



year of young people  
bliadhna na h-óigridh  
2018

# Scottish Borders Year of Young People 2018 Plan





# What is the Year of Young People 2018?




As part of the Scottish Government's programme of themed years, 2018 has been identified as the Year of the Young People, aiming to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievement, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally.

Young people's voices have been at the heart of the Year, since planning started in 2015. After leading an in-depth consultation with hundreds of their peers, they made recommendations on what the top priorities and goals should be.

To take forward these ideas, a group of 35 young people, Communic18, was created. Their role is to influence how the Year will be run, while ensuring young people's voices are heard and acted upon. In addition, there are more than 500 Ambassadors, who are promoting local activities and creating opportunities in their communities to challenge negative stereotypes of young people.

## Objectives

- Provide a platform for young people to have their views heard and acted upon
  - Showcase the amazing talents of young people through events and media
  - Develop better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations
  - Recognise the impact of teachers, youth workers and other supporting adults on young people's lives
  - Provide opportunities for young people to express themselves through culture, sport and other activities
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# What is the Year of Young People 2018?

Activity for the Year is based around six key themes, which were developed by young people and will guide everything we do:

## Culture



Share and celebrate young people's talent and contribution to Scottish culture and arts.

## Education



Allow young people to have more say in their education and learning.

## Enterprise and regeneration



Celebrate young people's role in innovation, entrepreneurship and the Scottish economy as well as making Scotland a greener and more pleasant place to live.

## Equality and discrimination



Recognise the positive impact of young people in Scotland and encourage them to take the lead in challenging all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

## Health and wellbeing



Make sure young people have the chance to lead healthy, active lives and understand the importance of mental health and resilience.

## Participation



Give young people the chance to influence decisions that affect their lives.

# Introduction

Councillor Shona Haslam,  
Leader



Councillor David Parker,  
Convenor



Councillor Carol Hamilton,  
Executive Elected Member



Councillor Scott Hamilton,  
Champion for Children & Young People



**\*\*Statements will be presented at the Executive Committee Meeting on 1 May 2018 as part of the presentations\*\***

# Introduction

Tracey Logan,  
Chief Executive



Donna Manson,  
Service Director, Children & Young People



*\*Statements will be presented at the Executive Committee Meeting on 1 May 2018 as part of presentations\**



Aaron Bolton

YoYP2018 Ambassador

“The Year of Young People is our chance to show the talents, attitudes and ethos of all young people who live, work and visit the Scottish Borders. Borders young people are full of energy, enthusiasm and determination to make a difference in society. I am very excited to be able to showcase the amazing work that young people do in our area!”

# Young Voices

In preparation for the Year of Young People, Scottish Borders Council set the goal that the plan for young people would come not from policy makers but from young people themselves so over the course of 2017 and 2018 the Scottish Borders Youth Voice team undertook a series of consultations with over 850 young people from across the Scottish Borders. The consultations took place online, in all 9 high schools, in our Youth Voice Teams, in primary schools and with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners.

The information gathered through these events was very detailed with a wide range of suggestions and ideas. The information collated has helped shape our Borders wide approach and our calendar of events and activities during 2018.

The consultation responses have been returned to communities for them to refine and decide upon what they would like to do locally.

The key message young people wanted to get across during the consultations was that of **legacy**. They wanted this to be the start of something not just a one off. With that key message in mind, in the later sections of this plan we will highlight some of the legacy events we are planning to develop, which will support the themes beyond 2018.

## The Top issues

We would like to have more of a say in school/community and the variety of learning experiences we get offered.

We would like more culture and arts events for young people in the Borders.



We need to reduce the inequalities in sports, school and in the community particularly in relation to gender and sexual orientation.



We are worried about the amount of plastic that is being found in the ocean and the damage that it is doing to the environment

We would like to see more employment opportunities for young people both part time and possible career options, so we don't have to leave the area.



# What has happened so far this year?

The Year of Young People 2018 celebrations in the Scottish Borders have had a great start. Here are some highlights of what has happened so far.

## Youth Chex

To kick off the year we re-launched our Youth Chex Grant Scheme. The theme of enterprise and regeneration was a key driver in this project. This is a youth-led grant scheme for young people by young people. For 2018 we changed the criteria to cover events and activities which would recognise the themes for YOYP2018. In February, 8 applications went to a Borders wide public vote and the 5 successful projects to receive £1000 towards their ideas were:

- Connect Eyemouth – Equipment to setup a Community Cinema in Eyemouth
- Hawick High News – Upgrade their school TV station equipment
- Jedburgh Grammar School – Equipment to set up a school TV station
- Tweedbank Primary School - Equipment to provide pupils with opportunities to be active, creative and imaginative during their play times as well as for planned outdoor learning experiences
- Scottish Borders YOYP2018 Ambassadors – Creation of a YOYP2018 promotional film

## Hawick Youth Action Group

In staying with the theme of youth participation, in March this year we saw the first meeting of the Hawick Youth Action Group. In attendance were Council staff, Community members and most importantly young people from the local area. The Hawick Youth Action group was set up as a sub-group of the Teviot and Liddesdale Locality Partnership to address issues specifically relating to young people that had been raised during the consultation events.

In addition to the above a range of events and activities have been taking place across the Scottish Borders. To find out what has happened so far and what is to come, please visit the Year of Young People 2018 Calendar on the Scottish Borders Council Website. This calendar is live and will be continually updated as we progress throughout the year.

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth\\_participation/850/year\\_of\\_young\\_people2018](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth_participation/850/year_of_young_people2018)





## Culture

### Share and celebrate young people's talent and contribution to Scottish culture and arts.

A wide range of partners have been contributing to a range of cultural events across the Scottish Borders. Led by the Creative Communities team at Live Borders young people can participate in Dance, Drama, Visual Art, Photo-Cinema puppetry and many more exciting and innovative opportunities for young people to explore and gain experience in. Through this we want our young people to be provided with a unique platform to share and celebrate their many talents.

#### **Borders Live Touring Young Promoters Scheme – Borders Young Creatives**

Funded by the Scottish Borders LEADER Programme and Creative Scotland, this project will equip up to 10 young people with the skills needed to plan, develop and promote events in their own community, supported by a Youth Arts Mentor with the opportunity to study towards an arts qualification, gaining skills such as working in a team, leadership, managing budgets, marketing, writing press releases, all of which can be transferred to other areas of their life and open up job opportunities. The programme will be officially launched in May 2018 and open to young people who are not in full time education, training or employment

#### **Legacy Project: Borders Jam Fest**

In response to the young people requesting more cultural and arts events for young people we are currently developing a music festival for young people which will take place in the autumn. The goal of the festival is for local bands and artists to gain performance experience in a large setting and for the young people to gain professional advice and guidance on how to move their music careers forward in the future.



#### **Events Calendar**

For more information on the Culture themed events taking place in the Scottish Borders please visit:

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth\\_participation/850/year\\_of\\_young\\_people\\_2018/2](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth_participation/850/year_of_young_people_2018/2)





## Education



### **Allow young people to have more say in their education and learning.**

The key message from the young people about the Education theme was that they wanted more of a say in the learning and teaching across all of our schools. In addition to the current youth voice structures available in schools, the Scottish Borders Youth Voice team are working with schools to develop youth voice structures which meet their needs and that will turn those views into action. Education Scotland has developed a suite of participation resources and supports which span 4 main arenas. One of which is learning, teaching and assessment. This is being launched in conjunction with 'How Good is OUR School' (HGIOS) for young people. Our schools will begin to explore these resources to develop approaches for allowing young people a stronger voice in their learning and teaching.

#### **Legacy Project: Scottish Borders Question Time**

In order to increase the number of young people that have the opportunity to participate in education based decision making we are developing a series of debate and Questions Time style events. These will give young people the opportunity to explore in-depth the issues they raised about education and then to put those questions to key decision makers within Scottish Borders Council, partner organisations and leaders in our communities.

#### **Inclusion Strategy**

Scottish Borders Council are currently developing an inclusion strategy which is aiming to promote and develop inclusive practice in all learning establishments within Scottish Borders Council. Underpinning this strategy is the vision of the Director, which ensures that all young people are always – In Our Sight, In Our Minds, In Our Actions and Being Heard.

#### **Schools Estates Review**

After the high levels of youth participation involved in the development of the new Jedburgh Intergenerational Campus it was decided this effective model should be continued. The model is being duplicated during the Schools Estates Review of the four remaining high schools Galashiels, Hawick, Peebles and Selkirk.

#### **Events Calendar**

For more information on the Education themed events taking place in the Scottish Borders please visit:

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth\\_participation/850/year\\_of\\_young\\_people\\_2018/3](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth_participation/850/year_of_young_people_2018/3)



## Enterprise and Regeneration



**Celebrate young people's role in innovation, entrepreneurship and the Scottish economy as well as making Scotland a greener and more pleasant place to live.**

The theme of Enterprise and Regeneration is supported by the wide range of initiatives on offer through Developing the Young Workforce – Borders. These include Young Enterprise Scotland (Kelso High School's Initial Design recently progressed through to the national final), Melrose Primary School have produced campaigns on road safety awareness for parents and carers, DYW Teachers have been taking part in a workplace programme which sees them shadowing different employers in the Scottish Borders and local careers fairs. There is so much more going on and to keep up to date visit the DYW-Borders Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DYWBorders/>

### **Legacy Project: Plastic Reduction in School Environments**

A large number of pupils brought up concerns about the environment and the amount of plastics being found in the oceans. This is extremely pertinent as we are a coastal region. In order to support this issue Scottish Borders Council are going to work towards reducing plastic in school environments.

### **Social Spaces for Young People**

Throughout the consultation phase one of the main things young people asked for was a social space outdoors where they could go and hang out. They requested a sheltered space which was warm, had wi-fi, where they could charge their phone and that there could be an adult on call if they needed help. An options appraisal of what these social spaces could look like will be carried out during 2018.

### **Events Calendar**

For more information on the Enterprise and Regeneration themed events taking place in the Scottish Borders please visit:

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth\\_participation/850/year\\_of\\_young\\_people\\_2018/4](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth_participation/850/year_of_young_people_2018/4)



## Equality and Diversity

### **Recognise the positive impact of young people in Scotland and encourage them to take the lead in challenging all forms of prejudice and discrimination.**

Equality and Diversity for young people is a priority area within Scottish Borders Council. The initial work began in 2017 focussing on gender identity. This led to schools introducing the option of gender neutral toilets, a review of social dance procedures and ensuring a support network is available for all young people in our secondary schools.

We currently have a young ambassador for inclusion who has represented the voice of Scottish Borders young people with additional support needs at the Scottish Parliament. The views of young people with additional support needs will be further strengthened through the “My Rights, My Say” Children’s Service.

#### **LGBT Charter Mark**

All 9 high schools in the Scottish Borders are undertaking the LGBT Charter Mark in partnership with LGBT Youth Scotland and hope to achieve their Bronze Award by the end of 2018.

Peebles High School have gained Silver Award status in March 2018.

#### **Children’s Rights Strategy**

Over the last 18 months children and young people from across the Scottish Borders have been developing the Children’s Rights and Participation Strategy and action plan for the Scottish Borders. This will be launched in the summer of 2018.

#### **Events Calendar**

For more information on the Equality and Diversity themed events taking place in the Scottish Borders please visit:

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth\\_participation/850/year\\_of\\_young\\_people\\_2018/5](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth_participation/850/year_of_young_people_2018/5)



# Health and Wellbeing

## **Make sure young people have the chance to lead healthy, active lives and understand the importance of mental health and resilience.**

Throughout 2017 Scottish Borders Council, Youth Borders, LIVE Borders, Police Scotland and NHS Borders have been developing the local strategy to improve mental health, wellbeing and resilience.

### **Scottish Borders – Model of Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

Scottish Borders partners are working together to support mental and emotional health and wellbeing for all children and young people. A wellbeing survey has been undertaken with all P3 – P7 pupils in primary schools and S2 pupils in secondary schools. This will help identify some key areas in each school requiring action.

Primary schools will be introducing the 'Building Resilience' pack, along with continuing the roll out of the 'Growing Confidence' training for pupils, staff and parents.

Work has started with the organisation 'See Me - End Mental Health Discrimination' for secondary schools. This will involve all S6 pupils being offered training in Scotland's Mental Health First Aid, peer support opportunities and further learning opportunities for young people within schools.

Web services are in development to provide young people and parents/carers with an on-line signposting service and support materials.

Work will continue to address this key issue, looking for further opportunities to support children and young people but key to this will be ensuring their voice helps shape the future direction of travel.

### **Legacy Project – Diabetes**

The Chief Executive of Scottish Borders Council is leading the South East of Scotland Diabetes Partnership.

A key element of the programme is to make sure we work with young people to understand the risks associated with diabetes and to find ways to promote healthy eating.

### **Legacy Project – Sports Leadership**

Live Borders have run a Sports Leadership programme successfully over the last 5 years through schools, where hundreds of young people have gained invaluable leadership skills in planning, organisation, communicating, self confidence and self esteem. These young people have planned and delivered sports festivals and extra curricular sporting activity across the Borders, becoming a vital part of the volunteer workforce within their local communities.

Year of Young People has provided a platform for Live Borders to expand our leadership offering and plans are underway to look at a leadership offering in sport and leisure for those not in employment, education, or training that provides mentoring and support to ensure more young people reach a positive destination.

Live Borders offers sport, leisure and culture facilities and services across the Borders which can support young people to lead and adopt healthy and physically active lifestyles. Live Borders engage and partner with a diverse range of community organisations who cater for young people and as such, there are an abundance of opportunities for participation.

### **Events Calendar**

For more information on the Health and Wellbeing themed events taking place in the Scottish Borders please visit:

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth\\_participation/850/year\\_of\\_young\\_people\\_2018/6](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth_participation/850/year_of_young_people_2018/6)



## Participation

**Give young people the chance to influence decisions that affect their lives.**

Scottish Borders Youth Voice was created in 2013 in response to young people wanting more of a say in decision making processes across the Borders. More recently this has involved supporting young people to take part in Area Partnerships meetings which has led to some of the areas developing Youth Action Groups. These groups of adults and young people are working towards addressing issues in the community specific to young people.

### **Legacy: Community Youth Voice**



As well as working to strengthen our youth voice structures in schools, the Scottish Borders Youth Voice Team have been supporting young people to become integrated into local community decision making groups. These have included the 5 Locality Partnerships, the 9 CLD learning Community Partnerships and assisting with the set up of local Youth Action Groups which bring young people and adults together.

Young People will also continue to have the opportunity to take part in Scottish Borders Youth Voice Teams which develop youth-led campaigns that create positive action as a result.



### **Events Calendar**

For more information on the Health and Wellbeing themed events taking place in the Scottish Borders please visit:

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth\\_participation/850/year\\_of\\_young\\_people\\_2018/7](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youth_participation/850/year_of_young_people_2018/7)



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