



Event	Who Cares? Scotland AGM October 2024		
Scribe	Andy Robin	Date	26/10/24

Minutes

Attendees	
Board Members Present	Carmel Jacob (Chair), Sarah Blackmore (Vice-Chair), Carol Kirk, Erin McCauley, Michael Stewart, Ruth Wallace, Trevor Hillman, Stephen Ramsay
Board Member Apologies	There were no apologies.
WC?S Members Present	Aaron Peacher. Chris Guasp. Jeanette Miller. Loraine McHendry. Marissa Roxburgh. Michael Archibald. Rachael Hardy. Rebecca Munro. Rosie McHendry. Sinead Ritchie. Renee Bertram. Jasmin Dixon. Billy McMillan, Roxanna Haimes, Siobhan Sime. Lewis Anderson
Agenda items	
Welcome and Report from the Chair,	<p><u>Welcome from our Chair, Carmel Jacob</u></p> <p>Carmel welcomed members, staff and board members.</p> <p><u>Report from the Chair, Carmel Jacob</u></p> <p>The Chair of the Board presented an update on the activities of Who Cares? Scotland for the period April 2023 to March 2024 which included a summary of the work undertaken during year one of the new strategic plan.</p> <p>Notable work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The creation of many opportunities to discuss the importance of independent advocacy in upholding rights with key stakeholders such as the Scottish Government, and the submission of modelled proposals for lifelong advocacy support which the government are currently reviewing and considering. - Our role as part of the Scottish Government Expert Reference Group, which is designing the skills and knowledge framework for the proposed advocacy qualification and we have also successfully tendered for the Scottish Government Participation Framework, which will ensure our members have continuous opportunities for national collective advocacy. - We continued to provide advocacy and participation across all settings and several of our local authority contracts have been extended to include those subject to child protection processes. Over the reporting period we

supported around 1,500 children and young people with over 5,800 advocacy issues.

- Our journey towards Lifelong Advocacy has continued and our Lifelong Advocates and a team of trained Helpline Volunteers provided rights-based support and guidance in areas such as finance; housing; education, training and employment; and health and wellbeing. The average age of a caller in this period was 27 years of age, and the Helpline supported 125 individuals with over 240 advocacy issues.
- Connection and having fun remained a priority last year, and we brought around 550 Care Experienced people together at our varied regular groups and our exciting, and much anticipated, big national events like Time to Shine, the Carelidh and the Care Family Christmas Dinner.
- Highlights in the summer of 2023 included working in partnership with the Guardianship Service to celebrate Refugee week and the return of our first members' residential since COVID-19. We took 19 members to Bonaly Scout Centre for a weekend of fun, friendship, activities, camp fires and talent shows, 'gungings' and, of course, 'The Colour Run', for which we were joined by the then First Minister, Humza Yousaf.

Our influencing work - community development, education and political and cultural advocacy -continued to have meaningful impact.

- Over the reporting period the Education & Engagement team continued to deliver learning sessions to a wide variety of Corporate Parenting bodies. 57 bespoke learning sessions were delivered reaching 1,440 individuals with Corporate Parenting responsibilities and six collaborative, themed training events were delivered with an average of 96 professionals engaging per theme. In addition, the team have continued to offer consultancy support on a variety of issues including the development of Corporate Parenting plans, resources and projects.
- Our staff and volunteers delivered a 'Summer of Participation' project during July and August, gathering views from over 200 members and people who use our services on a range of topics including relationships, leaving care, stigma and the provision of lifelong rights and lifelong advocacy for Care Experienced people. The findings helped us to develop our response to the Human

Rights Bill for Scotland Consultation and informed our Lifelong campaign, which we launched, with a report, as part of Care Experienced Week. The launch attracted media and political attention and we had questions about the report findings raised in the Scottish Parliament, in committee, and during FMQs, by politicians from all major parties.

- We continued to influence change around The Promise and launched a report on the fourth anniversary which reflected on the extent to which Plan 21-24 has been achieved.
- We are proud to have rich advocacy data and enfranchised and engaged members who are able to speak on behalf of their peers at the Scottish Youth Parliament, in formal government committees, and in the media – sharing positive stories and campaigning – something our new Empowered Voices Programme is further fostering.

Our partnership with the John Lewis Partnership (JLP) continued to go from strength to strength last year, and we made a connection with Olympian Fatima Whitbread through our engagement with the John Lewis Partnership Advisory Group. She is keen to support our work, and recorded a video to promote the launch of our 2023 Christmas appeal and supported our Firewalk and Carelidh for Care Day. In January, JLP launched a tote bag designed by one of our members, and in February, we held a workshop for members keen to get into the creative industries, with staff from JLP and Saatchi and Saatchi.

We remain grateful to all our dedicated staff and volunteers, who make all this work possible, as well to as our funders and supporters across the UK.

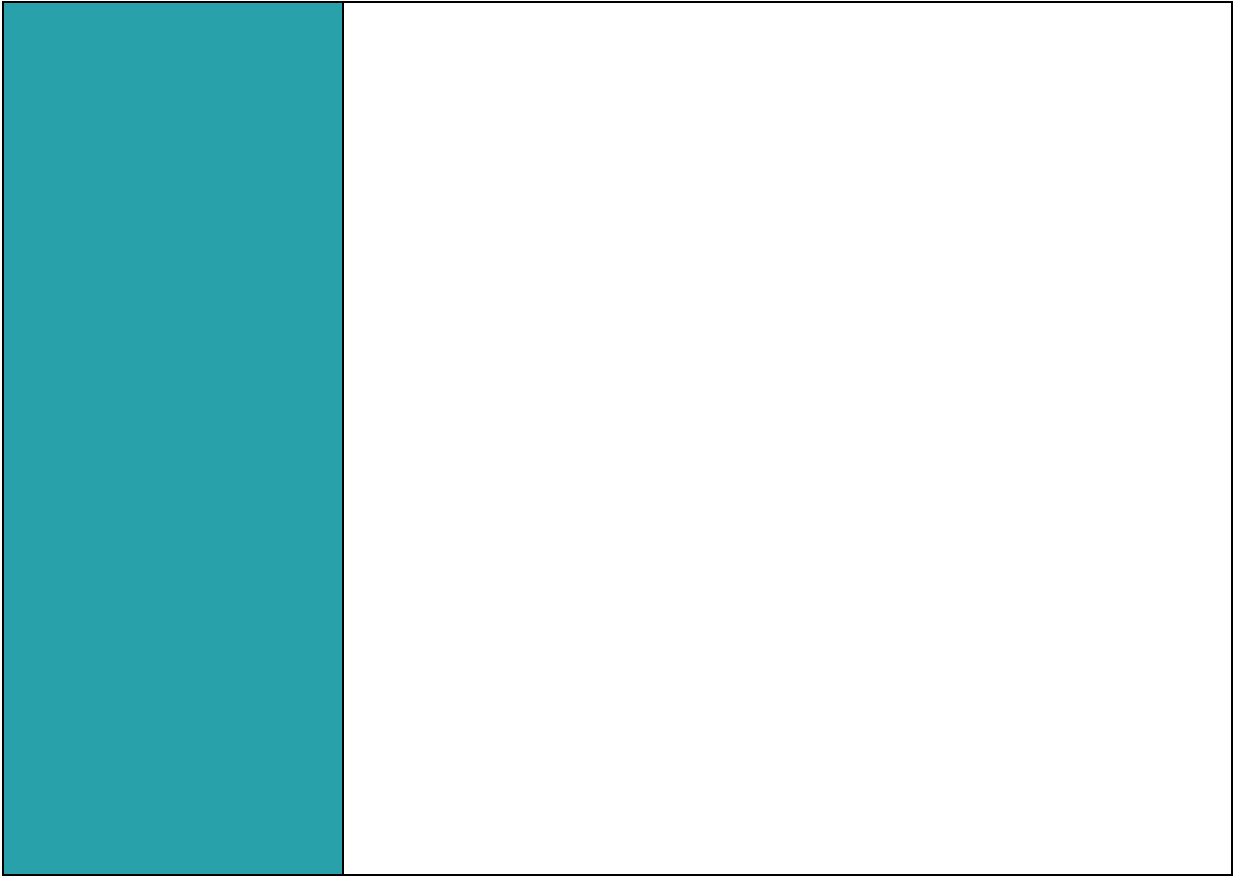
The Chair also discussed new pieces of work:

We have a new Membership and Participation team in place who are going to be reaching out to our membership, asking what our offer should look like going forwards. We have recently secured some exciting new member benefits such as discounts at PureGym, and this exercise reflects our commitment to our members and our plans to continue to improve our membership offer. The team will also be updating member's details and ensuring our membership feel connected, engaged and supported.

	<p>This work will sit alongside our developing Communities that Care approach to challenge stigma and our commitment to upholding rights through independent advocacy and creating connection opportunities for Care Experienced people.</p> <p>Commitment to the ambitions of The Promise is central to the current strategic plan and the associated workplans focus on the use of data and voice (through participation and independent advocacy) as a method of tracking progress and providing lived experience led solutions to make the Promise a reality.</p> <p>The Chair then gave a personal update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carmel discussed her commitment to supporting the Care Experienced community. - Carmel discussed her own care experienced journey and how important Who Cares? Scotland was in helping her develop as a person.
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<p>Minutes, Annual Accounts and Auditor Appointment</p>	<p>Review of the Minutes from the AGM held on 29.12.23</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Jeanette Miller and seconded by Michael Stewart.</p>
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	<p><u>Annual Accounts for year ending 31.03.24</u></p> <p>An overview of the 2023/24 Annual Accounts was presented by Gordon Myers, Finance Manager. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income dropped to £4.28M • Expenditure also reduced slightly to £4.65M • After movements to and from designated funds, the general reserves decreased by £145k, leaving 9 weeks of running costs • We received a clean audit report <p><u>Auditor Appointments</u></p> <p>Carmel stated that Wylie & Bissett are our auditors and asked for their appointment to be continued in the year ahead.</p> <p>The appointment of Wylie and Bissett as the auditors for 2024/25 was proposed by Jeanette Miller and seconded by Marissa Roxburgh.</p>
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<p>Board resignations, acknowledgments, and elections</p>	<p><u>Elections</u></p> <p>Sarah Blackmore, Ruth Wallace and Carol Kirk are approaching the end of their 4-year terms and are standing for re-election. Each individual gave a short update on why they wish to continue on as a board member at WC?S.</p> <p>All board members were successfully re-elected by members in the room.</p> <p><u>Elections of new candidates</u></p> <p>There were 4 new board members seeking election. The 4 proposed board members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ellen Starkey (sent her apologies for AGM) - Angela Crawley - Scott Ross - Rebecca Munro <p>Those attending gave a brief update on why they wished to join the board. All four candidates were successfully elected by members in the room.</p>
<p>Member Question & Answer Session</p>	<p>The Chair asked for any questions. There were no questions asked.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>There was no other business. The meeting ended at 11.20am.</p>