

Dear Young Person,

We, the Children's Champions, would like to formally thank you for your contribution to service planning in the comments and drawings you contributed to the report "Are we there yet?" Here are some of our thoughts about this report:

"Once again the format of the report with the pictures and the comments is a really powerful way of getting the youngsters' message across- we can really understand their feelings in a way that words alone could not convey - it made me laugh and cry. It is much more inspiring in making me want to make the changes which would improve children's lives than a normal type report full of statistics." Gillian McCreath, Children's Champion

"We really have listened to what you said- just brilliant to get your voices heard in committee meetings! Of course the next steps to make things happen takes time but it's essential that the voice of children and young people feeds into how things get done, what gets done and when it gets done and as a Children's Champion I will be asking if this is happening." Pam Courcha, Children's Champion

"I thought the report was excellent .. not just because it contained masses of really interesting and useful information but because the comments and drawing from you made it all come alive. . I was really impressed at the honesty with which you answered the questions and at the comments you made and the insights they provided - - the real stories behind the figures and statistics I guess. I will do what I can to highlight as many of the issues you raised as possible at as many forums as I can .. whether or not that will bring about immediate change I don't know. I will certainly take the issues raised and the comments made with me to use them to remind anyone I can that CYP need to be listened to, not just because we should, but because you have really really important and insightful things to say!" Jaci Douglas, Children's Champion

"I was very impressed with the report, your answers and comments were just brilliant, it is of great importance to understand how you feel, so that we can do our very best to bring about changes. It is very important to us as Children's Champions to help children and young people and together we may get there". Margaret Paterson, Children's Champions.

Having read the report we would like to meet be able to meet you and hear some of your issues at first hand. We are working with Highland Children's Forum to arrange a visit in each area represented in the project and one or two of us will be available at each visit for you or other young people to come along and chat about issues important to you.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution to this report. As Children's Champions we want to take forward your ideas to change services for the better.

Yours,

Pam Courcha, Gillian McCreath, Jaci Douglas, Margaret Paterson, Colin Pulner, Anne Bethune, Linda Munro, Liz MacDonald, Children's Champions for Highland