

networks

The Journal for Youth & Children Workers in Lothian



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The Octobus playbus, which offered play sessions in Edinburgh for over ten years, has been replaced by a brand new Oct2bus.

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Opt in for Art

Thursday March 17th saw the launch of 'Opt In For Art', a new visual arts education and development program for 7 to 18 year olds.

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Changing Rooms or Just Updating Old Ones?

We at LAYC have given our training/meeting room a bit of a makeover, with a spectacular result! Laurence Llewelyn Bowen was unavailable for the job, so we had to make do with George Reavely. That's probably just as well as we were looking for a nice airy, modern feel to the room as opposed to a more garish effect! We're really pleased with the result (pictured right). To see the finished result for yourself you can book on a training course or join our Management Committee!



Furthermore, the room is available for hire at a discounted rate for affiliated clubs. Cheers George!

The Scottish Executive has set up a network of voluntary sector liaison officers across each department, to bolster and promote relations between the sector and government. This will also deal with grievances around the Scottish Compact. Interested local authority staff or voluntary organisations should check out : www.scvo.org/policy/new_politics/structures_of_government/VLOs.htm
www.scvo.org/policy/new_politics/structures_of_government/VLOs.htm for contact details.

"Did Somebody Mention Summer?"

Here we go again! It's the first reminder of the year to get Edinburgh's Playday event firmly etched into your project's summer programme. The event takes place on the first Wednesday in August every year, falling on the 3rd August this year. All you have to do at the moment is open your diary at August and write Playday beside the 3rd. Simple!

Meanwhile the planning group will continue to work to shape an event that is growing in stature in the play calendar. As usual the event will be free, and we will be sending out fliers in the Spring asking organisations to register their interest.

If you have never heard of Playday, or would like to know a bit more about the background to Playday, visit www.playday.org.uk or contact the Children's Play Council on 020 7843 6016.

Alternatively if you would like more information on the Edinburgh event, both in terms of what has taken place in the past and what is planned for this year, contact :

Glenn Marsters
City of Edinburgh Council's Play Development Unit
Tel. 0131 311 7076 or email glenn.marsters@edinburgh.gov.uk

Web Site Makeover

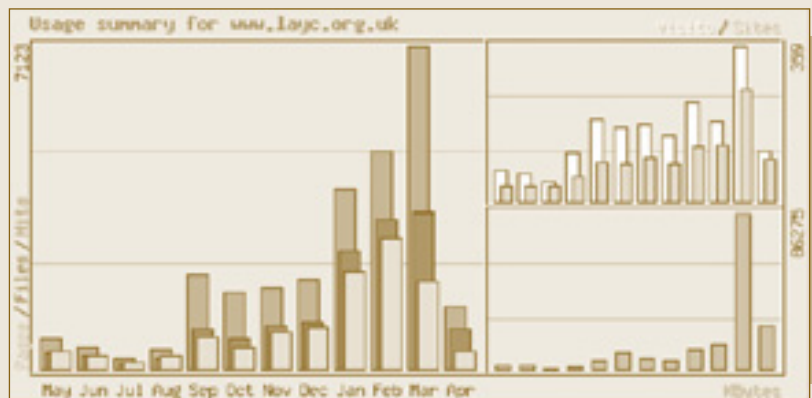
Whilst we're on the subject of makeovers, we may as well tell you that we've been tinkering with our web site! The main reason we changed it was to make it easier to use. Go to www.layc.org.uk and have a play about with it! What do you think? We'd love to hear your thoughts!

Summary by Month

Month	Daily Average				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Apr 2005	139	90	39	11	98	23868	116	393	907	1395
Mar 2005	229	111	62	11	258	86275	359	1934	3443	7123
Feb 2005	171	118	103	6	131	13582	186	2891	3319	4800
Jan 2005	127	84	70	7	126	10856	230	2170	2623	3950
Dec 2004	63	33	29	4	87	5220	151	914	1047	1981
Nov 2004	60	32	27	5	101	5533	177	823	976	1810
Oct 2004	54	22	15	5	87	9673	170	475	689	1696
Sep 2004	69	29	24	6	89	5240	187	731	899	2078
Aug 2004	14	7	9	3	57	998	113	293	238	439
Jul 2004	7	5	5	1	34	385	46	159	156	244
Jun 2004	16	10	10	2	33	2073	64	303	310	481
May 2004	22	12	13	2	35	2621	73	417	379	669
Totals						166,324	1,872	11,503	14,986	26,666

Usage Statistics for www.layc.org.uk

Summary Period: Last 12 Months. Generated 11-Apr-2005 04:21 BST



LAYC Q.D.U. Update

Work has been progressing behind the scenes with LAYC's Quality Development Unit. The QDU is here to support member Clubs and Groups in Edinburgh to both interpret and comply with the implementation of new legislation. In particular we are focussing on the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 or POC(S)A as it is perhaps more commonly referred to or known as. We are currently gathering information around the policies and procedures of our affiliated groups with a view to making an assessment on the varying levels of support that they will need in order to meet the legal requirements. So we will be in touch with the main person responsible for recruitment in your organisation soon to talk through some of your policies, procedures and needs!

For advice, support or information around POC(S)A 2003 please feel free to contact Dale on the telephone number or e-mail address detailed below. No question is too silly or trivial here, so please feel free to contact us with any queries you may have or situations you may have come across where you require advice. We are already fielding calls which include a wide range of themes from "Are there particular games we should avoid in our club?" to "What does a particular sentence for a criminal offence mean in relation to potential employment in a child care position?" We are here to help where and when we can in an area where there are new developments forthcoming fairly regularly.

Increase in the Circulation of Networks

LAYC would like to welcome our 30 new readers who are made up from youth and children workers in the North West area of Edinburgh. As well as affiliating as an agency, this area team has become the first to broker a deal which sees all their sessional staff receive copies of Networks mailed out to their home addresses. We at LAYC are particularly pleased, as an increase in the circulation of Networks to workers in the field can only be a good thing! We look forward to receiving articles highlighting areas of good practice in due course and are only too happy to receive comments from our readership regarding any aspect of LAYC's services. Of course this deal is not exclusive to the North West of Edinburgh and we'd be happy to hear from anyone else looking to support and promote quality youth and children's work in a similar way. Is it a good deal? Don't ask us, speak to Marielle Bruce on 0131 315 8026.

Looking at the graph you get the impression that something seems to be taking off on the LAYC website front? And looking at the figures you would be correct! Whereas last year maybe 30 odd poor souls would stumble around the website a couple of times a month we now have OVER 250 different "webvisitors" who rack up between 20 and 30 "Hits" each on average. It might not be Bill Gates standards but we are still quietly encouraged!!!

HELP US IMPROVE THE WEBSITE even further by completing the LAYC website Survey online (or return the paper version in this "Networks" mailing).

As a result our motto at LAYC is ... if there's a hint of doubt check it out!

In the meantime we have put together a programme of training which aims to address some of the issues that we have anticipated are already out there.

COURSES

Monday 25 April 2005 10.00am-1.00pm
Protection of Children (Scotland) Act Seminar.
Venue - LAYC

Tuesday 3 May 2005 10.00am-4.00pm
Effective Recruitment and Interpretation of Criminal record Information.
Venue - LAYC

Wednesday 11 May 2005 9.30am-1.00pm
Terms and Conditions of Employment and Managing Discipline and Grievance at Work.
Venue - LAYC

For further details of course content and the training providers please go to www.layc.org.uk and click on Training. All the above courses are **FREE** for affiliated Edinburgh clubs and groups who have priority for booking, £10 for affiliated clubs and groups from other areas and £20 for non-affiliated clubs and groups. For further information or to book a place contact Dale Marsters on 0131 667 1828 or e-mail: dale@layc.org.uk

Training's a Canter with LAYC

As we approach the final furlong of our current programme of training it seems as good a time as any to let you know where we're placed. With plenty of runners and riders from places as far afield as North Berwick and Livingston and the ground covered so far including venues at EYSIP, Y2K, Penicuik YMCA, Dalkeith Community Centre, The Bridges Centre as well as home turf at Dunford House, we'd be inclined to say the going's been good and place ourselves in the winners enclosure! Of course in the national hunt for perfection there were hurdles to overcome and a few non-runners in the early stages saw some cancellations to courses in East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian. However the bulk of our courses have run and we even managed to re-schedule some of the earlier cancellations due to fresh demand! The programme of training has featured a field including "evens favourites" such as Child Protection, Emergency Aid and Dealing with Challenging Behaviour, thoroughbreds such as Games, Games, Games and Youth Achievement Awards and not to mention the odd "long shot" such as Human Rights and Bored Meetings.

Now by this point you may be wondering why the horse racing references? Could it be that Jim Balloch played a wonderful game called Grand National on his Games, Games, Games course or is it simply because there was a youth worker called William Hill on one of our Emergency Aid courses? Well we're neigh saying! Remember places on all courses are limited so book early in order to avoid stalling in the gates!

Wednesday 18 May 2005 10.00am-12.30pm
Child Protection Training
Venue - LAYC

Saturday 21 May 2005 10.00am-12.30pm
Child Protection Training
Venue - LAYC

Saturday 28 May 2005 10.00am-12.30pm
Drugs and Alcohol Training
Venue - LAYC

Saturday 11 June 2005 9.30am-1.30pm
Emergency Aid
Venue - LAYC

For further details of course content and the training providers please go to www.layc.org.uk and click on Training. To book places on the above courses phone us on 0131 667 1828 or e-mail enquiries@layc.org.uk

Sex, Drugs, Rocking and Rolling out the Red Carpet . . .

the CREW 2000 shop launch

The fresh new face of Crew 2000 was unveiled on Thursday 27th January 2005.

The shop which has been open since 1995 has been described as a magnet for young people seeking information and advice on drugs, sexual health, clubbing and other youth issues.

Since its humble beginnings when only a few hundred young folk crossed the threshold of the Edinburgh Charity, to last year when 10,000 visits were recorded, it continues to be associated with a no nonsense approach to some important issues facing young people today: Substance use, sexual and emotional health.

Crew 2000 Manager John Arthur "we listened to what our young service users were saying and have tailored our services to meet their needs. The shop refurbishment was needed to provide better access to information and space to give confidential advice and support to young people. The range of drugs and the availability has increased since 1995 and the prices have dropped dramatically. Crew 2000 continues to give non-biased and culturally credible information and advice on the dangers of using a range of substances including: alcohol, prescription, legal and illicit drugs."

The Crew 2000 shop in Cockburn Street is also the busiest outlet for the C.Card service in the Lothian and provides sexual health advice, condoms and information on other health related issues. There were 7,000 visits to this service alone last year.

Volunteers help to provide the shop services and are involved in all aspects of Crew 2000's work "Services are reliable, informative and easy to use. Crew offers a friendly service and young people really seem to like this approach" says **Claire McIntosh** one of the Crew 2000 volunteers

Tom Wood the new Chair of the 'Action Team for Drugs and Alcohol in Edinburgh' described the refurbished shop as "An excellent example of the voluntary sector providing high quality amenities and services" and reckoned that "the newly refurbished shop would rival any of the boutiques on Cockburn Street and was a warm and welcoming space that couldn't help but be attractive to young people"

For follow up information
www.crew2000.co.uk
 Contact John or Hannah - 0131 220 3404
j.arthur@crew2000.org.uk



Edinburgh's Drug 'Tsar' Tom Wood prepares to launch the newly refurbished Crew information shop.

"TWENTY-ONE YEARS YOUNG"

Interview with Louis Isbrand of the Red School Youth Centre, Prestonpans

The Red School Youth Centre in Prestonpans first opened its doors to young people on February 16th 1984, which means it comes of age this year with its 21st birthday. I went to meet Louis Isbrand, who became the full time senior worker all those years ago, and still holds the post. He gave me the tour, and although the Centre has not been refurbished in all that time, it is holding up well, with a nice open café space and a multi purpose hall where discos are held every Friday evening with young people providing the tunes. The walls of the lounge were covered with pictures from times past and present, and Louis remarked with amusement on participants who go through the archives and see themselves staring at photos of their own parents as teenagers.

When it first opened, the Red School Youth Centre (named for the school which stood there previously, but strangely appropriate for a provision that came to fruition as a result of pressure from Old Labour councillors) aimed to provide services four nights a week for over-12s, which it was felt were lacking in the area. That has now been expanded to include a nights provision for P4-P7s, enabling participants to build up a long personal history with the Centre, and some of these come back as volunteers and staff. For instance, one of the current workers, Nicola, began attending the Centre when she was eight, and says it completely inspired her to go on and do the Community Education degree, which she is currently completing. I asked for her best memories, and she recalled a camping and canoeing residential on an island which "...was fantastic. There we were, living our little lives on that island, seeing the world in a completely different way." Summer residential form a major part of the Centre's provision. For the last six years these have been run in association with Outward Bound, who it was felt were better able to deliver the kinds of experiences young people seek nowadays. There is a three year development, with the first year aimed at P7s just leaving primary school, taking them into their teenage years. Though the activities available may have changed significantly, the communal emphasis has remained, with summer programme participants meeting regularly in the month before the trip to eat lunch and chat together. As Louis pointed out, even this experience of sitting together at

mealtimes has become quite a novelty for young people today.

The Red School has always been passionate about youth participation, and this has remained throughout the years. Although the days of sitting on dull committees and going through all the processes of a mini-democracy have been done away with, it is the young people who make the decisions affecting them, including how their funding is spent. One of the changes Louis perceives is that young people have become much more vocal about their needs and desires, and do not need adults to make their arguments for them. While some of the issues have changed over time, in particular those around gender, many have remained the same. For the Centre, the key is listening to young people and remembering that, while it may be your twenty-first time as a youth worker going through an issue, for the young people involved it is their first. What is more, the next generation may have completely different solutions to the one before, so you have to remain receptive. You also have to keep up to date with technology. "When we first opened", Louis told me, "we thought we were the bees knees because we had a Space Invaders machine."

In terms of celebrations or commemorations, Louis is keeping the flexible attitude that has shaped the Centre's outlook. He is keen for those who have been involved with the place to come forward with ideas about how they would like to remember it. To this end, he intends to place notices in the local papers to try and draw some "old" young people out of the woodwork. There are piles of photos and old registration cards which could go on display, as well as video footage and creative gems such as the tape-slide films shown to the public back in the Nineties. As he says, most youth work evaluation takes place immediately after the event, so it would be interesting to see what reflections people have about their club experiences all these years on.

I wanted to know what Louis' own reflections were on twenty-one years working with youth: "At the heart of it", he reckons, "young people are still looking for somewhere to go where they can feel safe, and where there are adults around who are prepared to listen... Young people are no different from adults, they want somewhere they can call their own."



healthy respect

Introduction

Healthy Respect is a Scottish Executive National Health Demonstration Project on young people's sexual health. Working with partners from voluntary and statutory sector organisations involved in the delivery of sexual health education, information and services in Lothian, the Project has recently entered Phase Two of its work. A key element of the Project is to share lessons learned in relation to improving young people's sexual health throughout Lothian and Scotland.

Drop-in services

Following a consultation with young people, Healthy Respect established 'drop-ins' in or around the school setting. The drop-ins provide a wide range of general and sexual health services for young people under 18 years of age, either within a school, within a nearby health centre or within a local voluntary organisation.

What are they?

You might have heard them called a drop-in, a clinic, health service or zone.

What do they offer?

They provide free advice, support and information about general and sexual health.

Who are they for?

All young men and young women. This means they are for everyone!

Who will know I've been?

Only you and the people that you choose to tell.

Who works in the drop-ins?

Doctors, nurses and youth workers

What does confidential mean?

When a young person talks to a worker in confidence, staff at the drop-in will not tell anyone else about the discussion.

During our second phase we hope to develop several more drop-ins and link them with information and education in schools and community settings. These will be based mainly in Northwest Edinburgh and Midlothian and mainly areas of deprivation.

Drop-in standards

Christine Wallis, Healthy Respect worker said " We have developed guidelines called 'All I want LIVE' which reflect young people's views, and have helped us to develop a high standard of service at all Healthy Respect drop-ins. The standards include: having appropriately trained staff, providing a range of confidential services, having up to date information on a variety of topics, and feedback mechanisms in drop-ins so that young people can tell us their views on the service".

For further information on the drop-ins and the work of Healthy Respect contact:

Healthy Respect @ NHS Lothian

Deaconess House

148 Pleasance

Edinburgh EH8 9RS

Or visit our website:

www.healthyrespect.co.uk



LOTHIAN DROP-IN SERVICES

Edinburgh

Dean Terrace

18 Dean Terrace, Edinburgh EH4 1NW
Tel. 0131 332 7941

Mon to Wed 3.30-4.30pm (under 20's)

Sat 9.30am-12pm (under 25's)

Sexual Health service

Wester Hailes

Wester Hailes Health Centres

7 Murrayburn Gate, Edinburgh EH14 2SS

Tel. 0131 315 7320

Wed 2.00-4.00pm

Health Centre

West Lothian

Boghall

Boghall Community Health Centre

Elizabeth Drive, Boghall, Bathgate EH48 1HS

Tel. 01506 652 267

Tuesday 11.50am-1.50pm

Community

Deans

Deans Community High School

Eastwood Park, Livingston EH54 8PS

Tel. 01506 497 090

Wednesday 11.50 - 1.50pm

School

Dedridge

James Young Community High School

Quentin Rise, Dedridge, Livingston EH54 6NE

Tel. 01506 414 244

Mon 11.45am-1.45pm

School

South Queensferry

Queensferry Health Centre

41 The Loan, South Queensferry EH30 9HA

Tel. 0131 315 1396

Thursday 12.00-2.00pm

Health Centre

Strathbrock

Strathbrock Partnership Centre

189a West Main Street, Broxburn, EH52 5LH

Tel. 01506 852 948

Thur 12.00-2.00pm

Community

Whitburn

Whitburn Academy

Shanks Road, Whitburn EH47 0HL

Tel. 01501 740 675

Monday 11.50am-1.50pm

School

East Lothian

Musselburgh

Connect Health Drop-in

Riverside Practice, Esk Medical Centre, Ladywell

Way, Musselburgh EH21 6AB

Tel. 0131 665 2267

Friday 1.30-3.30pm

Health Centre

Midlothian

Dalkeith

The O-Zone

Newbattle Community High School,

64 Easthouses Road (sports block),

Dalkeith EH22 4EW

Tel. 0131 663 4191

Mon-Thur 12.50pm-1.40pm

YOUTH WORK FAIR

Edinburgh's second Youth Work Fair took place on an astonishingly sunny Saturday in March, at the end of the city's Youth Work Week.

The event took over the indoor running track at Meadowbank Sports Centre, filling the space with stalls from around fifty different youth work organizations, everything from the *Boy's Brigade* to the *Youth Council*, taking in *LGBT Youth Scotland* and *The Bike Station*. There was more to see outside as well, with two mobile services provided by the *Young Scot Smart Bus* and the *Youth Buz*, both using vehicles cadged from Lothian Buses. The *Youth Buz* maybe got a little more attention than it really wanted when it broke down five metres from the car park entrance, but in the spirit of teamwork there were plenty of helpers to push it to safety. From all accounts, this was a minor setback in what has been an incredibly successful new project for North East Edinburgh.

Both Youth Work Week and the Fair were organised by the *Edinburgh Youth Work Partnership*, who put in a huge amount of time and effort. A crew of volunteers helped things run smoothly on the day. Speaking to a few people who had been involved in the previous Fair two years ago, it was felt this year's event was more focused, both on the city itself, and also on youth work provision as opposed to childcare facilities.



Those organisations I spoke to who had delivered events during the week, such as *ELREC*, *Saheliya* and *The Citadel*, had been really pleased with attendance and feedback.

The event was officially opened by Ian Glen, head of the new 'Neighbourhood Management, Children and Families Department' with the City of Edinburgh Council. "The impressive range of agencies and stalls" he saw as evidence of the "tremendous opportunities for young people to use their leisure time productively- and they're increasing." He added "on behalf of

the new Department I want to say how proud we are of young people in the city and the contribution they make to citizenship." Also present from the Council was Rev. Ewan Aitken, Executive Member for Children and Families.

As well as presenting *Citizen Y Awards* to a raft of different organizations, he stressed the importance of the youth work sector to local government: "As someone still working in the sector I want to make sure the Council continues to build mature and positive relationships with these organizations... We understand we have a common task."



children's work . . . children's work . . . children's work . . .

19th March 2005

Highlights

Highlights of the day included *LGBT Youth* performing extracts from their recent performances of 'The Vagina Monologues', from which the money raised will go to support women in Iraq. There were some excellent films produced by young people being shown on the Smart Bus's plasma screen, while inside *Young People Speak Out* were playing examples of their video work with disadvantaged and BME youth. A blonde and a brunette from *Edinburgh Leisure* gave an impressive if somewhat intimidating demonstration of 'Body Combat' on the main concourse. The day finished with an informal lecture on "Issues and Challenges for Working with Young People in 2005" by Tony



Jefferies, Senior Lecturer at Durham University. He described how youth workers had faced the same problems with funding, staffing, laws and building maintenance for the last hundred years. The more fundamental challenge today, he said, was the lack of "real education...controlled, managed and shared with others, through reflection and discussion... Those things which make 'a life worth living.'" Because schools try and mix this kind of education with actual schooling- the Three Rs kind of basics- he sees young people as missing out on the creative and enriching aspects of education. Our job as youth workers is therefore crucial, he said, especially in a time when the current generation of young people are the most unhappy and despondent there have ever been.



One of the most positive things which people seemed to get out of the Youth Work Fair was the opportunity it gave for different youth organizations to make contact with each other and find out about the wide range of provision available.



Although competing with the sunshine and a day of important sporting events meant numbers of public visitors were less than hoped for, those present left with positive feelings and bags of information. There are not a great number of opportunities for those in the sector to all come together, so the Fair was much appreciated for facilitating such a gathering.

Here's looking forward to the next Youth Work Fair in two years time?

Young People Stars For a Night at SL:UK Launch

Thursday the 17th April 2005 saw 5 members of Sports development and Keith Jackson at an evening reception at Edinburgh Castle! The evening was held for the re branding of the British Sports Trust now Sports Leaders UK (SL:UK) Youth Coaching Edinburgh, a project headed by Rona Macgregor, which targets socially excluded young people and gives them the opportunity to become sports coaches, uses SL:UK awards as a stepping stone onto national governing body qualifications. Edinburgh Leisure staff donned their suits and headed off to the castle accompanied by 5 young people who are taking part in Youth Coaching Edinburgh. The Duke of Edinburgh spoke to all the young people and they agreed he was really down to earth and seemed genuinely interested in them. The most exciting part of the evening was when the young people made a speech, with Hazel Williamson, that outlined the experiences they had participating in the SL:UK awards. Shelly Cummings and Thomas Irving did a great job in front of about 200 prestigious guests!! Finally after exquisite dark chocolate cups filled with orange mousse all were given the opportunity to see the crown jewels and the stone of destiny!!

STOP PRESS !

Are You Ready for the BAA Youth Games? 29th April 2005 @ Meadowbank Sports Centre



Open All Hours, Opens More Hours!

Edinburgh Leisure and Community Education have recently been successful in securing further funding from the Community Safety Partnership to extend Open All Hours to new venues. The successful 'drop in' programme of activities for Young People will now be available at Jack Kane Sports Centre, Queensferry Recreation Centre and Leith Victoria. As well as establishing Open All Hours at the above venues, the funding will be used to sustain the **Girls Only** Open All Hours programme currently running at Leith Victoria Swim Centre. It was identified from an extensive evaluation of young people attending Open All Hours that there was a need for girls' only activities and therefore a 10 week pilot was created which has proved extremely popular with attendance figures of over 70 young women from diverse backgrounds each week. For more information please contact your local centre.

Edinburgh Leisure

Managing leisure and recreation facilities for the City of Edinburgh Council

Capital Commitment to Coaching !

The Coaching Edinburgh 10 year strategy was officially launched on 1st March. Representatives from Sport Scotland, Edinburgh Leisure and the City of Edinburgh Council came together to celebrate the launch of the strategy which would, in the words of Edinburgh Leisure Chief Executive Keith Jackson 'take Edinburgh a step closer to our shared vision of a city where sports coaching is more widely available to all.'

For more information on what Coaching Edinburgh can do for you go to www.coachingedinburgh.co.uk

Edinburgh Golf awarded Community Safety funding

Up to 35 young people who regularly use and abuse Craigtintny golf course will be offered the opportunity to undertake 6 hours of coaching with PGA Professional Steve Craig and be offered 4 monthly season passes through the summer. The programme will be delivered with the assistance of the Community Education Team, as an opportunity to reach some of those young people through developing their interest in a game they enjoy

NEW - BIG Tennis starts at Broomhouse Primary

The BIG youth project based at Broomhouse Primary has teamed up with Edinburgh Leisure to offer tennis sessions as part of the Tuesday evening Open sessions for pupils aged P5-7 years. The sessions are being coached by Glyn Jones, who has been 'a big hit with the children'. The Tennis project has received funding from the Active Steps fund and it is hoped that Tennis will become a regular activity for children in the BIG Project - perhaps the next Tim Henman will be among those attending!!

For more information on the BIG project or Tennis activities available please contact Lissa McIntyre (622-7784 - BIG project) or Anna Myatt (Tennis Development Officer 477-8404) AnnaM@edinburghleisure.co.uk

Fantastic 5-A Side Coaching @ Gracemount

Gracemount Leisure Centre may be able to offer FREE 5-A Side coaching to Young People from your Youth Group! Contact Claire Rusack at Gracemount (658 1940) to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

Dance to the music at Glenogle

New Classes Start In March, only £3 per class.

Creative Dance: Monday 4-5pm Music, Movement & Dance for children aged 5 - 8 years. Street Dance: Friday 1-2pm Commercial funky choreography. The latest moves to the latest chart topping tunes. For 8 - 12 years. Hip Hop: Friday 2-3pm Learn hot hip hop dance moves, urban dancing, cool choreography, cardio-funk aerobic dance steps, dances & routines. For 12 - 16 years.

Come along and try something new!

GO 4 IT - Easter Programme now available ... www.go4itedinburgh.com for more details

Does your group need some space?

Ainslie Park Leisure Centre has hall space available on a Sunday evening 6.00-9.00pm. The hall is suitable for a variety of indoor activities such as 5-a-side, badminton and basket ball. If your group can make use of this space on a regular basis Please contact Gordon Forsyth on 0131 551 2400 or email gordonforsyth@edinburghleisure.co.uk Special rates available for regular usage.

Ainslie Park Leisure Centre - SFA Football Coaching

Starts 13th April for 3-12yr olds. Tel 551 2400 for more info.

NRG Zone - Pulse Centre Sessions for 13-16yr olds

Now Available at Queensferry High Recreation Centre (Sunday 11am-1pm) and Kirkliston Leisure Centre (Wednesday 5.15-6.15pm) **Be Part Of The Action !**

The House is a purpose built facility for 11-14 yr olds at Meadowbank Sports Centre, it offers a whole host of activities such as IT, games consoles, arts & crafts, pool tables, physical activities and much more. The House opening hours are Mon-Thurs 3.30pm-6pm, and Friday 12.30pm-6pm. The House is also available for private hire. If you would like any further information please contact The House Coordinator on (6615351) thehouse.msc@edinburghleisure.co.uk

ALL ABOARD FOR SAILING IN THE CITY

For those involved in youth work, it is always satisfying to see barriers being broken down and new experiences and contacts created. One activity which might not be thought of as the most 'accessible' is sailing. It was therefore very rewarding for all those involved in last summer's 'Sailing In The City' (SITC) project to see what a resounding success it was. I went to speak to Willy Barr, project co-ordinator at the Citadel, to reminisce about the experience, and more importantly, to hear his plans for SITC 2005.

Sailing In The City is a Scotland-wide initiative facilitated by the Royal Yachting Association (R.Y.A.). The idea behind it, as Willy explained, is "rather than bus kids out to spaces where they can go sailing, it brings sailing to where folk are". Jane Scott, Development Officer at the R.Y.A., points out that these local and unusual locations help to break down sailing's "traditionalist" image and make it less elitist, which is a specific goal of the R.Y.A. They run SITC in park ponds in Glasgow and passers-by are able to come up and join in. Any body of water over two feet deep can be used, and the R.Y.A. provide all the equipment and personnel, delivered on site. In Edinburgh last year most of the participants were young people from the Citadel- over 40 of them- who were given sailing 'tasters' in Granton harbour.

Staff from the Citadel gave background support as the competent and friendly instructors took over the running of games, implementing of teamwork and teaching of skills. This was a really positive project with lots of potential for good youth work, as Willy describes: "It's a real opportunity to develop relationships very quickly, with two folk sitting in that boat six feet apart, it's quite an intense wee world...I also think, when you get the boat moving, there's a really high level of a sense of achievement... a real buzz." This sense of achievement was particularly high for 16 young people from the Citadel who went on to gain their R.Y.A. Level One Dinghy Certificate- a nationally recognised sailing qualification.

This year the Citadel is hoping to expand on this success and break down some more barriers by opening up the project to youth organisations across Edinburgh. Willy's vision is of a 10-day sailing provision at Granton harbour. The first five days would provide the opportunity for 120 young people to do the half-day 'taster' course- "learning basic boat-handling skills, doing games... how to sail without a mast, how to paddle and steer... all fun-oriented".

He is particularly keen to encourage smaller, lesser-known youth clubs to get involved. As he points out, "The potential I see it having is it is definitely an opportunity to bring young people from different parts of the city together- so you'll be dealing with fears that might be around over territorial boundaries." After the open day held by the Citadel in January, so far Canongate Youth Project, the Wester Hailes Youth Agency, Pilton Youth and Children's Project and Edinburgh Young Carers have all expressed keen interest to be involved in this year's provision, but the doors are open for any others to participate. The project is open to ages 8 to 14, and of the 120 taking part, the last five days would provide the chance for 36 to go on and take their R.Y.A. Level One, with a further 12 progressing to Level Two.

The plans have been drawn up, and the Citadel is happy to be a lead representative in organising this project, but what is needed is commitment from other organisations- to provide participants, support staff, and of course funding. Last year SITC was funded by the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership, but they may not be willing to fund a consortium bid, so other sources of cash are required. Hopefully this barrier can be overcome because there is an opportunity for some really positive experiences to be had: "The focus and concentration that the kids put in to Sailing In The City was incredible. The other thing is, when partnering up the kids, you're setting up a whole activity around teamwork... communicating with each other, sharing tasks...". And if you need any more convincing: "The staff really liked it...you can imagine, sitting outside by the water, with the barbeque going...it was good!"

If you would like some more information about getting involved in SAILING IN THE CITY 2005, contact Willy Barr at the Citadel on 0131 554 1510 or email: willy@citadel-youthcentre.org.uk

Tall Ships Adventures



Do you know a young person age 16-24 who would benefit & develop from joining other young people for a once in a lifetime trip? Tall ships Trust is a charity which has two 60ft sailing ships called Prince William and the Stavros. All year round young people can join these ships for approx 10 days and sail the seas. It is an exciting adventure that requires young people who are willing to work hard and play hard. There is a great choice of trips to choose from: Greenock, Barbados, Plymouth, Antigua, London and Gibraltar are a few examples.

The Edinburgh Tall Ships Branch has funding to help those people that require financial support. As a benchmark the trust looks for young people to contribute a minimum of a third of the costs, this may be a personal contribution, or money raised through fundraising - many employers or youth projects sponsor young people to go on this. Every request for funding is looked at on an individual basis.

Full details of the Tallships can be got at www.tallships.org or call Dot Horne at 6VT Youth Café 0131 220 2108 email cafe6vt1@aol.com. Dot is the local berthing officer who can advise you on funding support and booking a trip.

Information Evening

On Thurs 2nd of June the Edinburgh branch invite interested individuals to 6VT Youth Café at 7pm where young people, parents, youth workers and employers can come along and find out more about how they can access the Tall ships trust services. Please RSVP to Dot Horne at the above number.

Young Asylum Seekers Research

In April 2003 EYSIP established the Reaching Out to BME Young People Special Programme to develop the participation and inclusion of BME young people in Edinburgh. Through the work of this project and following concerns raised by the Asylum Seekers Response Unit (ASRU) EYSIP decided to conduct a small-scale research project into the experiences of young asylum seekers in Edinburgh. Between November 2004 and March 2005 we conducted semi-structured interviews with both young people and professionals involved in supporting them. Both UK and European guidelines relating to young asylum seekers state that they must be regarded as children first, and asylum seekers second. Therefore the research was framed around policies and practices required to ensure the promotion of their rights as children, as well as refugee-specific legislation.

Statistics on Young Asylum Seekers

It is estimated that there are currently between 500 - 1000 asylum seekers and refugees in Edinburgh largely from Sudan, Turkey, Somalia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China and Algeria. Young people under 25 make up 25% of this population. Of asylum-seeking children under 18, 48 are living with and supported by their families with the remainder (8) identified as separated children. We are using the definition of separated children, "as children under 18 years of age who are outside their country of origin and separated from either parents, or their previous legal/customary primary care giver. Some children are totally alone while others... maybe living with extended family members" (UNHCR).

FINDINGS

Young asylum seekers were asked about their experiences in a number of different areas such as health services, youth work and education.

We found:

- Services to asylum-seeking children and young people in the city can be described as 'patchy' with individual examples of young people who appear to have been well supported as well as those who appeared to have 'slipped through the net'.
- The lack of an independent guardian or advocate meant most of the young people had very little understanding of the processes they were subject to and nobody to represent their best interests.
- The assessment and care of separated young people is very much left to the individual assessing social worker (who may or not be allocated),

their knowledge of the asylum system and young people rights and the availability of resources in an individual area across the city.

- Few of the young people interviewed appeared to have received a consistent service and at times support appears resource driven rather than in the best interest of the child.
- Young people lacked the opportunity to access youth work, leisure facilities and informal support which left them isolated, lonely and at risk of exploitation. They also had experienced considerable amounts of racism since arriving in the city.
- Most concerning of all was the suggestion of institutional racism and the acknowledgment that a lack of cultural, religious and linguistic knowledge resulted in discriminatory practice towards asylum-seeking young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The research suggested six key recommendations to improve the experiences of young people seeking-asylum in Edinburgh.

1. The need for a clear Strategic Lead relating to the assessment and support of asylum-seeking children and young people with policy guidelines relating to the responsibility and duty of the Local Authority under the Children (Scotland) Act and UNHCR Guidelines; the identification and assessment of separated young people; the level of financial support; the appropriateness of accommodation options; access to free school uniform, school meals and school transport; and access to legal advice.

2. The need for a child-friendly Welcome Pack with information about Edinburgh, the services available and where to go for help and advice. This information should also be available for all practitioners from an easily accessible central point within the local authority.
3. The need to develop training for all practitioners working with asylum-seeking young people particularly in relation to the UNHCR Guidelines of Best Practice; the promotion of positive images of asylum seekers; and to ensure the cultural, religious and linguistic knowledge to encourage anti-discriminatory practice.
4. The need to ensure that the support and resources are available to ensure asylum-seeking young people are given the best possible opportunity to access health care

Message from EYSIP Director, Sandra Martin

Although the Edinburgh Youth SIP will continue to exist beyond March 31st 2005, its shape and work will be significantly different.

Funding has been agreed in principle to begin the process of setting up the model of the Edinburgh Commission for Children and Young People over the coming year, with the Youth SIP Board of Directors being asked to lead on this in partnership with other key decision makers within the city. It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to all the staff at the Youth SIP and wish them well in their new posts. I will continue to take forward the key messages that have been developed over the lifetime of the SIP to ensure that the learning that has developed isn't lost. Watch this space, as they say, for future developments that put young people at the heart of the processes that affect their lives and ensure that their voices are heard!

For more information or a copy of the project report, please contact Jane Beattie at the National Museum of Scotland on 0131 247 4215 or J.Beattie@nms.ac.uk



including psychological support; holistic education; youth work; leisure facilities; careers advice and vocational training.

5. The need to deliver appropriate training on and the resourcing of Interpretation and Translation services including good practice guidelines to ensure clear boundaries between interpreters and clients.
6. The need to increase young people's understanding of the asylum-seeking process and ensure that all separated young people have access to an independent guardian to promote their best interests in relation to assessment, care, support and access to legal advice.

The final report will be available to download in April.

Opt in for Art at the Fruitmarket Gallery

"OPTING IN AND REACHING OUT"

Thursday March 17th, coinciding nicely with Youth Work Week, saw the launch of 'Opt In For Art', a new visual arts education and development program for 7 to 18 year olds taking place at the Fruitmarket Gallery on Edinburgh's Market Street. Nearly two years in the planning, and with £76,000 funding from the Scottish Arts Council and the Paul Hamelyn Foundation, 'Opt In For Art' is a two-year project aiming to engage more children and young people in contemporary arts, both through encouraging attendance at exhibitions, and by using those exhibitions as a stimulus for youth to create their own artwork.

Education Manager at the Fruitmarket Gallery, Tracy Morgan, began the launch by speaking about the project's aims to increase access to contemporary art and artists, and how these objectives link in with those of the Scottish Executive. In a filmed interview the Scottish Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Patricia Ferguson, described the change in attitudes which means the classroom is no longer seen as the sole basis for learning. Cultural venues such as art galleries can make positive contributions to education, and working in such an environment can also break down the barriers between teachers and pupils and give individuals the chance to develop their own approach. "Everyone" she said, "is capable of accepting and generating new ideas."

The Fruitmarket Gallery itself is a flagship space for contemporary art, from both the Scottish and the international spectrum. Over the next two years, the 'Opt In For Art' program will enable schools and youth groups to take full advantage of the range of exhibitions on show at the gallery, reaching out to those not just in Edinburgh and the Lothians, but all round Scotland. The Herald and Post are on board as media sponsor, helping to widen the program's appeal by offering free tickets to exhibitions and workshops being run at the Fruitmarket. A key aspect of the project's outreach potential is, of course, the Internet, with resource packs available over the web to all classrooms and youth clubs in Scotland from www.fruitmarket.co.uk.

Schools and groups wanting to view exhibitions can take advantage of the programme's supported Gallery visits.



More than just a guided tour, these will include complimentary transport, discussion groups, and a resource pack for each individual containing a DVD documentary film and a workbook. There will also be the opportunity to join the Fruitmarket's Growing Ideas Youth Advisory Group. This is a cultural project that is reaching out beyond classrooms and schools, and is keen to facilitate as wide a range of involvement as possible. 'Opt In For Art' gives priority to disadvantaged youth from the Scottish Executive's SIP areas. In the Fruitmarket's own words: 'Intended to provide a welcoming framework for a child or young person's first gallery experience, the aim...is to demystify 'the art gallery' and remove barriers to their attendance at cultural venues.'

On the morning of the launch, the work on display was that of Simon Patterson, an international artist renowned for his reworking of the London Underground map. I witnessed pupils from Fort Primary School who were fascinated by the copies of the maps they were given, completely intrigued by the giant typewriter keys surrounding the room, and entranced by Patterson's film interspersing an airline safety demonstration with escapology routines. Over the course of the next two years there will be several participatory projects connected to the Gallery's shows. The first- Alter Ego- will be shown at Edinburgh College of Art in May. In the autumn pupils from Craigmoynton Community School will have Louise Hopkins, a Glasgow-based artist, in residency with them, working on a project with Red Kite Animations.

I spoke to Simon Patterson about sharing his work with young people. "Children", he said, "ask the direct questions. The obvious ones, but sometimes the most difficult to answer." Hopefully 'Opt In For Art' will enable more young people to get curious about art. And, as one young girl I spoke to said, "It's better than maths!"

The Opt In For Art programme encourages creativity in children and young people in Scotland aged seven to 18 years across a comprehensive programme that increases understanding about visual art and active participation in artist-led activity within and beyond the gallery. Programme elements include:

- free 'package' school and youth group tours
- hands-on art projects, including artist school residencies, that are directly inspired by the Gallery's exhibitions of international contemporary art
- opportunity to join the Gallery's Growing Ideas Youth Advisory Group of 15 members
- special online resource materials for school and youth groups to support activities and offer wider access to Gallery education available at <http://www.fruitmarket.co.uk>

