

## Strath Union Cares

*This policy was put forward through the Executive Committee for consideration at Student Parliament*

### Student Parliament Notes:

1. Strathclyde was the first university in Scotland to sign up as an “official friend” of Who Cares? Scotland
2. Care Experienced children are **less likely to be in positive destinations nine months after leaving school**. Figures from 2017/18 show that 76% of children in care for the full year and 69% of children in care for part of the year, were in positive destinations. This is compared to 93% of all school leavers<sup>1</sup>
3. The overall **retention** rate for Scottish domiciled full-time first degree entrants completing year 1 and remaining in higher education was 92.5% in 2017-18. Meanwhile, 87.2% of entrants with care-experienced backgrounds remained in higher education.<sup>2</sup>
4. A dedicated landing page for all Widening Access students has been developed on the Strath Union website and will continue to be a site of resource for all our Widening Access students, including those who identify as Care Experienced.
5. Strath Union now has a dedicated “Access and Participation Coordinator” who’s role includes supporting students from widening access backgrounds

### Student Parliament Believes:

1. Strath Union has a role to play in supporting **all** of students through their university experience.
2. Engaging with other charities in our community such as Who Cares? Scotland can be massively beneficial to our students who require specific support.
3. Strath Union should provide support for and raise awareness of care leavers in higher education.

### Student Parliament Resolves:

1. For Strath Union to work with Student Reps, Student Execs and the Care Experienced Society to remain responsive to the needs of our Care Experienced students.
2. To actively engage with, support and grow the Care Experienced Society, as necessary.
3. To retain its connection with Who Cares? Scotland and lobby the university to ensure it does the same.

### Additional Information

1. The term “care experienced” refers to anyone who has been, or is currently in care. This care may have been provided in many different settings, such as:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whocarescotland.org/who-we-are/media-centre/statistics/> (Scottish Government, 2019\*, cited from Who Cares? Scotland, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/statisticalpublications\\_sfscst072019/Report\\_on\\_Widening\\_Access\\_2017-18\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/statisticalpublications_sfscst072019/Report_on_Widening_Access_2017-18_Executive_Summary.pdf) (SFC, 2019, p. 3)

- Kinship care – living with a relative who is not your mum or dad.
- Looked after at home – with the help of social work.
- Residential care – living in a residential unit or school.
- Foster care – living with foster carers.
- Secure care – living in a secure unit.
- Adoption

(Who Cares? Scotland, 2020)

**Note:** *If this policy is passed, it will replace the previous policy titled 'USSA supporting Who Cares? Scotland'*