

## UEA Outreach

### Young Carer and Young Adult Carer Agreement 2021



In June 2021, UEA's Outreach Team was successful in renewing our Young Carer Friendly Tick Award. The renewal submission was approved by a panel of Young Carers (YC) and Young Adult Carers (YAC) from the Norfolk Young Carers Forum (NYCF).

This document outlines the UEA Outreach agreement of support for YC and YAC the eastern region. We strongly encourage YC and YAC to participate in the University's activities and events.

We can arrange individual and group webinars and virtual workshops to find out about the opportunities available at Higher Education. Our face-to-face activities have been limited during 2020 and 2021 but we hope to resume offering visits to explore the University campus as well as trips to see you at your school or YC/YAC support group. Read below for more details about why we offer these activities, and how we might be able to support you on your educational journey.

Contact Liz Ferguson (Outreach Officer) with your queries or requests for activities:  
[includingme@uea.ac.uk](mailto:includingme@uea.ac.uk) / [www.uea.ac.uk/outreach/includingme](http://www.uea.ac.uk/outreach/includingme)

#### **What does the Outreach team do?**

UEA's Outreach team offers a range of activities, including webinars, workshops, campus visits, and residential summer schools\* for young people from Year 5 upwards, plus mature students (aged 21+). The majority of our work is with schools, colleges & sixth forms in Norfolk and North Suffolk, however if you are a YC or YAC student outside of this area we welcome enquiries from you too.

Our activities aim to encourage participation at higher education (HE) by people from groups that are typically under-represented at university. Young Carers (YC) and Young Adult Carers (YAC) are identified target group for university outreach activities by the sector regulator, the Office for Students (OfS). ([www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/1105/ofs2018\\_06.pdf](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/1105/ofs2018_06.pdf), section 61).

This targeting is reflected in the role of Widening Participation Officer, which specifically targets young people from vulnerable groups, and also in UEA's Access & Participation Plan, which outlines a series of key strategic priorities for the Outreach team. We refer to intended outcomes when planning and evaluating our activities. For YC and YAC activities, the intended outcome is 'reduction in perception of barriers'. Some students may have greater difficulties to overcome in their journey to HE than others do, and we acknowledge this by offered tailored activities, information and encouragement. Activities for YC and YAC include the following:

- Students, parents and guardians, and professionals are invited to chat with Liz via UniBuddy about any aspect of Higher Education: <https://bit.ly/3q5PetL>
- We also have an extensive online Resource Centre full of free higher education resources for young people, teachers, parents and carers and mature students: [everwondered.uea.ac.uk](http://everwondered.uea.ac.uk)
- Provision of bespoke activities, on request
- Group and individual activities online or in-person\*

- Increased consideration for places at residential summer schools and other application activities
- Allocation of travel funding on request, and free or subsidised places at payable events

### **What can visitors expect at our events and activities?**

Participants in Outreach events at UEA typically explore the academic, social, economic and personal benefits of progressing to HE. They do this by participating in a programme of workshops / sessions / tours which allow them to investigate course and placement options, career progression routes, and social and leisure opportunities at UEA and other universities. The focus is on having a positive introduction to HE opportunities and student life, with an emphasis on student support and relevant additional support.

*“Thank you so much, these sessions have been really valuable and informative. I really appreciate the opportunity!”*

Comment from a young carer participating in our 2021 Young Carer webinar series.

### **Our partnership approach**

When planning activities for YC and YAC groups, we have taken advice from local YC and YAC charity groups to ensure the content and delivery is valuable and relevant. We have also requested anonymous feedback from attendees at previous YC and YAC campus visits, and use this to assess our approach, and make adjustment as needed.

Outreach staff receive training from NYCF staff to improve our understanding of the experiences and challenges you may face in your education.

### **Including the student voice**

Outreach staff also invite input from current UEA students who have identified as YAC, typically because of questions and interest from Student Ambassadors working at our events. These individual students are invited to volunteer their experience of progressing to university, and to highlight any information, actions or activities that especially helped or hindered them. Their honest testimony is hugely valuable to feed into the presentations and workshops provided by Outreach staff, as we can refer to authentic examples of student experience.

\*On-campus activities are likely to be limited throughout 2021 but contact Liz at [includingme@uea.ac.uk](mailto:includingme@uea.ac.uk) to enquire about what’s possible. Virtual workshops and talks will remain available, including one-to-one and group sessions.