



East Coast College Young/Adult Carers Policy

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This document can be provided in a larger font, electronically or other accessible requirement, upon request.

Introduction

East Coast College are committed to meeting the needs of young and adult carers, ensuring that this group are supported and encouraged to attend college and achieve their goals. We wish to ensure equal access to teaching and learning and personal development, promoting a culture of aspiration.

East Coast College values the abilities and achievements of all its students and is committed to providing the best possible environment for learning. We actively seek to remove barriers to learning for individuals or groups of students, offering timely support in the best way for the student.

1. Aims and Objectives

East Coast College aims to ensure the educational opportunities of carers are equal to that of their peers.

Definition of young/adult carer:

A person who is responsible for, or impacted by the caring on a regular basis for a parent, sibling or family member who has an illness or disability; such as a physical disability, mental health issues, substance misuses as well as those that are terminally ill. A carer will take on additional responsibilities that are deemed appropriate for their age or development and will often be providing the main care, as well as sharing responsibility with another family member. These tasks may include:

- Domestic activities
- Household and financial support
- Personal care
- Emotional care
- Sibling care

Because of these additional responsibilities a carer may show poor attendance or lateness, under achievement, anxiety, tiredness, behavior concerns, difficulty in producing work to a timescale.

2. The College will provide an inclusive environment by:

- Agreeing with each young/adult carers the support needing and reviewing these needs.
- Identify carer's champions on each campus with a special responsibility for the monitoring of carers.
- Representatives from the student body will be trained in peer support.
- Ensuring that all staff receive relevant training around working with young/adult carers.
- Ensuring financial support is given, where appropriate to support with education including college meals, travel and course expenses.
- Ensuring that the college keeps up to date with national and local legislation and guidance around carers and their families.
- Providing support information through carers champions and VLE self-help areas.

- Ensuring the personal development programme promotes a full understanding of equality and diversity, acceptance, respect and embeds British Values throughout its curriculum. This will include information of challenges faced by young/adult carers and their families.
- Ensure that young/adult carers are monitored and additional support provided where needed to help with achievement and progression.
- Ensure any young carers at risk of becoming NEET are identified quickly and appropriate actions taken to address this.
- Allocated areas and times for completion of coursework and directed study and extensions for deadlines / submissions are available where needed.
- Ensure all open events, including parents/carers evenings allow accessible, bespoke options for the families of young/adult carers where possible.
- Promote a supportive transition to college for young/adult carers and their families by providing opportunity for carers to identify themselves at application. Providing a clear support system through interview and enrolment where requested. This will include opportunities to provide individual options for interviews (including telephone / virtual interviews) where possible.
- Make referrals and signpost where appropriate to specialist support services.
- Allow additional access to phone at any point for carers to call home if there are any concerns.
- Monitor progress and destination information, highlighting any areas of concern in a timely manner.
- Make due considerations for carers around trips and visits so additional support can be provided to ensure there are equal opportunities to participate.
- Ensure adequate notice is given around exams and assessments to enable any additional support to be put into place.
- Monitor any inclusion/disciplinary concerns directly related to carers to allow support/advice to be put in place.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by college students and staff.

Quality of support will be monitored by the wellbeing manager and assistant principal - student wellbeing and support.

Incidents reported under this policy will be monitored by the college complaints procedure.

Young/Adult Carers Charter

What do we expect from Young / Adult Carers	What Young /Adult Carers can expect from the College
To update the College of any caring responsibilities and changes that might occur whilst at the College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application process allows for self-declaration of caring roles and responsibilities (paper, verbal and online) • Additional support to access interviews at times and via a medium suited to caring roles and responsibilities • Support with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Student finance applications ➢ Travel information ➢ Accessing trips and enrichment • Alert all staff to caring role verbally and recorded via eLP and data systems • Issue printed card for Young/Adult Carers where needed
To be fully able to participate in learning and enrichment opportunities offered to all students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that carers information is available to staff and students • Events and awareness days publicised and held on campus e.g. Carers week and Young/Adult Carers Awareness Day • Enrichment activities are promoted to students • Deliver staff training • Make staff aware (with young/adult Carers and family consent) when personal circumstances may impact on learning • Promote external support from specialist organisations
Tell us as soon as possible of any issues around completing work or deadlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow agreed extensions with tutors where possible • Support young/adult carers to complete directed study or work at home where possible • Have identified study areas available • Inclusion and disciplinary process to take into consideration impact of caring responsibilities
Make us aware of any changes to your caring responsibilities or role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree allowed use of mobile phone for any communication needs with family during the college day • Arrange meeting with carer and family member to discuss support needs or changes
Let us know if you need more support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named staff (champions) on each campus who can provide support and signposting for any safeguarding and wellbeing issue or financial concerns. This will include referrals for specialist support with consent from carers and families • Student Ambassadors will include Carers Champions and representation with Student Union, who can provide additional support and signpost to safeguarding and wellbeing teams on campus. • Moodle reporting form in place to request additional support • Moodle self-help information available, allowing carers to seek research additional support.