



CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE

Free Bus Travel for 23-30 year olds

Champions for Change (South Ayrshire Champions Board) provides a platform for children, young people adults with care experience to have their voices heard and to ensure they have a bigger say in the decisions that affect their lives.

Young people told us that the cost of transport was prohibitive to them after their National free travel card period ceases at age 22. Funding was secured for a trial period of 25 free bus travel passes for across Ayrshire for young people between the ages 23-30, who are care experienced.

At present 16 annual free travel passes have been issued.

The young people who responded to the consultation have told us that they have found the free travel pass hugely beneficial to them .

The free bus pass has contributed to improving their mental health and has helped to reduce anxiety around having to pay for bus fare. This has allowed the young people to be more active in their communities too by accessing work, leisure, learning and shopping opportunities.



Consultation took place with the young people who had been issued an annual free travel pass to find out how they were using their pass and the difference it was making to them.

Consultation Results

- There was a 70% response rate.
- The average age of people who participated was 25.
- The majority of young people who responded found out about the free bus travel initiative from Champions for Change.
- All of the participants found the application process easy or extremely easy.
- All of the young people who responded have used their bus pass for health appointments and to see their family/friends. Other journeys included to go to work, college/uni, shopping, or to access leisure facilities.

THANK YOU !

"It has saved me a lot of stress and worry"

"It has been good for my mental health"

"It has given me the freedom to do more activities. It motivates me to get up and take my children places I wouldn't be able to due to cost of bus fares. I am able to spend it on the kids going to cinema or buying them shoes, etc without the worry of making sure I can get to and from work."