
Report To: Inverclyde Integration Joint Board **Date:** 23 June 2020

Report By: Louise Long
Corporate Director (Chief Officer)
Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership **Report No:** IJB/45/2020/SMcA

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Head of Children's Service and Criminal Justice **Contact No:** 715282

Subject: CHAMPIONS BOARD/PROUD2CARE

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Integration Joint Board of Proud2Care's activities, and partnership in establishing Inverclyde's Champions Board over the last 3 years.
- 1.2 The report will further outline a proposal for Proud2Care's partnership with the Champions Board over the next two years.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The vision of the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is for nurturing and compassionate communities to work together to assist everyone to live active, healthy and fulfilling lives. Proud2Care and Inverclyde's Champions Board is an example of co-production in the aim to deliver this vision.
- 2.2 Over the last 3 years Proud2Care has established itself as a widening network of care experienced young people who share their experiences to inform the way they are supported and share with others within their communities.
- 2.3 The impact of care experienced young people has been tangible. They have been involved in activities at both a national and local level; informing the national consultation around the Independent Care Review and hosting a Better Children's Hearing event in Inverclyde to design a local action plan. In total in 2019/20 this has meant:
 - ✚ 83 care experienced young people have engaged in Champions Board related activities
 - ✚ 224 sessions to support Champions Board involvement have taken place
 - ✚ 47 representatives from service providers and corporate parents have attended Champions Board activities, and
- 2.4 The establishment of Inverclyde's Champions Board and Proud 2 Care was supported by Life Changes Trust funding for three years 2017- 2020. Proud 2 Care activity has been facilitated by HSCP staff alongside Your Voice who in turn have provided employment opportunities for two care-experienced young people.
- 2.5 The Life Changes Trust has agreed additional 2 year funding aimed at widening

opportunities for care experienced young people and their families, however since the original funding applications were made and agreed, emerging themes have been identified and will require to be taken forward including the impact of Covid-19 on our community, the delivery of Inverclyde's response and pledges to the National Care Review and delivery of the HSCP Strategic Plan Big Actions.

- 2.6 Extending the involvement and funding to Your Voice for a further period of 18 months would allow Proud2Care's activities to continue on the same scale and progress the activities outlined above.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Integrated Joint Board :
 - a. Notes the content of the report.
 - b. Agrees the proposal to continued funding and resourcing of Proud 2 Care including partnership with Your Voice.

Louise Long
Chief Officer

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Inverclyde's partnership with the Life Changes Trust and development of the Proud 2 Care began in April 2017. Its objective was to invest and support the inclusion and empowerment of our care-experienced young people. The focus was to build over time, a confident and resilient group to establish and participate effectively in the Champions Board network.
- 4.2 This has been achieved in the three years of the match funding with LCT. It has been supported by corporate parents across the community planning partnership; to build networks of support and to grow the confidence of Proud 2 Care. This has been through inclusion to develop their interests, empowerment to participate in consultations, and by providing intergenerational opportunities to have an understanding of citizenship to achieve their goals. The consequence of these positive experiences has been to promote feelings of self-efficacy; that their contribution matters.
- 4.3 Life Changes Trust approved further funding for 20/21 and 21/22. This equates to £50,000 per year. The aim of this is to develop a trauma informed approach to engagement with a wider group of care experienced children, young people and their families supporting personal growth and resilience through the concept of "Windows of Happiness". It is based on caring relationships that endure over time and helps build a legacy for other care-experienced children and young people to follow and emulate. One of the first projects will be with kinships carers and their family members, in partnership with RigArts and Clyde Muirshiel, focusing on local heritage sharing of stories and through a shared art project building on a sense of citizenship and sense of belonging.
- 4.4 Since the establishment of Proud 2 Care and the Champions Board a number of events have occurred that need a coordinated response – the impact of Covid -19 across our community, the progression of HSCP Big Actions and the delivery of The Promise outlined in the National Care Review will all benefit from care-experienced young people and their carers' insight and ideas
- 4.5 The partnership with Your Voice is integral to supporting Proud 2 Care and Champions Board activity currently and in the future in addition to which it has provided employment opportunity for two care-experienced young people. It is therefore proposed that £90,000 from the Transformation Fund be provided to enable the continued partnership with Your Voice over 18 months in conjunction with a budget of £20,000 to support continued Proud 2 Care activity.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

FINANCE

5.1 One Off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Children and Families	Trans Fund	20/21	£70,000		
Children and Families	Trans Fund	21/20	£40,000		

Annually Recurring Costs / (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

LEGAL

5.2 There are no legal issues within this Report

HUMAN RESOURCES

5.3 There are no specific human resources implications arising from this report.

EQUALITIES

5.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

5.4.1 How does this report address our Equality Outcomes?

There are no equality issues within this Report.

Equalities Outcome	Implications
People, including individuals from the above protected characteristic groups, can access HSCP services.	Proud2Care provides opportunity for care-experienced young people to access and influence service delivery
Discrimination faced by people covered by the protected characteristics across HSCP services is reduced if not eliminated.	The work of the Champions Board and Proud 2 Care seeks to reduce stigma and discrimination experienced by care experienced young people including those in protected groups
People with protected characteristics feel safe within their communities.	None
People with protected characteristics feel included in the planning and developing of services.	The Champions Board and Proud 2 Care provide opportunity for care experienced young people to influence the development and delivery of services
HSCP staff understand the needs of people with different protected characteristic and promote diversity in the work that they do.	Partnership between Champions Board and Proud2 Care
Opportunities to support Learning Disability service users experiencing gender based violence are	None

maximised.	
Positive attitudes towards the resettled refugee community in Inverclyde are promoted.	None

CLINICAL OR CARE GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

5.5 There are no clinical or care governance implications arising from this report.

5.6 NATIONAL WELLBEING OUTCOMES

How does this report support delivery of the National Wellbeing Outcomes?

National Wellbeing Outcome	Implications
People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.	Proud to Care provides opportunity for care-experienced young people to participate in a range of activities and shape the delivery of services aimed at improving health and wellbeing
People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions or who are frail are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community	None
People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.	Proud 2 Care influence delivery of services for others and in process of participation have positive experience of working with Champions
Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.	Focus of partnership between Champions Board and Proud2 Care is about promoting wellbeing for care experienced young people
Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.	Opportunity for care experienced young people to contribute to progression of Big Actions – reduction of health inequality
People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including reducing any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing.	None
People using health and social care services are safe from harm.	None
People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide.	None
Resources are used effectively in the provision of health and social care services.	Investing and supporting care-experienced young people's participation in

	service development provides long term benefit for young people reducing future service demands
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6.0 DIRECTIONS

6.1

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	
	2. Inverclyde Council	X
	3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (GG&C)	
	4. Inverclyde Council and NHS GG&C	

7.0 CONSULTATION

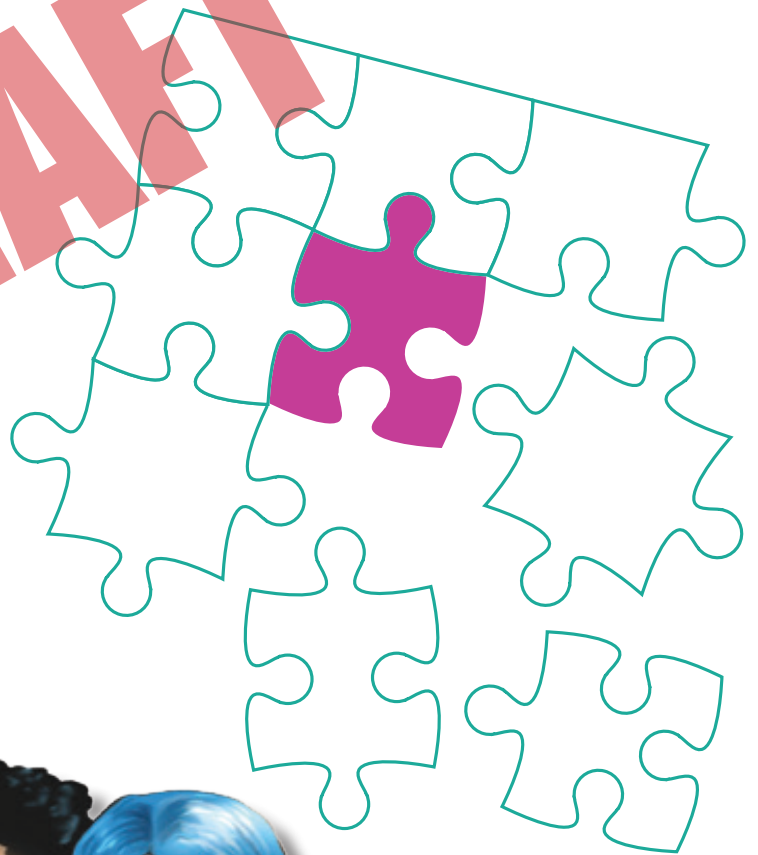
7.1 The report has been prepared by the Chief Officer of Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) after due consideration with relevant senior officers in the HSCP.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Proud 2 Care Report

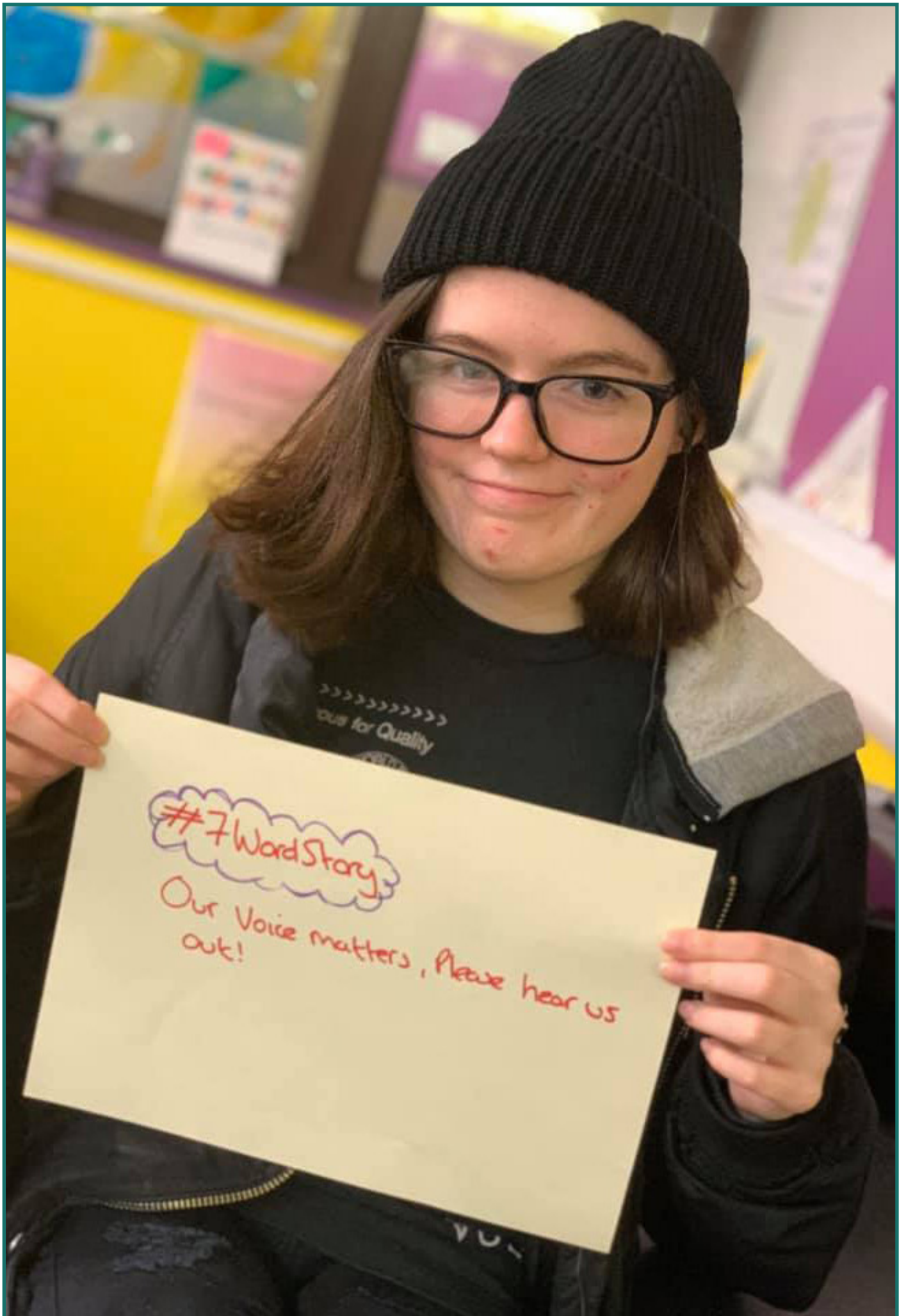
PROUD 2 CARE ANNUAL REPORT YEARS 1, 2 & 3

DRAFT



NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US





#7 Word Story

Our Voice matters, Please hear us
out!



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INTRODUCTION



Welcome to Proud2Care's (Inverclyde Champions Board) combined Annual Report covering the period of 2017 – 2020.

We are delighted to share with you our journey so far and would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last 3 years.

It has been 3 years of exciting developments, partnerships and bonding as a group. Our groups encourage trust, inclusion, understanding and empathy for care experienced young people within a safe, comfortable space on a weekly basis.

The profile of Proud2Care has been raised significantly, we have been approached by various organisations, services and teams to consult with our young people, resulting in our young people recognising their valuable voice and ability to influence service design/ redesign.

Hearteningly, Inverclyde HSCP recognise, value and aim to build on the success of Proud2Care and develop principles of coproduction to be included in all service redesigns and the development of services throughout Inverclydes 5 year strategic plan.

Whilst we look back over the last 3 years with pride - Abraham Lincoln famously stated that ***the best way to predict the future is to create it*** - we are excited to see what we can achieve together in the years ahead.

Some of our highlights include;

- Developing Champs & Mini Champs groups
- Forming Inverclyde Champions Board
- Hosting a MasCAREaid Ball
- Group members achievements being recognised at the Inverclyde Year of Young People Awards

*At the groups I feel included, like my thoughts and feelings matter.
- Inverclyde young person*

Our Champions Board empowers young people to use our life experiences in a positive way, giving us the platform, voice and confidence to make a difference. Young People are fully involved in how our group is run, we are leading it and it is not something done to or for us. It puts us face to face with our corporate parents and gives opportunity for us to make a difference for young people in Inverclyde.

*- D.F.
Inverclyde young person*

BACKGROUND



Hi I'm Roberta and I would like to give you a brief background to Proud2Care and what we have achieved in Inverclyde over the last few years.

We first all met in October 2016. Young people were invited by Golden Ticket to come along and find out about the group over pizza and some chat, now known as the legendary Pizza and Patter night!

In January 2017 we came up with the name Proud2Care and decided that we wanted to keep meeting as a group weekly to work on the topics that we were interested in and were supported by HSCP, Who Cares Scotland and Your Voice to do this. We now have a focused, active and dedicated Champs Group who are confident and engaged in influencing change.

At the 2017 Child Protection Conference I and some of the other young people presented about Stigma, it went down very well. I was quiet nervous about doing it to begin with.

Also Dillon and I became Care Champion reps for Inverclyde and met together with other care experienced young people from all over Scotland with the support of Who Cares? Scotland.

Our group was visited by the Inspectors who wanted to find out about what we have been doing and they were impressed by the work our group had done. Some of our younger group members also presented at the LAAC Education conference where they spoke to over 100 professionals about their experiences and received a standing ovation. Following this we were asked to deliver our workshop in two secondary schools with plans for more.

We took part in the Independent Care Review (1000 voices) and some of the group shared our thoughts with the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

After celebrating our first birthday we started planning towards what we wanted to bring to a meeting with our corporate parents who were developing the Champions Board with us. We held our first Champions Board meeting, followed by a community day which was attended by over 100 people who all came to find out more about our group and what we hoped to achieve.

We also had a Christmas party where group members brought their friends. We felt this was important as it gave us the chance to share with people not involved with the group and this influenced our recent Connected2Care initiative where we include young people Connected2Care to get involved and support us to champion care experienced young people.

In the New Year of 2018 we set up Mini Champs which is for primary aged children and moved into the Greenock izone.

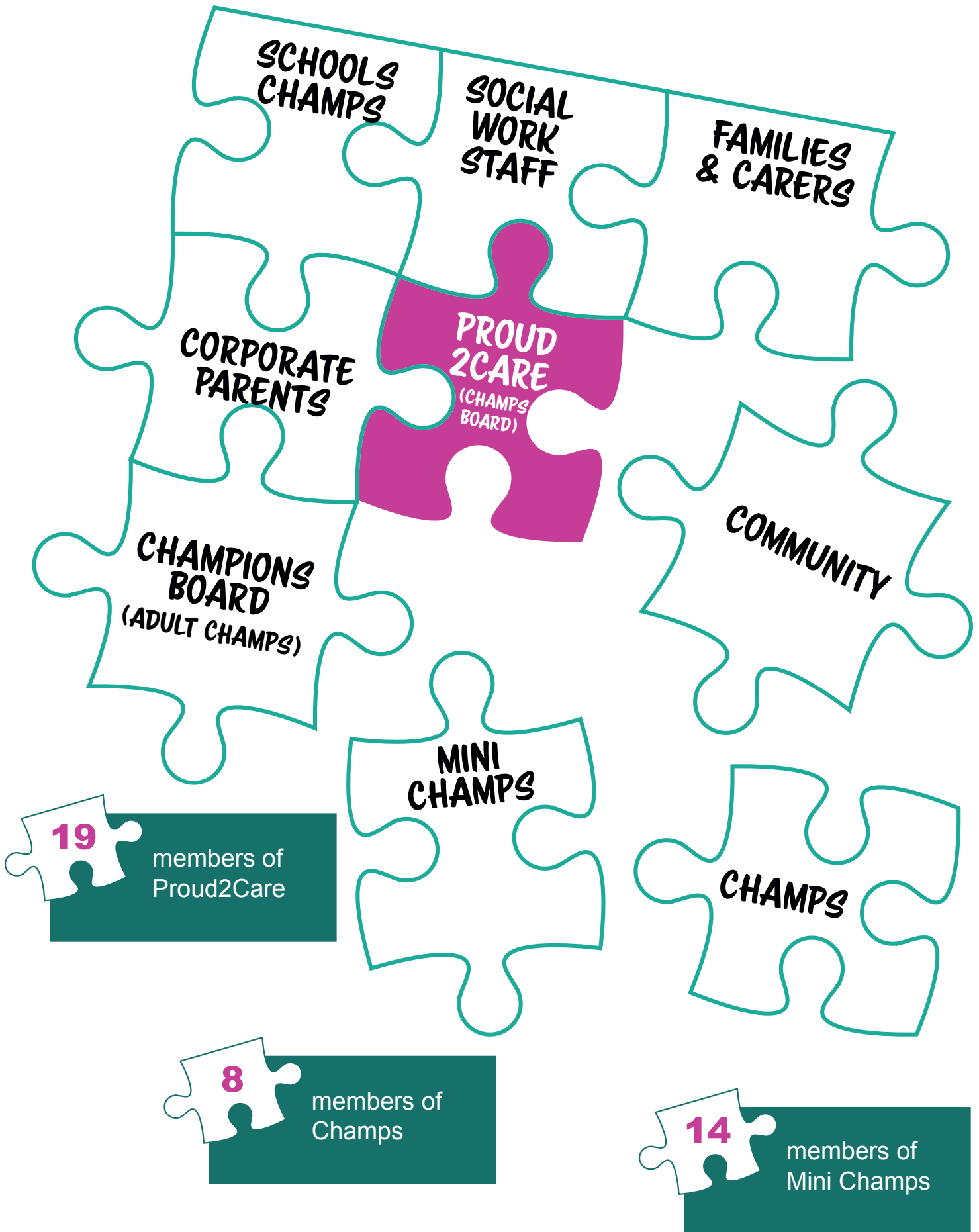
Over the years we've been visited by a number of different agencies such as the police, education and reviews officers who we've worked with to make some changes to how the review process happens in Inverclyde as well as several students and other interested people.

We also designed our Champs, Mini Champs and Proud2Care leaflets and created a short film 'Alice in Careland' to promote our groups to young people, staff and carers, helping us to widen our membership and network.

By April 2019 we felt secure and established with strong supportive and nurturing local partnerships with Inverclyde HSCP, Inverclyde Council and 3rd sector organisation Your Voice. Over the last year we have continued to grow together, as young people, family and carers, staff, organisations and community. Together we are certain that we can #KeepThePromise for Inverclydes care experienced children and young people.



OUR NETWORK



Note: membership numbers above reflect average weekly attendance at groups.



We participated in Cook School and hosted 'Come Dine With Us' with our families and corporate parents.

PROJECT AIMS



The aims for Inverclyde Champions Board are:

- Give a voice to Care Experienced young people.
- Influence change and development of the Care System.
- Help care-experienced young people access the support systems available.
- Be treated with respect and get positive help from professionals.
- Change the experiences of young people in care.

OBJECTIVES



- Develop inverclydes champions board.
- Implement recommendations of the Independant Care Review.
- Work with staff and services to build relationships and influence culture change.

OUTCOMES



- Care experienced young people benefit from involvement in Champions Board.
- Organisations strengthen their commitment, knowledge, skills and capacity.
- Policy and practice become more responsive to care experienced young people.
- Public awareness and attitudes become increasingly positive towards care experienced young people.
- Care experienced young people benefit from improvement outcomes.

68 individual young people have participated in our consultations

CHAMPS + MINI CHAMPS = PROUD2CARE



Having a fun, patient and supportive team with empathy for our young people and the enthusiasm and innovation to help them develop, is central to the success of the Proud2Care Network.

Funding allows the team time and space to build strong, trusting relationships, in turn making a difference in terms of encouraging participation and in effecting change.

Young people have told us that appreciating the importance of inclusion and feeling accepted, particularly on the first night, is central to them returning. Together we create a safe space where food is a common interest and helps to bring our group together, whether choosing what we would like to eat or planning and preparing our own food together.

Participation and engagement from corporate parents and heads of services gives our young people confidence that their voices are important, will be heard and acted on, keeping them engaged in local and national priorities.



“Being part of the Champs Board gives me the opportunity to have some what responsibility in making sure that the care system is good for all young people. Coming together with others who, in ways, share this responsibility is a great way for us all to bond. It’s as if we are all pieces to a jigsaw coming together, each of us bringing great traits which contribute to our aims.”

Kaine, 15



I have been coming to Proud2care right from the start. When I first came I was a bit nervous about joining in with discussions and would just keep myself to myself. Over time staff would encourage me to join in and share my thoughts and slowly but surely I felt more confident to do this and tell people what I think. Over the three years I have now been involved in lots of things including hosting a stall a 1000 voices event, been part of interview panels for lots of different types of job roles in social work. I have talked in front of people at large events and had everyone laughing, I always put myself forward to speak at things now coz I’m good at it! I helped out at so many things, one of the staff took me to get a proper ukulele at a music shop in Glasgow to say thank you for all the things I had been part of. I love my ukulele and play it all the time and used it for my music exam at school.

I also help out at mini champs every two weeks. I help get some of the food and make toasties, my little sister is in the group and we don’t live together so it’s a good chance to spend some more time with her too!

Proud2care is really important to me. I’ve made lots of new friends, developed new skills and confidence and I have been able to make a difference for other people like me. I’ve even met the First Minister.



Ellie, 15



“Our young Champs inspire us every day. Being part of their journey, watching them grow and supporting them to build confidence and belief that they are valued, respected and have the power to make a difference is a privilege. We are proud of all their amazing achievements and we will continue to encourage them to use their care experience as their super power.”

Proud2Care Staff





Over 40 young people have been actively involved in Inverclyde Champs Board so far, with many more involved in our wider consultations. Its outcomes include:

- Care-experienced young people have benefited from involvement in the Champions boards.
- Local care experienced young people have developed relationships with their corporate parents.
- Organisations strengthened their commitment, knowledge, skills and capacity.
- Policy and practice has become more responsive to care-experienced young people.
- Public awareness and attitudes have become increasingly positive towards care experienced young people.
- Care-experienced young people have benefited from service improvements.
- Care experienced young people reporting they feel empowered and can see their voice matters.
- More care experienced young people know they have a platform to support them to have their voice heard.

Care experienced young people are more engaged with services and more actively engaged within their communities. Our Champs group composed a list of six areas they want to focus and where they feel there is a need for better support, action or improved policies for care-experienced young people. These include:

- o Stigma
- o Education
- o Relationships with corporate parents
- o Aftercare
- o Family – protect the relationships that are important to us
- o Health
- o Language and communication
- o Network: Making sure those who do not wish to attend groups are included in the Champs Board.

CHANGES TO POLICY & PRACTICE



Over the 3 years, our Champions Board have worked together with our local authority, HSCP and 3rd sector to influence positive changes for Care Experienced young people. Whilst some of these changes have been driven by us the young people, others have been driven by services themselves inviting us to contribute to improving their service, this value placed on 'lived experience' has increased our confidence as Champs and our belief that we can be and are, active change makers.

Education

We have produced two short films 'Alice in Care Land' and 'Stigma' to use as educational resources across Inverclyde. Our films have been shown at Inverclyde LAAC education Conference and head teacher quarterly meetings. Attainment money has been identified by Education and HSCP for care experienced young people to progress attainment and wellbeing, allowing young people to apply for individual grants.

Children's Hearings

Our Champs have worked hard alongside our Children's Reporter to improve Children's Hearings services and we have visited the centre to be consulted in the re design of the centre. We have co designed resources to support YP that are visible in waiting areas such as a jargon buster wall, did you know wall and currently we are creating an interactive, child friendly version of the better hearings action plan, designed from the findings of the Proud2Hear consultation event. We are also working on panel member profiles in partnership with panel members. Nationally we are working with SCRA to design a local information leaflet.

Training

We delivered sessions to over 200 professionals across Inverclyde. Challenging attitudes and perceptions of care experienced young people, by sharing our experiences with professionals we cultivate a sense of reflection in their practice, encouraging them to explore their practice, and the relationships that they nurture with care experienced young people. In the year ahead we will be developing a new training pack that care experienced young people will deliver annually to Children's Hearings panel members alongside a wide range of professionals.

Participation & Support

Whilst our Champs meet every 2nd week, we have our Proud2Care group every week, this weekly space offers us time, connection and support from staff and peers. Spending time with other young people who are care experienced is important, we can use our care experience positively to support each other. Spending time with Staff not directly involved in our care planning can be liberating. We are supported at Proud2Care to manage positive friendships and relationships, be more independent, confident and use our care experienced positively to support other care experienced young people - this is our super power!

HSCP

Within Health and Social Care we have been involved in a wide range of service improvements, including the development of new review paperwork sent to children and young people before and after reviews, as well as a checklist of things for the review officers to work through during each review. We have been involved in shaping the new tender document being created for advocacy services to ensure the service meets the needs/wants of young people directly, and we have been involved in a range of consultations such as Housing and Health & Well Being. We have also created a consultation in partnership with HSCP to look at improving the experiences of LAAC Medicals. From January 2019 almost every single post within children and families included a panel of care experienced young people for both 1 to 1 and group interviews. More recently young people have been involved in shaping WiFi Safety, the new continuing care accommodation, and currently a consultation is underway for older young people to shape the future of continuing care reviews. We will also be helping to lead the way by assisting HSCP to identify the local priorities from the Independent care review.

"Proud2Care have been instrumental in driving forward the Better Hearings agenda in Inverclyde – such a fantastically inspirational and ambitious group of young people that are passionate about making things better for all young people. Their Proud2Hear event really transformed the Better Hearings planning – it took the national perspective and through getting an understanding from all of the people involved locally, turned it into local priorities – they took ownership, and it is these priorities that are

now driving the professional's plans for taking forward Better Hearings – as it should be!

I have been so pleased to spend some time with the group as they have been working through this and have been blown away by their creativity and their commitment – looking forward to seeing what comes next!"

Lisa Bennett, Head of Strategy/OD and Corporate Parenting Lead, SCRA



We made puppets of ourselves. If we can't or don't feel like having our photograph taken, we can use our puppets!



To celebrate Care Experience Week 2019 we hosted a 'Kick about with your corporate kid'

OUTCOMES: ACTIVITY ANALYSIS



We hosted a stall at an LCT event in Perth.

We hosted a MasCAREaid Ball. Over 100 people attended with young people attending from across 7 Champ Boards.

We hosted a community day promoting Champions Board. approx 100 people attended.

We introduced the 'Top corporate parent award' in 2018.

We participated in a focus group developing a comic book and assessment resource for Adoption Services.

We presented at our local LAAC education conference.

We have hosted 3 Champions Board Meetings where we have explored the care review, Stop Go Pledge, getting to know you activities, and our community day.

We participated in a 'Corporate Kick about' for national care week with our corporate parents.

We hosted a Speed Networking employability event for 15-26 year olds.

We had National Care Champ Reps and group members have attended national summer camp.

OUTCOMES: ACTIVITY ANALYSIS



We presented at the child protection conference.

We interviewed candidates for HSCP social workers, unit manager and child protection officer posts.

We helped design and participated in a survey consulting on LAAC yearly medicals.

We participated in a visit from the care inspectorate.

We delivered a presentation to groups of teachers in various Secondary Schools across Inverclyde.

We participated in the C&YP services plan review.

We influenced and designed the introduction of a panel members profile for the children's hearings waiting room.

We participated in all stages of the national 1000 voices campaign and spoke directly to the first minister.

We actioned the very 1st champs board meeting for Inverclyde and organised the champs board launch day.

We influenced and participated in a WHYfi? Consultation. Exploring needs and support required for wifi in children's residential.

To celebrate our 3rd Birthday we hosted a Better Hearings PARTYicipation engagement event. Over 80 people attended.

OUTCOMES: ACTIVITY ANALYSIS



We have volunteered looking after Birds of Prey for a day.

We took part in Inverclyde's Strategic plan consultation The 6 Big Actions

We took part in focused discussions with children's panels, LAAC/LAAH review officers.

We participated in Fire Skills training – thanks to our corporate parent!

We have volunteered with compassionate Inverclyde at their Hub and put together some back home boxes.

We designed and produced leaflets promoting our groups.

We won awards!
Shannon won Young Person of the year 2018.
Dylan won Young Youth Worker of the Year 2019.

As a group we were finalists at 3 Award Ceremonies.

We participated in the 'meeting the standards' Engagement., looking at the new national care standards.

We attended film school and produced two films we now use as educational resources to tackle stigma and promote our groups.

We influenced and co-created a new social work leaflet.

We are involved in the Better Hearings development & we delivered training to Panel Members.



ADOPTION



Expanding our network, the Champions Board recognise the 'Care Experience' of adopted young people. We have supported Inverclyde HSCP Adoption Team to utilise our principles of co-production, developing Focus Groups with adopted young people and their families to co design a comic book that supports and explores adopted young people's right to information. The Champions Board continue to work with the adoption team and adopted young people, at present we are co-producing an adoption workbook that will be used with prospective adopters during the assessment period.

Our Champs group is proud to include Adopted young people, our adopted members enhance our understanding of adoption experiences and similarities, and raises awareness of the challenges and support needed for adopted children and their families.



adopted young people are members of our network

"I have had the pleasure of supporting the partnership and expansion of the champions board recently in to the area of adoption. This has involved a focus group of adopters, adoptees, the staff from champions board and the adoption team in collaboration with Magic Torch Greenock, to produce a fantastic comic book signposting resource for adopted children and their families, explaining how they can exercise their right to birth family information and care files. It has been a very positive experience whereby we have all got around the table and shared ideas and experiences, whilst being motivated by the enthusiasm and passion of the champions board work. I am delighted to continue this work with our local champions board and a group of young adoptees on a further resource which will gather questions for potential adopters, which adopted children feel should be asked during the assessment process. This partnership has been very worthwhile and I hope to continue to work with our champions board on other identified projects for the good of the Inverclyde HSCP community of adopters."

S McT
Social Worker

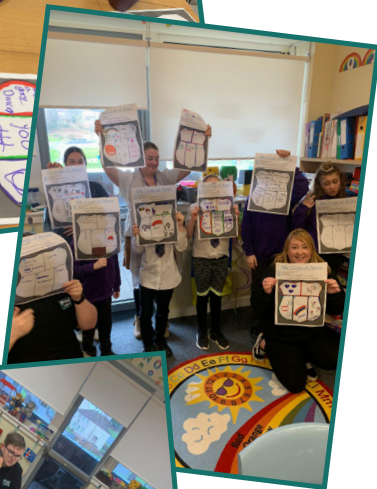
OUTCOMES: ACTIVITY ANALYSIS



AILEYMINIS

9

members
of AileyMinis



“

I am the Nurture Teacher in Aileymill Primary and I have been piloting the group 'Aileymini's' for our p5-7 children who are care experienced in our school. The partnership between our school, Your Voice and Proud 2 Care has allowed our pupils to not only explore their care experiences in a safe, inclusive, fun environment but also provides an opportunity for them to spend time with other children who have similar experiences, something which otherwise would not have been possible within the school setting. One child commented that he now has a support group in school that actually helps him!

All of the children within the group are in a Nurture group within their year group and have built up positive relationships with myself over the years but this project has given me an insight that I didn't have previously into some of the issues faced by our children on a daily basis that we weren't as aware of as we should have been. An example of this was highlighted during a session when one of our young people raised an issue he was struggling with in being made to feel 'different' with the amount of adults who were either working with him or removing him from his class to support him. He talked about all the different ID badges they wear and how this made him feel singled out. As a result of this, I was able to feed this back to my head teacher and we are in the process of writing a policy that will incorporate the child's wishes when working with different agencies.

Having a care experienced leader is invaluable as well and Dylan is always able to speak to them through his personal experiences, which adds value and meaning. He is a wonderful role model!

Our group also builds our knowledge of the support available to them e.g. Minichamps and the variety of activities that they can participate in fortnightly or during holidays. The fact that this is funded makes all the difference as 75% of our school come under the SIMD 1 and 2 categories and money is a huge barrier to our families. The sessions are all planned in advance by the children, giving them full autonomy and building their confidence and capacity. Their rights are promoted throughout every session and positive relationships are promoted throughout. For me, the benefits of this group are huge. Our children know that they are a priority and that they matter, despite their background or experience.

L. Q
Nurture Teacher

”

THE YEAR 2019/2020 IN NUMBERS



50 CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ENGAGED IN CHAMPIONS BOARD-RELATED ACTIVITIES MORE THAN TWICE

83 CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ENGAGED IN CHAMPIONS BOARD-RELATED ACTIVITIES

14 CHANGES IN POLICY OR PRACTICE HAVE BEEN MADE AS A RESULT OF CHAMPIONS BOARDS

WE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN 13 OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE

224 SESSIONS TO SUPPORT CHAMPIONS BOARD INVOLVEMENT WERE HELD IN THIS YEAR

69 PRACTITIONERS AND CARERS HAVE ATTENDED TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIP-BASED PRACTICE WITH CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE

47 REPRESENTATIVES FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CORPORATE PARENTS HAVE CHAMPIONS BOARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

WE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN 7 ENGAGEMENTS WITH OTHER CHAMPIONS BOARDS
6 PROUD2CARE YOUNG PEOPLE & VOLUNTEERS HAVE GAINED EMPLOYMENT

WE HAVE 6 SIBLINGS WHO ATTEND PROUD2CARE, SPENDING TIME TOGETHER

CARE STATUS OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

ENGAGED IN CHAMPIONS BOARD ACTIVITIES 2019/20



20 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE FROM RESIDENTIAL CARE

14 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN KINSHIP CARE

11 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN FOSTER CARE

14 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKED AFTER AT HOME

1 YOUNG CARE LEAVER

13 ADOPTED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



We attended Film School!
We produced and starred in our films that we now use as educational resources.



Our Minis baked cookies for their corporate parents!



We hosted a Mas-CARE-ade Ball and invited other Champ Boards from across Scotland. Over 100 people attended including young people from 7 other local authorities! We chose everything from the activities on offer to the décor. Staff from the Independent Care Review attended and set up a space for everyone's voices to be heard.



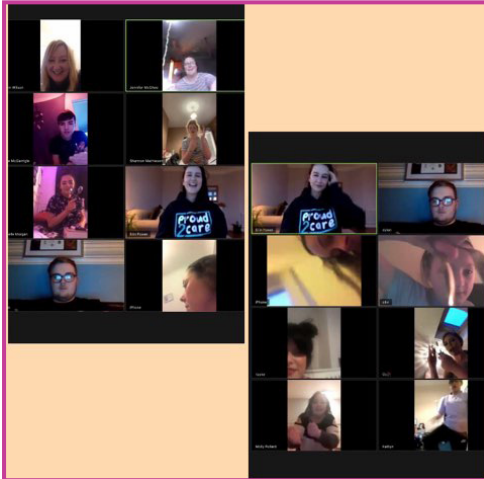
We also surprised everyone with George Bowie who did a GBX set for us! It was an amazing night where we got to make lots of new friends.

COVID-19: RESPONSE



Physically distanced BUT Socially connected!

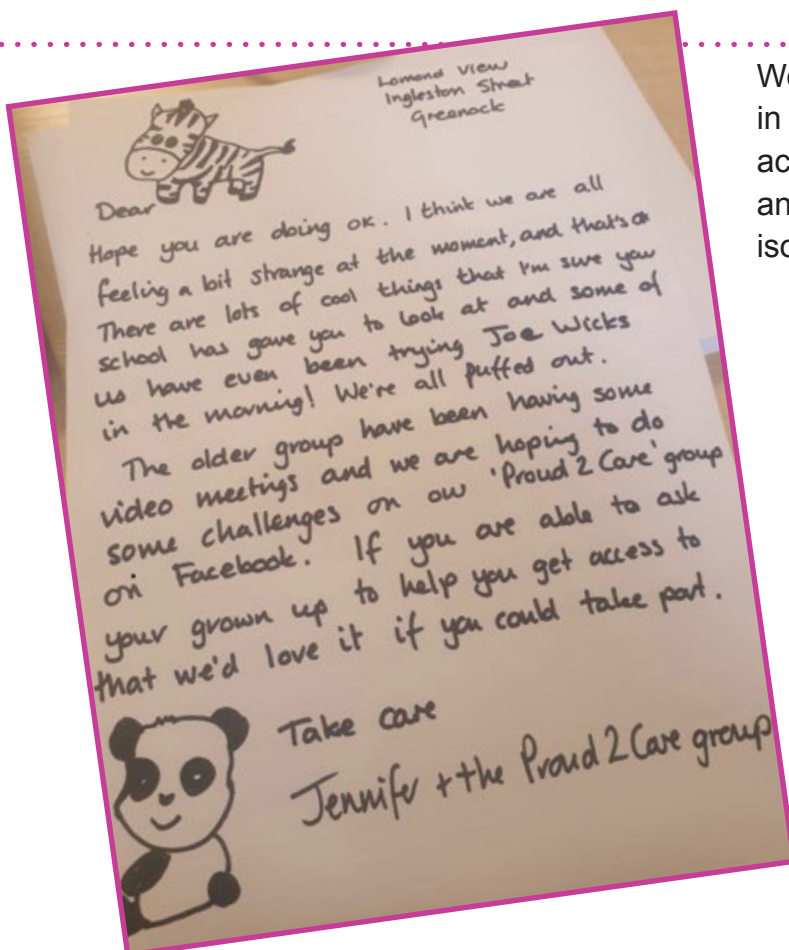
Being technically savvy young people we are now hosting Virtual Group Meetings on our usual Wednesday nights!



Proud2Care had so many things planned for over the coming months, including our Easter Camp activities. However, whilst we are feeling a little anxious and uncertain, we are as connected and creative as ever, we chat together on our Messenger group, play virtual scavenger hunts, quiz nights, sing alongs and support each other using online platforms. We have even tried PE with Joe Wicks and sharing our Tik Tok creations with each other. Creating a Proud2Care Tik Tok resource will be something we aim for over the coming weeks!



Magic Torch will be working with us virtually to develop our comic book. And we have plans in place to interview some of our corporate parents.



We have written a letter that is included in food isolation boxes being distributed across Inverclyde, offering some friendly and positive chat to those who are isolating in our community.





The situation has given us opportunity to do some things we have been thinking about for a while, we have in the past discussed connecting with older people in residential homes as they too are care experienced, we have now become Pen Pals with a residential nursing home, we write weekly letters from Proud2Care to the residents and they write back each week. We have been sharing with the residents who we are, our work on the Champions Board, and the similarities in us all being Care Experienced!

We have agreed that when it is safe to do so we will visit and properly introduce ourselves!



Hello again everyone👋

Thank you for writing back to us, we were really excited when we read your letter and seen your photographs! We hope you are managing to smile, and we feel sad that you can't see family and friends just now but we want you to keep safe and hopefully we can cheer you up each week with a little letter. We are so glad your staff are looking after you well and we hope they are managing to keep smiling, we clap for them every Thursday!

We had a chat at our weekly video group about what kind of things we could write back this week and we see that you guys like to sing, dance and play games, guess what? ...so do we! It got us thinking, maybe some of you could tell us your favourite song and we can try and learn one of them? We could maybe record it and send it for you to listen to. Music is a big thing for us, it really makes us feel good and we sing a lot at our group.

Some of our younger members who are called 'Mini Champs' have been drawing pictures for you to cheer you all up👋. We hope you like them.

When this is all over, we would love to visit! We agree, we don't want you all showing us youngsters up so nothing to crazy!!

Stay safe and look after each other, we will write again next week.

From your new friends at Proud2Care x



A little poem we found, we hope you like it.

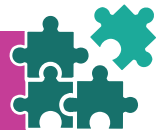


There was a cough and then another
The little cat ran to her mother.
"What can we do?" "We'll, wash your paws,"
Her mother said, "And all your claws.
"We'll stay inside and shut the door.
You'll laugh and hide and read and draw
"And think of all the games you'll play!
You'll sleep and eat and then one day...
"You'll see the door is open wide -
The sun will shine, you'll run outside -
"Just look at how I've grown!" you'll say,
"Since all the time I've been away!"
So wash your paws and don't feel blue
The little cat knows what to do
And wait until the morning when
Our big old world is right again.

- Ursula Dubosarsky



The Champs have also been getting down to business and informing the creation of a Jargon Buster Wall to help children and young people better understand some of the language used by professionals.



Pictured with the Care Review Team and our corporate parents.

Inverclyde Champs were involved in every stage of the Independent Care Review. The Independent Care Review Team came back to Inverclyde to visit once again and thanked us for our contribution.

Our champions board will now be helping to lead the way by assisting HSCP to identify our local priorities from the Independent care review. This will make sure we have a voice right through to the implementation of the priorities where we live.

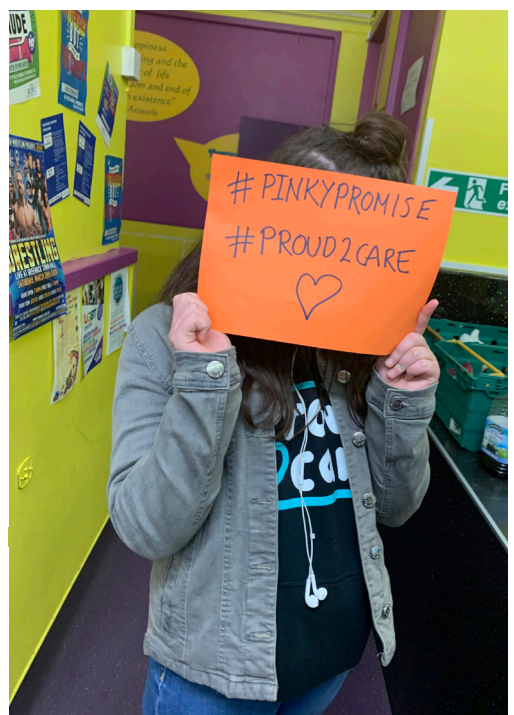
Independent Care Review

the promise

This day is definitely up there with the best days I've had in my life ! And it's all thanks to the proud2care group ❤️ this was the day I won the year of the young people awards for unsung hero and the overall young person of the year! This wouldn't have been possible without the proud2care group that I volunteered with for a long time 💕 as you can see with the photo I was in shock when I received this award 😭😭😭😭😭. When I first started volunteering I wasn't in the best place and volunteering with the kids was my favourite thing to do every other Wednesday 😊 proud2care was there for me every step of the way throughout my care journey good and bad ! I am now a care leaver but Volunteering with these kids totally changed my life around 🥰 and I am now working towards becoming a qualified nursery teacher, this wouldn't have been possible without the group either! I am NOT ashamed of being in care and neither should anyone of us ❤️ we all create our own journeys and stick together every step of the way 💕

We are all one big family ❤️ I love you all
#nationalcareday2020

You might be temporary in their lives, they might be temporary in yours, but there is nothing temporary about the love or the lesson because this is the start of your sweet little story the part where your page meets mine no matter where your tale takes you tomorrow our story will always read LOVE!! ❤️❤️❤️👫👫👫



WHAT NEXT FOR 2020 – 2021?



We are very proud of our achievements so far and move forward with enthusiasm to develop and action our aspirations for 2020.

Some of our planned actions for 2020 include;

- Producing Hugs Kits for young people moving into care inspired by Shannons Boxes.
- Creating a comfort comic as a way of letting young people know they are not alone on their journey
- Setting up positive links with secondary schools across Inverclyde to engage with unidentified care experienced young people and promote the opportunities available to them - widening the Proud2Care Network.
- Developing a model of support within Inverclyde primary schools to connect children, families and teachers to the Proud2Care Network.
- Delivering volunteer training, child protection training, education and employment opportunities for our senior young people.
- Driving forward our 'Connected2Care' initiative.
- Consulting and informing LAAC Medical review.
- Launch our new group leaflets.
- 'Bring your corporate kid' to work day.
- Educating the educators – continue consulting with professionals and support the development of a 'professionals tool box'.
- Build on our Better Hearings partnership and continue influencing the next steps towards Better Hearings.
- Consulting care experienced young people regarding Continuing Care and Housing.
- Developing our 'permanence' information leaflet.
- Continuing to work with the Adoption Team in shaping their service.
- Help give care experienced young people a voice in shaping Throughcare and Continuing Care Reviews.



Number of consultations we have participated in

AREAS RECOGNISED FOR CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT



Going forward we would like to see more Inverclyde care experienced young people engaging with the network. Our challenge, therefore, is to inform staff, organisations, families, communities and care-experienced young people about Champs Board, to ensure care experienced young people know their rights, find their voices and have their voices heard.

We want to see a culture change – we will continue challenging language used, keeping it simple, consistent, non-stigmatising and understandable, for example ‘permanence’ ‘LAAC’ ‘unit’.

Continue building strong trusting relationships with our corporate parents, celebrating what we achieve together, encouraging more corporate parent involvement, developing the membership of representatives, for example the NHS and further education.

Encouraging and nurturing our young people to take more leadership opportunities within in the group, building skills, experience and ownership.

We want to further connect with our community as a group, educating, tackling stigma, building on partnerships, and nurturing our sense of belonging and attachment to where we live or where we have been placed to live.

We will develop our planning outcomes to reflect the recommendations of the National Care Review.



“I have the great privilege of being a corporate parent and a member of the Inverclyde Champions Board. When I was first elected in 2017 I barely knew what my responsibilities as a CP involved. With the thanks of the Proud2care group I now know what these are.

I love being part of the Champions Board, the kids have been so generous with sharing their experiences, opinions and their time. This has helped increase my knowledge of what it's like to be ‘care experienced’, ensuring my decision making at committee is informed and more effective.

The Proud2care group is such a asset to our young folk, you can clearly see the

Cllr Lynne Quinn

support and encouragement they receive. The safe space they provide has created an environment where the kids feel empowered to make their feelings known and also that they are able to suggest changes to the services that are provided to them.

I have been so fortunate to have attended some of the events organised by the Proud2care Group, it is abundantly clear that the kids love being a part of it. It provides support, friendship and continuity in their lives. It is also a chance for the kids to get together and have some fun. I am so fortunate to get to have fun with them too. I'm a proud Corporate Mammy! ”

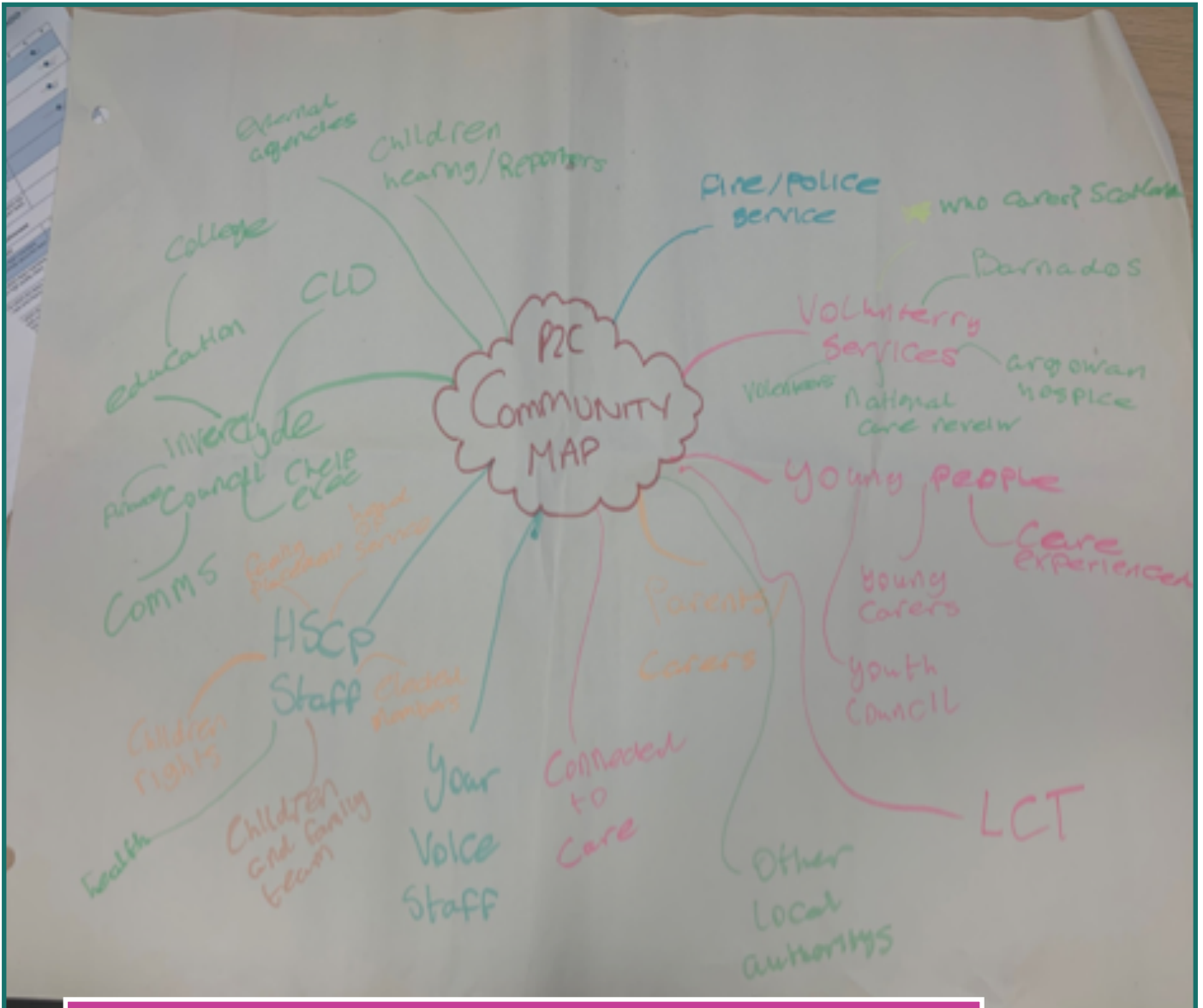


PARTNERSHIPS AND STAKEHOLDERS



Partnership working and resource sharing is central to the success of Proud2Care. On a weekly basis we have support from HCSP, Inverclyde Council and Your Voice to support us in the facilitation of our weekly groups alongside supporting engagements, consultations, administrative tasks, networking and planning.

Over the last 3 years we have worked with a diverse range of partners who have all contributed to the success of proud2care.



Community mapping diagram

#CONNECTED2CARE

#PROUD2HEAR

#PROUD2CARE



"I would like to tell you all a little bit about what proud2care means to me. I heard about Proud2care at college when two individuals came in with volunteering opportunities. They explained that the group is for care experienced young people to come together to make positive changes within care. As a care experienced adult who grew up in Inverclyde and had both good and bad experiences, I was instantly intrigued. I thought wow, this is something I would definitely like to get involved with so, I signed up. During my time volunteering I experienced first-hand the positive impact the group has for the young people. It provides them with a secure and comfortable environment where they can come together and share their experiences of care both good and bad. Where they can leave stigma at the door and feel free to talk fluently and openly without the fear of discrimination or offending anyone. Where their voices are heard, valued, encouraged and supported.

Care Experienced Adult Volunteer

I feel a real sense of belonging within proud2care that I struggled to find as a care experienced young person. A sense of belonging I then sought in dangerous environments. I keep thinking of my own experience of care wishing that proud2care had been around. The positive impact it could have brought to my life is undeniable. To experience that sense of belonging in a secure safe environment, to feel valued and supported and to be educated about my rights could have been just enough to reduce the feelings of low self-worth, lack of confidence, vulnerability and anxiety I went on to experience in early adulthood.

The bravery and drive I see in the young people that attend proud2care is inspiring. I am proud of them and everything they have achieved and so pleased to be able to support them in making care a better experience in Inverclyde."



"I think the Proud2Care is a brilliant support for looked after young people and their carers.

It helps the young person meet other looked after young people, share how they feel, understand that there are many people like them.

It also encourages them to discuss and enables them to be involved in improving the services that support them.

They also arrange lots of fun activities with them, take them on outings during holiday periods.

All the above is a great support for me as a carer.

Also, I know that as the workers all build good relationships with our young people if I had concerns I could speak to the workers who would try to talk with my young person to address any issues. Thank you Proud2Care. "

Foster parent



Proud2Care has given both our niece and nephew a sense of responsibility and feelings of achievement. It is a great place for the kids to feel a sense of belonging and bonded with other young people in the community, which inevitably boosts their self-esteem and wellbeing.

A & MM
Kinship Carers



“Proud 2 Care group has been an outstanding influence on my daughter. A safe and open environment to openly discuss issues facing young people today, from her unique perspective as she trawls her way through the teenage years. She is inspired by her mentors at P2C, as well as her peers and has been able to increase her social skills as well transferring them to other aspects of her life at home, school and her life in general. Her coping strategies have been enhanced as well since she joined the group and she speaks highly and fondly of those that she now considers as role models.

As a parent, it is highly encouraging to see her develop her social skills, considering the pressures of the adolescent world today that kids are under, particularly with modern technologies and social networking, how the group have embraced this to further encourage my daughter to safely manage this, has been absolutely terrific. The work the group do should be championed, as given the complex needs of children with experience in care, P2C have no doubt produced a first class group for them all to share their varying experiences.”

I.D, Adoptive Parent

“Having first taken up post for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) as Station Commander for the Inverclyde locality 2018. I was heartened to see the approach being taken by council partners in Inverclyde to support young people with experiences in care. As a member of the Champions Board I will continue to deliver on the SFRS commitment to ensuring that the needs of looked after children and care experienced people are considered in its policy, planning and performance.

SFRS proactively support young people in Inverclyde by regularly hosting our Fire Skills programme at both Greenock and Port Glasgow with teamwork, communications skills, first aid, fire safety and personal resilience a few of the life skills that are developed during our 4 day course. Crews from the local fire stations regularly attend events the Proud2Care team deliver with the Corporate Kick About in October 2019 in support of National Care Week being a particular joy for the Amber Watch from Greenock fire station (they would have played all night).

The Proud2Care events I have attended have been excellent with the planning, delivery and passion displayed by our young people a joy to see. I look forward to supporting the Proud2Care team and the young people of Inverclyde in the coming years and guarantee the continued support from the SFRS team in Inverclyde”

M.M Station Commander

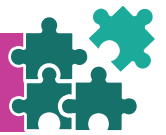
“The group has been a breath of fresh air for our young people. They look forward to meeting friends there without the pressures and stigma attached to going to other clubs in the community. They clearly feel this is a safe space for them and they trust the staff there. I feel it’s crucial for their development to be able to see other people with similar stories, surviving and enjoying life.

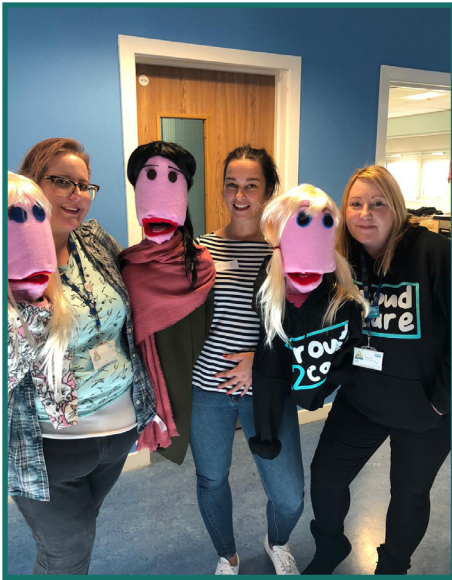
We have even had a young person attend who has refused to engage in any other community based activities but yet has gone along to the group and really enjoyed it, looking forward to the next meeting.

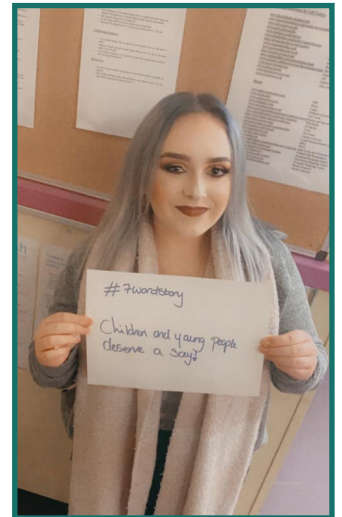
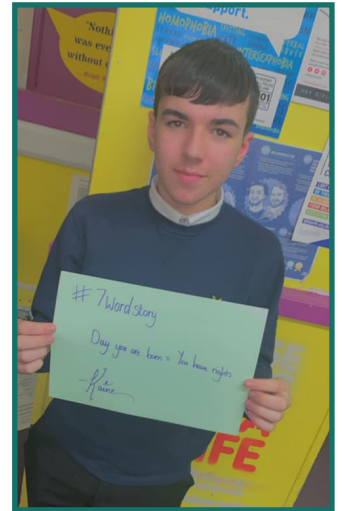
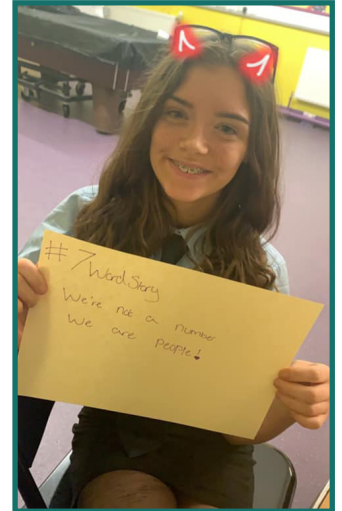
Amidst this lockdown, the online alternative offered has been something our YP have looked forward to despite our technological difficulties at first.”

**G.R.
Residential Manager**

PHOTO GALLERY

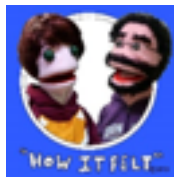






THANK YOU!

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This report was co produced by Proud2Care and staff
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