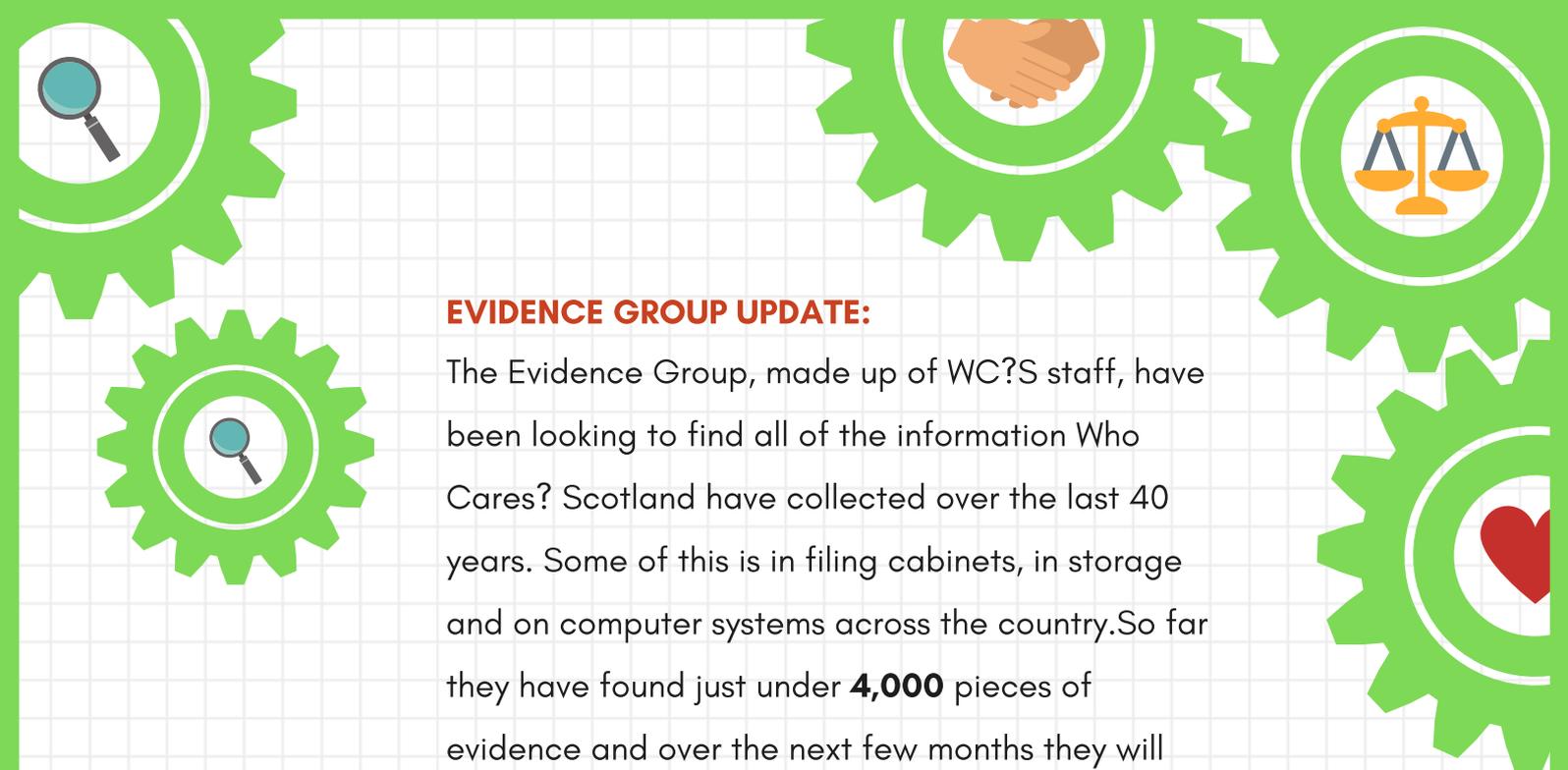


# 40 YEARS OF US PROJECT UPDATES MAY/JUNE 2019

This project is about going through and coding over 40 years' worth of evidence and feedback from the Care Experienced people WC?S have worked with in order to influence the transformation of Scotland's care system. This momentous task will change the way we work in the future and ensure that generations of Care Experienced voice is not lost.





### EVIDENCE GROUP UPDATE:

The Evidence Group, made up of WC?S staff, have been looking to find all of the information Who Cares? Scotland have collected over the last 40 years. Some of this is in filing cabinets, in storage and on computer systems across the country. So far they have found just under **4,000** pieces of evidence and over the next few months they will begin to analyse what it says and pass it on to the appropriate working group. So far the **most common type of evidence is advocacy records.**

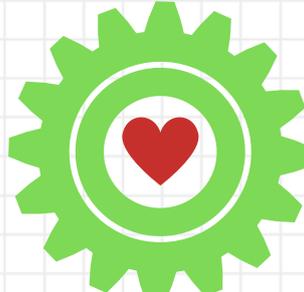


### WORKING GROUPS

The working groups are made up of WC?S staff and **Collective** members and each group is focused on a different theme. They are building a case so WC?S can ensure that Care Experienced people receive a lifetime of equality, respect and love. Each month you will know how each group is engaging with the **wider membership**, what the main focus of their work is and what conversations they are having.

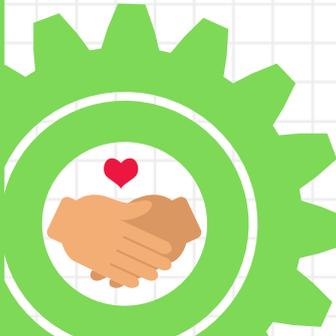


# LIFETIME OF LOVE WORKING GROUP UPDATE: GROUP LEAD - DENNY FORD

- 
- Met 3 times during May (1st, 22nd and 30th)
  - **Key themes discussed:**
    - 'What is love?'
    - Theories around love and **attachment**
    - Workshops around the ideal care giver relationship
    - 'Blast from the past' activities looking at our history
    - Sessions on accessing learning from the archive
  - Appointed a depute chair (Lee Davidson) to lead activities at **Collective Gatherings**, input to 40 Years of Us project team meetings and stand in for the chair when he is absent.
  - The chair has met with **Participation and Policy lead** to discuss wider community engagement and potential gaps in our knowledge that our members can fill.
  - We are exploring how best to engage with members on the Islands to ensure that they are meaningfully involved throughout the process.

## GROUP LEAD STATEMENT:

“ The Love Group have worked hard and committed to meetings, although connecting regularly with 14 members from South Ayrshire, to East Lothian to Shetland Islands can be challenging. We look forward to continued momentum and more meaningful engagement with our Shetland members. ”



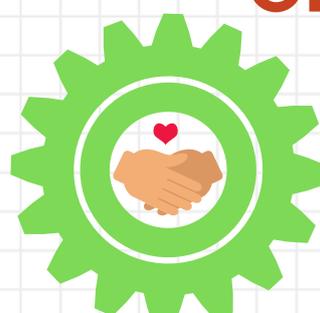
## NEXT STEPS:

- Attend the 8th June **Collective Gathering** and deliver a workshop.
- Some Love Group members will also attend the '**Love in Foster Care**' seminar, the **Rights and Respect Event** and the Renfrewshire team's '**Listen and Learn**' Event.



# LIFETIME OF RIGHTS & RESPECT

## WORKING GROUP UPDATE: GROUP LEAD - BILLY ALEXANDER



On Friday the 14th of June we published a report saying “We Don’t Have To Wait”. This report was about addressing issues that people with experience of care are facing that can and should be changed now.

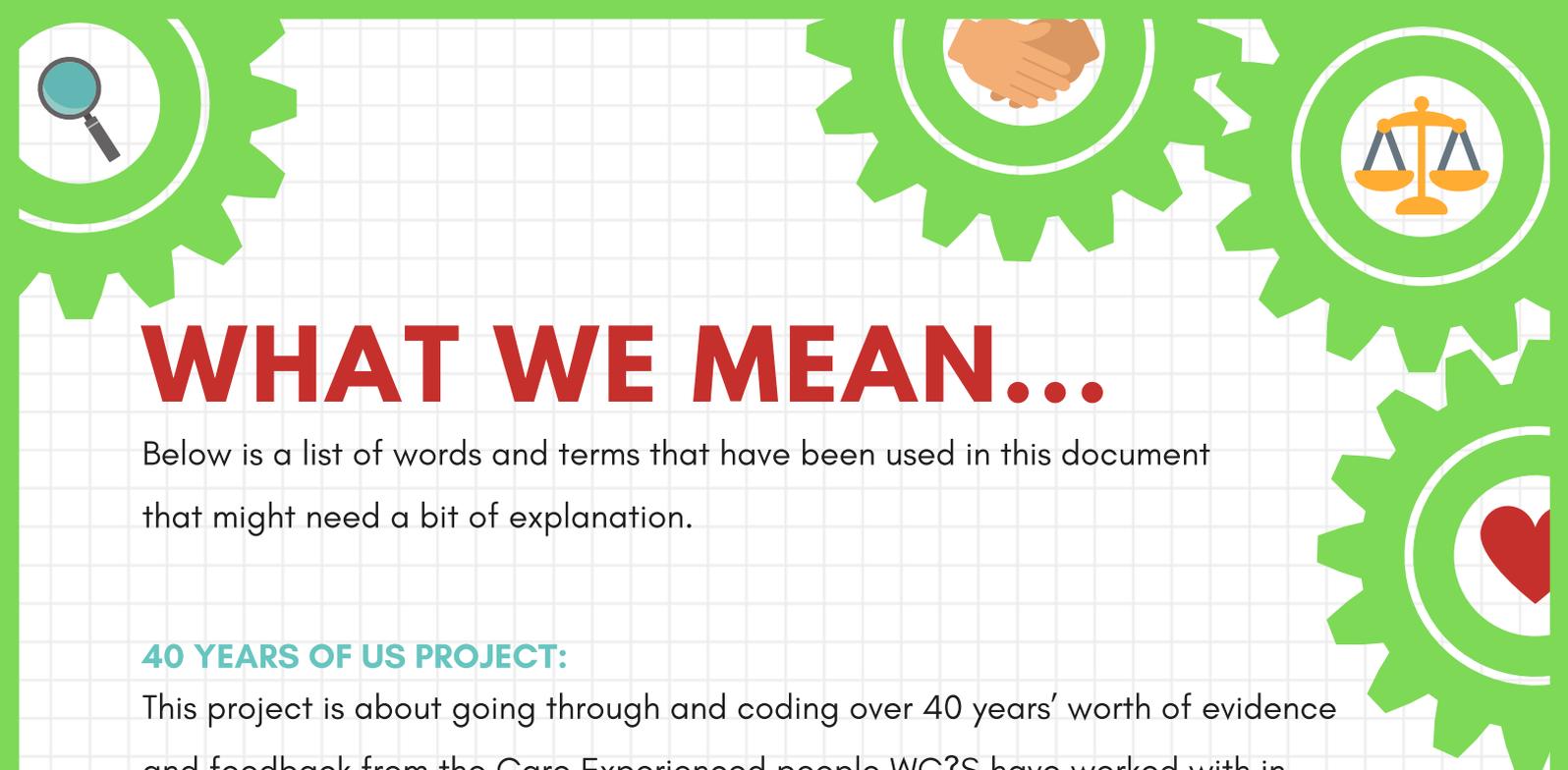
This report told Scotland that independent advocacy is key for Care Experienced people having their rights understood and respected. The report detailed information from the last 10 years of our advocacy database. This database captures every reason Care Experienced People have accessed us to support them. This database took in over 20,000 issues that Care Experienced people have asked us to support them with.

**The Collective** presented the **First Minister** with this report and a letter to call for change as well as creating a list of comprehensive asks which would improve lives.

Members spoke publicly about their experience and why change was necessary. There were also a range of workshops that were lead by advocates and members on the different areas that the Rights & Respect Group have explored including Love, Rights, Employment, Housing and Education.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

During her speech. the **First Minister** committed to exploring our asks and we look forward to working alongside Government on this.



# WHAT WE MEAN...

Below is a list of words and terms that have been used in this document that might need a bit of explanation.

## 40 YEARS OF US PROJECT:

This project is about going through and coding over 40 years' worth of evidence and feedback from the Care Experienced people WC?S have worked with in order to influence the transformation of Scotland's care system. This momentous task will change the way we work in the future and ensure that generations of Care Experienced voice is not lost.

## ATTACHMENT THEORY:

Attachment theory is a psychological model attempting to describe the effects of long-term and short-term relationships between humans. The theory states that a strong emotional and physical attachment to at least one primary caregiver is critical to personal development

## THE COLLECTIVE:

This group, made up entirely of Care Experienced people, will be responsible for:

- Delivering the vision of a Lifetime of Equality, Respect & Love.
- Speaking out on behalf of Who Cares? Scotland's members.
- Influencing decision makers at a global and national level.

## THE COLLECTIVE GATHERING:

A date for all The Collective members to get together, be updated on the findings of the 40 Years of Us Working groups so far and decide what they want to do with that evidence.

## THE FIRST MINISTER:

The leader of the Scottish Government - Nicola Sturgeon



# WHAT WE MEAN...

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## **LIFETIME OF RIGHTS & RESPECT EVENT:**

Friday 14 June 2019 / Glasgow / 10.00 to 16.00

This event will showcase our 40 Years of Us Project and will focus on the impact that independent advocacy has on the lives of young people.

## **LISTEN & LEARN EVENT (RENFREWSHIRE)**

Sessions designed to help the community understand what it means to grow up in care.

## **LOVE IN FOSTER CARE SEMINAR**

10th June 2019 / Edinburgh

Seminar exploring what love means in the context of a foster care setting.

## **PARTICIPATION & POLICY LEAD:**

Carly Edgar - 1000 Voices and Policy Manager

## **RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT:**

When your rights are ignored.

## **WC?S ADVOCACY ISSUES:**

WC?S has provided advocacy support to Care Experienced children and young people for over 40 years, this means making sure a child or young person gets a say in what is happening to them. The advocate will also address issues on behalf of the young person, often this issues will fall under similar themes.

## **WIDER MEMBERSHIP:**

Currently WC?S has 2500 members, so when we reference the wider membership, we mean reaching as many of them as we can, to make sure they feel represented.



If there is anything in this document that you have questions about, please feel free to get in touch with the Membership Team

**[membership@whocarescotland.org](mailto:membership@whocarescotland.org) / 0141 226 4441**

Remember there is no such thing as a silly question!