anyone in receipt of carers’ allowance but does not apply to those with parental responsibilities, unless for a disabled child, or those employed in a paid role for caring).
* To provide guidance to staff who have a role supporting students who are carers.

# 2 Policy Statement

New College Lanarkshire (NCL) is committed to supporting students who have an unpaid caring responsibility outside of college that may impact on their learning experience and ability to make good progress on their course. Carers should have the best possible support to be successful in their journey. Under the Equality Act 2010, NCL has a duty to ensure that we prevent discrimination (even discrimination by association with someone who has a protected characteristic, e.g. a disability). We work to engender an inclusive environment that treats carers fairly. NCL will promote actions that can have a positive effect on carers.

# 3 Responsibilities

All staff have a responsibility to support all of our students to make good progress on course programmes in NCL. This applies also to those who may have external difficulties that impact on their studies.

Specific responsibility falls to staff in Educational Learning Support to work with learners who are students to develop Personal Learning Support Plans (PLSPs) that document what support can be offered within the faculties, as well as across college functions.

Student Advisers also have a specific responsibility to work with students who may require more pastoral support or counselling as an aid for their college journey.

Curriculum staff have a responsibility to look at ways to support students who may require flexibility to cover their caring role.

Student Funding staff have a responsibility to work to ensure funding arrangements are in place as early as possible for student carers, to reduce the worry of funding issues impacting on the caring role.

# 4 Being an unpaid carer is an indicator that a student may be at risk of failing to achieve their potential. NCL will work to enable student carers through the following actions:

## 4.1 Confirmation of Carer’s Status

Carers will be encouraged to disclose their status as part of our application and enrolment processes.

## 4.3 Raised Awareness

NCL will raise awareness of the needs of student carers with all relevant members of staff.

**4.4** Support from Educational Learning Support and Student Advisers

Student carers will be offered support via Educational Learning Support, and a personal appointment with a student adviser at the start of their course, to introduce friendly, supportive people, who can offer help at various points on the programme, if required. Support for student carers can range from allowing the use of mobile phones in class for student carers, to giving extra time to complete assignments, as a matter of course.

**4.5** Improved transition

NCL will work with local authorities to improve transition to college for young carers.

**4.6** Awareness of support systems

NCL will ensure support systems are available and promoted to student carers.

**4.7** External Support

NCL will work with other external agencies such as local carers’ services or counselling services to support our student carers.

**4.8**  Monitoring of progress

Staff will monitor progress of student carers in college, putting actions into place to improve success rates for this group.

**4.9** Recognition in college policies

NCL will ensure other college policies make appropriate reference to carers as they are reviewed, e.g. funding, ELS, attendance.