# Transcript – CELCIS blog – Champs Board – Maggie Kay

My name is Maggie Kay, I'm a teacher of computing science. I'm also the care experience lead for the South Ayrshire Champions board at Belmont Academy. I was prompted to start this club due to my own care experience as a young person. When I was growing up, I kept running away from school. And I was allocated a social worker. And it was my PE teacher, who took me under her wing, Morag (?). And if I hadn't been for her, I may have gone off the rails completely. I think is really important to have somebody that actually understands you, as a young person. I had interviewed every single pupil on the care experienced list at Belmont Academy, which was 57. They wanted somewhere to chill out. Some where they could go, if they were having a bad time. And it's not always easy in a school with 1300. pupils. They wanted somewhere they could be alone if they needed to be alone. After interviewing all the young people around about October time, I started the club on a Friday in my own room. And Dawn, Isaac and Alex from the Champions Board came along, and we provide lunch. And initially, they were really withdrawn really shy. So, they come along, they just have the lunch and we would chat, and then we start the more serious notes of right, you guys decide what is it you want? They decided that they wanted the room, we got the room, Tracy gave me the room, then we were given the budget. We received £6000 Initially, then we managed to up it to £10,000. The young people themselves chose everything they wanted. My input is just simply to be there to support them if they need support and be there to answer any questions if they want any questions answered, or be there to guide them on any issues they have. It's not like a guidance role. It's more like, right you guys decided on this furniture when the designer comes in. It's giving them the voice, it's given them the voice within the school, it's given them voice to speak at the champions board, it's given them the voice to speak to staff. The young people form groups, and we all give them maybe a list or a survey to ask them what their top priorities are for this room. And for what they want to do. So, the top priorities were the chill room, more activities, more clubs to attend. And longer – they are desperate to have longer time for the club. South Ayrshire Council Champions Board have now involved and more. This is the first summer that they've been taking them out and about. Again, it's them that have asked for that. It is the young people have asked for it. We are there to make sure they get that. And it's their decisions to buy the furniture, it’s their decision how they want the room laid out. Everything is about them. The Lunch Club has provided a safe and secure environment for the young care experience pupils within Belmont Academy. It gives them a place where they feel they can talk about anything. They can talk about their care experience and that has come on hugely. The young people that are coming along at first wouldn't even give you a contact and now they're coming in and they'll talk about anything. We're seeing more and more non care experience young people asking the care experienced young people, can we come along to the club? What you're doing at the club? And again, initially, they would not have spoken about it. But now, they'll say, well, we do this and we do that - well I want to come. This stigma has certainly been removed because we've done raising awareness sessions at assembly The pupils have put PowerPoints together to raise awareness. They don't feel different now. They feel Yeah, it's actually okay to be care experienced. It's quite normal because of the club. Staff have started coming along to the club just to find out what it is we do. Oh, I wasn't aware that this pupil was care experienced. So, it's raised awareness because care expedience young people don't look any different. I'd love to see the Champions Board expanding totally within the school. I'd like to see more staff being involved perhaps more non care experienced pupils meeting up with care experienced pupils, forming positive relationships. And I'd like to see a much bigger room. One of the problems as this is not a huge room, you couldn't fit 60 care experienced young people in here. And I'd like to see every young care experience person within the school come along.

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