

## **ECYE11. Falkirk/Young Scot – Looked after Children Project Update**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the progress and impact of Falkirk's Attainment Challenge Funded - Young Scot Looked After Children Project.

Falkirk's Young Scot Looked After Children Project was part of the national Scottish Attainment Challenge Initiative. The Project was identified as a means of supporting and progressing the positive work of Falkirk Champions Board and it attracted £100k of funding. The Project targeted three specific care experienced groups: Kinship; Looked after at home, and Care leavers/continuing care.

The three main priority areas that if improved would support and improve outcomes for care experienced young people were: access to travel; access to leisure, and support with mental health and wellbeing.

75 care experienced young people were offered: Free travel; Free leisure access, and Young Scot Rewards. These entitlements were accessed using their Young Scot National Entitlement Cards. The outcomes achieved were:-

- From September 2019 young people made over 3,000 bus journeys, saving them an estimated £3,000.
- Young people were given access to a Falkirk Community Trust Leisure Membership.
- Young people taking part in the Project accessed vouchers for supermarkets, clothes, and entertainment.
- The young people earned Young Scot Rewards points for completing surveys, attending workshops, youth groups and extra-curricular activities which they could exchange for these rewards.
- When lockdown restrictions allowed, the young people were able to exchange their points for driving lessons and vouchers for coffee shops.

Up to 31 March 2021, c£46,000 had been expended on the project which left a balance of c£54,000 in the current year. As a result of Covid the Scottish Government had agreed to allow the balance of funding to be carried over to 2021/22.

### **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive agreed to proceed with the project in 2021/22 to further progress the aims and outcomes as detailed in section 3 and 4 of the report.**