



**NATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
BODY**

**MEMBERS' APPLICATION
GUIDE 2020**



**NATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE BODY**

Member application guide

National Representative Body

You can apply by filling in our [online application form](#) by **12 December 2020**.

Professionals or Care Experienced peers you have worked with can support your application by filling in our [endorsement form](#) by **12 December 2020**.

You can find out more by [registering](#) for one of our informal **information sessions**, taking place on **Saturday 14 November** (2-3pm) and **Tuesday 17 November** (7-8pm).



1. WHO ARE WE?

Who Cares? Scotland is a national membership organisation for Care Experienced people, with over **2800** members. Our aim is to achieve a **lifetime** of **equality, respect** and **love** for Care Experienced people.

We support Care Experienced people to have their voices heard through providing high quality **Independent Advocacy** - we have workers around the country who build relationships with people in care. We provide fun and meaningful **participation** opportunities where members come together to make friends, discuss their experiences, views and ideas for change.

We make sure our members' voices are heard by **campaigning** for change and making **recommendations** to the Scottish Government, local authorities and other decision-makers (we call this **influencing**).

2. WHY DO WE HAVE A NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE BODY (NRB)?

We want to become a **democratic** organisation, where members understand how to get involved in decision making, can have their say on what we do together and have the opportunity to tell us whether we're doing a good job.

There are a number of things we do to we make sure this happens. Every year we have a **Members' Assembly** where we come together to discuss what Who Cares? Scotland has done, to think about **priorities** for the next year and to elect people to our **Board**, which supervises our staff team and makes sure we act responsibly.



Every year we also have a **Membership Survey** which gives members an opportunity to tell us what it's like to be a member, what they enjoy and what could be improved or added to the experience.

While we only have the Members' Assembly and the Survey once a year, our **National Representative Body** is a group of members who work together throughout the year to help the organisation listen to members' voices and to make sure that these voices are heard in the outside world.

3. WHAT DOES THE NRB DO?

The NRB has the following key roles:

Supporting the design and delivery of **participation** work with members around the country under our **Annual Participation Programme**. This includes developing session plans and surveys, supporting groupwork with members and reviewing what members have told us.

Testing and developing new **projects** and **activities**, building on ideas coming from the organisation and from members working locally.

Representing the organisation as **spokespeople** by helping to produce reports, press releases and news articles and by speaking to decision-makers and the media.

Supporting members to **review** the work of the organisation and to set **priorities**. This involves helping to put together our annual **Membership Survey** and looking at what members have said, exploring information from our advocacy and participation work and reporting to the Members' Assembly.

4. CAN I BE A REPRESENTATIVE?

You can apply to be a national Representative if:

- You will be **16 years old** or older in January 2021
- You have been a Care Experienced **member** of Who Cares? Scotland for at least 12 months
- You can commit on average at least **2 hours** a week to working alongside other Representatives
- You want to help make sure the voices of all of our members are heard, in order to achieve Who Cares? Scotland's vision of **lifetime** of **equality, respect** and **love** for Care Experienced people



We are looking for Representatives who have been involved in participation with other Care Experienced people before – like local groups and events such as our Summer Camp, Love Rally or Time to Shine festival. However, don't worry if you haven't done this before – we know not everyone has had these opportunities.

Once elected, Representatives will be expected to commit to the role for an initial **two-year** term, though there will be an opportunity to review at the end of year one.

If you're unsure whether to apply or if you would like more information first, you can [register](#) for one of our **information sessions**. These are a fun and friendly way to find out more about this opportunity, what the role of a Representative is, what the application process will look like and what Representatives can expect once elected. Information sessions are being held on:

- **Saturday 14th November, 2-3pm**
- **Tuesday 17th November, 7-8pm**

Otherwise, if you'd like to discuss your application informally, please contact Gavin Morgan by email (gmorgan@whocarescotland.org) or phone (07813 456 015).

5. HOW DO I APPLY?

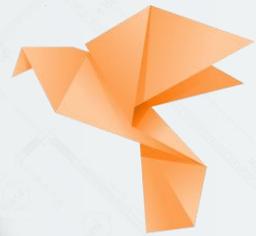
You can apply by filling in the [online application form](#) by **12 December 2020**.

This usually takes about **30 minutes**. If you have any questions or problems with the form, you can **ask for help** from any member of staff or volunteer at Who Cares? Scotland or from Gavin Morgan using the information above.

If you have been involved in participation with other Care Experienced people before (like a regular group, project, Champions Board or event), you can ask **any professional** who you've worked with or **peers** from the group/project to tell us why you might be a good Representative. They can do this by filling in our [endorsement form](#) by **12 December 2020**.

6. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We have a friendly and impartial process for deciding who becomes a national Representative, which involves staff from across the organisation, Board members and external professionals with a background in Community Learning and Development. You can see the key steps in the graphic below.



You complete an online application form. A group of staff review applications and make a shortlist of candidates, based on **key skills**, understanding of the WCS' **vision** and experience of **participation**.

APPLICATION

01

NOV-DEC 2020

If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to participate in a fun and friendly **group work** activity exploring how you work as part of a **team**, **communicate** with others and review **information**.

GROUP WORK

02

JAN 2021

You will also be invited to a short **friendly** and **informal interview**, about why you would like to represent our 2800+ members and what you would bring to the role.

INTERVIEW

03

JAN 2021

If you are successful in the interview and group work activity, we'll ask you to make a **two-minute video** about yourself for other members. Members will elect Representatives to the NRB at the Members' Assembly on **20 Feb 2020**.

ELECTION

04

JAN 2021

7. WHAT CAN I EXPECT AS A REPRESENTATIVE?

Representatives will become Who Cares? Scotland **volunteers** – this involves signing a volunteer agreement and applying to join the PVG scheme with Disclosure Scotland. Representatives will come together for a full **induction** which includes social activities, workshops on the history of care and protection and of the Care Experienced movement, information and discussion about our organisation and activity planning sessions.



The National Representative Body will meet regularly as a group throughout the year – these **Gatherings** will take place at least once a month but will likely be more often in busy periods. Between Gatherings, Representatives may meet in smaller **groups** to work on projects and may have **individual** tasks to take forward.

Additionally, every **six weeks**, Representatives will have a **support and development** session with a member of the Community Development team. This time allows Representatives to reflect on their role, to raise issues and questions and to discuss **learning** and **development** opportunities.

Who Cares? Scotland is committed to working with Representatives to develop the **knowledge** and **skills** they need to effectively represent our members and to help ensure their voices drive transformative change. The key pillars of our development approach are illustrated allow.

