

## East Dunbartonshire Champion's Board



East Dunbartonshire Champion's Board had not been meeting regularly due to restrictions around face to face contact during the pandemic. Given the aims of a Champion's Board, including empowering care experienced young people to have a voice, build relationships and contribute towards creating change, a priority in our journey to #keepthepromise was to re-launch East Dunbartonshire Champion's Board. Since the re-launch in March 2022, young people have consistently met on a fortnightly basis. East Dunbartonshire Champion's Board currently consists of a core group of 14 young people, aged between 15 & 26, all with care experience.

East Dunbartonshire Champion's Board have met with a range of corporate parents to build relationships and provide insight into the needs and experiences of care experienced young people in East Dunbartonshire. This has included Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Head of Children's Services and East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action. Champion's Board meetings also have ongoing representation from Who Cares? Scotland.

Over the summer 2022 period there was a Champion's Board programme of activities, which also included 'Mini Champs' sessions. Two members of the Board also represented East Dunbartonshire at a CELCIS participation event, and another two members input into training for new Children's Hearing Panel Members. In October 2022, East Dunbartonshire Champion's Board planned and supported a participation event for children and young people in Foster Care & Kinship Care.

The Champion's have presented at East Dunbartonshire Corporate Parent Steering Group, where they shared themes and actions for change identified by the young people. East Dunbartonshire Champion's Board have also consulted on various East Dunbartonshire developments, including the Mind of My Own App, Integrated Children Services Plan (2023-2026) and the Public Protection Website.

In line with The Promise Scotland's Plan 21-24, East Dunbartonshire Champion's Board have supported a review of the language that we use, and have given us guidance on the language that we should and should not be using. The overall message that came from this has been to 'say it as it is'. This has also now led to the establishment of a Participation & Communication Working Group. The work East Dunbartonshire Champions have done around language should have a significant and long lasting impact on how we talk about, record and work with children and young people.

The Champions also fed back via the Board that they did not always feel that their voices were heard in meetings and that it should be a priority for young people to have the opportunity to read their reports in advance of meetings. In order to respond to this, we have developed a Review Meeting feedback consultation to gather more views and create a plan of action.

The Champions are, overall, making a significant impact across services in East Dunbartonshire, through supporting a better insight into the lived experiences of young people with care experience. This enables services to respond appropriately, increase participation and improve outcomes.

East Dunbartonshire Champions Board are excited for the next year ahead, with plans in place already around further ideas for change, social activities, events, building on their social media and decorating the Champions Board base.



  
we will  
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