

Champions Board – Participation Activity



The Champions Board continue to offer flexible employment opportunities within the Champions Board team for young people who have experience of care and currently employ 5 people with care experience alongside offering a modern apprenticeship experience which is ring-fenced for someone with care experience.

The team support those with care experience to be involved in the roll out of trauma informed South Ayrshire. South Ayrshires Corporate Parenting review has reflected increased opportunities for care experienced young people across South Ayrshire. South Ayrshires new corporate parenting plan (South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise) has included young people with lived experience in the writing group alongside Corporate Parents.

South Ayrshire's 'Promise' calls to actions include many of the Champions Board implementation plan actions such as developing an understanding of care through shared language and reframing.

From November 2020 – December 2021, the Champions Board team have delivered 4 Elected Member Briefings on The Promise and additional Promise inputs to 422 colleagues including colleagues in education, health, housing, voluntary sector and social care.

The Champions Board has been working with each and every child ([Each & Every Child | Help reframe the system. \(eachandeverychild.co.uk\)](https://eachandeverychild.co.uk)) to develop a fresh new narrative and reframe the language used around care. A webinar for South Ayrshire employees and partners was delivered on 25 November 2021 and was attended by 64 participants.

Young people with care experience continue to be supported to take part in local and national consultation activity including:

- Housing conversation in partnership with SAC housing policy team
- Life Changes Trust monitoring meeting
- Children's Hearing Scotland Participation strategy consultation
- Looked after reviews consultation in partnership with SAC quality assurance reviewing officers
- Evaluation of South Ayrshire Champions Board in partnership with social value lab
- Scorecard Evaluation of Who Cares? Scotland and Barnardo's advocacy services in partnership with SAC procurement
- GIRFEC – local consultation on refreshed GIRFEC materials involving over 50 young people with care experience funded by Scottish Government
- Brothers and sisters views on short breaks – to inform south Ayrshires commissioning framework

The Champions Board Team have also proved powerful advocates of a co-production approach to practice and have taken part in planning of a Strathclyde Engage event at which they co-produced a presentation on their experience of co-production.

The Champions Board are also involved in Participation steering group and network and co facilitated at the National Participation networking event in November 2020 which was attended by 80 practitioners working with young people with care experience from across Scotland.

Across this reporting period we have focused on our commitment to **#keepthepromise** for the many young people from South Ayrshire who have been part of the independent care review. Young people have been involved across our promise activity, from identifying the most important calls to action to participating in the self-evaluation process and taking part in the design and writing of our corporate parenting plan – South Ayrshires Parenting Promise.

We have moved our focus away from a Champions Board “meeting” and towards expanding representation on key decision making groups which involve a range of Corporate Parents including

- Children’s Service Planning Group
- Corporate Parenting Plan Writing Group
- Youth Strategy Implementation Group – link to universal and targeted youth work activities and youth engagement
- Child poverty action group
- Communities reference group (community Planning)
- Child protection committee
- Mental Health Strategy Group
- Alcohol and Drugs partnership
- public protection activity
- Improving housing outcomes for care leavers

A successful and well attended Champions Board school-based group is running within Belmont Academy and Ayr Academy with community-based groups running in Girvan and Ayr.

The Champions Board delivered a summer programme of 14 activities in partnership with Thriving Communities and Voluntary Sector partners which 56 young people with care experience took part in. The Champions Board also showcased their film in September 2021 ‘Picnic in the Park’ at Rozelle and 103 people attended.