



**Passed by Executive:**  
**Passed by Union Council and became Policy: 11 December 2008**  
**Lapses: December 2011**

## **Students Depend on Us**

### **This Union Notes:**

1. Coventry University does not currently hold any figures as to how many students are parents or have caring responsibilities
2. Students with dependants are one of the only unrepresented groups of students within this University
3. The demographics of the student population are changing with more students coming from widening participation backgrounds

### **This Union believes:**

1. That students who are parents or carers deserve the right to be equally represented and entitled to support from the University and the Students' Union
2. The number of students from traditional backgrounds is on the decrease and the number of students from widening participation backgrounds is on the increase, therefore the University and Union must recognise this in its structures and support
3. Students with caring responsibilities have different needs and commitments to other students. They have other people that rely on them for support in the form of finance, support and caring duties
4. Student parents and students that are full time carers enrol at University without knowledge of what support, if any, is available to them
5. That the University does not have adequate facilities and flexibility in their procedures and services for student parents or students with caring responsibilities on campus

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. To create a new Union Council Officer Position for a 'Students with dependants officer' to represent this minority within the Students' Union and Union Council
2. To organise a monthly social group meeting for student parents and their children to get to know one another and build a support network
3. That Horizon Volunteering could provide volunteers to support this monthly group meeting, to include tea/coffee, games and crafts for the children
4. To mandate VP Communications to open elections for this role
5. To amend the constitution as follows: Section 12 Elections, paragraph b, add 'Student with dependants' Officer secret ballot'

6. Insert into appendix K, C, 2); To sit on Welfare Committee

Voting Members

Students with dependants officer

Method of Election

Ex-officio

**Proposed:** Bonolo Woracker, VP Welfare

**Seconded:** Mark Williams, Mature Students' Officer