



EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE

Who Cares? Scotland Job Specification

Post title	Development Officer NORTH WEST (Youth Participation and Belonging)
Salary range	£23,093 – £28,866
Hours of work	Full time – 35 hours per week (some evening and weekend work is required)
Contract	12 months fixed term
Area	North West – Local Authorities: Argyll & Bute, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire and residential schools in Renfrewshire
Base location	Glasgow – home based in the first instance due to Covid-19
Responsible to	Advocacy and Participation Manager
Last update	June 2021

Who Cares? Scotland is Scotland’s only national independent membership organisation for Care Experienced people. Our strategic vision is to secure a lifetime of equality, respect and love for Care Experienced people in Scotland. At the heart of Who Cares? Scotland’s work are the rights of Care Experienced people and the power of their voices to bring about change. We provide individual relationship based independent advocacy and a range of connection and participation opportunities for Care Experienced people across Scotland. We work alongside Corporate Parents and others to broaden understanding and challenge stigma experienced by Care Experienced people. We create opportunities for people with lived experience of care to influence policy makers, leaders, and elected representatives locally and nationally to shape legislation, policy and practice. We do this collaboratively to build on the aspirations of The Promise and secure positive change.

Purpose of the post

The post is focused on facilitating the participation and belonging of care-experienced children and young people from the region in the development of participation and belonging activities and will create an environment where the voices, views and experiences of care experienced children and young people are heard by senior leaders, helping to bring about positive change.

The post holder will utilise and create opportunities for participation and belonging activities and projects with care experienced young people - whilst supporting a range of PR, awareness-raising, events and other activities. Core belonging and participation activities will involve: fun connection and belonging activities, issue based group work; creative based group work; and focus groups, forums and events, both one-off and longer term in duration. The post holder will need to utilise youth work and/or community engagement skills to undertake the role. It will involve working closely with organisational partners, different services within the Local Authority and other public services in order to create new opportunities or develop existing ones.

The post-holder will be joining Who Cares? Scotland at an exciting time, when the voice of those who are in or have experienced care is growing rapidly across Scotland - bringing with it insight, challenge, hope and change. They will be joining a growing and dynamic team.

Main duties and responsibilities

Belonging and participation

1. To work closely with partners to deliver a programme of belonging and participation activities for care experienced young people in the region.
2. To ensure that the networks through which care experienced young people can connect, develop and grow as individuals are maximised.
3. To utilise a range of communications channels and networks to promote belonging and participation materials to care experienced young people.
4. To develop accessible and applicable youth work tools and session plans/activities.
5. To work effectively with partners and Who Cares? Scotland colleagues to involve and engage a growing number of children and young people with experience of care.

Young people development

6. To implement and support the development of good practice policies and procedures in relation to young people and their participation and belonging.
7. To coordinate, develop and monitor opportunities for young people's development.

Partnership working

8. To work closely with the Who Cares? Scotland volunteer team.
9. To develop and maintain good working relationships with relevant organisations, across the region, including the Local Authority, other Public Sector Corporate Parents and the Third Sector.

Information, awareness-raising and promotion

10. To disseminate awareness-raising materials to a wide range of audiences.
11. To promote the participation and belonging programme to support our members to help influence local policy initiatives, such as The Promise.

Monitoring and evaluation

12. To ensure the funding requirements are met and that the impact of the work is recorded, monitored and evaluated.
13. To provide reports as required in relation to the participation and belonging programme to create a robust evidence base of impact for future funding opportunities.

Other Duties

14. To work collaboratively with other staff in the local authority area, providing cover for advocacy workers on an occasional basis.
15. To undertake any other duties and responsibilities commensurate with the level of the post.
16. Be an ambassador for Who Cares? Scotland by upholding the staff code of conduct, adhering to policies and procedures and promoting values at all times.

Communication

The post holder will have key links with:

- Young people
- Care Experienced members
- Organisational partners (Local Authority; other public sector Corporate Parents; the Third Sector)
- The broader Who Cares? Scotland team, both in the region, and across Scotland
- National networks supporting the development of effective Champions Board activity

Teamwork alongside strong individual initiative will be crucial for the effective operation and imaginative development of the work.

Attitudes and values

Commitment to:

- Child rights.
- Human rights.
- Working inclusively with an understanding of equal opportunities practices.
- Belief that young people can make transformative change happen in their lives if given the opportunity.
- Working in partnership with Care Experienced people of all ages, empowering them to make decisions about their own lives.
- Developing best practice through regular supervision and training opportunities.
- Inter-agency, inter-disciplinary working to improve outcomes for Care Experienced people.

Working environment

Flexibility will be required given the remit of the role. Some evening and weekend work will be necessary. A full driving licence and access to transport is required.

The postholder will be based mainly from home in the first instance due to the restrictions in place for Covid-19.

Essential knowledge, skills and experience

Qualifications:

- While we would welcome the knowledge gathered through relevant qualifications, we are just as interested in relevant work experience.
- Demonstrable continuing professional development in relevant areas.

Knowledge:

Demonstrable knowledge of:

- The issues affecting young people who are in care or leaving care.
- The care system in Scotland.
- Children's rights and Child protection issues.
- Current policy and practice in relation to children and young people encountering the care system.
- Designing tailored youth work session plans.

Skills and competencies:

- Ability to manage your time and workload effectively to meet deadlines.
- Ability to effectively evidence and plan work.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, both oral and written.
- Ability to form positive relationships with children and young people.
- Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team and on own initiative.
- Excellent administration skills and the ability to produce high quality work.
- Good knowledge of the Microsoft office suite.

Experience of:

- Working directly with children and young people, both individually and in groups.
- Delivering training or engaging a range of audiences.
- Working in an inter-agency, inter disciplinary way.
- Report writing and evidencing practice and impact.