



Proud to be

**A TOP 30  
UNIVERSITY**

Guardian University Guide 2026



**Supporting care experienced students to  
access and succeed in higher education**

**Wendy Price**  
**Head of Widening Access and Participation**

**WE ARE THE LIFE CHANGING  
UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND**

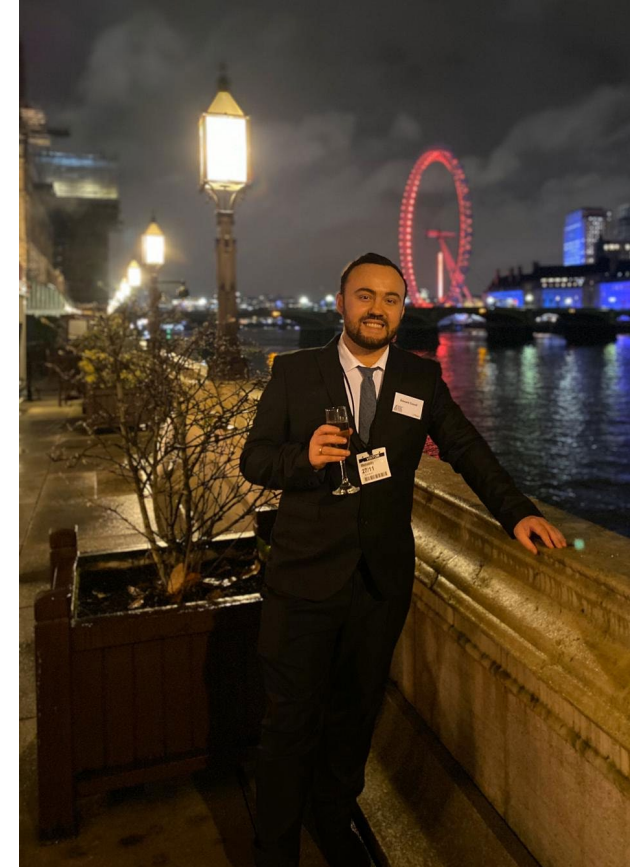


**University of  
Sunderland**

# Content

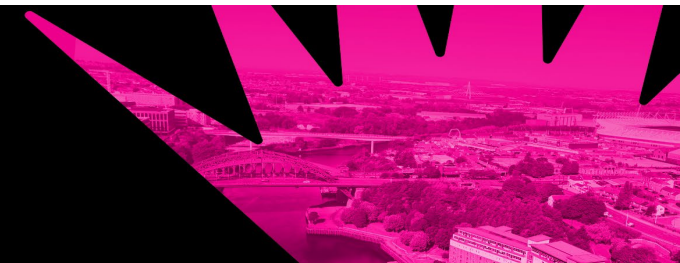


- Our commitment to supporting care experienced students
- Support at each stage of the student lifecycle
- Feedback from our students
- Your important role in supporting next steps



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# We Care Team

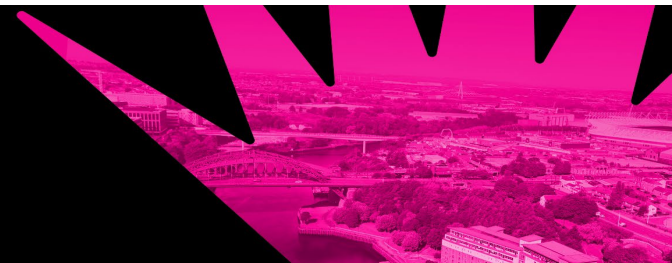
- Supporting care leavers since 2009
- Personalised support since 2016
- 2024/25 - supported 169 students
- 103 care experienced
- 66 estranged
- 51 graduated



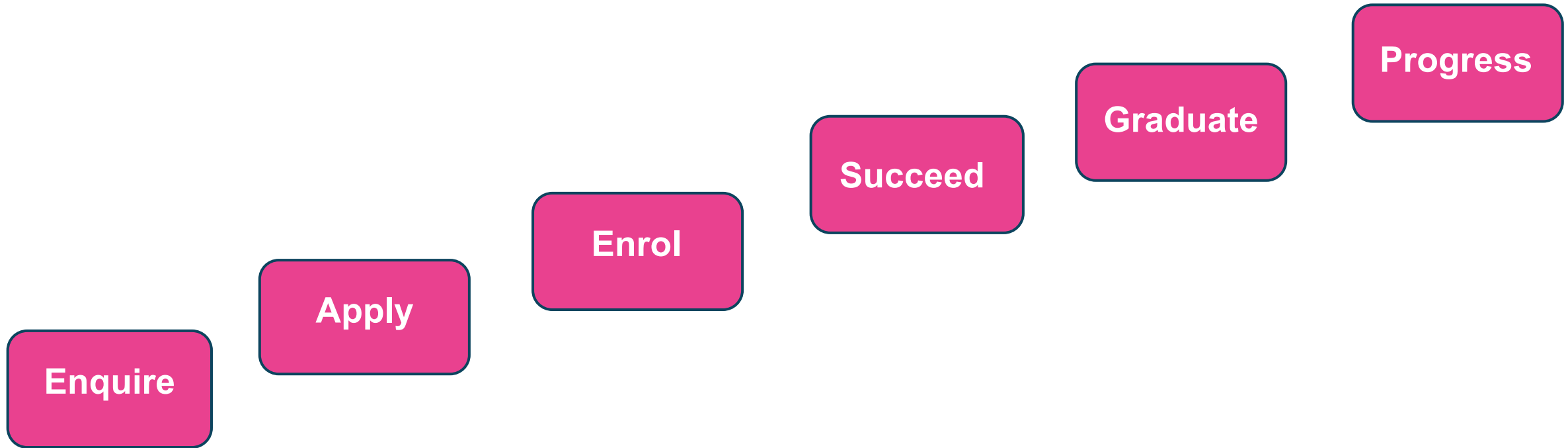
Left to right: Safeenah, Wendy, Jess and Nicola

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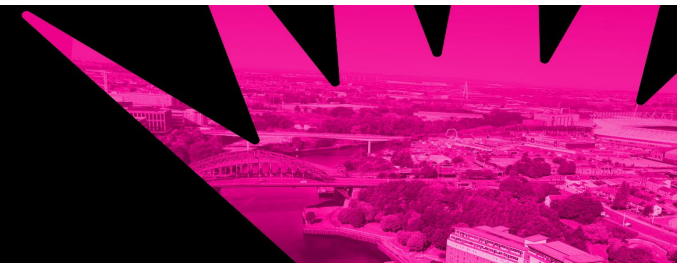


# We Care Team – transition support



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# We Care Survey Evaluation 2024/25

Of the 169 students the survey was sent to, 66 responded which is a response rate of 39%.

## STRONG SUPPORT

97%

rated the support they received as **very good** or **good**

## MOST VALUABLE SUPPORT

Regular  
check-ins



Financial  
support

Social  
Events

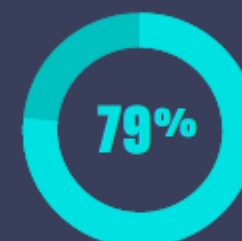


## DECIDING FACTOR



said knowing about the We Care team was a deciding factor in applying to the University

## RETENTION

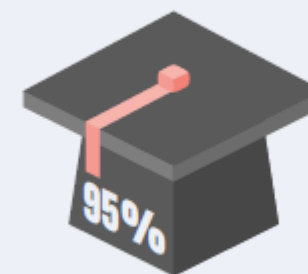


indicated that We Care support prevented the need to take leave or withdraw from their course

## OUR STUDENTS SAID

Very emotionally  
supportive at  
times like  
birthdays and  
Christmas

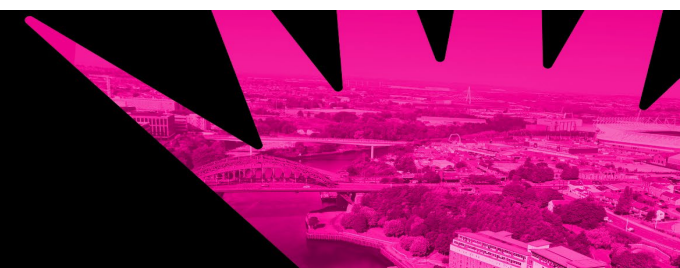
## REACHING YOUR POTENTIAL



said the support helped them to achieve their academic potential

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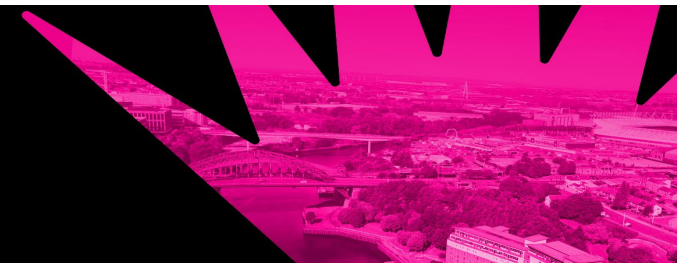
# Be the one who believes!



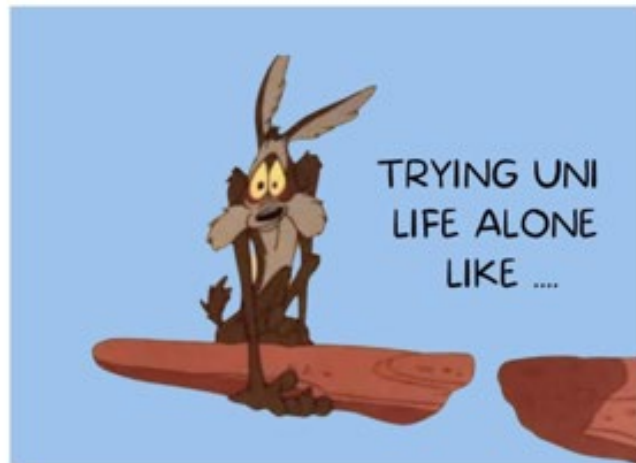
- Encourage good study habits
- Believe in your young person's ability and potential
- Talk positively about the opportunities further and higher education provides
- Be aware of the different routes into higher education
- Visit a university and speak to students
- Use networks – we are all here to support you too

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I AM NOT DEFINED BY MY PAST, I AM ON A JOURNEY TO SUCCESS!



**QUESTIONS?**  
**IDEAS?**  
**MORE INFORMATION?**

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