



**WHO  
CARES?**  
SCOTLAND

**EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE**



# Empowered Voices Training Programme Application Pack 2023

## 1. Opportunity

Thank you for your interest in our Spokesperson Training Programme at Who Cares? Scotland. Please read through this guide before considering applying.

This guide will outline what the programme will offer you, and how you can apply.

The information below will help you in applying for this role, thank you and good luck!

For more information, please contact the Policy & Public Affairs Team at [policy@whocaresscotland.org](mailto:policy@whocaresscotland.org).

## 2. Who are we?

Who Cares? Scotland is a national membership organisation for Care Experienced people, with around 4000 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 provide fun and meaningful participation opportunities where members come together for belonging and connection, 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).

## 3. What is the Spokesperson Training Programme?

Who Cares? Scotland has been at the centre of empowering Care Experienced people to use their voices since 1978. Throughout this time, we have grown, learnt, and understood how to campaign more effectively and what support for that looks like. Care Experienced people have always spoken up and campaigned for change. Across centuries this has taken many different forms, but one thing held true, the power of the voices of those with experience of care has driven change.

Throughout 2023-2024, we're bringing back our training programme to empower Care Experienced people to use their voices for change. Previous members of these training programmes have gone on to become co-chairs of the independent care review, members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and hold other influential roles in Scottish civic society.

This programme is a commitment from us to help the care community learn vital campaigning, activism, and public speaking skills. You will make connections with other influential Care Experienced people and have the opportunity to drive change together.

At the beginning of the programme we will find out what skills you wish to develop, and that will help us design the programme to suit the group taking part. You will also choose the name of the programme. Training will take place over three weekends during the year (in September 2023, February and May 2024) with the opportunity for further learning in between, including opportunities to speak to the media, meet with decision-makers and influence policy.

Throughout any spokesperson opportunity, you will receive guidance and support from Who Cares? Scotland staff and volunteers including members of the National Representative Body and the Scottish Youth Parliament. This will empower you to be able to speak on behalf of the care community and our membership.

We want to have spokespeople who represent a diversity of care backgrounds and protected characteristics.

## 4. Can I be a spokesperson?

### What qualities do I need?

- You will be 16 years old or older in June 2023.
- You are a Care Experienced member of Who Cares? Scotland (or if you aren't already, are willing to become a member).
- You are able to bring your own personal views, and explore these for the benefit of the collective voice of the Care Experienced community. As well as being able to distinguish personal views from collective voice and minority views of the Care Experienced community, and relay views in a representative way.
- You are willing to represent the wider membership and care community 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.
- You are interested in gaining new skills, developing yourself and meeting new people.
- You are a team player and can work alongside and support your peers.
- You are reliable, enthusiastic, flexible and committed.

### What will I need to do?

- You will commit to attending three weekend training sessions a year, and other opportunities in between.
- You will participate in training to the best of your ability.
- You will directly support our influencing work by speaking on behalf of the care community to the media and decision-makers.

### What other behaviours are expected of me?

- Abide by the Code of Conduct at all times.
- Always respond to communications from WC?S in good time.
- Make use of various communication channels to maintain dialogue with our members.
- Always communicate with the Policy & Public Affairs team about any ideas or work you would like to pursue.
- Maintain a flexible approach to your involvement, try to make yourself available for meetings and other opportunities.
- Give apologies when unavailable with as much notice as possible.
- Always try to present a positive image of WC?S.

## When will I be needed?

You will commit to attending three weekend training sessions a year, and other opportunities in between. These will provisionally be held on:

- 8-10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (repeat session 10-12<sup>th</sup> November)
- 2-4<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Please save these dates in your diary! Opportunities beyond the training will be optional and could take up to 4 hours max of your time per week.

## Location

Scotland-wide – training will take place either at our National Office in Glasgow, or in a residential centre. All travel, accommodation and meals will be provided by Who Cares? Scotland.

## What will I gain from the role?

- A sense of satisfaction in helping the voice of Care Experienced people be represented and heard
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Skills and knowledge eg. public speaking, campaigning, activism, human rights, policy and public affairs
- Experience working with the media and decision-makers
- Practical experience of working with a varied group of people of all ages
- Experience to get back into the workplace or education
- Have fun!

## What support will I be given?

- Role specific training & additional training opportunities
- Expenses – all out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed
- Support from a local Who Cares? Scotland staff member to attend as required
- Support from the Policy & Public Affairs team

## 5. How do I apply?

You can apply by filling in our online application form [here](#). We will open sign-up again at other points throughout the year.

This usually takes about 15 minutes. If you have any questions or problems with the form, you can ask for help from any member of staff at Who Cares? Scotland or from the Policy & Public Affairs team at [policy@whocarescotland.org](mailto:policy@whocarescotland.org).



## 6. What to expect?

In August, we will be in touch with more information about the first weekend training session, and the skills survey to complete to help us design the training.