

CARERS TRUST SCOTLAND STUDENT CARERS STATEMENT OF INTENT GUIDANCE

Purpose:

This document demonstrates a proposed layout and suggested declarative statements that could be included in your institutions Student Carers Statement of Intent.

Guidance and layout demonstrated in this document is purely suggestive as each institution has sole responsibility for creating its Student Carers Statement of Intent via its own decision-making bodies; and therefore, responsible for ensuring that its statement of intent reflects your institutional dynamics and aspirations in ways that are workable for your student carers, staff and other relevant stakeholders.

Carers Trust

Guidance:

Carers Trust Scotland believes that for a college or university to be as inclusive and supportive as possible for its prospective and existing student carers they should clearly start by providing a short statement that indicates its commitment and values to identify, support and report on its student carers.

Such a statement of intent should embody your institutions ethos, values, mission and/or approach towards student carers.

The statement of intent should be included in your institutions Student Carer Support Policy and should be widely promoted across your institution to your student population, staff and other stakeholders.

Your statement of intent for student carers only needs to be a few sentences, a clear and unambiguous paragraph. Please ensure that your statement of intent contains your institutions name and logo and is approved by the appropriate committee and/or senate if required.

A statement of intent for student carers *may include some or all* the following commitments:

- ✓ Providing a learning environment that is rewarding and ensures equal opportunities to student carers
- ✓ Recognises and values the voices and experiences of student carers.
- ✓ Recognises the contribution they can make to your institution by including them in the design and implementation of policy and practice so that your institution is as inclusive and as empowering it can be for the learning, ambitions and growth of student carers
- ✓ Embody flexibility as practicably possible to support student carers in their education and ambitions
- ✓ Recognises the unique challenges and barriers that student carers may face due to their unpaid caring responsibilities; as well as balancing these commitments with study
- ✓ A pledge to provide support to identify and support student carers leading up to, during (and possibly immediately after) their studies
- ✓ To protect the right of student carers to make informed decisions/choices regarding their studies in relation to their unpaid caring responsibilities
- ✓ Demonstrate a non-judgemental, flexible, person-centred and sensitive approach in identifying, supporting and reporting on student carers
- ✓ Adoption of Carers Trust Scotland's definition of a carer/student carer.