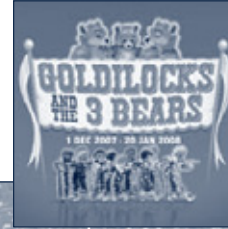


networks

The Journal for Youth & Children Workers in Lothian

Winter 2007/08



A Happy Day

Edinburgh Leisure's Happy Parade & Carnival
page 8

OPINION PIECE

Where Have All the Good Times Gone ?

It can perhaps be expected that when faced with one of the bleakest funding situations for many years, you seek comfort from the immediate past. Like our squirrel friends, your natural instinct is to horde in the good times in order to see you through the tougher ones.

Well, that seemed to be the message in a recent communiqué from the City of Edinburgh Council in respect to next years revenue grants. With Children & Families Department facing a black hole larger than even the SS Enterprise ever faced, significant cuts in grants are inevitable. The letter suggests that the third sector has done well over that period, but now here's the downturn . . .

It's an interesting perspective, but one that fails to be founded in reality. The grants budget may have increased in percentage terms, but that has not been translated into such for the vast majority of recipients. Year on year failure to provide any inflation proofing and additional reductions in actual grants has seen the real value of grants reduced significantly over many years.

A recent exercise by one project, using the consumer price index as a comparative figure over the past 12 years, calculated that their grant needed a £40k increase just to bring it in line with its value in 1996.

However, what's not been reduced has been the sectors capacity to increase the added value to every council £1. According to the Council's own calculations, the sector produced a further £12.21 for every Council £1 last year (representing an increase of 113% in 4 years).

The slashing of posts from CLD including those seconded posts at LAYC, will also have a further detrimental effect on youth and children's work services.

Unlike the city's squirrel population, we can't hibernate for the next few months and hope we emerge into a brighter future. The reality is that provision and infrastructure is going to be lost and will not exist to benefit from the promised 'good times' in the future.



AGM Chat

"It's good to talk" as the BT adverts used to say. The conversation with Cllr Marilyne MacLaren, Gillian Tee and LAYC's Dona Milne at this years AGM, was the first chance the youth work sector had to speak to the new Director of Children & Families and Chair of the Education Children & Families Committee in the city during these difficult financial times.

Appropriately held in the Scottish Storytelling Centre it provided a unique opportunity for the respective Convenor, Director and Dona to mull over critical issues for young people and the role of youth work, as well as reflect on their professional journeys.

Despite the backdrop of a significant budget deficit, the conversation focused on their personal and professional experiences and where they saw youth work fit into the bigger picture. Both Marilyne and Gillian valued youth work and the unique role it played. Gillian felt that critical to youth work's future was the need to better evidence clearer outcomes for young people we were working with.

The evening ended with a series of questions from the audience which extended the debate into issues around sex and drug education.

Feedback has been very positive and LAYC is keen to host further conversation events in the future.

Finally thanks go to Marilyne, Gillian and Dona for agreeing to place themselves in front of an audience without the aid of a speech or even the questions in advance!

All the President's Visits

Presidential visits conjure up images of large entourages, red carpets and the smell of paint wafting through a building.

Well not if you're Donald Gorrie, recently re-elected as LAYC President at our AGM. Released from his Parliamentary duties having retired as an MSP at the May elections, he is taking up his presidential duties with the vigor one would expect.

Wanting to get a better feel for how youth and children's work is flourishing within our membership, Donald has embarked on a series of visits to member groups.

He's currently visiting provision in his local area around Edinburgh west as well as some of the projects he had contact with over the past few years.

So if you get a phone call asking if he can drop in don't worry about the need to re-decorate or the red carpet . . . just tell him as it is and let him see the results.

Affiliation 2007-08

More for your hard earned bucks . . . that's the message accompanying this years affiliation for 2007-08.

With fees held at last years prices and with more training on offer, a "members only" section on our website, new resources available via the library, plus additional insurance cover for contents and residentials . . . It's a win win for clubs/groups joining LAYC.

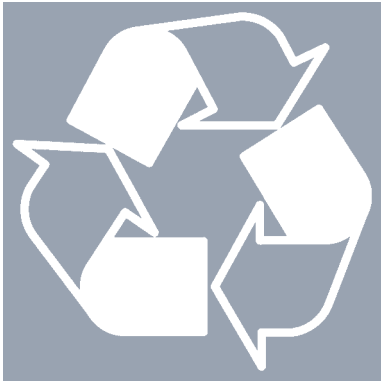
For those who have re-affiliated thanks for choosing to do so and for any who have yet to .. get affiliated to **the** support agency for youth & children's work in the Lothians.

Joining couldn't be easier. Go to our website www.layc.org.uk, look at our home page, click on whatever type of affiliation you want and print off the form. Complete, send in with cheque and as soon as it's arrived at the LAYC office you're affiliated.

Remember for those groups who have not re-joined from 2006-07 and took out the insurance cover, this expired at the end of November 2007.

If you want more detailed affiliation information click on the Affiliation button on the website or phone the office on 0131 667 1828.

Bits & Bobs + LAYC Join Forces



Looking for arts and crafts, stationery or just fun materials, then look no more! Bits & Bobs is a recycling project that provides access to this Aladdin's cave of scrap materials that are ideal for creative play.

From card to cotton wool and paints to plastics, it's all there! You can even get materials cut into fun shapes including animals and Christmas images for this time of year. In fact you can hire these cutters and do it at the club.

In addition to the recycled materials, Bits & Bobs also has a large stock of new arts and crafts materials.

So why are we telling you this? Well, as part of your affiliation to LAYC you are now also a proud member of Bits & Bobs. Worth £30 it gives your group access to this excellent service courtesy of LAYC's corporate membership.

But it doesn't stop there. LAYC, along with Bits & Bobs is offering very practical arts/crafts and scrap store training for children's workers in the new year as part of our training programme.

Bits & Bobs has an extensive website www.bitsandbobscrapstore.org.uk and you can buy all your needs on-line. You can also peruse all their goods and check what's in stock using the website.

Now in its 7th year, Bits & Bobs provides an invaluable service by giving a unique outlet for usable 'scrap' to be recycled for fun activities. The project also provides employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

So check out their website and use your new Bits & Bobs membership courtesy of LAYC have fun and save the planet!



Bits & Bobs Scrapstore
Unit 15, Lairdshp Yards
Broomhouse Road
Edinburgh EH11 3UY

Opening Times

Tuesday-Thursday 10.00am-5.00pm
Friday/Saturday 10.00am-3.00pm

News

Leisure Links

As the more active members of LAYC know, Edinburgh clubs get 4 Leisure Link cards for leaders to use at Edinburgh Leisure facilities at discount prices.

Don't worry, this has been continued - when your group re-affiliates your cards will be re-activated automatically when we notify Edinburgh Leisure.

If your club hasn't re-affiliated watch out The cards you have expired at the end of December.

In the meantime why not click on our website and complete this quick LAYC/Leisure Links Survey.

Name: *Shy?* - Just your first one will do

Age: *Too shy?* ... give us a hint ... 'Still asked for ID in pubs'; 'Twenties'; 'Thirty-something'; 'My kids have all left school', etc

Club: *If 'No Name' then please say if after school club or youth club or whatever.*

- ? How long have you been using your LAYC Leisure Links Card?
- ? How often do you use it?
- ? Where do you use it and what for?
- ? Do other staff at your club use the LAYC Leisure Links card too?
- ? Have you ever managed to use the Leisure Links card with the ASC? (If YES, what for? And if NO, What is the main problem? What would make it easier for your club to use Edinburgh Leisure facilities?)
- ? Do you do anything now with your club about physical activities/health and fitness/sports?
- ? What single thing do you think would be most likely to get the kids at your club more active?
- ? What single thing (or more) could someone/some agency do to help you/your club to get the kids at your club more active?

No Regrets?



THE FESTIVE SEASON is here again and for many young people that will mean holidays, hanging out, going shopping, partying and generally enjoying more time with their friends. It can be a fun and relaxing time, but there can also be a lot of expectations. Research* shows that Christmas is one of the times when young people are more likely to think about using alcohol and having sex for the first time.

Adults are often guilty of overdoing it at Christmas. How many of us have made resolutions come January to make up for it?! Young people can find that along with the parties and socialising there is also more access to drink and drugs. Couple this with the prospect of sex, and they might end up regretting something that didn't work out the way they expected or didn't want to be involved in, in the first place. **Good sex means no regrets**, so how can we support young people to avoid the 'comedown' after the night before?

Strategies for making positive choices

Working with young people to help them think about potentially risky situations ahead of time can be useful. Providing realistic scenarios, such as 'nights out', for discussion can help young people plan ahead and think about what they want from their relationships. They can also help young people explore issues around self-esteem, assertiveness, safer sex and strategies for making choices:

- Encourage young people to be aware of what they are drinking/using and how much, to look out for their friends, and plan ahead for getting home safely
- Remind them that they should only have sex if they are totally sure it's what they want and they are not feeling pressurised into doing something they aren't comfortable with
- Signpost local sexual health services for access to free condoms and contraception
- Point out that making decisions about sex can be difficult when sober, so getting drunk or stoned doesn't help, especially if in a difficult situation.

It is also important that young people are aware of the laws around alcohol and having sex under the age of 16.

* (Wight, et al, 2000)

Are you ready for sex?

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Drink and drugs can make you feel relaxed and more confident but they can also end up with you doing something YOU MIGHT REGRET LATER.

If you are drunk or on drugs you could:

- feel CONFUSED
- take more RISKS
- do things you REGRET
- get PRESSURED into doing things you don't want to do
- make you less likely to use CONTRACEPTION
- have problems LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF
- have trouble MAKING DECISIONS
- have trouble GETTING TURNED ON
- have problems using CONDOMS
- FORGET what happened



We are here to help!

A Healthy Respect drop-in is a place where young people aged 13-18 years can access (as a minimum) free, confidential advice, support and information on all health issues, including sexual health, in a local setting.

The Health Opportunities Team (HOT), in partnership with Healthy Respect, has produced a leaflet called, 'Are you ready for sex?', to help support young people in decision-making around sex and relationships.

This list from the leaflet (above) could be a useful starting point for discussion. Copies can be ordered free from the Lothian NHS Board Library and Resource Centre, Deaconess House (0131 536 9451).

HOT are now working towards the production of a groupwork resource based around the leaflet. Additionally, there is a wide range of resources to support activities on drug and alcohol misuse, relationships and sexual health available from the above mentioned Library, including:

Alcoshots - Young People in Alcohol Related Situations

A set of 12 trigger photographs to be used as starting points for discussion around alcohol-related situations (*Tacade*).

Alcohol dilemmas game

A competitive card game for young people which focuses on information about alcohol and explores the options in a wide range of alcohol-related situations (*Healthwise*).

Sex, Drugs and Alcohol

Educational resource for young people aged 14-19 with a range of abilities, aiming to increase knowledge, skills and understanding, and to explore attitudes, feelings and values around sex, drink and drugs (*Tacade*).

Additional services such as c: card, contraception (including emergency contraception), pregnancy and chlamydia testing can be offered in some of the drop-ins, or the young person can be signposted to more suitable or specialised services.

But the drop-ins are not just about sex and relationships. Young people can visit them to talk about anything at all that's worrying them, including drug and alcohol use. Our most recent media campaign aimed to raise awareness of our approach - that Healthy Respect is there to help whatever the problem.

Our website gives full details of which services are available where. Visit www.healthyrespect.co.uk/addressbook for details. The website also has lots of information for young people on relationships, respect, feeling confident, and drink and drugs, and can help them to plan ahead and think things through. Even with the best of intentions, though, mistakes do happen, and it's important young people have somewhere to turn, and someone to talk to.



Citadel Youth Project



Whoever would have thought that a chance invitation to come along to a 'Leith Ahead' meeting back in 2005 would lead to an opportunity to spend over £600,000 on renovating and refurbishing a youth centre in Leith?

But that's exactly how the ambitious project to completely over-haul the Citadel Youth Centre in Commercial Street in Leith came about. Working in close partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, the Citadel Management Committee with support from LAYC have supported a series of applications for funding from sources such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and Youthlink Scotland resulting in a total of £637,000 to date being secured to allow work to start early 2008.

The building at 175 Commercial Street, a former passenger railway station which was built in 1846, has been home to the Citadel Youth Centre since 1980. Although everyone who has been part of the Citadel story over the last 27 years including local children; young people; parents; grandparents; volunteers and staff all have an affectionate connection with this 19th Century building - they all agree that this investment will make things very 21st Century and be a foundation for the next 10 years and beyond.

The work which is due to start in February 2008 is the first part of a 2 phase development. 'Phase I' allows the building to be completely restored and will include cleaning and repairing the external sandstone, windows and doors; replacing the roof; improving accessibility by building a new entrance area and general improvement of facilities such as toilets and office space. The current price tag for this is £602,000 therefore enough money is 'in the bank' to ensure this happens.

The Citadel Management Committee, however, are keen to continue with fundraising and are keen to raise a further £570,000 to allow 'Phase II' to become a reality. The aspirations in this second phase include the development of a 'community café' space and the building of a proper games hall facility with changing rooms as part of an extension at the rear of the building - the two overwhelming requests from over 65% of people who attended a 'Citadel Information' evening earlier in September.

While work is being carried out, the Citadel are planning to stay as busy as usual and are already planning to run clubs, group programmes and individual support services from alternative venues in Leith. With our fingers crossed - Christmas 2008 for Citadel members will be in a spanking new building. Ideally all we need from 'Santa' this year is the additional £570,000 to make 'Phase II' a reality - get sending those letters now!!

For further information about this project and to see more detailed plans please contact: Willy Barr, Project Co-ordinator, Citadel Youth Centre, 175 Commercial Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6JE. Tel: 0131-554-0510 Email: willy@citadel-youthcentre.org.uk

News

The Fabulous Three go to Ratho

Jody (14); **Kitty** (15); and **Maryanne** (14) review 'Aerial Assault' at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena.

The visit to the climbing place:

Did you have a good idea about what you were going to be doing before you went to the Aerial Adventure?

All: "We didn't really have a good idea about what it was - we just went along to try it out"

What did you think when you first saw the place?

J: "When I first saw it I thought omg, honestly you should see seen it man!"

K: "I was crapping it!"

M: "OMG"

Have you done anything like it before? What and where?

M: "I had done it before at Braehead, the others had only done abseiling at school camp in Primary 7, but nothing as high up as this ..."

As you were getting ready to go on the assault course 100ft up in the air what were your thoughts / feelings?

K: "I was talking about not doing it"

M: "Scared, but excited at the same time"

What were the other people like?

K: "The people were friendly (and one guy was really hot!)"

J: "Yeh he was braw!"

What did you think/feel when you finished the assault course?

K: "I'm really glad I did it - I'm really pleased with myself"

J: "When I finished the assault course I just thought woohooo!"

M: "I was happy that I had done it"

Would you recommend it to other young people? (How much do you think you'd pay for it?)

All: "We would definitely recommend it to other young people because it is a good experience. We can't agree if six quid is good value for the 'Aerial Assault' - four quid or a fiver is a better deal for young people if they've got to pay for it out of their own pocket money ... Plus they'd have to pay to get there or arrange lifts or something!"

Would you say £6.00 would be good value for money?

M: "No, not for kids at school"

Ruby . . Ruby . . Ruby . .

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In 1977 punk may have made the headlines, but it was a different kind of music that was establishing what was to become the Canongate Youth Project. In the church hall of St Paul's in Jeffrey Street, just off the Royal Mile, the church curate opened a local youth club. With over 100 youngsters turning up two nights a week to dance to Northern Soul music, it quickly established itself as a cool place to be.

Not slow to realise that youngsters were looking for this and much more, the idea of setting up a community based youth project was born.

And exactly thirty years later CYP have been celebrating their Ruby Anniversary with a series of events throughout the year.

Commencing in March with a lobby reception at the Scottish Parliament by local MSP Sarah Boyack, it concluded with the project's 30th AGM held in the Scottish Storytelling Centre just round the corner from the projects current base in the South Bridge Resource Centre.

In between these two events young people and children raised over £1,000 locally to spend on equipment which was sent over to Malawi from the project. With Holyrood Park on the project's doorstep, a fun day 'Lark in the Park' was held for children, young people and families, which despite the rain was a huge success.



Roisin Bathe, Alex Bathe, Ryan Donaghue tell the audience about what they've put in the projects time capsule which was part of CYP's 30th celebrations



Tina King and Lauren Faye accompanied by CYP staff perform at the AGM. Tina and Lauren are from the Edinburgh Blind School and are active members of the project's music club.

The project's use of music from its earliest days also featured in the celebrations when an evening of live music at the Queen's Hall brought old and new friends of the project together.

Over the past 30 years the project has both grown and developed. Although the youth work programme lies at the heart of the project, it now has other significant strands to its work including Training Services, School based work and CAST. The training services provides some 30 young people at any one time to be supported through the 'Get Ready for Work Programme' and CAST has specialized advice and support to over 500 teenagers around new tenancies, home making, health and related issues.

For youth work a regular programme of open youth club provision, from primary right through to senior secondary, has been provided in their top floor premises. A key aspect to these has been the role of volunteers in the delivery of the club based programmes. Staff from the project have been supported by over 1,000 volunteers over the past thirty years. It's a figure that the project is particularly proud of as it represents a huge investment in its work by a highly committed number of concerned adults.

CYP's reputation as one of the most successful youth and children's project has been built on a foundation that's embedded in the local community. Over the past thirty years the project has had to change, diversify and adapt as it sought to meet the changing needs of the children, young people and families.

It is this more than anything that has ensured CYP remains a critical agency in the lives of so many.

Unlike its punk contemporaries, The Sex Pistols, CYP has no need to have a comeback tour. It's never been away, much to the delight of three generations of Southsiders.



Above: Alistair Cattenach presents the projects Ada Cattenach Award to Tia Aitken at the AGM

Below: Local MSP Sarah Boyack accepts the projects time capsule and agrees to store it in the Parliament for opening in 2027 ... that's the capsule, not the Parliament!



Creating a String of Pearls



When it's standing room only at your AGM and that at least half the audience are young people, you know you've found a cracking project. And so it was at West Lothian Youth Action Project's (WLYAP) recent AGM which saw them celebrate their fifteen years in great style.

Moving presentations from staff and youngsters about their past years work, interspersed with some excellent live music from up and coming bands from their YAP music project, brought home the invaluable work carried out by the project. The evening culminated with a panel of youth reps from across the county raising and responding to critical issues for local youngsters.

It was an evening that demonstrated both the length and breadth of the project's work and why after fifteen years, their pearl anniversary, it continues to care passionately about the work it does.

Set up in 1992 as the Livingston Youth Action Project, it soon grew as its early reputation at working at the sharp end gained recognition. Three years on and young people from across the area were to benefit as the project took on a West Lothian remit.

Working in partnership with a raft of other agencies, the project has worked in over 30 geographical discrete areas, reaching nearly 8,000 young people, through their project based and streetwork programmes.

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From Moving Forward, the projects one to one support service, to their Befriending Service Integr8 and the Eclipse Peer Education, to their active involvement in the early intervention scheme, the project is active in a range of other more specialised provision.

But their commitment to helping young people to develop work for themselves, as you would expect from an action project, remains a high priority.

A tremendous example of that has been the work in Broxburn and Stoneyburn. The Broxburn Café was in need of some TLC and who better to provide that than the young people themselves. Getting the place spruced up and getting internet access installed (plus other equipment) from funds they raised, has seen the café increase the numbers using it. An open day and new logo has improved it further and work on getting a members committee started is planned for the new year.

Stoneyburn's lack of youth facilities was highlighted by the local youth committee, but a year on, the 'wee croft' has been developed along with a new adjacent garden created from a piece of rough ground. With support from West Lothian Council, a group of local youngsters cultivated the new garden which is the pride of the village.

Both these projects highlight the investment WLYAP makes in local people and how by harnessing that, creates positive changes in the lives of young people and their local communities.

Good News

CYP and WLYAP

Although both youth projects are celebrating significant anniversaries, they each offer a different range of services to and for the young people they work with. And so it should be.

Youth work is not some kind of prescriptive formula applied irrespective of the local circumstances. Youth work can only work at its best if projects are able to assess local needs and design, hopefully along with young people, what kind of activities/programmes are best for them.

CYP and WLYAP both do that exceptionally well, but in their own ways. Equally both projects have been given, indeed worked hard to secure, time and funds to enable important practice to develop. As we all know too well there is no quick fix or magical solutions to improving the lot of young people. However, granting projects the chance to create their own histories and a longevity to demonstrate the real impact they make is worth celebrating.

The project co-ordinator of WLYAP talked movingly and emotionally at their AGM about a youngster who most had given up on except for the project. Dropping in on the project some years later, he was able to describe what the project had done for him, turn his life around.

Both projects deserve the accolades given a special anniversary, but more important than that, future generations of young people deserve that same chance.

Edinburgh Leisure

Edinburgh Leisure's

Happy Parade & Carnival



A Happy Day!

On 21 September more than 500 people took to the streets in Edinburgh in their sports kit to promote health and fitness.



Winter Golf in Edinburgh

Edinburgh Leisure is offering all children under the age of 16 the opportunity to take part in our winter coaching programme for only £40. Lessons run over a 6 week period for 1 hour each week and are led by a PGA Professional.

Our winter coaching venues for 2007/08 are: Craggs Sports Centre; Drumbrae Leisure Centre; and the Jack Kane Sports Centre. Under 16's also have the opportunity to purchase a Junior Season ticket for only £50 for a whole year giving you unlimited access to both our 9-hole courses, Portobello & Princes.

For more information please call Colin Hutchison, Golf Development Officer on 0131 652 4348 or visit our website @ www.edinburghleisure.co.uk

The marchers joined cheerleaders, pipers, a unicyclist, elite Scottish athletes such as World Championship swimmer Robert Lang, Edinburgh Rugby players, Mark Robertson and Scott Newlands, plus the current Miss Scotland, Nieve Jennings, and Radio Forth DJ, Mark Martin.

Edinburgh Leisure's Michael Pinkerton said: "Having had such a miserable summer and with a long, cold winter just around the corner, we thought Edinburgh deserved a lift - and what better way than a happy parade promoting the benefits of leading a more active life?"

"Aside from the more obvious physical benefits, regular exercise can make us feel better mentally thanks to releasing those feel-good endorphins and, of course, with all the pressures of modern living, it's the perfect de-stress."

Following the parade, a free Happy Activity Carnival took place in Princes Street Gardens with activities such as fitness and dance classes, 'test your speed' football, golf swing analysis, face painting, volleyball, tennis, a bouncy castle, a bungee run and the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena's 6m portable climbing wall.

Derek Thomson, chair of Edinburgh Leisure, added: "As the largest leisure provider in the city, we share the City of Edinburgh Council's vision to make Edinburgh the most active city in Europe by 2020.

"Through the Edinburgh Leisure Happy Parade and Carnival, we hoped to send out a strong message to people in Edinburgh and to the rest of Scotland that we're leading the way when it comes to physical activity and leading healthy, happy and fulfilling lives."

Edinburgh Leisure out in the Community

Wednesday 17th October saw Burdiehouse deliver their very first Community Sports Day.

This event was welcomed by the local community with over 90 local residents of all ages attending and trying their hand at a number of different activities including Volleyball and Football.

The focus of the day was on the Football tournament delivered by 10 local lads who have been working with Stewart Roy as part of the Youth Coaching Edinburgh programme. These young people have worked through a 13 week leadership course, learning coaching skills, communication skills and how to deliver events. The whole day, including the weather, was fantastic and gave the young people involved, and Stewart, a huge sense of achievement and satisfaction.

Following the success of the event the young men are now planning the delivery of multi-sports sessions which will run within the Burdiehouse Community Centre throughout term times.



For more information on the Youth Coaching Edinburgh programme please contact Stewart Roy at stewartroy@edinburghleisure.co.uk

Mapping Youth Worker Training Seminar Dundee



LAYC attended this event in November organised by Community Learning & Development Managers Scotland and YouthLink Scotland. As many of you will know LAYC had experience a few years back of delivering ACT training for youth workers (and 5-12's workers too!) and just now we are trialing/piloting the North Lanarkshire Youth Worker Training packs which are CeVe accredited. (Thanks to the individual CL&D staff helping on this course by tutoring, identifying and supporting sessional youth workers in their area to take part in it!)

According to the figures being talked about at the Seminar, these two Youth Worker training packages along with the core Youth Worker Training programme (we here at LAYC call it 'the Falkirk pack' for short!) have been taken up by 31 of the Councils in Scotland.

LAYC hasn't decided which one is the most suitable for us to offer in Edinburgh - it might be that we continue to hedge our bets - maybe we could run all of them at one time or another.

So - Should LAYC 'Level' our two hour short courses? Maybe even get our courses credit rated; or should we pick one of the other longer, multisession courses and just do that?

Do you really care if some other body gives courses a seal of approval? (One person at the seminar suggested that it cost at least £4,000 cash and six months of 2 sometimes 3 people spending a day a week to get one 10 session course accredited by SQA).

If that's the case it's not really 'a goer' with LAYC cash always being tight when the Council is cutting grants and with their threat to remove the staffing to LAYC being just around the corner.

LAYC will focus on Children's Work Training in the Spring 2008 issue of Networks.



News

Give me a 'C' Give me an 'H'

We'd like to give the girls attending our new dance project at Gracemount a big CHEER, or should I say Give us a 'C', give us a 'H'...

The project, funded by the Community Safety Partnership, is based at Gracemount Leisure Centre and aims to get girls, not participating in regular sport or physical activity, involved in a dance programme.

Stuart Ferrier, Sports and Service Development Manager said, "Research has shown us that girls take part in less physical activity on a weekly basis than boys of a similar age so programmes, like this one, specifically catering for the motivations of girls are really valuable".

The programme itself has offered the girls taking part, of which there have been around 50 on a weekly basis, the chance to try cheerleading or street dance and as such focuses on getting involved, having a go and most of all, having fun!

So great have their efforts been, that 25 of the girls will be showcasing their work by performing at Edinburgh Leisure's annual Christmas Display, which will be watched by 1,400 spectators... we wish the girls well!

The project has been so successful that both cheerleading and street dance classes will continue as part of a mainstream dance programme as a concessionary price in future.

If you are interested in this project or other girls-only sports activities contact Shelagh Jackson, Youth Development Officer at Edinburgh on 0131 652 4337 or on shelaghjackson@edinburghleisure.co.uk

LAYC Assistance to Affiliated Groups around Disclosure Checks.

Welcome to the heady world of Disclosure checks on youth and children's work staff.

You've just advertised for some new staff and you discover that the person who used to do the Disclosures for your group is no longer around and Don't panic, LAYC is here to help you get up to speed with all you need to know.

Stage 1

Proceed with your recruitment process and at the same time complete the Club/LAYC contract/ agreement.

Stage 2

Get the preferred candidates to complete the online Disclosure and ID verification stages.

Stage 3

Wait till your group hears back from LAYC before confirming your recruitment decision and offering the posts.

Stage 4

Work with LAYC so that (for effectiveness and convenience) you will be able to carry out Disclosure checks for your group "in-house" the next time.

In fact why not check the position of your club right now !



If you have only one person able to carry out Disclosure checks then why not sign up an alternative right now to be the named person in the LAYC/Club contract/agreement. Some clubs decide to have an officer bearer to be the alternative if the Club leader is the lead signatory for the group (or vice versa).

If you go to www.layc.org.uk and click on the "Child Protection" button on the left side of the screen and then click on "Disclosure Checks" in the drop down menu that appears.

Going over the instructions there:

1. Clubs complete the "Contract / Agreement" part ... this allows LAYC to help out groups who either aren't registered with Disclosure Scotland or CRBS or have never done Disclosures before (or even groups who are registered and have done their own Disclosures in the past but suddenly find that actually it is the

person who did Disclosures that has left and they have no one else to do them for them.

2. Clubs complete their recruitment as normal and to allow you to decide whether you offer preferred candidates the post the preferred candidate would complete the "Disclosure Application" and "Identification Verification" stages through LAYC .

3. LAYC would then receive a copy of the Disclosure check information and phone the Named Person in the Contract / Agreement signed and completed by the club) to advise them whether or not there was anything that the club needed to be aware of before the take they finally take the decision to offer the person the post or not. LAYC would issue a letter to the club confirming.

4. After that particular recruitment phase is completed LAYC would then help the club get set up to be able to carry out their own Disclosure process in future. For that LAYC would need to check that the club was registered in its own right with Disclosure Scotland and/or CRBS (the Central Registration Body in Scotland). And in particular make sure the club knew who was the named individual registered as lead signatory or collator for the club and also any additional signatories the club might have.

Please feel free to give LAYC a phone/email if anything is unclear or you need more information or assistance.



In Your Own Words . . .



Buckstone Youth Club and Project

The Buckstone Youth Club is open to all children in the Buckstone area in P5-P7. We meet every Monday from October through to the end of March. We meet in the local Primary School and membership costs £20 per term and 50p per night.

We have a lot of fun at the youth club whether we are baking, doing arts and crafts, singing, dancing and lots of sports. We also have lots of trips to the bowling, lazerquest, swimming and we are also going to the pantomime to see **Goldilocks at the Kings Theatre**. At Xmas time and at the end of term we have a disco with lots of games. The Youth Club is run by volunteers and has 2 part-time youth workers.

The Buckstone Youth Project is open to young people of secondary school aged S1 upwards who are interested in helping run their own youth project. The project runs all year and has a summer programme of events. The young people are instrumental in producing their own programme with the types of things that interest them and also in raising funds to keep the project going. Forthcoming events will be bag packing, a duck race jointly with the junior youth club, a family fun night, providing activities at the St Fillans Xmas Fair and a silent auction.

A few of the activities we have arranged are go karting, bowling, visit to the Pantomime, regular football outings to Gracemount Leisure Centre outdoor pitches, lazerquest, rock climbing, archery and kayaking.

LAYC members get a chance to tell Networks about their youth group

We have also raised funds for a residential trip to Nethybridge. On regular club nights we meet in the local church hall and have access to pool, snooker, karaoke, trsh fashions, games, tuck and baking. We also offer healthy eating options and invite agencies like Amnesty International; Edinburgh Youth Council (drugs & alcohol session); ASH the anti-smoking group and Spark in the Dark (for circus skills). Also this term a group of young people have been involved in a First Aid course run over 2 weeks at the club. We like to involve the local young people in making their own decisions and are now offering them the opportunity to take part in the Dynamic and Youth Achievement awards which are similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. These awards involve the young people setting their own 'Challenges' and targets which includes their progress being assessed by a group of their peers.

One of the successes of the Buckstone Youth Club and Project is a few of the young people who started in P5 have now gone through both clubs and now return regularly to help run them on a voluntary basis. The youth club and youth project are supported by the Fairmilehead Community Council, Lothian Association of Youth Clubs and City of Edinburgh Council Community Learning & Development - South based in Gracemount who assist with trying to access funding to maintain youth provision in Fairmilehead.

If you are interested or able to assist in any way then Margaret Walker, part-time Youth & Children's Worker would be very pleased to hear from you.

News

Volunteering in Sport

Did you know that 1/4 of all volunteers are in sport and of young people volunteering 47% are in sport! Volunteering in sport is a very popular avenue for young people and can be a very rewarding experience in which they can develop skills, make new friends and gain confidence.

However young people often say that they don't know how to get involved or they lack the confidence to take the first step. The guide to volunteering in sport aims to give young people (and the agencies that work with young people) the information that they need to encourage and support them to get involved.

A copy of the guide should accompany this newsletter and is also available online at www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/volunteer/sport.htm or www.layc.org.uk



If you would like more information, copies of the guide or someone to talk to young people about how they can get involved then get in touch using the contact details below. Young people can also get recognised for their volunteering with the MV Awards scheme. Open to 16-25 year olds the awards present active volunteers with certificates at 50, 100 and 200 hours of volunteering which are signed by Ministers of the Scottish Parliament.

Individuals can register online www.mvvolunteeringpassport.org.uk or by contacting the Volunteer Centre Edinburgh - Tel. 0131 225 0630.

Shona Clark (Regional Development Officer, Volunteering in Sport) : shona.clark@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk

Kade Moncrieff (Youth Volunteering Development Worker) : kade.moncrieff@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk

January Sales Come Early

LAYC is set to lose at least **50%** of its staff by next March if initial comments from Senior Edinburgh Council Managers are acted upon.

Currently LAYC has two seconded posts from Edinburgh Council and the review of CLD specifically includes 'the deployment of CLD staff to the voluntary sector'.

LAYC President Donald Gorrie is in no doubt of the potential consequences if this threat is carried through. 'The impact on LAYC and its ability to deliver services to member groups and beyond would be devastating. We cannot lose this level of staff without serious consequences. Any cut of this magnitude would be wholly disproportionate to the cuts currently being sought across Children & Families.'

LAYC had its first seconded staff in the mid 1970's followed by the second some fifteen years later. The deal has brought tremendous benefits according to LAYC Director Ian Boardman. 'These two secondments provided long term stability to the organisation and enabled us to sustain and develop the services provided. On just an economic argument, LAYC has secured over £1.5 million of non Council funding for youth & children's work in the last ten years alone.

What people also need to remember is that both seconded posts were previously grant aided. So in effect any withdrawal of staff would represent between a 44% and 92% cut in our support.'

Following indications of the cuts, a review of CLD has been established which is due to report in February next year, just a few weeks before any implementation date. Attempts to get some clarity as to how this aspect of the review is to be carried out, and opportunities LAYC will have to provide evidence remain unanswered.

'We will continue to plan to provide our full services next year, but it would be unfair on our members to pretend we can deliver this if this cut were to be imposed.'

The LAYC Office Bearers will work hard to raise these concerns with Senior Managers and elected members and will continue to do so. Clubs messages of support and encouragement are welcome.

If or when LAYC receives more information about the Council's intentions we will keep you advised. In the meantime don't hesitate to raise concerns you might have about LAYC's future with your local Councillor.



STREETWORK

The Runaways Action Programme

Its aim is to reach vulnerable young people on the streets in Edinburgh who are affected by or excluded as a result of running away with the purpose of reducing the incidence of running and reduce risks from 2006 to 2009.

Who do we work with?

Young people who think about or feel threatened to run away or actually run away from home or substitute care. Age range up to 18.

What do we do?

We have:

- detached youth work shifts within the city centre Friday 3-6pm, south Edinburgh Mondays 5:30-8:30pm, Fridays 2-5pm - direct access point for young runaways
- 1-to-1 support for young people on an individual basis, listening, advice, looking at other options and reducing risks, flexible person-centred work in their homes, on the street, in the school or other locations, advocacy support etc. - varies with the young person
- follow-up for young runaways, voluntary service
- educational workshops in schools to raise awareness of risks of running away, destigmatise reasons and considering other options to running away
- presence in railway station and bus station and popular shopping malls and young people's hang outs

How to refer or just get advice?

- Email: youthteam@streetwork.org.uk or sabine@streetwork.org.uk
- Telephone 0131 476 2023
- Check out website www.streetwork.org.uk

Feel free to phone for more information.