

HELTASA Professional Learning Project Team

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Professional Learning Through a Pedagogy of Care in Higher Education

A two-part build-up to the HELTASA PLP Team workshop at the 2026 (Un)Conference

PART A The HELTASA Care Challenge 1-23 November 2026 In your own time: undertake one small act of professional care and notice what happens.	PART B The Online Care Café 24 November 2026 13h00-14h00 Come together online to reflect on the experience through conversation and shared learning.
Completed individually, in participants' own time. Participants are invited to undertake one small act of professional care. This might include offering encouragement to a colleague, checking in on someone, sharing a useful resource, acknowledging someone's contribution, or simply making time to listen. <i>Participants are encouraged to notice what happened, what surprised them and what they learned from the experience.</i>	Link to join: https://meet.google.com/kai-ykav-ftq The Care Café is not a webinar. There are no keynote speakers or lengthy presentations. It is a facilitated conversation in which participants bring their Care Challenge experience into dialogue with colleagues from across the sector.

Purpose

The build-up is designed as a connected two-part experience. Part A invites colleagues to practise one intentional act of professional care in their own context. Part B creates a relaxed online space in which participants can reflect on that experience with others. Together, the two parts allow participants to experience, reflect on and discuss care before the conversation continues at the PLP Team (Un)Conference workshop.

The connection to the (Un)Conference workshop

The Care Challenge provides the experience; the Care Café provides the first opportunity for shared reflection; and the (Un)Conference workshop takes the conversation further by collaboratively exploring how a pedagogy of care can strengthen professional learning in higher education. The workshop therefore starts with participants' lived experiences, not with our presentations.

We invite colleagues to join us to discuss care, to experience it, reflect on it, and carry it forward.