

Meet the STAY team

"It's an honour to be able to help young people transition to college, help to reduce their anxieties and see their confidence grow."

Hazel Kelly

"Working as a mentor for STAY has been incredibly fulfilling. The work we do has a direct impact on the lives of young people, helping them feel supported and heard." **Aqsa Baig**

"Being that link between a student and college helps make the transition into further or higher education a little less daunting." **Gillian Quail and Rachel Church**

"The college environment can be overwhelming and stressful at times. If I can support a learner in any way possible to alleviate that stress, I will do. The one-to-one support that STAY provide to learners is vital in helping them achieve their full potential, not only in college, but in their lives as a whole." **Steven O'Donnell**

"Witnessing the impact that STAY has for students is incredibly rewarding. Indeed, to work alongside students as they overcome adversity, take ownership of their ambitions and succeed in education is incredibly powerful." **Lauren Durward**

"STAY is a great service. I enjoy my role as it allows me to reach out to students and support them in overcoming any hurdles they may be facing – ensuring they know they are not alone." **Lauren Jackson**

"It's an amazing honour to support students and build trusting relationships. Watching the students grow in confidence and flourish in their education is very rewarding." **Alana Craig**

"We're so excited about supporting students to grow at college, building trusting relationships as we plan for success."

Francesca Penny and Hazel Kennedy

Being ambitious for students

We're delighted to be working with the Glasgow College Regional Board, The Robertson Trust and Glasgow City Council's Towards Better Futures to support vulnerable students across five colleges: Kelvin College, Glasgow Clyde College, City of Glasgow College, New College Lanarkshire and Edinburgh College.

Safe and happy childhood



Action for Children protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives.



STAY

Mentoring Programme

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Working in
partnership
with:



Welcome to STAY

Everyone should be able to fulfil their potential. But sometimes young people need a bit of extra help.

Our Services to Assist You (STAY) service supports students from a variety of backgrounds. We offer young people the practical and emotional help they need to succeed at college.

STAY is important because students tell us that personal circumstances can have a big effect on their college work. Colleges in Scotland offer traditional student support, covering areas like study skills, admissions, funding advice and careers guidance. But they can't always provide the community-based, one-to-one guidance some students need. That's where we come in. We work with students to create a plan at college and at home. This means they can concentrate on their studies.

Our locations:



City of Glasgow College



New College Lanarkshire



Edinburgh College



Haghill College,
Glasgow Kelvin College



Langside Campus,
Glasgow Clyde College

The STAY values

A safe space with an open approach

We make sure students get the right support at the right time. This helps them to stay in college and succeed. We listen and provide a safe, confidential space where students can be open and honest. We're not just in the college, either. We support young people at home and in the community, in a place and at a time that works for them.

Flexible

Students can use the service whenever they need it, for as long as they need it. Because we know that problems can crop up and return at any time. Everything we do is based on a student's needs, issues and circumstances.

Partnership

We always work closely with a college. We collaborate with student services and build on the help they're already giving. This gives young people structure both on and off campus.

Co-design

We really want students to feel involved. So we give them a real say about what we do, ask them to point out what could be better, and encourage them to come up with new ideas.



How STAY works

We can help students with:



Accommodation.



Childcare.



Finance and budgeting.



Work/life balance.



Entitlements and rights.



Mental health and wellbeing.



Relationships.



Family support.



Acting as an independent link with the college.

Letting young people know about STAY

Our STAY key workers, who are based in colleges, talk to students about the help we offer. They can then decide on the support they want. This is completely up to them. The service is flexible and designed to meet students' needs, issues and circumstances.

Meeting each person's needs

We put in lots of time to get to know every student. Together, we come up with a Bespoke Retention Plan, which lists a young person's strengths and any barriers they face. The plan also includes the type of support a student needs and what we'll do. There might be times when someone needs a bit of extra help, too – like during exams or in their first few months at college.

Into the future

Sometimes, a student might not finish their college course. We work with college staff to identify these young people so we can help them to figure out their next steps. A STAY key worker will listen to a young person, suggest ideas and match them to training, education and job opportunities.