



EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE

Who Cares? Scotland Job Specification

Post title	Youth Work Development Officer NORTH EAST
Salary range	£23,674 – £29,592 per annum
Hours of work	Full time – 35 hours per week (evening and weekend work is required)
Contract	Permanent
Area	Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, and Tayside
Base location	Flexible, Dundee office base is available
Responsible to	Advocacy and Participation Manager
Last update	November 2022

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 positive change.

We provide individual lifelong relationship-based independent advocacy and a broad range of imaginative participatory and engagement opportunities for Care Experienced people across Scotland. We work alongside Corporate Parents and communities to broaden understanding and create change. We work with policy makers, leaders and elected representatives locally and nationally to shape law, policy and practice, working together 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 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; collective advocacy and focus groups, forums and events, both one-off and longer term in duration. The post holder will support volunteers and students on placement 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 lead the delivery of a programme of belonging and participation activities for care experienced young people in the region, alongside other partners.
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 activities to care experienced children and 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.
6. To contribute effectively to our local and national work in implementing our influencing plans nationally and in regions
7. To support workforce development activities such as staff events and regular practice development forums

Young people development

8. To implement and support the development of good practice policies and procedures in relation to young people and their participation and belonging.
9. To coordinate, develop and monitor opportunities for young people's development.
10. To create attractive offers locally to encourage care experienced people want to join our membership. To ensure meaningful offers are continually evolving co-designed by young people

Partnership working

11. To work closely with the Who Cares? Scotland Volunteer Manager to ensure we are providing the best support available to volunteers serving our young people.
12. To work with the Advocacy and Participation Manager to identify and attract local funding and fundraising opportunities to enhance our local offer to care experienced people
13. 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 such as services in sport, leisure, the arts and digital technology.

Information, awareness-raising and promotion

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

Monitoring and evaluation

16. To ensure the funding requirements are met and that the impact of the work is recorded, monitored and evaluated.
17. 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

18. To work collaboratively with other staff in the local authority area, providing cover for Development Officers on an occasional basis.
19. To undertake any other duties and responsibilities commensurate with the level of the post.
20. 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:

- Children and Young people within a variety of settings
- Care Experienced members
- Partners and professionals across the North East, including the Local Authority, other public sector Corporate Parents and 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.

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.
- You will be required to complete a PVG

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 plan, develop and deliver group work programmes.
- 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.

You do not need to be Care Experienced for this role, but we are as always interested to hear from applicants with care experience.

Closing date for applications is Sunday 4th December 2022.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 14th December 2022.