

The logo for 'Champions Boards' features the words 'CHAMPIONS' and 'BOARDS' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font with a 3D effect. The text is set against a dark blue, jagged-edged shape that resembles a superhero's chest emblem. This shape is surrounded by a white dotted pattern on a light blue background.

Champions Boards Evaluation Methodology and Framework

A Reference Guide for the Champions Board Impact and Learning Report

Care Experienced Young People
Programme

January 2018

The following is an overview of the methodological approach and evaluation framework behind the Life Changes Trust's [Champions Board Impact and Learning Report: Year One](#). Should you have any queries or need additional information, please contact Celeste Berteau, Senior Insight and Evaluation Officer for the Care Experienced Young Person team at celeste.berteau@lifechangestrust.org.uk.

Methodology Overview

Self-Evaluation

The Life Changes Trust requires all of its projects to self-evaluate and reflect on their own progress throughout their funding award. We believe that self-evaluation is crucial for creating a culture of learning and improvement, in which projects reflect on their activities, progress and outcomes for care experienced young people. As such, we provide support to each project in the form of the Trust's [Funding Evaluation Framework](#), online [Toolkit](#), and personalised support in creating robust and proportionate monitoring and self-evaluation plans.

As part of their funding requirements, Trust-funded Champions Boards are required to report back on their learning and outcomes. Reporting includes brief quarterly monitoring reports in addition to more in-depth reporting every six months. All Champions Boards are encouraged to submit additional evidence in the forms of flyers, poster, photographs, films, reports, activity plans, etc.

Data Sources

The data used in the Champions Board Impact and Learning Report came from three main sources. The first source of data was reporting documents submitted by the Champions Boards who completed their first year of Life Changes Trust funding in 2017.

The second source of data was the results of the first annual 'Scorecard' survey for Champions Boards, which was conducted by Social Value Lab, an independent research and development organisation. The Scorecard survey was distributed to young people, Corporate Parents, and other stakeholders involved in each Champions Board. Respondents answered questions about the make-up and purpose of their Champions Board, participation, communication, impact, and learning and improvements.

This independently collected and analysed Scorecard data complements Champions Boards' self-evaluation data, making the overall data more robust and supporting the exploration of any inconsistencies in responses. This data also helps us to mitigate potential biases that arise in self-evaluation data.

For example, we can now say with confidence that the experience of Champions Boards is similar for both care experienced young people and professionals; when analysed separately, the views expressed by the young people were largely in line with the views of others who participated in the survey, and the same pattern held true when analysing the data from each individual Local Authority area.

The final source of data was observational notes based on meetings, phone calls, and other interactions between Life Changes Trust staff and Champions Board members and staff.

Coding, Analysis, and Feedback Processes

All qualitative data (see [Data Types](#) for more detailed information) was thematically coded and entered into an internal database for analysis. In the first year, the thematic areas which emerged were:

- Outcomes for Young People
- Outcomes for Organisations
- Partnership Working
- Additional Benefits (outwith Trust Funding)
- Common Challenges
- Key Learning

Quantitative evidence (see [Data Types](#) for more information on our key indicators) was aggregated across all Champions Boards and used as a check against the qualitative claims of the Champions Boards.

Initial Findings and Stakeholder Feedback

Once initial findings had been synthesised and quantitative data had been aggregated, these findings were fed back to key stakeholders including Life Changes Trust staff, care experienced young people involved with Champions Boards, and Champions Board staff. In particular, a session was held with Champions Board Participation Assistants to ensure that the Trust's findings matched their experiences of supporting a Champions Board on the ground. Some additional challenges and barriers were flagged during this feedback session, which have been included in the final report.

Overarching Evaluation Framework

The following evaluation questions, data types, and outcomes will be used throughout the lifetime of the Life Changes Trust Champions Board Initiative. Please note that not all questions in the framework are addressed in the Year One report. Additional reports are planned to be released annually until 2020, with smaller scale Learning Briefs published at intervals between.

Evaluation Crosswalk

These questions have been broken down by the type of data which will be used to address them. Further explanation of the various data types and an explanation of the outcomes codes can be found below.

Evaluation Question	Document Analysis	Key Indicators	Champions Board Scorecard	Network Feedback	Interviews/ Focus Groups	Trust Observation
What Makes a Champions Board?						
What does it mean for a Champions Board to be successful?	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
What is the need/context for Champions Boards? How has it changed throughout the initiative?	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
What are the underpinning values of a successful Champs Board?	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
What does it take to 'make' a Champions Board? (Inputs, Enabling factors)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
What barriers to success do Champions Boards commonly face?	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

What role does geography play in the success of a Champions Board?	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
What role does organisational structure play in the success of a Champions Board?	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
How do Champions Boards build and sustain meaningful participation?	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
What role does partnership working play in the success of a Champions Board?	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Learning and Improvement Network						
What role does the Champions Board Learning and Improvement Network played in the success of Champions Boards?	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Key Learning						
What has been the key learning for those involved with Champions Boards? (Staff, Participants, and Funders)	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓

What impact have Champions Boards had?						
Do Champions Boards provide benefits to the care experienced young people who are involved in them? If so, what are these benefits? How do these occur? If not, why not? <i>(Outcomes: B1; B2; B3; CBO1A-C)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Do Champions Boards strengthen the knowledge, skills, or capacity of the organisations involved? If so, what are these benefits? How do these occur? If not, why not? <i>(Outcomes: O1; O2; CBO2A-C)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Do Champions Boards enable policy and practice to be more responsive to the needs of care experienced young people overall? If so, in what ways have this occurred? If not, why not? <i>(Outcomes: B3; P1; O1; CBO3A-C)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Do Champions Boards raise public perception of care experienced young people? If so, do they shift that perception (either positively or negatively)? <i>(Outcomes C1; CBO4A-B)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Do Champions Boards lead to concrete changes in service provisions for care experienced young people? If so, in what ways have this occurred? If not, why not? <i>(Outcomes B4; B5; B6; P1; CBO5A-E)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
What additional and/or unexpected outcomes have Champions Boards achieved?	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓

Were the changes made by Champions Boards led by care experienced young people?	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Were the changes made by Champions Boards sustainable and transformational?	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗

Data Types

Documents:

Analysis of documents including self-evaluation monitoring reports, blog posts, research projects, press releases, newspaper articles, informational flyers, films, photographs, and feedback sessions.

Key Indicators:

Quantitative data submitted by Champions Boards, aggregated in Microsoft Excel.

- **CB1:** Number of care experienced young people (CEYP) involved in Champions Boards and related activities (by placement type)
- **CB2:** Number of young people attending Champions Boards and related activities on more than one instance
- **CB3:** Number of representatives from service providers and corporate parents attending Champions Boards and related activities
- **CB4:** Number of practitioners and carers attending training to strengthen relationship-based practice
- **CB5:** Number of sessions to support involvement of CEYP
- **CB6:** Number of substantive changes in policy or practice affecting CEYP as a result of Champions Boards
- **CB7:** Number of opportunities taken to raise public awareness of CEYP

Champions Board Scorecard:

An independent survey administered and analysed by Social Value Lab, an externally contracted research organisation. The year one survey was distributed to participants in each Champions Board in 2016 and resulted in an overall response rate of 35%. The majority of

respondents were local authority representatives (36%), followed by care experienced young people (28%), third sector representatives (16%), other public sector representatives (15%) and others (5%).

Topics surveyed include: The Makeup of the Champions Board; The Purpose of the Champions Board; Participation in the Champions Board; Communication within the Champions Board; Impacts of the Champions Board; Learning and Improvement.

Network Feedback:

Feedback collected at Champions Board Learning and Improvement Network Events and feedback obtained through post-event surveys. All feedback was analysed internally by Life Changes Trust Programme Staff.

Interviews / Focus Groups:

Notes from semi-structured and unstructured conversations with groups and individuals (staff and participants) regarding various aspects of their experience of their Champions Boards.

Trust Observational Data:

Internal notes from project visits, phone calls, meeting minutes, and network days, also thematically coded and analysed by Programme Staff.

Outcomes

Care Experienced Young People Programme Outcomes

Beneficiary Outcomes

- B1.** I have more opportunities to develop positive relationships
- B2.** I have increased opportunities to be an active citizen
- B3.** I have more opportunities to shape and influence policy and practice relating to my life
- B4.** I have good education and/or employment prospects
- B5.** I have improved emotional well-being
- B6.** I have a good place to live

Organisational Outcomes

O1. More organisations support relationship-based practice

O2. More organisations working with care experienced young people (CEYP) can demonstrate meaningful participation by CEYP

Community Outcomes

C1. Communities have more opportunities to understand and support CEYP

Policy Outcomes

P1. National, regional and local policy and practice is increasingly 'care proofed'

Champions Board Initiative Outcomes:

CBO1: Care experienced young people benefit from involvement in Champions Boards

- **A:** Care experienced young people develop positive relationships through Champions Boards and related support.
- **B:** Care experienced young people become active in their communities.
- **C:** Care experienced young people develop the confidence and skills to influence policy/practice relating to their lives.

CBO2: Organisations Strengthen Their Commitment, Knowledge, Skills and Capacity

- **A:** The conditions are in place for relationship-based practice.
- **B:** Corporate Parents and service providers have improved understanding of the needs and aspirations of care experienced young people (CEYP).
- **C:** More organisations working with CEYP can demonstrate meaningful participation of care experienced young people in planning and supporting improvements.

CBO3: Policy and Practice Become More Responsive to Care Experienced Young People

- **A:** Care experienced young people (CEYP), and those engaged with them (practitioners, carers, volunteers), have influence on decisions that affect them
- **B:** Policy and practice is increasingly responsive to the needs and aspirations of CEYP
- **C:** Partners work together effectively across sectors and services to implement agreed changes in policy and practice

CBO4: Public Awareness and Attitudes Become Increasing Positive towards Care Experienced Young People

- **A:** The issues facing care experienced young people (CEYP) are more visible and better understood by members of the public.
- **B:** The work of the Champions Board inspires local communities in their interaction with, and support for CEYP.

CBO5: Care Experienced Young People Benefit from Service Improvements

- **A:** Care experienced young people (CEYP) live in a place that suits their needs (accommodation).
- **B:** CEYP have improved educational attainment (education).
- **C:** CEYP have improved employment opportunities (employment).
- **D:** CEYP live healthy lives (health and wellbeing).
- **E:** CEYP live their lives free from crime, disorder and danger (criminal justice).

Getting in touch

If you have any queries or wish to share your views and ideas, you can contact us in a number of ways:

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**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**



The Life Changes Trust was established by the Big Lottery Fund with a National Lottery grant of £50 million to drive transformational improvements in the quality of life, well-being, empowerment and inclusion of people affected by dementia and young people with experience of being in care.