

## **South Ayrshire Champions Board participation in European Social Network Co- production seminar**

### **Background**

The European Social Network (ESN) Co-Production Forum on 14-15 November <https://www.esn-eu.org/events/co-production-forum> is the ESN annual seminar of 2019.

The event, held in Lisbon Portugal, brought together 140 people to share innovative practice and policy on involving people who use services in all aspects of social services.

Through plenary discussions and workshops, participants at the event had the opportunity to discover the co-production policies and practices in place across Europe. Plenary's included discussions around the challenges when implementing co-production, how these can be overcome, and the outcomes that can be achieved.

### **Input: Champions for Change South Ayrshire Champions Board**

#### **Co-production in Europe**

Champions for Change - South Ayrshire Champions Board delivered a presentation alongside Henrik Kristensen; Deputy Head of the Department of the European Social Charter Council of Europe and Pete Fleischmann, Head of Co-production at the Social Care Institute for Excellence .The presentation covered the following areas:

- What the Champions Board is
- How the young people collaborate with service directors & other local authority leaders
- What helped to make it work
- The achievements of the Champions Board in South Ayrshire
- The impact it has had on both improving services, but also on the young people themselves

The presentation was delivered by Alex Horne, Chloe Currie, Kerrie-Anne Martin and Dawn Parker. The team also took part in the 2-day conference.

### **Additional Resources**

To see the event photos –follow link below

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/european\\_social\\_network/albums/72157711862752583/with/49095481692/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/european_social_network/albums/72157711862752583/with/49095481692/)

To view the highlights video -follow link below

<https://vimeo.com/373892023>

To view PowerPoint presentations -follow link below

<https://www.esn-eu.org/events/co-production-forum>

### **Audience and other Speakers**

The audience was primarily directors of social services from local authorities from across Europe. Other speakers over the 2 days included;

- Rui Fiolhais, President of Council of Directors, Institute for Social Security, Portugal
- Anne Helferty, Chief Housing Welfare Officer, Dublin City Council, Ireland-Co-production with the Traveller Community
- Sylvie Desmarais, Director for Social Services Department, Institute for Excellence in Health and Social Services, Canada
- Carsten Wulff Hansen, Director, Municipality of Randers, Denmark
- Tara Flood, Board Member, European Network for Independent Living
- Dr. Elke Loeffler, Governance International and Strathclyde University

### **Civic Reception**

On the evening of 14th May the group joined other delegates at a civic reception and meal hosted by the mayor of Lisbon.

### **Lisbon**

The group experienced many 'firsts' such as getting a passport, flying for the first time, managing being away from friends and family, navigating through the city, understanding the language and supporting each other through new experiences.

### **Covid 19**

We have changed our activity over 2020 in response to Covid 19 we delivered the following

- Set up and distributed Covid 19 **Stay Connected** individual Small grants totalling £18,480.97 to 101 young people with care experience
- Delivered a Virtual Summer Programme
- Distributed over 300 packs (craft packs baking packs)
- Sent out hand written letters to young people
- Weekly Zoom group and one to one online activity for young people
- Offering representation at virtual Looked After Reviews where young person doesn't have an advocate in place.

We use a range of **social media** to stay connected with young people our Facebook reach now extends to 4.0k with 2k post engagements. We provide weekly **Motivational Monday, Wellbeing Wednesday** and **Throwback Thursday** posts

alongside updates on our activity. **WhatsApp Snapchat Instagram and TikTok and YouTube** are all used to share information and make connections.

## Local Consultations

We actively encourage individual young people to take part in consultation activity by promoting consultations on our Social Media Platforms. In addition, we have placed particular focus and resource on the activity below

- ♥ Members of the Belmont Champs Board group contributed to the development of a Blog and podcasts for CELCIS<sup>1</sup> knowledge bank. This can be accessed by clicking on the link <https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/search-bank/blog/2019/08/ayrshire-school-where-care-experienced-young-peoples-views-are-taken-seriously1/>
- ♥ **Health & Wellbeing**  
The Champions Board worked with Ayrshire and Arrans Consultant in Dental Public Health and surveyed a local cohort of young people with care experience to produce a report on the findings. This contributed to an improved access pathway for young people with care experience to find a dentist in Ayrshire and Arran – the pathways is now 1 simple phone number – the work also contributed to the national policy of free dental access for young people with care experience up to age 26.
- ♥ **Home is not a Place it's a Feeling** - small scale consultation designed and facilitated by Champions Board around leaving care.
- ♥ **Reviews** - small scale local consultation incorporating Facebook survey designed and facilitated by Champions Board on looked after Reviews (2021)
- ♥ **ADP** - local consultation on service design in partnership with SFAD<sup>2</sup>
- ♥ We support care experienced young people's participation in inspection processes such as Education Scotland inspection of Belmont Academy <https://education.gov.scot/media/oczjxbce/belmontacademyins180220.pdf>

## National Activity

- ♥ **Childrens Hearings Scotland Childrens Rights and Inclusion Strategy** [Children's Rights and Inclusion Strategy \(chscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.chscotland.gov.uk) we submitted evidence and delivered local focus groups
- ♥ **Continuing Care and leaving Care** we worked alongside CELCIS to explore approaches across Scotland to delivering continuing care and supporting young people leaving care supported (young people to contribute to the conversation).

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<sup>1</sup> Centre of Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Families affected by Alcohol and Drugs

- ♥ **Independent Care Review** the Champions Board supported a total of 23 young people with care experience from South Ayrshire to take part in the **Journey phase** of the Independent Care Review 2017-19. Young people from South Ayrshire participated in the launch of 1000 voices and Care Review Roadshows. The reviews participation team also came to Champions Board groups to speak to individual young people as part of the 1000 voices activity. The Corporate Parenting Lead officer took part in practitioner forums. We then submitted evidence including one to one interview materials and film footage created by South Ayrshire Champions Board. All of this activity contributed to **The Promise** and other Care Review reports see link to evidence framework [ICR Evidence Framework v2-1.pdf \(carereview.scot\)](#)