

# Liona's Story

"I left school with hardly any qualifications and no SQA higher qualifications and now I've managed to gain a university place for medicine in only two years since leaving high school."



**Hey, I'm Liona, I'm 20 years old and I am a young adult carer.**

I have been a carer since I was 12 years old and I initially joined young carers when I was about 12 or 13 years old. I care for my mum who suffers from MS (Multiple Sclerosis) which can affect a person's balance and mobility and also cognitive issues like memory for example.

Being a young carer since I was 12 was a difficult process for me because I had to neglect a lot of my school work and social life to my caring role, because I left school in 2018 with very few qualifications. When I left school, I didn't have a lot of opportunities to study many courses due to my lack of qualifications and I never had any SQA higher at this point so I couldn't progress to university.

I originally since high school wanted to be a Doctor, however at that time I was continually discouraged due to my commitments as a carer but also because of my low attainment in school and due to my mental health.

I believe being a part of young carers really helped me in progressing onto university level study. I decided once I had dealt with my mental health to pursue my studies and attain my higher studies to study medicine at university to become a doctor.

This year I have managed to gain two university offers for Medicine so I can train and become a doctor. I left school with hardly any qualifications and no SQA higher qualifications and now I've managed to gain a university place for medicine in only two years since leaving high school.

Young Adult carers has provided support financially and emotionally throughout the whole process without young adult carers I wouldn't of been able to financially afford to do my highers if it wasn't for the support and funding from young adult carers, ilwouldn't of been able to study my highers and in turn apply for medicine at university.

**One last note on that, Regardless of background or circumstances if you really want to pursue something there is always a way. Regardless of how many times you're discouraged, still go and try what you have to lose?**

2018 - 4 national 5 qualifications

2020 - 6 SQA Highers and two Medicine offers at two scottish unis