Endorsements

Maya McFarlane

Having worked with Elia on the SU BME Campaign, I have witnessed first hand how dedicated and passionate they are about improving student life. As Disabilities and Mental Health officer on the campaign, they worked tirelessly during the difficult periods of COVID-19 lockdowns in order to provide students with the support they deserved, including a wonderful mental health toolkit. I have the utmost faith in their ability to support disabled students and fearlessly lobby for better accessibility across the university. They're also an all round lovely human being who I'm sure people would jump at the chance to confide in/speak to.

Image description: the post has an image of Maya. The background is black and has green zig zags. It also says “vote Elia Chitwa for DSO”.

Oli Castle

After working with Elia on the LGBT+ Campaign for a year, I am sure they are the right person to be the next DSO! They’re unmatched in enthusiasm and compassion, and all round just a very lovely person! As I have gotten to know Elia, I’ve seen first-hand their desire and drive to create improvement for Cambridge students and their passion for accessibility and equality. Whenever anyone has needed a hand, Elia has been quick to offer excellent advice and support and has truly been an absolute joy to work with! I am confident that they would be a determined and unwavering voice for the disabled community of Cambridge, and am therefore so happy to be endorsing Elia for Disabled Student’s Officer!

Image description: the post has an image of Oli. The background is black and has purple zig zags. It also says “vote Elia Chitwa for DSO”.

Student Minds Cambridge

Student Minds Cambridge is proud to endorse Elia for Disabled Students' Officer on the Cambridge SU. Through their roles as a Publicity and Social Media Lead on the SMC committee and a Young Mind activist, Elia has demonstrated their commitment to representing students and campaigning for mental health awareness. We firmly believe that Elia will make a fantastic DSO and would continue to work with both students and the university to improve mental health support across the university.

Image description: the image has a picture of the Student Minds Cambridge profile picture. The background is black and has green zig zags. It also says “vote Elia Chitwa for DSO”. The image text is in the post.

Anna Freed

DSC Open Portfolio Officer, Former Class Act DSO, Archaeology Dept student rep, Co-founder of Decolonise Cambridge Museums

I think my endorsement for Elia can be summed up by just how happy I was when I saw they were running - even if I won't be here to see it, I'm so so excited to know Elia will be here, making change.

I cannot overstate how well-suited Elia is for the role. They have more knowledge than anyone on internal and external systems of support, complaint, and of driving change, as well as the amazing ability to dig through policy to use the uni's own words to hold it to account. Their experience on the DSC Committee and leading the LGBT+ Campaign means they'll be an amazing advocate for disabled students, and make sure the DSC thrives. I know Elia will address the important intersections of marginalisation that affect disabled students and the mess of inequity that the collegiate system and decentralised departments bring. As a DSC Committee member, and just as a disabled student, I can confidently say that Elia will be an amazing DSO.

Image description: the image has a picture of Anna. The background is black and has purple zig zags. It also says "vote Elia Chitwa for DSO". The image text is in the post.

Ashna Biju

Gonville & Caius Student Union (GCSU) Disabilities & Mental Health Officer 2019-2020

Elia is absolutely the right person for the role! Since I met Elia in sixth form, they have been tirelessly working for disability equality. Elia is an amazing human being, with a true passion for student activism. They are hard-working, committed and have a real understanding of the structural barriers faced by disabled students within university. Elia has enacted positive change for LGBT+, BME and disabled communities, both in Cambridge and nationally, and I believe this is a real testament to their abilities! Not only is Elia incredibly capable, but they are also a genuinely lovely person, with a heartfelt desire to make Cambridge more accessible for the many. I am delighted to be endorsing Elia and have no doubt they would be an outstanding DSO!

Image description: the image has a picture of Ashna. The background is black and has green zig zags. It also says "vote Elia Chitwa for DSO". The image text is in the post.

Lucy Saunders (she/they)

Clare JCR LGBT+ Officer | SU LGBT+ Campaign Campaigns Officer.

I'm supporting Elia for Disabled Students' Officer because I know they can represent disabled students. We've worked together while they were a President of the LGBT+ Campaign, and I've been able to see first hand their commitment to justice for all marginalised groups. They have the experience, the passion, and the ideas to make a real change for the better, and that's why I'm confident that they are the right person for the job.

Image description: the image has a picture of Lucy. The background is black and has purple zig zags. It also says “vote Elia Chitwa for DSO”. The image text is in the post.