

# PIZZA & COKE

## What is Pizza & Coke?

- Pizza & Coke evolved from the Corporate Parenting Group which was made up of elected members, care experienced young people, service managers and third sector representatives. The Corporate Parenting Group collaborated directly with care experienced young people through the Connecting to Change group about matters concerning the young people themselves or new corporate parenting developments and initiatives.
- The group meets in WG13, Kilmarnock with the aim of creating a more relaxed and informal atmosphere to encourage maximum participation from all parties involved, especially our young people.
- Meetings are chaired by the Depute Provost, currently Claire Leitch, and they begin with an informal catch up over Pizza and Coke. The informal setting allows for a relaxed atmosphere but also a set agenda for the meeting where actions and updates can be addressed. There is sometimes healthy debate over issues that are important to our care experienced young people such as sibling contact or education and employment.

## What do our young people think of Pizza & Coke?

**"I regularly attend Pizza & Coke nights and have huge inputs to different agendas. These meetings give young people a chance to talk about their issues, or their care stories and help make changes that are beneficial for East Ayrshire young people. Also this gives young people the chance to develop social skills and interact with others." Kieran**

**"I really enjoy participating in the Pizza & Coke nights as a young care leaver...it's great to be involved and being able to have an input in such important issues in the care system. I think we successfully tackled and overcame a lot of major issues in the care system.**

**The sibling separation report is the thing I am most proud to have contributed to as it happened to me and my brother when we were taken into care...it was a relief to be able to speak about it and witness first-hand the changes being made around this." Shannon**