

## Petitioner submission of 16 November 2023

### PE1958/E: Extend aftercare for previously looked after young people, and remove the continuing care age cap

I welcome the Scottish Government's acknowledgment in its submission dated 15 November 2023 that extending continuing care and aftercare will require legislative change, and I would hope this could be done through an amendment to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, rather than having to wait for the drafting and implementation of the Promise Bill.

In response to my petition's call for Care Experienced people to be able to enjoy their rights throughout their lifetime and achieve equality of outcomes, I note the Scottish Government are undertaking work to listen to views again. This isn't good enough; we have had around 7 years of listening through the process of the Independent Care Review and the Promise. The inequality is clear, as highlighted by the Care Review's report [Follow The Money](#), and Who Cares? Scotland's [Lifelong Rights Report](#). We need tangible action now.

In the section '*More general support for those that leave care before the age of 16*', the Scottish Government submission highlights a range of work that unfortunately is often restricted to benefitting those Care Experienced people who meet the legal definition of 'care leaver' only. This creates further inequality, despite the same challenges, and is why I am calling for the age caps to be removed. All support available for people who have been in care should be available for all people who have been in care and faced those challenges, not just those who left care after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.