

networks

The Journal for Youth & Children Workers in Lothian

Autumn 2006



Playing in the Rain

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OPINION PIECE

Consultation Events

The following consultation events are being held across the Lothian's. This list was drawn together as we went to print so look out for other events that we may have planned subsequently.

Sunday 1 October

Consultation Seminar - Youth Scotland
9.00am-12 noon
Hilton Hotel, Edinburgh Airport.
For member groups

Mon 2 October

Consultation Seminar
2.30pm-4.30pm
Sighthill Community Centre
For CLD staff City of Edinburgh Council
Contact: Rab Byfield - 0131 469 3361
rab.byfield@educ.edin.gov.uk

Tue 3 October

Consultation Seminar
- West Lothian Council
9.00am-3.30pm
Regal Theatre, Bathgate
Contact: Nan Matthews - 01506 776478
nan.matthews@wled.org.uk

Thu 12 October

LAYC Debate with Tony Jeffs
5.30pm-7.00pm
The Cameo Cinema, Home Street,
Tollcross, Edinburgh
All welcome r.s.v.p to:
enquiries@layc.org.uk
or phone 0131 667 1828

Wed 25 October

Consultation - Shaping the Response
(Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium)
6.30pm-8.30pm
Edinburgh Scout HQ, Valleyfield Street,
Edinburgh.
For voluntary, sessional and full time
youth workers. Input from Cllr Ewan
Aitken, Leader City of Edinburgh Council.



Opportunities for All

The much awaited Scottish Executive consultation on youth work was launched in early August. It comes in the form of three booklets:-

- **Consultation Paper** - this outlines the themes from which some 30+ questions are drawn. Also included are a series of case studies highlighting aspects of work with young people.
- **Response Booklet** - this is the 36 questions laid out with boxed space to respond
- **Questionnaire for Young People** - drawn from the themes, a series of 10 questions tailored for young people.

The response booklet and questionnaire are the only way of responding to the consultation and once completed need to be returned to the Scottish Executive by Wednesday 1st November.

The Consortium has ordered copies of all the booklets, which you can get from LAYC. Alternatively you can request copies directly from the Scottish Executive by e-mailing youthworkstrategy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or telephoning 0131 244 1897.



Your Chance Your Voice Your Views

This consultation comes at a critical time for youth work in Scotland and locally. Squeezed by funding pressures and stretched across a wide range of youth related matters, youth work has the chance to reclaim its focus and re-articulate its position in providing much valued support to young people.

The consultation is providing this opportunity and it is one that youth workers must take significant responsibility in responding to and assisting young people to do likewise. In similar consultations in England, it provided one of the largest responses ever to a government paper. With the Scottish Executive booklets already gone to a reprint, we need to maximize responses.

To that the EYWC hosted an Information Seminar to outline the background and details of the themes underpinning the questions. Along with workshops to assist youth workers to cascade the information and engage people in the consultation.

A further consultation event has been organised by EYWC, which will give people an opportunity to influence and inform the consortium's response and submit your views prior to the cut off date. This is being held on Wednesday 25th October at 6.30pm in the new Edinburgh Scout HQ, Valleyfield Street, Edinburgh.

Other consultative events are being held locally with agencies and for CLD staff so look out for details of these.

Mapping Youth Work in the City



The profile of youth work provision in the city is set to rise following a major mapping exercise being carried out by LAYC. "Audit +" is seeking to pinpoint every bit of youth work and collate that to form a comprehensive picture of provision across the city.

Ian Boardman takes up the story
"The Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium were conscious that different agencies had different parts of the provision picture, but no-one had attempted to bring that together across the city. Audit + will do that and also seek to get beneath this data to gauge the health of the sector."

Rather than get youth workers to complete a questionnaire and send them back, LAYC is taking to the road.

"If we want to have more of a 3D picture we felt it was vital that we made the effort to visit provision and that's what we will be doing" said Ian Boardman. *"We need to be out there gathering the information where the youth work is happening."*

Given the extent of the visit programme, the audit is being split into two discrete parts to help make it more manageable. Provision managed by the local authority is being undertaken first followed by the voluntary sector. Both these will be completed by year end.

The response to the audit has been positive and currently LAYC is working with CLD colleagues to identify provision prior to the start of the visit programme later in September.

If you want to know more about "Audit +" or want to make sure you feature within it contact Ian Boardman on 0131 667 1828 or ian@layc.org.uk

A report on the audit and its findings will be presented to the EYWC early in the new year. One of the intended outcomes is to produce a detailed map of provision that can be accessible by young people, agencies and by local communities via internet access.

News

Canongate Youth Project (CYP) Presentation of Donation Cheque and Safety Vests

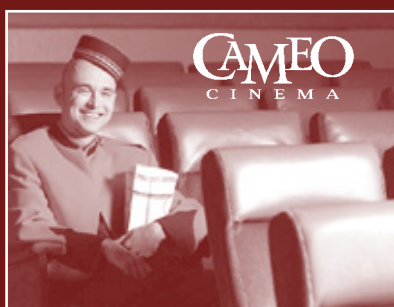
The Canongate Youth Project received a donation in the form of a cheque for the sum of £3,796 which will be used to purchase a supply of fresh fruit and vegetables which will benefit all young people (over 400) who use the Project over the forthcoming year. The Project has been developing a healthy living action plan for the past two years and, following a 6 month pilot programme last year, it has been very keen to roll out a comprehensive healthy living strategy which is aimed at all young people who use the Project.

The very generous donation is being made by the Hilton in the Community Foundation and the money has been raised locally by staff at the Edinburgh Caledonian Hilton Hotel. The donation will provide the Project with a fresh supply of fruit and vegetables and this will provide all users of it with daily access to fruit to eat and also to use in making smoothies and fruit kebabs. The vegetables will be used to teach young people to cook for themselves and to make a selection of home made soups.

The safety vests which are highly visible carry the "Arthur McKay, Improving Your Building's Services" logo together with the Project's own logo.

The Project is extremely grateful to both the staff of the Caledonian Hilton and the Arthur McKay Company for their generous support.

Members of the Banana Club (5-8 year olds) will be wearing the vests on their return from a beach BBQ on the afternoon of next Tuesday and teenagers from the Project will also be demonstrating fruit kebabs and smoothies. For more information contact stuart.mair@canongateyouthproject.org



The Nancy Owens Memorial Lecture
 incorporating **LAYC AGM**

Tony Jeffs - Writer and Lecturer

YOUTH WORK
 Back to the Future

Thursday 12 October 2006

Tony Jeffs LAYC Lecture and AGM

With the Scottish Executive's current consultation on youth work raising the debate about its future, LAYC is encouraging everyone involved in youth work to have their voice heard.

This years LAYC AGM will be centered around the consultation with leading youth work writer and lecturer Tony Jeffs leading off the debate. Tony has been a critical eye and leading supporter of youth work for over 30 years. We are delighted he will be joining us to set the scene and give his perspective on the state of youth work. It will undoubtedly be stimulating, illuminating and challenging.

The event is being held on **Thursday 12 October** with debate, discussion and the chance to record your views about the future of youth work.

It is a unique opportunity so get the date in your diary.

The Mystery Shoppers Reveal All...

INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE

Healthy Respect believes that it is important to involve young people in our work. In addition to our on-going consultation, every year we run a special project to give young people a voice regarding a particular aspect of our work. This year, we developed a mystery shopping initiative in partnership with LGBT Youth Scotland to find out more about young people's experiences of accessing the range of sexual health services operating in Lothian. It is important to include the views of LGBT young people in any evaluation of sexual health services. LGBT young people can, when properly trained and supported, represent the view of all young people.

Mystery Shopping involves specially trained volunteers visiting services and assessing the quality of service they receive against a range of standard criteria. This method of research is widely used in the retail and food & drink industries, but is relatively new in healthcare.

Ten volunteers, aged 14-22 were recruited by LGBT Youth, and undertook the following process:

- Training around sexual health issues
- Development of review criteria for mystery shopping
- Carry out mystery shopping by visiting 10 services
- Feedback results to service providers

Young people were able to use their involvement in this project to contribute towards a Silver Youth Achievement Award or Millennium Volunteer Award.



KEY LESSONS FOR SERVICES

The report, written by young people, of their findings from the mystery shoppers' initiative is now available. It provides a valuable insight into their experiences of accessing sexual health services. Generally, feedback is positive, and highlights friendly staff as being the biggest success. Young people highlighted a number of issues that need to be addressed. These include inconsistency of service provision, lack of information around confidentiality, and a lack of magazines & music in waiting areas. Healthy Respect is now working with services to address these issues.



KEY ISSUES FOR MYSTERY SHOPPING

During the development of this project, we identified some key issues to consider if you are interested in developing a similar initiative.

- Organisation - Lots of time for planning and preparation is needed to develop the programme and discuss ethical considerations.
- Peer Education - Opportunities need to be given for volunteers to share information and learn from each other throughout the project.
- Finance - Ensure that your budget includes travel costs for each mystery shopping visit, and for refreshments.
- Feedback - Remember, it's important to focus on positives as well as negatives, and support young people to give balanced feedback to services.



For more information on any aspect of our work with young people and parents, please contact:

Healthy Respect
 NHS Lothian
 Deaconess House, 148 The Pleasance
 Edinburgh EH8 9RS
 Tel 0131 536 9063
 Email healthy.respect@lhb.scot.nhs.uk
www.healthyrespect.co.uk

Copies of the young people's report can be downloaded from <http://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/?id=3§ionId=14>
 For more information on this project, visit <http://www.healthyrespect.org.uk/involvingyoungpeople.htm>

Who We Are



The Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium is a cross sectoral youth work forum whose aim is to support and strengthen the position of youth work across the city.

Its key tasks are to promote, encourage, support and develop quality youth work and will be organising a range of events including a major youth work conference, a city wide audit of youth work provision and promoting/co-ordinating responses to the Scottish Executive's consultation.

Membership has been drawn from the youth work sector and has attempted to 'respect' their widest interests.

How to Contact

The EYWC is currently being supported through goodwill and a commitment to working together to improve youth work in the city. LAYC is providing administrative and staff support alongside Rab Byfield, CLD to drive forward the work, particularly around the consultation.

If you want to contact EYWC you should speak to either Rab on 0131 469 3361 rab.byfield@educ.edin.gov.uk or Ian on 0131 667 1828 ian@layc.org.uk or alternatively to any of the named people who serve on the Consortium.



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Chair

Simon Jaquet

City of Edinburgh Council

Christine Mackay
Children & Families

Douglas Jeffrey
Children & Families

Jackie Stewart
Children & Families

Rab Byfield
Children & Families

Andy Shearer
Services for Communities

Voluntary Sector

Willy Barr
Citadel Youth Project

Mary Hastie
Sikh Sanjog

Neil Mathers
Bfriends

Cara Spence
LGBT Youth

Alan Willoughby
Scouts

Peter Wright
Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Graham McCulloch
LAYC

Agencies

Fiona Wernham
Edinburgh Leisure

Helen Bell
Edinburgh Youth Council

Ross Hockaday
Edinburgh Youth Council

Jamie Rennie
Rep on CEC Youth Services Advisory Committee

News

e-bulletins

Your Route to Free Job Adverts

Not exactly a mega sample of groups took part in LAYC's Review of the e-bulletins service... but what did we find out?

- Less than half the groups questioned had ever used LAYC Bulletins to publicise vacancies (part-time or full-time)
- Groups budget for advertising vacancies ranged from £££'s to ££00's
- Over 65% of groups use 'The Scotsman' and similar publications to advertise jobs

Maybe LAYC has to make it clear - member groups get free access to e-bulletins to advertise job and training opportunities. (and that can include staff teams from statutory and voluntary groups as well as those working face to face with children and young people).

Why don't you give it a try? We know it works - some youth projects now rely on our Bulletins to recruit sessional staff (well we have got 400 individuals registered and looking for work!)

Get Fresh ?

Fresh, the Sunday Herald's monthly news magazine, is on the lookout for opinionated young people. We regularly feature reviews of CDs, books and games written by teenagers, as well as giving them a media platform to talk about the issues that affect them, from sport to antisocial behaviour and everything in between. If you would like to get involved and give your group something different, unique and exciting to do contact

edd.mccracken@sundayherald.com or call 0131 718 6444.

Summer Fun with Edinburgh Leisure Activator Camps

The **Activator Camps** are part of Edinburgh Leisure's Holiday Programme for children and young people, they aim to provide children with the best multi-activity camps in Edinburgh. The emphasis is on FUN and trying lots of different activities. It's a great opportunity for children aged 5-13 years to make new friends, try a new sport or activity, and generally have a blast!

The camps run daily during the school holidays with a wide range of exciting activities available. Children can benefit from a choice of 8 Activator Venues across the City. A fully supervised drop off and late pick up service is available at most camps - ideal for working parents!

We've had another great summer, with over 1200 children enjoying a variety of different activities ranging from sports coaching, indoor games, quizzes, swimming, arts and crafts, internet café and team games to name but a few.

Over the summer we also had a number of various external agencies attending our camps. Infectious Grooves held a drumming workshop at Ainslie Park Leisure Centre, the Bird of Prey centre swooped into Drumbrae, the Fire Brigade visited Meadowbank Sports Centre and at the Royal Commonwealth Pool we had a visit from a creepy crawly roadshow. Needless to say the children had a great time in picking up giant slugs, snails, centipedes and tarantulas.



To top all that of, we had a visit from the world renowned Calcutta Cup! Edinburgh's Rugby Development Officer and local club coaches visited Ainslie Park and Drumbrae Leisure Centre with the cup and delivered fun rugby taster sessions to the children of the camps.

In order to promote a healthy lifestyle to the children we linked up with Highland Spring who kindly donated 1200 bottles of water to our camps. Highland Spring were delighted in supporting our Activator Camps for the second year running. It really helped to keep our kids and staff hydrated through the hot summer months.

A big thank you must go to all the Activator staff who once again did a fantastic job.

Roll on the October holidays !

For more information on our Activator Camps, visit our website: www.edinburghleisure.co.uk.

Holiday Programmes in South Edinburgh

LAYC was happy to highlight a website giving details of summer activities in various locations in the South Edinburgh area prior to the holidays. And just to follow up we've already been sent the evaluations of the work carried out. Good to see young people getting a chance to take part in the area based opportunities with their local pals and peers.

The 3Ms and Buckstone summer programme was a great success, with 52 participants from at least 7 different schools aged between 11 and 17 years. Activities were varied, challenging and exciting. Most of the trips were fully booked in advance due to leaflets handed out at the 3Ms and Buckstone youth clubs and to last years participants. As this years programme was a joint programme with the 3Ms and Buckstone youth club, activities successfully mixed young people of ages and schools.

Funding for the summer programme was received from the City of Edinburgh Council Go4it allocation, and with additional funding from The Geraldine Kirkpatrick Trust, Marchmont St Giles Church and Morningside United Church we were able to keep the costs down for the young people participating, whilst offering an exciting programme. These additional donations were essential to ensuring that any young person could participate in summer activities, without having to worry about whether they can afford it.

A joint summer programme was also organised for young people attending Warrender and The Crags Sport Centre Open All Hours groups. Again all the activities were heavily subscribed with over 30 young people from seven (yes , 7 !) different secondary schools taking part.

Nice to see the young peoples evaluations were an important part of the reports. Hopefully these will help to ensure that holiday time provision will be able to be provided in the future and that the opportunities these provided for young people to meet with other young people and enjoy taking part in a wide range of activities can be built on through out the rest of the year.

Vogrie Mural



"Young people from all over Midlothian helped create a giant mural during the summer holidays, at Council-led activity sessions based in Midlothian Libraries, Community Learning Centres and local village halls.

Individual parts of the mural, designed by artist Jan Miller, were produced on 2 foot square panels by different groups of young people. All 80 pieces were brought together and displayed for the first time at Vogrie Festival, thanks to K2 Steeplejacks of Rosewell who kindly provided a scaffold for the complete mural.

The displayed "Midlothian Mosaic" at the recent Vogrie Festival with Megan McArthur of Gorebridge standing by the square she created.

The mural reflected many aspects of Midlothian and helped celebrate the "Reading Mission" summer reading scheme promoted in Midlothian Libraries over the holiday period.

During the summer holidays children and young people also took part in fun Pavement Art sessions led by local artist Linda Early. The work created was also shown at Vogrie Festival, and some of the pieces will be displayed in local libraries over the coming weeks.

Community Learning & Development worker Bruce Fraser who organised and co-ordinated the activity said "It was great to be able to organise a project that worked with so many young people across the whole of Midlothian and to see the stunning work come together to create such a spectacular display at the Vogrie Festival". Some Pavement Art is presently on display in Mayfield Library and expect further displays in additional libraries in the near future.

What I Did on My Holidays by Margaret Walker (over 21)

The residential to Nethy Bridge with 6 young people (5 girls, 5 boys) and 3 youth workers was a great success - rated 9 out of 10 by the young people - even the weather was lovely.



It started off with a visit to the Caithness Glass Factory, which was on the way and provided a chance to stretch our legs.

A bit more leg stretching was provided by the first activity on our programme

- Gorge Walking at Craggan Outdoor Centre - the place was excellent and the staff were very good - encouraging the young people who were all a bit wary about taking part.

When we arrived at Nethy Bridge and got settled into the accommodation, 5 of the young people prepared supper for us all. Having chosen a Chinese theme, all we had to do was polish off their special rice dish with spring rolls and prawn crackers, etc and then sit back as the young people cleared up.

Afterwards we all went on a long walk and ended up climbing a small hill where the young people were content to sit for ages quite happily chatting to their youth workers.

The next day Loch Inch was the venue for Raft Building. A picnic lunch next to the loch gave us the energy for an afternoon of kayaking before us youth workers had to relax again as the other 5 young people took on the cooking and cleaning duties. Tuna pasta bake with salad followed by strawberries and Angel Delight and a quick wash of the dishes set up the evening for a music quiz, karaoke and dancing.

The return journey home to Edinburgh was via Landmark Visitor Centre. All the young people in the club would like to go on a similar trip next summer so they have already started thinking about fundraising.

News

Volunteer Recruitment Fair

The Assembly Rooms
Thur 5 October 11.00am - 7.00pm



Last year the event attracted 1200 members of the public who wanted to find out more about volunteering opportunities.

LAYC will be present at this years event - if you have a volunteering position you would like to promote on your behalf then e-mail: graham@layc.org.uk by **Monday 2nd October**.

LGBT History Month



Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT)

are part of all groups in society; however, they are often hidden and have little access to their heritage. February has been designated LGBT History Month. This provides the opportunity for members of all communities across Scotland to come together and demonstrate their commitment to an equality strand, which is often sidelined.

If you would like to find out more about LGBT History Month, be put on a mailing list, receive an information pack or would like to chat about putting on an event or raising awareness within your group or workplace, then please contact ann.marriot@lgbtyouth.org.uk or telephone 0131 622 2266.

Open All Hours is Back !

The summer holidays are over, you're back to school, what is there to do? Why not head down to an Open All Hours session at an Edinburgh Leisure venue near you?



Open All Hours offers people like you (S1-S6) loads of exciting activities for only 50p. Try out new sports, fitness and dance classes, pump some iron in the gym, chill out with mates, surf the net, or dive in for a swim.

The action begins at your local leisure centre on a Friday evening from 7pm. Contact reception at your local leisure centre for more information.

On Saturdays at Leith Victoria Swim Centre, a girls' only session is available. The activities here are chosen by girls for girls and the centre is staffed exclusively by female youth workers, leisure attendants and coaches. Get along to meet other young women, get physically active and have fun in a boy free environment!

Open All Hours operates at a variety of venues and times, for further details please visit our website: www.edinburghleisure.co.uk

Sail into Edinburgh Leisure

If you are interested in getting out on the water, Edinburgh Leisure have something for you. From beginners sailing courses, to advanced power-boating and kayaking, we offer courses and activities for all ages and abilities.

Most of our courses are based at Port Edgar Marina - a large Water Sports centre based on the Firth of Forth. The marina has over 300 berths available, and also offers a large fleet for hire to the general public.

Contact Port Edgar Marina on 0131 331 3330 for more information.

Calling all Couch Potatoes . . .

(aged 17-24 years)

Edinburgh Leisure, in partnership with Capability Scotland and the city of Edinburgh Council are proud to present our Active Futures programme!

Active Futures is part of the Big Lottery Fund programme which aims to encourage 17-24 year olds to become or stay active by getting them to participate in sport and physical activity.

Active Futures is an inclusive programme targeting nine geographical areas (Craigmillar, Restalrig, Granton, Pilton, Drylaw, Sighthill, Muirhouse, Wester Hailes and Gracemount/Moredun) as well as young women, young people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and young people with additional support needs.

We are offering young people the chance to try a sport or physical activity they actually want to do for free for a period of 10 weeks after which they will receive an Edinburgh Leisure card and information on local opportunities. We can offer a wide variety of physical activity health & fitness, sports, water activities, and outdoor activities.

We are currently at the start of this very exciting project and, as such, want to encourage as many 17-24 year olds as possible! . . .

so if your 17-24 and interested in getting active or know a group who are, please contact Claire Ferry on 0131 652 4356 or at claireferry@edinburghleisure.co.uk for more information.



Winter Golf

Looking for something to do through the winter? Our golf coaching programme will be running at a sports centre near you through the months of October - April with classes for people of all abilities. And for those of you who already play - why not join a club? We offer the chance for young people to join a low cost Junior Golf Club at our two 9-hole golf courses where we have organised events and competitions throughout the year.

Get in touch with Alasdair Dunlop for more information on 0131 652 4348.

New Judo Classes

Ever fancied learning a new sport? And getting fit at the same time? Well, here's your chance. Ainslie Park Leisure Centre is launching new junior and adult judo classes on a Monday evening. From the beginner to the more experienced, we cater for all abilities. **For more information please contact Ainslie Park Leisure Centre on 0131 551 2400.**

Your Chance to Win

For your chance to win a months free gym and swim pass, email your name, and address to abbydeleon@edinburghleisure.co.uk, quoting 'Networks'. Alternatively phone Abby on 0131 652 4355.

The first name and address drawn out the hat by Friday 20th October will receive a month's free swim and gym pass at any Edinburgh Leisure site. Entrants must be 12 years or over.

Girls Only Football

If you've ever wanted to cross a ball like David Beckham, or have the skill to beat a player like Thierry Henry, well get yourself down to Drumbrae Leisure Centre on a Monday evening from 7pm-8pm. We are running coached sessions where the emphasis is on fun, and are led by fully qualified SFA coaches. **Please contact Drumbrae Leisure centre on 0131 312 7957 for more information.**

BYP going from Strength to Strength



Buckstone Youth Project is a friendly youth club in the south of Edinburgh from which a senior club, open to all high school aged pupils, runs on Thursday evenings at St Fillans Church Hall. At Buckstone they appear to be bucking the general trend of declining senior memberships, with the young people themselves playing a significant role here. They have designed, and are developing, their own website (www.buckstoneyouthproject.co.uk) aimed at further promoting the project to a wider audience and it is hoped that this will encourage other young people to access the senior club in the future. The young people also took part in the local primary school's annual BBQ prior to the summer break, helping to promote both the senior and junior youth clubs.

The Project has greatly benefited from funding provided by the Pentlands Local Development Committee Community Grants Fund, which enables it to provide a varied and successful programme.

The young people are involved in putting together the programme for their club and have recently participated in a fundraising evening where they managed to raise a total of £300. This was used to subsidise a karting outing as well as contributing towards a residential held at the end of July (see page 7). There are regular outings and weekly healthy eating sessions, encouraging the young people to try their hand at making and tasting smoothies, fresh fruit salads, paninis, home made burgers (including a vegetarian option!) and fajitas. It is not just the young people that are busy at Buckstone Youth Project. Margaret Walker, Project Worker, is currently in the process of putting together an A-Z directory of useful contacts/services/activities for youth work providers and is interested in hearing from anyone who can contribute information here. It is hoped that this information will be put on to a website she is developing and provide a useful resource for all youth and children's workers. If you think you can help Margaret develop this potentially very useful resource then email: youthgroupcontacts@blueyonder.co.uk with the relevant details.

Playing in the Rain

Playday is the biggest national celebration of play in the UK, and falls on the first Wednesday in August each year. Around 2,000 children aged between 0-12 years were expected to attend the event held in the grounds of Edinburgh's Lauriston Castle, situated in the north west of the city. However, due to what can only be described as atrocious weather conditions on the day, numbers were estimated to be nearer the 750 mark. Despite this, the heavy rain failed to dampen the spirits of those intrepid souls who ventured along and participated in the 45 activities on offer, which ranged from story telling to drumming and science shows to performing clowns.

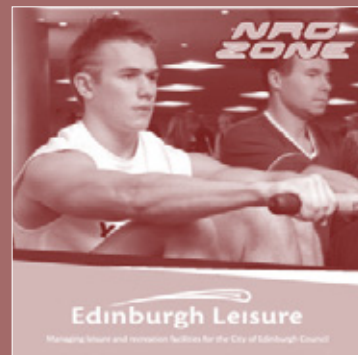


The theme of this year's playday was natural play and the programme also included pond dipping and junk modelling as well as some old favourites from previous years.

Playday 2007 is Wednesday 1st August, so why not get the date in your diary now and make sure your organisation takes part in Edinburgh's play extravaganza. If you would like more information on Edinburgh's Playday or think you can contribute in some way to next year's event please contact Margaret Westwood, Senior Play Development Officer, on 0131 529 7981 or email: margaret.westwood@edinburgh.gov.uk

News

NRG Zone



NRG Zone is all about you! It's a whole load of sessions for 12 - 15 year olds so you can hang out with your mates, get fit with others your age, and design your own workout with the help of our fitness instructors. It's your workout - plan it your way. Work up a sweat on the cardio equipment (that's the treadmill, bike, rower, cross trainer or stepper) or pump it using the weights, it's up to you. Being active and healthy changes more than just your looks; it's great for self-esteem, keeping you healthy and it'll give you more energy. Whatever your reasons for getting fit go for it, we're behind you.

Once you've come along to NRG Zone you can go through our scheme to check you can use everything on your own and then you're free to come to the gym whenever the gym is supervised not just in NRG Zone sessions. Of course if you fancy continuing at NRG Zone you are most welcome!

...and you might find that a gym membership is the perfect way to keep up your gym sessions. NRG Zone users can take out junior membership, which will give you access to all of Edinburgh Leisure's gyms and pools for only £15 per month.

For more information on NRG Zone times please contact your local site directly. Alternatively visit our website: www.edinburghleisure.co.uk.

Funding Cut for LAYC's Disclosure Unit

LAYC have learned that the future of their Quality Development Unit has been secured until the end of March 2008.

The Unit will receive continued funding from the Changing Children's Services Fund, however this will be at a reduced level due to cuts made by those responsible for managing this fund. This news was met with mixed feelings at LAYC. Whilst it means that the short-term future of the work of the Unit is safe, we are now in the position whereby we will have to generate alternative income in order to offer the existing level of service or face cutting services in order to make ends meet.

The current financial climate means that many services face similar and even worse predicaments. However we are particularly disappointed at our cut given the fact that there are ongoing changes, as well as proposals for new legislation in the pipeline, that directly affects the area of work that the Unit is involved in and we feel that there should in fact be an increase in funding here in order that we can give an appropriate level of support to clubs and groups. We will of course strive to continue to offer the services we have developed and in the eventuality that there are costs introduced to these you can be assured that they will be kept to a minimum in order that the clubs and groups can continue to do what they do best.

Enhanced Checks Only for Childcare Positions

The Police Act 1997 Part V has been amended and as from 1st April 2006 the role of the Standard Disclosure will change. All persons working/volunteering in a childcare position, as defined in Schedule 2 of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003, must be Disclosure checked at Enhanced Level. This also includes all checks made on new management committee members.



LAYC develop on-line Disclosure checks

In a bid to improve efficiency and save both applicants and ourselves time we have developed an on-line Disclosure application form. Apparently Disclosure Scotland are working on implementing something similar with a view to going live sometime in 2006/2007, so that means we're ahead of the game in this respect! It really couldn't be simpler to use, you inform us that you are recruiting and let us know when you are ready to make an appointment. The applicant then accesses our website and completes the online form (this should take no more than 10 minutes).



All that remains after that is for a short meeting to be arranged between LAYC and the applicant in order to check their identity, that the details supplied are correct and to sign the form. We think this service will make a big difference in terms of eliminating administration errors and generally making the process more user friendly.

Of course for those who don't have internet access we will continue to process checks manually as before.

Responses to Proposals for New Legislation

In the last edition of Networks we reported that LAYC had responded to the proposals for new legislation aimed at bolstering child protection. The deadline for responses has since passed and the information has been collated. This information is now available in full from the Scottish Executive's website. There were 186 responses received in total from a wide range of bodies and groups, with voluntary organisations making up the largest group of respondents.

The main themes of our response seem largely in keeping with those raised by others, with this particularly being the case around the issue of the introduction of new legislation and levels of support on offer. As we have previously stated, we felt that this was inadequate in respect of the introduction of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 and have sought assurances that there will be no repeat of this when the new legislation is finally introduced. The Bill will be drafted and introduced to parliament in Autumn 2006 for consideration prior to Spring 2007, with a view to becoming live by the end of 2007. LAYC will keep you posted on any significant developments in the meantime.

Disclosure Application Turnaround Times

LAYC are currently experiencing no problems in respect of turnaround times for Disclosure applications with both Disclosure Scotland and CRBS. Disclosure certificates are being processed in around two weeks, which is in keeping with the information currently held on both organisations websites.

Contact Us

If you have any queries, views or comments regarding any of the issues on this page, or related issues, LAYC's QDU would be happy to hear from you.

You can contact Dale Marsters on 0131 667 1828 or alternatively e-mail: dale@layc.org.uk

Training



It is approaching that time of year again when members of staff are looking to book on to training courses in preparation for starting back after the summer break in a bid to gear them up for the autumn term and beyond.

LAYC are aiming to pilot an accredited Advanced Youth Work Course alongside 11 of our more practical styled courses before the Christmas break, which includes 5 new courses. This represents a fairly ambitious programme as we aim to build on the success of last years training and continue to meet the needs of our members.

The Advanced Youth Work Course will see LAYC return to providing accredited youth worker training in the City of Edinburgh for the first time since Edinburgh withdrew from delivering ACT. A small group of part-time sessional workers is currently being identified in order to sample the pack of materials. LAYC purchased the course, which we believe to be one of the better ones currently in circulation, from North Lanarkshire Council.

Our 'core' training programme will continue to offer the courses you'd expect to see, with old favourites Emergency Aid, Child Protection and Dealing with Challenging Behaviour (Youth Work) all featuring. In addition to this we will again be offering courses that proved popular last time around such as Introduction to Food Hygiene and Terms and Conditions (Managing Discipline and Grievance). We will also look to continue to encourage the uptake on courses such as the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003, which looks into some of the legal requirements being made of organisations. The 5 new courses that we aim to run this session include Everything You Need

to Know About Youth Work, The Disclosure Checking Process, Fund Raising, Group Work Skills and Dealing with Challenging Behaviour (Work with Children).

LAYC's training programme is open to members and non-members. Courses are priced from £10 per person for members and £20 for non-members. Due to anticipated demand groups are restricted initially to 2 people per course. Included in this edition of Networks is a booking form for the programme up until December 2006, however we are happy to take bookings by email to enquiries@layc.org.uk and telephone on 0131 667 1828.

Our own staff team deliver some of this training and these courses can be purchased by organisations for their staff and delivered locally at times that suit. We recently delivered our Dealing with Challenging Behaviour course in Glasgow for a group of volunteers with the Red Cross and seemed to go down quite well. Our courses are intended to be practical and at 2½ hours long, and delivered by two members of our experienced staff team, represent good value. As a general guide our courses are designed to work well with groups of no less than 8 and no more than 14 and are priced at £100 for members and £200 for non-members. Courses currently available include Dealing with Challenging Behaviour (Youth Work), Dealing with Challenging Behaviour (Work with Children), Child Protection and Group Work Skills.

News

Nancy Ovens

The Nancy Ovens Bursary Award Scheme launched earlier in the year is now seeing awardees completing their projects.

Gillian Young from Hope4Kids used the Bursary to visit like projects in other parts of Scotland and undertake skill based training. She said, "It's been a fantastic opportunity and I've gained so much from it. All the people I've met have been so encouraging and gone out of their way to make sure I got the most out of it." This included the chance to work at a children's summer camp in England for a week. "This came about from the training I undertook and I jumped at the chance ... it was a tremendous experience."



Similar stories have emerged from Margaret Walker, Buckstone Youth Club who used the award to research local activities to supplement the voluntary youth clubs programme. Robert Jack from Currie Youth Club is close to finishing his recording and performance course, which will see the recording suite in the local centre being used more regularly by local youth bands. And for arts worker Mark Carr, a two week work visit to an adventure playground in Berlin provided a unique insight into European youth work.

These awards are part of a bursary pilot which has been supported by LAYC, the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils. The pilot will be fully evaluated by the year end and it is hoped that the bursary awards will become a regular feature of the Trust's work.

No Messin Edinburgh



The inaugural No Messin event in Scotland took place at Drummond Community High School in early July. Funded by Network Rail, this national roadshow promoted rail safety through a range of fun activities. The two days of free activities were targeted at both boys and girls and included rock climbing, surfing, street dance, dj'ing workshops, fun wrestling, fun boxing, football, cricket, rugby and state of the art computer/gaming suites.



The activities were provided in such a way to encourage young people who attended the chance to follow them up by getting involved in local clubs and groups. No Messin National Co-ordinator Martin Gallagher has seen the event grow in attendance as it's moved across the country "young people really enjoyed the Edinburgh event, but attendance was lower than expected, especially in contrast to the Glasgow event and those down South. We have got to pinpoint the exact reason for this, but we are keen to get to the bottom of it so we can make sure it's better supported next year."

Martin is keen to get feedback, so if you can shed some light on why Edinburgh didn't hit the high numbers of elsewhere forward views/comments or suggestions on how it could be better attended to LAYC on 667 1828 or enquiries@layc.org.uk or via No Messin website www.

We spoke to 6VT who took youngsters along and they said they thought it was a great event. The girls said "it was really well organized with plenty of different and exciting things to do. Having lots of freebies for completing the various zones was a brilliant idea as it meant people kept moving on." Lorraine, a staff member from 6VT who accompanied the youngsters echoed their sentiments, but felt it could have been publicized better. However all agreed that if it's back next year they won't miss it for the world!

Martin is looking to build on the No Messin brand that accompanied the event with free goodies from t-shirts to branded radio's as youngsters completed the various zoned areas. "Our goal is to raise awareness of the dangers of 'messin' around railways and if we managed to prevent accidents or any potential deaths then it's been a great success. Finally I really appreciated all the help and publicity given over by LAYC and Streetwork."

LAYC wants to continue to work with 'No Messin' throughout the year given the dangers of railway lines are not only restricted to the summer holidays. So, like Martin, let us know how any future events can best be planned and promoted to maximize effort.

Playing Away Brings Success

It may have been a slightly damp day in Fort William, but it didn't stop the Broomhouse Grove Project when they won a highly prestigious Nancy Ovens Trust Play Award.

The Award, now in its third year, saw this impressive community play provision receive it from Depute Minister for Communities, Robert Brown MP. And there to get the award plaque were local children from The BIG Project who were instrumental in involving them in the design and who use it regularly as part of their programme.

Sascha McLeod, Project Co-ordinator was delighted with the award, "This is a tremendous boost for all those who were involved in getting this play area developed. A year on the play park is well used by all ages with no sign of vandalism, confirming that if you involve children and young people from the outset they will look after it."



Other award winners included Hope School Trim Track in South Ronaldsay; Tiree Community Business and the Evolution Skate Park in Stevenson.