

# Kaukab Stewart MSP submission of 21 March 2022

## PE1993/C Reform the financial support for social work students on work placements

I am supportive of this petition and would ask the committee to keep this petition open and seek further information and clarity on the financial situation regarding social work students from relevant stakeholders including social work students themselves. Social work is a sector that requires those with not only high level skills and knowledge sets but also strong values of compassion and equality. It is imperative that we have a work force that reflects the communities they support and financial barriers will and do exclude many from deprived backgrounds from applying and/or completing their course. I do find that very concerning. Placements provide valuable opportunity for work experience, can be very demanding, this along side having to juggle extra jobs and family life can and will have detrimental effect on students. Exploring the provision of bursaries for students on placement has merit and would help to alleviate financial pressures. It is worth noting that nursing, midwifery, and paramedic students are rightly given a bursary in their placement heavy studies.