As per The Promise Scotland, it is our mission for Care Experienced Young People to be at the heart of every decision we make as a local authority. We believe CEYP should have a say in policy and practices that affect them, and we are committed to implementing changes to ensure their voice is being heard.

That is why North Ayrshire Council have implemented new measures for any role within the Health and Social Care Partnership that has direct involvement with Care Experienced Young People. New measures include applicants being pre-interviewed by CEYP themselves, in addition to the normal recruitment process. Our vision is for CEYP to join our interview panel to ensure we select the best candidates for the job. Their participation helps to shape the future of not only our recruitment process, but also our service as a whole.

By participating, CEYP are exercising their right to have their voice heard in a system that does/has affected them. Participation allows the young people to learn an array of transferable skills which can be used on their  CV and our team will provide references. Participants have an opportunity to say they worked with a local authority to implement change into the current care system. Lastly, all participants will be reimbursed in vouchers to acknowledge their contribution to our service.

Housing:

We listened to what care experienced young people had to say, and they informed us of the struggles they experience when attempting to obtain housing from the council including, but not limited to; conflicting information, lack of consistency in who is dealing with cases, difficulty obtaining information and confusion on where to access certain information specific to their experiences. Additionally, a high volume of care leavers go through the process without any guidance from family or key workers and this can prove to be even more challenging.

To combat this, housing service now have a named person for CEYP to help strengthen the relationship between HSCP and Housing, but also between housing - a corporate parent- and the care experienced community it serves.

Housing officer Katie Bell has offered to be this named official and assist CEYP with the housing application or any relevant queries they may have. Where Katie may not be able to help, she will liaise with the relevant person and pass on information to our CEYP. Katie will also work closely with the corporate parenting team to review housing’s application and policy accordingly.

EAEC Framing:

Each and every child (EAEC) delivered a successful and innovative presentation on framing care experience to our Promise Oversight Board. Our PrOG are reviewing how we use their presentation and the accompanying toolkit, however it has been uploaded on to our SharePoint for all promise champions to access and review in line with their service. Our Communications and Language subgroup are going to match this up with the Champions Board’s Antidiscrimination and Stigma Policy and launch a ‘let’s talk about language’ day across the community planning partnership which will look at stigmatising language in care experience, mental health, sexuality and disability.