

Midlothian Champions Board – Monday the 18th of June 2018

Attendees- AS, JB, DM, CK, JP, LH, KG, SD, BL, SM, MK, KB,

Food + cost- pizzas £17.75

Time	What	Who
5pm	All arrived, set up activity's	All
5:15pm	We began doing activities for the first minister question time. This was done with activities first to determine which topic they were most interested in and what they wanted to change. We had a good variety of questions which I will attach below.	All
5:50pm	DM went for pizza	Demi
6pm	We stopped for some pizza	All
6:30pm	We gathered as a larger group and helped the young people to fill out their volunteer registration form (saltire award)	All
6:45pm	We discussed with the young people what they wanted to do in the year and when they wanted to do it. They decided that they wanted to do the kilt walk as a champion's group raising money for who cares? Scotland who have supported them all at some point. They also decided that they would like for one representative from each priority to come along before the event in October to let the young people know what they do and how they could help. James said that he would be happy to be in charge of a Midlothian Champions Instagram account to record what we are doing through that. Some of the young people said that they would be interested in meeting with researchers to do a piece of work regarding foster care break down.	All
7:30pm	Everyone made their own way home and AS took KG home and JB took LH home.	All

Email to FMQT

Good evening,

I am AS

I run a group in Midlothian along with other council workers.

The purpose of our group is to gather the views of care experienced young people in Midlothian. These young people dedicate their time to us and we invite corporate parents and decision makers from the council to hear their views and what needs to be changed.

They were very privileged to be a part of this and have a few questions they came up with in a group and others done ones on their own.

Please find a list of their questions for the first minister;

Question 1

Name; K - Age; 13

Local Authority; Midlothian

Chosen format; Health and Social Care

Question; Why do medical staff only need 40 % to pass any exam at university when other professionals need 100% to pass at college (for example beauticians)?

Do you not feel that medical staff should have a higher percentage to pass as there is more responsibility in saving citizens lives?

Are you 100% certain that the least amount of deaths necessary are caused, with staff being passed at the level they are, and with the little amount of experience they need to go into the field on their own?

Why this question is important to me: I've had personal experience of losing someone very close to me where I feel that the medical team involved were inexperienced and did not know enough to deal with the care of a loved one.

Question 2

Name: K - Age: 17

Local Authority; Midlothian

Chosen format; Housing

Question; Why is there very little support in things that we need the most help with when going into adult life? Not only for care experienced young people but all young people without a good support network. Why is it not mandatory for all secondary school pupils to carry out lessons around life skills.

Why is this important to me; The housing system in Scotland guarantees that all care experienced young people will end up homeless when leaving care, with a lot of the time having to miss a lot of education due to placement moves and meetings. When moving into a tenancy it is difficult to keep up to date with rent, paperwork and bills especially when this is something I've never seen done before. There is a lot of uncertainty over when I'll gain my own tenancy and what that looks like with very little support throughout the experience.

Question 3

Name; M - Age; 17

Local Authority; Midlothian

Chosen format; Housing

Question; Within temporary accommodation/ shared accommodation why is there not a "test" carried out on all people living there to stop people who want to do well in life with addicts and offenders etc?

Why this is important to me; Being from a care experience background I'm in a homeless accommodation with a mixture of people from all different backgrounds, being a young female it's difficult for me due to the way these people make me think and feel. I'm the only person wishing the unit who works and pays rent yet I'm sleep deprived due to the loud music, drug dealings and fire alarms going on due to people smoking and police questions due to others behaviours, I also lack sleep due to the concern over my personal belongings and myself due to the convicted criminals who surround me. I feel very intimidated being the only female in the house with other residents trying to pressure me into taking drugs and carrying out illegal actions all of this has had an impact on my mental health and has been made worse because of concerns around my safety, sleeping situation and personal belongings.

Question 4

Name; C - Age; 18

Local Authority; Midlothian

Chosen format; Housing

Question; Do you feel there should be more options for a care experience young people in emergency situations when moving?

Do you think we should consider having automatic housing for care experience young people?

Why it's important to me; There's a lot of uncertainty when moving from a foster care placement

Question 5

Name; J - Age; 15

Local Authority; Midlothian

Chosen format; Law

Question; Do you feel we could extend the speed limit on motorways in order to commute faster?

Question 6

Name; SM - Age; 18

Local Authority; Midlothian

Question; Do you feel there should be more support with travel expenses for young people? Do you feel that a one payment type system for all transport types, such as an Oyster card?

Why it's important to me; I live in Midlothian and study at the other end of Edinburgh, this takes me 2 hours to travel each day to get to college often buying a day pass on the bus however if I miss the bus gone I'm unable to use any other mode of transport without wasting money

Question 7

Name; S - Age; 15

Local Authority; Midlothian

Chosen format; Energy

Question; Do you feel that Scotland should use more renewable energy sources?

Why this is important to me; Within the long run this would save more money as a country.

Question 8

Name; B Age; 15

Local Authority; Midlothian

Question; Do you feel there should be more consequences for bullies in schools?

Why this is important to me; too many young people take their own life due to the bullying that occurs throughout schools and workplaces, care experienced young people have more reasons to be bullied. Having a fear of a safe place is the worst type of fear of all

Question 9

Name; SM - Age; 18

Local Authority; Midlothian

Question; Do you feel there should be more support for care experienced young people to compete studies without being labelled?

Why this is important to me; in order to get support as a care experienced young person you have to tick the box on the form, which I feel labels me however all young people who need additional support should be offered this support in order to continue further education that is offered to them.

Question 10

Name; Midlothian Champions Board

Age; 13 to 23

Local authority; Midlothian

Question; Do you feel that it's appropriate for parental rights to not be taken away from parents when the child under 16, has no relationship with the parents, and has no intentions to?

Why this is important to me; More often than not when a child is placed outwith the family home the parents will stop a young person in care from doing something just because they have parental rights and it makes the person feel empowered. Many of our young people can't get passports due to parents refusal of signing it or do have passports but use the power of parental rights to refute the child from leaving the country on holiday this is just one example of many cases and circumstances that mean parents who are unfit and unable to look after their children use their "rights" to ensure get their child is not happy. When will children's rights come into practice?

Thank you very much for your time

We appreciate this opportunity and would be eternally grateful if we were able to ask you these questions on the 12th of September this year.

Please pass all replies to AS

Yours sincerely

Kind regards

AS

Participation Assistant

Midlothian Champions Board

Midlothian Council

Reply

Dear A,

Please pass on my thanks to the group for submitting a question for FMQT Next Generation. The young people's Design Team are meeting on the 27th June to look at all of the questions that have been sent in and to choose which ones will be asked at the event.

We will get in touch with everyone following the meeting to let you know if your question has been chosen.

Best wishes,

Emma

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