

SUPPORTING CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

JANUARY 2024



What do we mean by Care Experienced?

This term refers to children or young people who are currently living in or have spent any time in the care of their local authority or in informal kinship arrangements. This also includes children and young people who have been previously Care Experienced.

Children or young people may have experienced care in the following ways.

- While living with a parent, via a Compulsory Supervision Order, a legal order put in place by the Scottish Children's Panel.
- While living with wider family, this is called Kinship Care.
- While living with a different family, in a foster placement.
- While living outwith a family setting, in residential Children's Houses or a secure care setting.

Why does VTO have a Care Experienced Statement?

- We know that children and young people from Care Experienced backgrounds often don't have the same positive educational outcomes and life chances as others and we want to help change that. By having a policy in place, we commit to ensuring our staff and volunteers have awareness of and skills in helping to deliver better outcomes every day for all the Care Experienced children and young people we work with.

How will we do this?

- Using language that is inclusive and non-stigmatising around Care Experienced children and young people, both internally and in our public facing communications.
- Embedding a culture of supporting our Care Experienced children and young people with their emotional wellbeing from our staff and volunteers, being mindful of the additional adversities our Care Experienced young people may be facing in their everyday lives.
- Ensuring staff and volunteers have the skills and awareness to be sensitive, compassionate and non-judgemental when supporting our Care Experienced children and young people and their families/carers.
- Ensuring the voices of our Care Experienced children and young people are heard in our organisation, are at the heart of our decision making about them and that their concerns and opinions are listened to.
- Working to The Scaffolding model as championed by The Promise Scotland – help, support and accountability.
- Building and nurturing relationships with professional partners to share knowledge, skills and information around effectively supporting our Care Experienced children and young people and to strengthen their support networks.
- Keeping our training and skills up to date to support our Care Experienced children and young people as effectively as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Johnston'.

Douglas Johnston, Chair, January 2024