

Partnership Provision with Coleg Y Cymoedd - as quoted in their Organisation Self Report:

We ensure that those with caring responsibilities have reasonable adjustments made to enable them to achieve their dreams.

There are support plans in place for those who have caring support needs, and the wellbeing Team can assist with this when appropriate. At Cymoedd we hold regular information events about YACs, and the Carers Services work with the Wellbeing Team, coming into college throughout the year across all campuses to raise awareness and deliver drop-ins. The college continues to hold its Annual YC award, celebrating and promoting the achievements of its student carers.

A college App is available to all students and includes a YAC group. This is being continuously developed to provide more information and easier access for student carers. A YAC video is accessible through the App and on Cymoedd Extra (student intranet). Information is shared across campuses so that YACs can see what is going on across sites, when drop-ins are happening, etc. The YAC groups provide peer support and an opportunity to feedback on support provision. The groups engage in awareness raising projects, and this year student carers have identified creating a YaC pin badge.

YACs can be reimbursed for additional transport costs if they need to leave college early or arrive late due to caring responsibilities and are given consideration when applying for travel grants. The Financial Contingency Fund can also be accessed by YACs to pay for college/course trips, etc.

Carers Champions on each campus link to regional external services. The college has well established links to Carers services and has worked closely with Darren Young (RCT) over a number of years. He acknowledged the pro-active approach college takes toward supporting YACs, identifying that the majority of referrals into the service come through the college.

There are effective communication and information-sharing pathways to provide joined-up working and wraparound support. Laura Wilson provided an example of a YAC who was anxious about the progression to university. She requested that Darren contact the student over the summer, which supported him to make a successful transition into HE.

RCT will go into college to meet students and provide Drop-Ins. Darren attends Open days, Freshers Fairs, and awareness raising events throughout the academic year. The college has also provided a venue and photographic equipment for the YAC service to use with its service users to make a video, reinforcing its commitment to wider community engagement.

The college is proactive in supporting YACs in Pathways to University taster days, working collaboratively with RCT and local HE providers.