

**‘Stay Connected’**

**Application Form and Guidance**

**Introduction**

**What is the ‘Stay Connected’ Fund?**

The ‘Stay Connected Fund’ is provided by South Ayrshire Champions Board in response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak and the isolation measures imposed on the whole population. The funding is aimed at supporting the wellbeing of young people with care experience during this time and focuses on the following:

* Coping with social distancing and isolation
* Improving/maintaining mental health
* Improving/maintaining physical wellbeing and health
* Creative outputs/activities

While the ‘Stay Connected’ Fund is focused on supporting your overall wellbeing, we understand that some people may also be experiencing financial pressures or hardship as a result of the Coronavirus. Further guidance on the support available to address emergency needs can be found at:

* [www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19)
* <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you-s>

**Am I eligible?**
You are eligible to apply for this funding if you:

* are between the ages of 14-26 (no older than 26 at point of application)
* have at least three months of care experience (which can include kinship care, foster care, secure care, residential care or being looked after at home)
* We will have to prioritise young people who are looked after by South Ayrshire because we are the Champions Board for this area. Please send us your application anyway and we can tell you about other Champions Boards or funding in your area.

**What can I apply for?**

We are aware that the current coronavirus outbreak will be impacting everyone’s life in different ways. Through these individual grants we want to support you to cope with the current social distancing measures and look after your overall wellbeing.

You can apply for a range of items that will support you in the next few months. Please demonstrate how these will positively impact your wellbeing in the immediate future when you fill in the application form, below.

**We have specifically ring-fenced some of this funding to invite young people to apply for £240.00 which will cover one year’s worth of mobile phone data.**

Other ideas of what you could apply for are, gym/exercise equipment, hobby materials to pursue a pastime such as art or music, or a subscription to an online learning service or magazine.

These are just examples though – we want to know what will support you and enable you to stay connected during this challenging time.

**How much can I apply for?**

The **maximum grant** you can apply for is **£250**.

**What makes a good application?**

We want this to be a simple application process for you. We are looking for applications that:

* answer each question
* are clear about your current circumstances
* detail exactly what you are applying for
* explain the difference this funding will make to your life at this time

**Eligibility**

**Please answer the following eligibility questions before starting your application:**

1. Are you currently aged 14 to 26? [ ]
2. Do you have at least 3 months experience of care? [ ]
3. Do you currently live in South Ayrshire / [ ]

been cared for in South Ayrshire?

If your answer to these three questions is ‘**yes**’ you are eligible to apply for an award from the ‘Get Connected’ fund. If your answer to any of these questions is ‘**no**’ then you are not eligible to apply.

**Contact**

If you have any questions or would like further support or advice before completing your application please email: Dawn.parker@south-ayrshire.gov.uk or Marion.young@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

**Please Check**

Before returning your form, please check you have:

* Answered every question [ ]
* Provided us with all your contact details [ ]
* Provided us with your referee’s contact details [ ]
* Signed the form (Electronic (typed) is acceptable) [ ]

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM VIA EMAIL TO**

**Marion.young@south-ayrshire.gov.uk**

**Section A: Personal Details**

**This section is for internal use only and will not be taken into consideration as part of the assessment process. Please make sure to give us your contact details so we can let you know the outcome of your application.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **First Name(s):**  | **Surname:**  |
| **Date of Birth:**  | **Gender:** Male [ ]  Female [ ]  Other [ ]   |
| **Address:** |  |
| **Email:**  | **Telephone:**  |
| **Do you consider yourself to have a disability?** Yes [ ]  No [ ]  (A disability can be a physical or mental condition which affects your day to day life. It can take many forms e.g. needing to use a wheelchair, long term illness, severe asthma, dyslexia, depression or anxiety)If ‘Yes’, please describe:  |

|  |
| --- |
| We would like to know what kind of care you have experienced. You can tick more than one box. |
| * Have you been in foster care like Olivia?
 | * Have you been in residential care like Alex?
 | * Have you been in kinship care like Chloe?
 |
|  |  | https://www.iainforrestphotography.co.uk/v/nr/bdl/f399b0709717251f261de1ag56w/DSC_2282.jpg |
| * Are you a care leaver like Issac?
 | * Have you experienced secure care?
 | * Have you ever been looked after at home under a supervision order?
 |
|  | Would you like to add anything else about your care experience? |

**Were you in care for three months or more?** Yes: [ ]  No: [ ]

If none of these apply to you, or they do not satisfactorily describe your circumstances, please use the space below to give further details:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Section B**: **Your Application**

**Please tick the box(es) of the thematic area(s) you feel your application is most relevant to:**

* Coping with social distancing and isolation [ ]
* Improving/maintaining mental health [ ]
* Improving/maintaining physical wellbeing and health [ ]
* Creative outputs/activities [ ]

|  |
| --- |
| **Please describe how the current COVID-19 situation has impacted your life.**For instance:* Who do you live with (e.g. alone, with friend / flatmate, family, carers etc)?
* Prior to the current outbreak, who did you spend most of your time with and how has this changed?
* If you are employed or in education, can you provide details of your job or course and how this has changed following the outbreak?
* What challenges have you faced?
* What hobbies/activities have been impacted by COVID-19?
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| **What do you need that will support your wellbeing over the next few months?**Please address the following in your answer;* What you are applying for?
* Explain how what you are applying for will support your wellbeing?
* What difference will this make to your immediate living situation?
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|  |

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| --- |
| **How much are you applying for?** |
| Please note if you are applying for **£240.00** to cover one year’s worth of mobile phone data please tick this box:  |
| For other grant requests please complete the table below with a breakdown of costs |
| **Item***E.g. Guitar* | **Cost***£120* |
|   |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Total Request** |  |

**Section C**: **Your** **Reference, Data Protection Information and Signature**

**Reference**

All applicants must be able to provide a reference that can verify your care experience - e.g. a social worker, an advocate, a foster carer, teacher or support worker.

Please provide their details here:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Address:  |  |
| Email: |  |
| Phone Number:  |  |
| Relationship to You:  |  |

**Please note that we will e-mail your reference on receipt of your application before our assessment process begins.**

**Your Information**

In this section, you can read how The Champions Board will look after your data. By signing the box above, you are indicating that you have read this and consent to the Trust holding and processing your personal data for the purposes below.

If you do grant consent, please note you can withdraw consent to all or any one of the above purposes at any time by contacting Dawn.Parker@south-ayrshire.gov.uk Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent but this will not affect any personal data that has already been processed prior to this point

**What happens to the information in this application once you submit it?**

The Champions Board keeps all the information you’ve provided private and secure. In order to keep track of how many applications we have received, we are planning on keeping this information for the length of the Individual Grants fund.

We will not share any personal, identifiable information about you outwith our organisation. The only information from applications which we may share outwith our organisation is how many applications were received, what types of requests they were, what levels of funding were applied for, and where applications came from. All of these would be totals, and none of this information would be connected to any individual.

We may use the personal contact information in this application to:

* Follow up for further information from you
* Offer feedback on your application
* Get in touch with your references
* Let you know the outcome of your application

# Data Protection

**How do we process your personal data?**

The Champions Board meets data protection regulations and the GDPR by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or keeping unnecessary amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

We will not disclose your personal information with a third party/third parties.

Your personal data will be sorted and stored securely on The Champions Board electronic and paper filing systems.

**We will use your personal data for the following purposes:**

* To assess your application
* To inform you of our decision regarding your application
* To conduct due diligence (if your application is successful)
* To administer a grant (if your application is successful)
* To contact you with and for information about your award during the life of your grant (if your application is successful)
* To discuss any other aspect of your award during the life of your grant (if your application is successful)

**How long do we keep your personal data?**

We will keep your personal data for no longer than is necessary for the above purposes and for addressing any questions that may arise. We will then delete all of your personal data from The Champions Board electronic and paper filing systems (paper copies of your personal data will be confidentially shredded and disposed).

**Your Signature**

* I confirm that all information provided on this form is correct at the time of writing.
* I understand that The Champions Board may ask for additional information to support this application, including proof of purchase for any items.
* I understand I can only receive one award from the ‘Get Connected’ Fund.
* I agree to take part in an evaluation (answer questions about the funding) if I am successful.
* I confirm that I have read the information below regarding my data and I consent for the Board to use the information contained in this application for the purposes stated below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Signature\*:** |  |
| Print Name: |  |
| Date: |  |

\*We can accept a handwritten signature or an electronic (typed) signature.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM TO: Marion.young@south-ayrshire.gov.uk**

**If you have any questions relating to this application form please contact Marion Young at the above email address or call 01292 612626.**