

SOUTH WEST LOOKED

AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS





South West Looked After Children

Widening access schemes motivate children and young people from care who have the aptitude and potential to benefit from higher education, so that by the age of 18 they feel confident that they deserve to go to university. It is also vital that care leavers are supported to make informed decisions, so that they study the right course at the right place for them.

Through their widening access initiatives, the universities in the South West are dedicated to supporting Looked After Children, working throughout the year to provide aspiration raising or transition and progression activities for young people in care from across the region.

Through the links that we foster we are able to pass on information about our activities to young people in care and their carers. We also give advice about university including how to apply. We often work collaboratively with local and regional universities when delivering events, so we can provide more information about the range of opportunities that are available.

What we provide:

Access: Pre-entry / Outreach

- Campus Visits
- Parents/Carers Events in School/College
- Information, Advice & Guidance
- Summer School
- Subject Specialist Masterclasses
- Taster Sessions & HE Days
- Day In The Life - Student Shadowing
- Access Programmes

Success: Transition to HE / LV4

- Designated University Contact
- CPD for LA Care Team
- CPD for Leaving Care Team
- CPD for Foster Carers
- Study Skills Workshops

Progression: Careers/ Postgrad

- Careers Workshops
- Industry Link/ Placements

AECC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Lisa Bates
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ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH

Ben Goose and Joanna Newman
Student Retention and Success Team
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BATH SPA UNIVERSITY

Student Wellbeing Services
Bath Spa University
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BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

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Pre-entry support | Post-offer support
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UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

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UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Care Leaver Team
University of Plymouth
01752 587676
studentservices@plymouth.ac.uk
plymouth.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND (UWE BRISTOL)

Steffie Denton
Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Projects Officer,
UWE Cares
uwecares@uwe.ac.uk
uwe.ac.uk

AECC University College



Welcome to AECC University College and we are pleased you are thinking of studying with us. We recognize that starting University is a big step for anyone, and especially those moving from the care environment. We are here to help you every step of the way. Our named contact for looked after children and care experienced students is Lisa Bates, do get in touch if you have any questions or need any advice.

Our student services team are able to offer advice on accommodation options, learning support, wellbeing support, counselling and budgeting advice. We also have financial support available to some students and further information about this can be found on our webpages.

Support we offer

- A named contact
- Dedicated webpage with information for care leaver and care experienced students
- Outreach sessions or activities
- Pre-application help
- Guidance for offer holders
- Advice and support on seeking accommodation
- Paid student ambassador opportunities whilst at university
- Careers advice and support throughout your course

Accommodation

- Advice and support on finding suitable all year round accommodation

Funding support we offer

- Additional funding available (such as bursaries and grants)
- Financial advice and support with budgeting

Arts University Bournemouth

ARTS
UNIVERSITY
BOURNEMOUTH

If you are a care leaver and choose to apply to university, this can be disclosed on your UCAS application.

Alternatively, you can contact the senior education liaison and outreach officer, Louise Whittaker, at lwhittaker@aub.ac.uk, either prior to arriving or at any point during your studies, and Louise can then let you know what support is available to you. This information is kept confidentially and will not affect the admissions process.

The widening participation team can also be contacted on 01202 363016/363030 or at wp@aub.ac.uk

Student services are able to offer learning support, a disability and wellbeing service, counselling, and advice on funding and accommodation options.

Additional funding may be available to assist you on arrival at university, and throughout your studies. This may be to help with living costs, course materials, tuition fees or transport. Further information can be found on our funding pages.

A variety of accommodation options are available, and include halls of residence and privately rented flats and houses. Student services are able to advise on accommodation options that are available all year round, to ensure that you don't have to move out at the end of each term, and can remain in the same accommodation during university holidays.

There are paid work opportunities within the university, such as being a student ambassador, which could involve assisting with school events and campus tours.

Support we offer

- A named contact
- Outreach sessions or activities
- Pre-application help
- Guidance for offer holders
- A web page for care leavers
- Careers advice and support after graduation

Accommodation we offer

- A place to live all year round
- If not, help finding somewhere to live for the whole year

Funding support we offer

- Specific funding that's just for care leavers
- Additional funding available (such as bursaries and grants)
- Financial advice

Care leaver's bursary

If you are under local authority care when you enrol with us, you are eligible to receive a bursary of £2,000 for each academic year of your undergraduate course.

We offer this bursary to students up to the age of 25 on entry to higher education, who have been in care for three or more months up to and including the period of GCSE/A level or equivalent study (evidence will normally be required).

This bursary is in the form of a grant, is not means-tested, and will not affect your entitlement to any other financial support.

This award is in addition to the other bursaries and benefits to which you may be entitled, e.g. hardship grant, university services, progression scholarship at Level 6.

The bursary will be paid in February of each year upon a meeting with your designated care leaver contact. The university reserves the right to claim back a proportion of this grant if you fail to complete the year, but will consider each case on its merits.

The bursary for care leavers is subject to annual review, and may not be increased in line with inflation.

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Arts University Bournemouth
Wallisdown
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aub.ac.uk

Louise Whittaker
Senior Education Liaison and Outreach Officer
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lwhittaker@aub.ac.uk

The University of Bath



If you are thinking of applying to the University of Bath as a Care Leaver or Estranged student, or would like to find out more information about what university is like, please contact Ben and Joanna who will be able to help you.

You can email directly on studentsuccess@bath.ac.uk, or visit our webpage:

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/additional-support-andfunding-for-care-leavers-foyer-residents-and-estrangedstudents

We provide a range of support to help care leaver and estranged applicants and students settle in to university. At our open days we can meet you to discuss the different support available, and you can speak to current students about their university experience. If you would rather visit the university at another time, we can also arrange this.

We offer guaranteed university accommodation for the duration of your course, as well as providing academic and wellbeing support within Student Services.

Ben and Joanna are your key contacts within Student Services to help you with any queries you may have and, if necessary, direct you to the appropriate services to ensure you access all possible support. We will have regular check-in meetings with you and send emails to highlight the many social, financial, employability, and support opportunities across the university throughout your studies.

Support we offer

- A named contact
- Outreach sessions or activities
- Pre-application help
- Guidance for offer holders
- A web page for care leavers and estranged students
- Careers advice and support after graduation

Accommodation we offer

- A place to live all year round
- If not, help finding somewhere to live for the whole year

Funding support we offer

- Specific funding that's just for care leavers and estranged students
- Additional funding available (such as bursaries and grants)
- Support for those with discretionary leave to remain
- Financial advice

The University of Bath offers a non-repayable care leaver/foyer bursary of £1,000 per academic year, plus £1,000 to help with start-up costs and a further £1,000 on graduation.

UK students who meet certain criteria may be eligible for a university bursary of £3,000 for each year of study (except paid placements), or for the Gold scholarship of £5,000 per year of study (except paid placements).

For more information please visit:

www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/bursaries-and-scholarships-for-undergraduate-students/

Bath Spa University



A named member of staff within Student Wellbeing Services will be your key contact and can meet if and when you need to.

You can speak to them about any queries you may have during your time with us and they can enable you to access further support and specialist services such as our accessibility advisors and mental health practitioners.

Student Wellbeing Services can support you to access your studies, and help you to manage your emotional, mental and physical health.

Further details are available on our webpage:

bathspa.ac.uk/students/student-wellbeing-services/

Support we offer

- A named contact in Student Wellbeing Services for care leavers, foyer leavers, estranged students and young adult carers
- Outreach sessions or activities
- Pre-application help
- Guidance for offer holders
- Specific information and web pages for care leavers, foyer leavers, estranged students and young adult carers
- Liaison with personal advisers/social services
- Careers advice and support after graduation

Accommodation we offer

- A place to live all year round for care leavers, foyer leavers and estranged students - 365 days
- If not, help finding somewhere to live for the whole year

Funding support we offer

- Specific funding that's just for care leavers, foyer leavers and estranged students
- Additional funding available (such as bursaries and grants)
- Support for students seeking asylum
- Support for those with discretionary leave to remain
- Money advice

UK students who meet certain criteria may be eligible for a university bursary of up to £1,250 for study in year 1 & 2, and £1,500 in year 3. If eligible for a bursary award, declared care leavers and foyer leavers will also be eligible for a bursary supplementary award of up to £250 each year. For more details please see our funding pages: bathspa.ac.uk/students/student-finance/undergraduate-and-foundation-students/ukey-funding--undergraduate/

Student Wellbeing Services also provides an award of £1,000 per academic year to care leavers, foyer leavers and estranged students - you can find further information online: bathspa.ac.uk/students/student-wellbeing-services/

Additionally, we work with the Unite Foundation to offer 365 days of free accommodation to selected students, you can find out more about this at: unitefoundation.co.uk

University of Bath
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bathspa.ac.uk

Student Wellbeing Services
Bath Spa University
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Bournemouth University



We understand that making the decision to go to university can be difficult regardless of your circumstances, but if you're leaving care, the process can seem even more daunting. We're committed to supporting young people in care and care leavers to enter and succeed in higher education, and offer a range of support to make your transition to university life easier.

As a care leaver, we will guarantee you a place in BU accommodation for the full period of your studies, if required. In addition Purbeck House, which is operated by our accommodation partner Unite Students, offer all care leavers who live in this property the opportunity to apply for the Unite Foundation Care Leaver Bursary providing successful applicants with a rent-free university home for three separate years of your degree.

More information can be found at www.bournemouth.ac.uk/information-care-leavers

Support we offer

- A named contact
- Outreach sessions and activities
- Pre-application support and help
- Guidance for offer holders
- Designated web page for Care Leavers
- Careers advice and support pre and post-graduation

Accommodation we offer

- A place to live all year round
- Opportunity to apply for the Unite Scholarship Foundation

Funding support we offer

- Specific funding that is just for Care Leavers
- Additional funding available (such as bursaries and grants)
- Financial Advice and budgeting advice

Care leaver's bursary

Our BU Care Leavers Bursary is here to give you additional support if you've been in full-time care for three months or longer at any time over the last five years. You will receive up to £9,000 over three years of study to support your learning and living costs, should you continue to meet the eligibility criteria. The amount received will be pro-rata for part-time study. If you are studying a Top-up degree lasting one year, you will receive £3,000.

You'll never have to pay this money back and can use it for whatever you need or want while you're at university, whether that's a helping hand towards paying your rent, covering your phone bill or simply to support you through your university experience.

You don't need to do anything to receive this bursary - we'll award it to you automatically as long as you meet the eligibility criteria. You'll continue to receive it every year you're studying at BU (unless you're on a placement year) as long as you still meet these criteria.

Bournemouth University

Fern Barrow,
Wallisdown, Poole
BH12 5BB
bournemouth.ac.uk

Jacquie O'Brien

Student Support & Engagement Team
01202 965476
SSET@bournemouth.ac.uk

University of Bristol



At the University of Bristol, we have a team of people who are here to help you find the information you need, and to help you feel supported and make the most of your time at university.

Katie Whalley works in the Widening Participation team and offers support for care experienced students pre-entry. This means that Katie will help you with your application to Bristol, and answer any questions you have about the University and the support you can receive from us.

Maria Tottle supports care experienced students once they have received an offer from us or once they are studying with us. Maria offers email and telephone support once you have been offered a place, and the opportunity for one-to-one and group meetings when you are here. She can help with general settling in, or any worries you might have, and can also help by signposting you to a range of other services and people available to help you.

The university offers guaranteed accommodation for all new first year undergraduate students. This includes an option for 365-day accommodation.

If you decide to come to the university, Maria will contact you about this in late August, prior to the start of your course in September.

Support we offer

- A named contact
- Priority placement on our outreach schemes
- Pre-application help and advice
- Guidance for offer holders
- Bristol Cares SU Network
- Peer mentoring
- A dedicated web page for care leavers
- Careers advice and support after graduation

Accommodation we offer

- A place to live all year round
- If not, help finding somewhere to live for the whole year
- Support with finding a guarantor for accommodation through Housing Hand

Funding support we offer

- Specific funding that's just for care leavers
- Additional funding available (such as bursaries and grants)
- Support for students seeking asylum
- Support for students who are estranged from their family
- Support for those with discretionary leave to remain
- Financial advice

The University of Bristol is delighted to be working with the Unite Foundation to provide Unite Foundation scholarships. As a care leaver who is 25 or under, you can apply for one of these scholarships.

These provide free ensuite accommodation in Unite House for three years of undergraduate study. The deadline for applications is 1 June each year. For further information and eligibility criteria please see the university's Unite Foundation scholarship webpage: www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/undergraduate/fees/bursaries-and-scholarships/unite-foundation.html

And the Unite House website: www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/undergraduate/residences/unite/

If you are 25 or under, you may also be eligible for the Bristol Standalone Bursary. For 2018 entry this bursary is an award of £1,500, which is made in each year of study to eligible students. www.bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/awards/standalone-bursary/

Other bursaries you may be eligible for are the UoB bursary, and an accommodation bursary for those living in university halls of accommodation. Read more here: www.bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/awards/uob-bursary/ www.bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/awards/accommodation-bursary/

Once you have started university, if you are experiencing financial difficulty you may be able to get some extra help through our financial assistance fund. It should be noted that you cannot apply for this until you are a registered student.

Please get in touch if you have questions for any of us.

University of Bristol

Beacon House, Queens Road,
Bristol, BS8 1QU
bristol.ac.uk

Katie Whalley | Maria Tottle

Pre-entry support | Post-offer support
01174283326 | 0117 3310631
care-leavers@bristol.ac.uk

University of Exeter



We are committed to supporting care experienced students to realise their full potential.

Our range of services (depending on eligibility) may include travel bursaries, a personal point of contact to support you through your studies, tuition fee waiver, help with accommodation, paid internships, academic skills support, bespoke employability advice and welfare support. Eligibility for some of this support depends on the timing and duration of your period in care.

Detailed information about the support we can provide to both care leavers and care experienced students can be found below, including some additional support specific to care leavers.

What's the difference between a care leaver and care experienced?

We define a care leaver as a young people (up to the age of 25) who have been looked after by the local authority for more than 13 weeks since they were 14, including some time at age 16 or 17.

We are defining a student with care experience as anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked after background at any stage of their life, no matter how short. This care may have been provided in one of many different settings, such as in residential care, foster care, kinship care or looked after at home with a supervision requirement.

The University of Exeter sets out its commitment to care experienced students as described on our website: www.exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/careleavers/

Support we offer

- Designated member of staff
- Support group meetings
- Peer Mentoring
- Student Employability opportunities
- Pre-application help
- Guidance for offer holders
- Travel Bursary to either attend interview or an Offer Holder Visit Day

University of Exeter

Prince of Wales Road,
Exeter,
EX4 4SB
exeter.ac.uk

Accommodation we offer

- A place to live all year round
- If not, help finding somewhere to live for the whole year

Funding support we offer

- Full fee waiver
- Specific funding that's just for care leavers
- Additional funding available (such as bursaries and grants)
- Opportunity to apply for Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme (Streatham & St Luke's Campus)

In most cases, care leavers are classed as independent students and therefore receive the maximum support available, in the form of a grant and loan from Student Finance England.

Fee waiver

Care leavers starting undergraduate or PGCE courses at the University of Exeter will not have to pay tuition fees. If you have identified yourself as someone who has been in care on your UCAS application, the University of Exeter will contact you asking for further information.

Care leaver's bursary

This bursary is aimed at supporting the additional cost of summer accommodation needs.

Access to Exeter bursary

For the first year of studies students are eligible to receive a £2,100 Bursary and from the second year onwards, for the duration of their UG studies, a £1,550 Bursary as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

Unite Foundation scholarship scheme (For Exeter campuses only)

The Unite Foundation offers generous scholarships for care leavers and/or estranged students. Each scholar currently receives free accommodation for three years in a Unite student building. Scholarships are awarded annually. To download an application form, visit the Unite Foundation website at: www.unitefoundation.co.uk/get-a-scholarship

Natalie Bracher | Richard Prest

Access & Success Officer | Outreach Officer
01392 724043 | 01326 371801
outreach@exeter.ac.uk
penrynoutreach@exeter.ac.uk

University of Gloucestershire



At the University of Gloucestershire we recognise that the transition into higher education is an enormous step for all new students, especially for those from a cared-for background.

Therefore, prior to applying, we run a comprehensive outreach programme and prioritise looked-after children and care leavers when offering places on subject taster days and residentials. You can find out more about this offer here:

www.glos.ac.uk/outreach

You will also have one point of contact, Susana, who is always on hand to offer support. Susana can be contacted via email at: sfranklyn@glos.ac.uk or by phoning 01242 71 4976.

Whether you'd like to contact her before you start (to discuss support with your individual circumstances, get help with the application process or to arrange a one-to-one campus tour) or throughout your studies (to meet up on a regular basis, for support with your personal welfare and academic queries, for general advice on finance etc.), Susana is always available to help. She will also proactively keep you informed about opportunities for mentoring, employment, representation and other bursaries.

University of Gloucestershire

The Park,
Cheltenham,
GL50 2RH
glos.ac.uk

Support we offer

- A named contact
- Outreach sessions or activities
- Pre-application help
- Guidance for offer holders
- A web page for care leavers
- Careers advice and support after graduation
- UoG actively welcomes applications from care leavers

Accommodation we offer

- A place to live all year round
- If not, help finding somewhere to live for the whole year

Funding support we offer

- Specific funding that's just for care leavers
- Additional funding available (such as bursaries and grants)
- A 'Sanctuary Scholarship' consisting of a full tuition fee waiver plus up to £10,000 worth of support per year for 3 years, for refugees, asylum seekers and forced migrants
- Financial advice

Our 'Care Leavers' Scholarship' consists of a 50% tuition fee waiver, plus a non-repayable bursary towards general living, accommodation and study costs. This can be received as discounted halls of residence fees or cash support at Levels 5 and 6, should you move into private accommodation. This scholarship is £2,000 in the first year (Level 4), £1,000 in the second year (Level 5), and £1,000 in the final year (Level 6). This amount can be increased to £2,000 in the final year (Level 6), if you have an average pass mark of 60% or more at Level 5.

Please check our website for details of the criteria for this bursary:
www.glos.ac.uk/life/support/pages/care-leavers-advice.aspx

Susana Franklyn

Student Welfare Lead
01242 714976
sfranklyn@glos.ac.uk

University of Plymouth



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

The Care Leaver Service at the University of Plymouth provides confidential support from before you apply through to graduation.

For students who are Care Leavers, and are eligible, we can provide accommodation in university halls of residence for 52 weeks of the year. We offer help with your application and move to university, access to a variety of social and skills-enhancing opportunities while you are studying, and support for graduation and life beyond university.

We offer regular catch ups with a designated Care Leaver Support Worker, who remains with you throughout your course, optional socials with other care leavers, and as much or as little practical (especially financial) and moral support as you require.

You can find information about all of this and more at: www.plymouth.ac.uk/careleavers

Support we offer

- A named contact
- Outreach sessions or activities
- Pre-application help
- Guidance for offer holders
- A web page for care leavers
- Careers advice and support after graduation

Accommodation we offer

- A place to live all year round in student halls
- Alternatively, we provide help to find an all year round residence

Funding support we offer

- Specific funding that's just for care leavers
- Additional funding available (such as bursaries and grants)
- Support for students seeking asylum
- Support for those with discretionary leave to remain
- Financial advice

We offer all new care leaver students a £200 voucher to help with the cost of buying the essentials for your student accommodation (criteria apply).

We also offer support in accessing other relevant funding such as the University of Plymouth financial support fund. The Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme at the University of Plymouth now offers successful scholars three separate years (365 days per year) of free accommodation in a designated Unite student property.

More information, eligibility criteria and application forms can be found at:

www.plymouth.ac.uk/careleavers

University of Plymouth

Drake Circus
Plymouth, Devon
PL4 8AA
plymouth.ac.uk

Care Leaver Team

University of Plymouth
plymouth.ac.uk/careleavers

University of the West of England (UWE bristol)



UWE Bristol actively welcomes applications from care leavers, estranged students and student carers. We understand that going to university is harder if you have little or no family support, so UWE Cares is here to help. We're committed to providing you with extra support that helps you succeed on your course, from application through to graduation.

If you're thinking of studying at UWE Bristol soon, drop us an email as early as possible: UWECares@uwe.ac.uk We can answer any questions you have and give you information and advice to help you access our bursary, accommodation and disability support, study skills, and social activities that will help you settle in and meet people when you get here.

We're here to support you, so let us know if you're thinking of studying here and how we can help.

As well as a bursary and priority access to accommodation all year round and for all years of your studies, UWE Cares offers a wide variety of enhanced support and opportunities that are just for care leavers, estranged students and student carers, including:

- A designated point of contact for queries and concerns
- Bi-weekly drop-ins where you can access personalised advice and support
- Support to access specialist services like Wellbeing, Disability, Accommodation, Study Skills and Financial Education quickly and easily
- Regular newsletters and information to help you access the many social, finance and employability opportunities across the university
- A named Careers Coach who will contact you directly to help you reach your goals during and after your studies
- Priority access to employability opportunities like placements abroad, volunteering placements and CV writing workshops
- Regular social mixers and a student mentor in your first year to help you meet people, get involved and settle into university life
- Events and support to help build positive wellbeing
- Financial support you help you pay for society and gym membership, removals costs, graduation robes and graduation photos.

University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)

Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane
Bristol, BS16 1QY
uwe.ac.uk

Support we offer

- A named contact, friendly face and listening ear
- Support to transition into university via Student Mentors and pre-enrolment information, support and advice
- Regular face-to-face drop-ins and priority access to events and opportunities
- Careers advice and support during your studies and after graduation
- A UWE Cares graduate and alumni network
- A webpage for care leavers and estranged students
- A yearly Care Leaver Open Day.

Accommodation we offer

- You can apply to live in UWE Accommodation all year round, including during the summer vacations
- If are eligible for our bursary, you can live in UWE Accommodation in every year of your undergraduate study if you wish
- If you are eligible for our bursary, you will have your UWE Accommodation deposit waived or paid, and will be given priority access to university housing even if you apply through clearing
- You can apply for free Bristol city-centre accommodation for up to three years through the Unite Foundation Accommodation Scholarship
- You can access information and support to rent private accommodation if you would prefer.

Funding support we offer

- You may be eligible for the UWE Cares enhanced bursary, which is £1500.00 in each year of your undergraduate study and £500.00 when you graduate
- You can apply for additional funding and bursaries throughout your studies and these will be actively promoted to you by UWE Cares staff
- You will be offered enhanced financial education and budgeting advice through our Student Money Service
- UWE Bristol also offers support to students seeking asylum and students with discretionary leave to remain.

Full information about our support and the eligibility for our bursary and accommodation offer can be found on the [UWE Cares website](#).

Steffie Denton

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Projects Officer,
UWE Cares
uwecares@uwe.ac.uk

