
YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

Report by Service Director, Children and Young People

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1 May 2018

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This paper details the background and national context behind the Year of Young People. It then outlines the approach that has been taken in the Scottish Borders to the Year of Young People 2018. This includes a full consultation with young people in a range of contexts from young people who have roles such as Year of Young People Ambassadors, to on-line surveys and consultations in schools and in contexts such as youth groups. The consultation has helped the Council and partners in the Children and Young People's Leadership Group identify a full plan of action, as well as signpost a longer term approach to participation and engagement with young people in the Scottish Borders, which fully gives young people their rightful place in society and in their communities within the Borders.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Executive Committee:-**
- (a) Approve the Year of Young People Partnership Plan;**
 - (b) Agree that an update on progress is brought back to the Executive Committee in September 2018.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following the success of the first Homecoming year in 2009, the Scottish Government has developed a series of themed years. The goal behind these themes is to place a spotlight on Scotland's greatest assets. Previously, the themes have been: Food and Drink (2015), Innovation, Architecture and Design (2016), and History, Heritage and Archaeology (2017). In March 2017, it was announced by the Scottish Government that the theme for 2018 would be the Year of Young People (YOYP2018).
- 3.2 Year of Young People 2018 aims to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally.
- 3.3 The objectives are to:
- (a) Provide a platform for young people to have their views heard and acted upon.
 - (b) Showcase the amazing talents of young people through events and media.
 - (c) Develop better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations.
 - (d) Recognise the impact of teachers, youth workers and other supporting adults on young people's lives.
 - (e) Provide opportunities for young people to express themselves through culture, sport and other activities.
- 3.4 The activity for the year is based around six key themes:
- 1. **Culture:** Share and celebrate young people's talent and contribution to Scottish culture and arts.
 - 2. **Education:** Allow young people to have more say in their education and learning.
 - 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.
 - 4. **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.
 - 5. **Health and Wellbeing:** Make sure young people have the chance to lead healthy, active lives and understanding the importance of mental health and resilience.
 - 6. **Participation:** Give young people the chance to influence decisions that affect their lives.

- 3.5 The promotion of children's rights and their participation in decision making processes is a key driver in a number of local and national policies/legislation. In particular, Part 1 Section 2 of the Children & Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on Local Authorities to report every three years on the steps they have taken to secure better or further effect of the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In addition to this, the strengthened engagement and participation of pupils features highly in the new Education (Scotland) Bill 2018.

4 THE YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN

- 4.1 The Year of Young People is a fantastic opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the amazing things already taking place in the Scottish Borders, as well as introduce new opportunities for all young people. The Council is ambitious that a number of developments introduced in 2018 are sustained and ensure legacy.
- 4.2 In the recent HMIe CLD Service Inspection, the Council and its partners' ability to build the capacity of young people to raise awareness of inequalities and participate in leadership and quality improvement structures was identified as strength. It is for this reason that the Council chose to build upon this success and undertake a Borders wide consultation with young people and ask them to identify activities, events and issues that they would like to see raised and take place during 2018 and beyond.
- 4.3 The consultation process, as outlined in the Plan, engaged with over 850 young people through face to face and online consultation events during March 2017 and then again in February 2018. All of the responses gathered through February 2018 consultation can be found in Appendix 1, with the key issues identified by the young people being highlighted in the Plan (Appendix 2).
- 4.4 The information gathered for the Plan will be used in two ways:
1. Schools will be asked to review the feedback gathered from their area to identify ways in which to take forward the identified activities, events and issues raised locally.
 2. A strategic and quality improvement sub-group will be formed from the Children Services Partnership Leadership Group to identify priority areas and develop a programme of Borders wide activities and events ensuring action comes from the views and ideas that young people shared.
- 4.5 Contained within the Plan are hyperlinks to a range of events and activities that are already planned:
- https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20043/youthparticipation/850/year_of_young_people_2018

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Scottish Borders approach to planning for the Year of Young People 2018 was based on the ongoing participation and engagement work contained within the Integrated Children & Young People's Plan, where children and young people are actively encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights are proactively considered.
- 5.2 This year will see an exciting programme of educational and cultural events centered around young people, driven by collaboration across a range of sectors and interests. A high impact, celebratory events programme, with young people at the heart of development and delivery, will create new and valuable experiences for young Borderers, their families and visitors.
- 5.3 It is recommended that a full update on the progress of the Plan be provided in September 2018.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

There are no additional costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report, as events/activities will be funded from existing budgets.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are no associated risks.

6.3 Equalities

- (a) An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.
- (b) It is anticipated that there are no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.

6.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant impacts on the economy, community or environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

6.7 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Donna Manson

Service Director, Children & Young People Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: Part 1, Section 2, Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Previous Minute Reference:

Appendices: Appendix 1: Year of Young People 2018 Consultation Responses

Appendix 2: Scottish Borders Year of Young People 2018 Plan

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Michelle Strong can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA.