

networks

The Journal for Youth & Children Workers in Lothian

Spring 2007



Workout for FREE at Edinburgh Leisure Gyms!
page 8

LAYC Outline Concerns to Policy Forum

LAYC were invited to deliver a presentation to the Network Policy Forum around the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Bill in December. In addition to outlining some of the proposals included within the Bill, LAYC took the opportunity to highlight concerns around the implementation of any potential new legislation. At LAYC we are very much working on the premise that there will be fairly major changes to the current Disclosure process. Whilst we wholeheartedly agree that it is important that legislation is both proportionate and fit for purpose, we are thinking ahead in terms of how any such legislation will be introduced. As hard as we try, we can't forget our experiences of POC(S)A 2003 and we are concerned that if similar levels of support are made available then the sector will struggle to get to grips with any changes.

As detailed in Networks Winter 2006, £1.4m has been earmarked for implementing new legislation here and what we are stating to those 'in the know' is that if the consortium of larger voluntary organisations get the lions share of this (as was the case with POC(S)A 2003) then the chances of the support reaching grass roots level where it is needed most is practically nil! Our view is that the Executive should look very carefully at how they can make sure the money they have set aside can best be spent. We happen to think that locally based organisations already involved in supporting those in the field need to have access to some of this funding in order that they can continue to develop the good work that they are already involved in delivering.



West Lothian Council Community Learning and Development

The West Lothian Participation Network is a group made up of members of staff from a number of council services and voluntary organisations who work with young people. They are preparing to roll out a programme of workshops for young people aimed at encouraging them to engage in the democratic process.

The workshops, titled So Now You Can Vote, will be divided into three sections; why bother, how to vote and what next.

The first section asks participants to identify then explore how politics affect each of us on a daily basis.

The second section looks at the process of casting a vote and the different systems being used.

The third section then explores how participants can be involved in decision making at a local and national level on an ongoing basis.

These sessions are being offered to all sixth year pupils, college students, a number of marginalised groups and communities and generally through the Work with Young People Team of the Community Learning and Development Service. This initiative is part of our programme in West Lothian for building the democratic literacy of young people.

To Lobby or Not to Lobby is that a Question?



With less than 60 days to go to polling day for Parliamentary and Council elections, election fever, well maybe the start of a sniffle has broken out.

So why should that concern us? Well, because much of the funding, access to public buildings and support services come from local Councils. Funding courtesy of the Scottish Executive is increasingly playing a critical role for the sector. But it's not just about cash. Organisations can be affected by policy or strategic decisions that can have significant impacts. Disclosure checks or minimum qualifications for childcare staff are just two examples affecting our work.

But surely as charities we can't be active in politics? That's right, organisations need to remain independent of the party political process and to be lobbying around issues that are of legitimate concern to them either individually or collectively.

It's about fairness between candidates during the election period and not advocating support for or opposition to any particular candidate. So you need to be clear what you're lobbying about and to make sure the political parties concerned are all contacted or invited to attend/comment on any events/issues that are being raised.

Remember the need to retain your independence and use your voice effectively to advocate for those who benefit from services that you are providing or supporting.

Within this watchful approach to work LAYC, in conjunction with EVOG have been working in partnership to raise the profile of the voluntary sector to candidates and political parties and draw their attention to ways services can be improved across the city.

To help articulate this, a manifesto was launched at the end of February. The manifesto covered a wide range of sectoral interests including transport; environment; social care and youth and children's work.

In addition to the launch, copies of the manifesto will be circulated to all political parties and the candidates standing in the Council/Parliamentary elections.

So dust down the virtual banners and find out what candidates and parties are standing in the local ward. (Remember that this next election sees a move from single elected wards to larger multiple wards with 3 or 4 Councillors representing the larger area).

Many Councillors are taking the chance to retire and benefit from a one-off gratuity payment which means we will be seeing a disproportionate number of new candidates both standing and being elected. There's never been a more important time to let local candidates know what your organization does and how you can be better supported.

So find out who's standing in your area and invite them all along to see what you're up to. Or if you don't fancy a series of politicians glad handing around your services, drop them a line about what you do and how they can help if they were elected. For the ambitious you could pull together a public meeting to which all the local candidates are invited to be quizzed about their intentions if they get elected.

As some farmer once said "Make hay while the sun shines!"

News

Funding

Women's Fund for Scotland

Charities and Community groups that are working towards improving the quality of life of women and girls in Scotland are able to apply for funding through the Women's Fund. The fund which is administered by the Scottish Community Foundation and supported by the Scottish Executive provides grants of up to £5,000 for projects that support the development of women and girls as well as their self-sufficiency and economic and social equality. The types of activities funded in the past have included training for work initiatives, befriending, IT courses, improving premises, counselling and self-defence classes.

Applications for grants during 2007/08 will be accepted from February 2007. For more information, please visit www.scottishcf.org/page8613.cfm

B&Q "You Can Do It" Awards

The next bidding round of the B&Q "You Can Do It" Awards will be launched on the 29th January 2007. The awards aim to play a key part in helping local communities create inclusive and sustainable projects; for example giving new life to a community centre, local sports club facilities or community garden. Under the scheme, community groups and charitable organisations can apply for one of 20 awards worth £5,000 of B&Q products.

Please note that the closing date for applications is Friday 30 March 2007. In addition, each local B&Q store also has a "limited" budget to provide grants of between £50 and £500 to community groups under its Better Neighbour Grant Scheme.

For more information, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/cbukz>

Do youth workers talk about sex and relationships?

A youth worker is playing pool with some of the lads at the club, and the conversation turns to wee Jimmy's sexual conquest at the weekend.

"I thought she was a virgin like, so I never used anything. But I found out she's shagged 4 other guys. So, what's ma' chances of catchin' something?"

The pool table was quickly transformed into a version of the classic poster called 'How many people did you say you'd slept with?' - a schematic diagram, or kind of genealogy, of one man's sexual partners. Using pool balls to represent each person, the worker showed how many people wee Jimmy had, in fact, slept with. The worker quickly ran out of balls, and the message hit home about safer sex. He offered some sessions to talk further about these things, and the group of friends readily accepted.

This illustrates a perfect example of how a youth worker can use their role as a 'wise adult' (to coin the phrase of that well known wise adult, Tony Jeffs) to open up conversation, give out information, and facilitate a natural and seamless flow from casual chat to topic based group work.

We offered a pilot training session on young people, sex and relationships to part time youth workers at the end of 2006. We now recognise a need to 'fess up' to the fact that we didn't discuss this aspect of the youth workers role within this training.

The unique role a youth worker has in this situation is exactly the type of subject we want to highlight and explore in the next few training sessions. We want to enable workers to feel confident about discussing sex and relationships, to ask questions, and to challenge attitudes of young people. We want to support workers in making that move from the conversation around the pool table to more focussed, structured interventions.

Youth workers are skilled at talking with young people. They need to feel they can discuss sex and relationships, and offer sessions on this issue without needing to be an expert in sexual health. You don't even need to know how to play pool!

If you would like to find out more, Healthy Respect is offering a series of workshops at Youth Scotland's National Training Conference (Practical Problems - Sensible Solutions 2007) on Saturday 3rd November. Go to: <http://www.youthscotland.org.uk/library/bringbak.asp?id=145> for more information about how to book.

Healthy Respect is also delivering a training session jointly with LAYC's very own Dale Marsters on Wednesday 9th May 18:00 - 20:30. To book go to <http://www.layc.org.uk/training.php>

And remember in the last issue of Networks we featured a new resource for young people called *safe 'n' sorted*. This is a mini handbook on sexual health and relationships and guide to services in Edinburgh and the Lothians. We would like to see all youth workers carry these around and give them out to young people as part of a discussion, and to sign post them to services in their area. **You can order free copies of safe 'n' sorted from the NHS Lothian Library and Resource Centre on 0131 536 9452 or email: Library@lhb.scot.nhs.uk**



Finally, it may be useful for you to know about a new service set up for young people in the centre of Edinburgh:

Healthy Respect @ GUM

This is a new clinic, specifically for young people aged 13-18 years, that has opened at the GUM Clinic, Lauriston Place (level 1). The clinic runs on a drop-in basis and is open every Tuesday from 4.00pm - 5.30pm. Operating as a partnership between GUM, Family Planning and Healthy Respect, the drop-in offers general and sexual health advice, c:card, contraception, including emergency contraception, and testing for all sexually transmitted infections. The drop-in is designed to be young people friendly, confidential and to operate in accordance with Healthy Respect's *all I want - LIVE* standards.

If you would like further information, or perhaps some drop-in cards and posters to advertise the new service at your club or project, please contact the Admin Team at Healthy Respect on 0131 536 9388 or email healthy.respect@lhb.scot.nhs.uk



PVG Bill Experiencing a Rough Ride



Plans are ongoing to strengthen existing child protection legislation and overhaul the existing Disclosure process. The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Bill, or the PVG as it has commonly become known as, is currently making its way through parliament. As anticipated by many it is not a case of plain sailing, as ministers debate the merits of various aspects of the Bill, with some parts facing amendments and others being dropped altogether. No doubt there is still much more wrangling to be done before the Bill eventually becomes law. However those responsible for its progress face a race against time in order to push the measures through parliament before the end of the current session.

'Our man' in parliament, LAYC's Honorary President, Donald Gorrie MSP continues to lead the voluntary sector's charge for proportionate and fit for purpose legislation and has made a telling contribution to date. Over the summer months there will be further consultation on secondary legislation relating to this Bill. This is likely ask for consideration around retrospective checking, determination and thresholds for barring as well as fees for the new scheme. As ever LAYC will continue to keep you updated on developments, so watch this space. You can follow the progress of the Bill more closely by checking the website www.scottish.parliament.co.uk and clicking onto Bills in progress.

Disclosure Scotland go "Black and Blue"

No we are not referring to bruising from the proverbial bashings they've taken over the last few years, but to the launch of the long awaited new application form. The form was introduced at a series of Disclosure Scotland road shows held around the country from January, to which all registered signatories were invited.

So what's new? Well apart from the fact that they can be completed in black and blue ink, the form is colour coded for easiness of use and mandatory fields are highlighted.

There is also a tick box for checking against the DWCL and therefore no longer a requirement to input the word "childcare" or "C/care" triggers this additional check. In addition to other changes, a revised code of practice will be issued in the next couple of months. As seasoned Disclosure Scotland detractors we were all geared up ready to criticise the new form, however from first impressions it represents a distinct improvement on the last form (admittedly not that hard an achievement). Although the new form is in circulation Disclosure Scotland plan to accept the old forms as well as the new ones for some time yet. There is still no indication when the form will be available to complete on-line or when volunteers can be processed directly with them for free, which reassuringly still gives us some things to moan about! For more detailed information on the changes check out www.disclosurescotland.co.uk

Contact Us

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

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



News



SMASHed and Connected make up the Drug & Alcohol Team at MYPAS. Following on from the success of our first Training & Networking Day in November, we are pleased to be able to inform you that the next day-long event will be held on Friday, March 9 at McSence Business Park, Mayfield, Dalkeith. There will be 2 training sessions looking at different ways of working with young people around drugs and alcohol, outside speakers and plenty of chances to network and meet different workers from other agencies. This day will probably be most useful if:

- you work with young people and want to improve your knowledge and confidence around working with drug and alcohol issues
- you're a drug or alcohol worker who wants to spend some time thinking about new, effective ways of working with young people
- you have an interest in either area and want to know more

The different activities on the day will be opt-in, so you can attend for some or all of the sessions that you think will be useful. Attendance is free and lunch will be provided.

Paths to Health

Paths to Health have developed a range of initiatives to help encourage walking at work, including a pedometer pack to encourage independent or 'team' walking at work and training for Workplace Walk Organisers and Workplace Walk Leaders. Paths to Health workplace grants are also available to help encourage walking in your workplace. For further information on workplace walking check out www.pathsforall.org.uk/pathstohealth/workplace.asp or e-mail: info@pathstohealth.org.uk.

Active Futures @ The Rock Trust

The first block of Active Futures @ The Rock Trust has got off to a cracking start. Almost 30 young women aged 16-25 signed up to the 10 week block of activities, many accessing leisure facilities for the first time. Participants presented with a range of issues from homelessness and addiction problems to lack of confidence, mental health issues and feelings of social isolation.

The young women have benefited from fun, friendly sessions, with support available from workers at every activity. Group peer support has also been instrumental in helping participants gain confidence and develop social networks.

The first block offered several activities on a weekly basis, with a varied timetable to suit all tastes. Activities on offer were:

- Streetdance
- Trampolining
- Gym session
- Boxercise
- Aquafit
- Yoga
- Mum & child swimming



We have also planned a residential weekend away in mid - March at Ardroy Activity Centre, Lochgoilhead, to round off the 10 weeks. At the end of the programme, participants should be in a position to carry on doing activities on their own. One-to-one sessions will help the young women identify how they can continue doing physical activity, from referrals to other structured programmes to information on classes in the community.

The next Active Futures block is due to start at the end of March.

Referrals can be made at any point up until then. We are hoping to introduce new activities such as indoor climbing sessions at the new Ratho centre, as well as an allotment gardening group.

If you have any questions about the Active Futures programme or you would like some hard copies of the leaflet please contact Jo on 0131 557 4059 or email: jo.surcouf@rocktrust.org



In October of last year, **MYPAS** received great news that it had been successful in securing another 3 yrs joint funding from Lloyds TSB partnership drug initiative and the Big Lottery Fund for its unique SMASHed project.

So what makes it unique? Well, although there has been research carried out that identifies that young people use alcohol or drugs as part of their sexual development and relationships, within education they are continually explored separately.

The pressure from the media and peers to be sexually competent and confident can be massive. Research suggests that for many young people their first sexual experience is whilst under the influence of alcohol, continuing debate around whether

sex occurs because of alcohol use or, that alcohol and other substances are used as confidence boosters. Although young people gain information about sexual health and substances there are few opportunities for young people to explore these interconnected issues in a safe and non-judgemental environment.

Over the next 3 years the project aims to work with young people from the Midlothian area to increase their awareness of how using alcohol and drugs may affect sexual health and as a result enable them to take greater control over their own choices and decisions.

We can provide 1-2-1 support to young people who may feel they are not in control of their sexual health decisions due to their substance use. Working with them to explore things such as self-esteem, assertiveness and strategies for making choices and changes. A major part of the work is

groupwork and community-based initiatives for young people. This is achieved on a needs-led basis and where possible in partnership. It is hoped that this will provide a two-way process, where young people can learn and develop, but also we can gain valuable insight into the lives of young people, which will further inform the work. Another new development is providing the opportunity for parents to come together and explore these issues. Enabling them to hopefully feel more confident and informed to talk to their child/children.

If you work in the Midlothian area with any of these groups and think it may be something you wish to explore then please feel free to contact us. E-mail: mypasalexis@googlemail.com tel: 01314540757



AYE AYE in North Edinburgh

ACTIVISM FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

AYE AYE!

HOW MANY DECISIONS AFFECTING YOUR LIFE?

SHOULD YOUNG PEOPLE BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD?

ARE YOUNG PEOPLE THE FUTURE OR THE PRESENT?

HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INVOLVED?

AYE AYE is a new project for young people who want to become more involved in their communities, be it a new skate park, youth councils, youth facilities, parks, safe streets – become involved in all these decisions, and any others that affect you...

AYE AYE will promote young people as positive leaders, promote the good things young people do, and challenge the negative images given by others, including the media!

Residential's, drop in, youth surgeries, Youth Exchanges, many ways for you to get involved - if your up for it SMS/call/email us

WEB: www.neypf.org.uk

FREE SMS: NEYPF (and your message) to 80800

CALL: 0131 625 0045

SEE YA!

YES YOU CAN!

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT FUND

The North Edinburgh Young People Forum and Pilton Partnership were over the moon to be awarded a 3 year funding package from the Big Lottery's - Young People's Fund. The grant will be used to support and encourage more and more young people to get involved in their communities, and have their voices heard.

The project has been named 'AYE AYE' by the young people and will work with current youth work projects in North Edinburgh to expand in the work already happening in youth participation. We will hold roving youth surgeries, residential activities, themed sessions, training for young people and many more activities.

The Project also comes with a YES! You Can fund for young people. If you live in North Edinburgh and have an idea that will benefit young people or the wider community and need some help and maybe some money to make it happen - then we can help!

The Young Peoples Forum also have a freetext service - where young people can apply for details, contact us or raise any issues by sending a free text; NEYPF and your message to 80800

A website designed for young people is currently underway - and you can post a message there also. We hope to develop an online discussion also. - watch this space! (www.neypf.org.uk)

For more info - or to get involved... Call 0131 625 0045

FreeText: [neypf](http://neypf.org.uk) and your message to 80800 See Ya...!



The Pupil Inclusion Network Scotland

is for practitioners and managers in the voluntary sector who work with young people who are excluded, disaffected or disengaged from school. PINS will:

- Explore key issues and debates in work with disaffected pupils
- Create opportunities for the sharing of good practice across providers and across sectors
- Link members to useful information, articles, publications and resources
- Create opportunities to meet and discuss approaches to pupil inclusion work
- Increase voluntary sector influence on policy relating to excluded, disaffected and disengaged young people.

Register with PINS to receive our regular e-newsletter which is filled with new features, up coming events, new resources, practice profiles and much more! **We want to hear from you!**

PINS starts 2007 with a focus on the theme of curriculum and how we can make learning work for all disengaged and disaffected young people. We want to hear about the work you are doing to enable young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

We hope that you/colleagues can contribute to help inform developments in the curriculum to best meet the needs of all children and young people. **Get in touch!**

Daniel Clapton, PINS Development Officer, Tel. 0131 555 3527 e-mail: info@pinscotland.org

News

Oot 'n' About

"people think we're trouble makers so we wanted to prove them wrong!"



Oot 'n' About is a detached youth work service which works alongside young people in the Greater Craigmillar Area of Edinburgh. Through engaging with young people on the streets we support and assist them to identify and act on issues which affect them and the wider community.

From this we met a group of young males who decided they would like to participate in a 14week group project whereby they devised and produced a calendar which highlights issues important to them as young males living in their community.

For more information on Oot 'n' About or any other projects which are run by Café K please get in touch through our website

www.cafek.org

or phone 0131 657 1595

or in person Café K, Jack Kane Community Centre, 208 Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh EH16 4ND.

Workout for free at Edinburgh Leisure Gyms!

Here's an opportunity no Networks reader can miss... a free workout at an Edinburgh Leisure gym!

Edinburgh Leisure has recently refurbished six of its gyms across the city: Meadowbank Sports Centre, The Royal Commonwealth Pool, Leith Victoria Swim Centre, Craiglockhart Sports Centre, Kirkliston Leisure Centre and Gracemount Leisure Centre. All cardiovascular equipment - such as running and rowing machines - have been replaced and so have the gym's resistance machines.

Installed as part of Meadowbank's recent refit is the latest craze in fitness equipment - Vibrogym. This piece of equipment reportedly also has pride of place in gyms of celebrities like Madonna, Eddie Murphy and Ivana Trump!

The Vibrogym was designed by Russian cosmonauts and is said to provide benefits of a one hour workout in less than 15 minutes. The machine vibrates around 4000 times a minute and works by producing a vibration which transfers energy to all parts of the body. It is also available at Ainslie Park Leisure Centre, Royal Commonwealth Pool and Drumbrae Leisure Centre.

So what are you waiting for? To kick start your fitness programme, Edinburgh Leisure has kindly offered Network readers a free visit to the gym - just cut out, complete and take the voucher below along to one of our recently refurbished gyms.



Further information on Edinburgh Leisure, including their range of gyms across the city, is available from www.edinburghleisure.co.uk.

Take Off with BAA Youth Games

Young people all over the city are in training for Edinburgh's largest youth sporting event in 2007 - the BAA Edinburgh Airport Youth Games - taking place in Meadowbank Sports Centre and other Edinburgh Leisure venues on Thursday 17th May 2007.

Now in its eighth year, the Games will bring together over 1,000 young people aged from 9 - 14 years from schools across Edinburgh to complete in a variety of sporting activities, including basketball, gymnastics, athletics, golf, tennis, hockey, rugby and many more.

The unique emphasis is on participation and not performance, providing youngsters of all ages and abilities with that special buzz that



comes from taking part in a large sporting participation.

With loads of sports competitions, an opening ceremony extravaganza, and a whole carnival of sports and activities to try, the BAA Youth Games is a fantastic opportunity to get young people involved in sport and a great way of encouraging participants to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle!

For more information contact Shelagh Jackson on 0131 652 4337, alternatively email shelaghjackson@edinburghleisure.co.uk

EDINBURGH LEISURE OFFER FREE GYM VISIT FOR NETWORK READERS

If you are 16 or over and would like to take advantage of this offer, please complete this coupon and take along the Edinburgh Leisure Gym of your choice

Name

Address

Telephone

 Edinburgh Leisure

Managing leisure and recreation facilities for the City of Edinburgh Council

It's Here



Youth Scotland's latest support and training pack for member groups was launched recently when the 'IT Kit' was unveiled at Stirling Council Chambers.

Developed from the highly successful and influential SMIT (Senior Member Involvement Training that ran up to the early 90's), the new 'IT Kit' offers a flexible training pack designed to develop skills that will help young people to play an active part in their youth group and community.

The pack was piloted with members groups from Highlands, Stirling and Orkney. Following the first stage of the course, which was run locally, the second stage saw all the groups come together for a residential weekend.

The third stage where they develop or use a local project have either been completed or in some cases carried on into major pieces of work.

Carol Downie, Youth Scotland has been delighted that youth involvement will be back on their programme of training 'the new pack has captured the spirit and philosophy of SMIT and takes that on a stage. The feedback from both young people and youth workers who were on the pilot was very positive and encouraged us to give the 'IT Kit' fully developed.'

LAYC was part of Youth Scotland's Steering Group that developed the course and the residential staff team and are keen to be part of the rolling out of the programme across Scotland.

Finally, Stirling Council need to be acknowledged for the significant support they gave to the development and piloting through extensive staff support and funding to turn a vision into reality.

For further information about the 'IT Kit' contact Mo Colvin at Youth Scotland on 0131 554 2561 or e-mail moc@youthscotland.org.uk

Youth Scotland National Training Conference Practical Problems - Sensible Solutions - 2007

Change of Conference Date

Due to several factors, Youth Scotland has taken the decision to change the date of the National Training Conference. The conference, which is aimed at part-time youth workers and volunteers, was originally scheduled for 24/25 March 2007.

This year, there are a number of conferences being held from a range of different organisations and it was decided that it would be more beneficial to the membership and youth work sector in general to re-arrange the date to later in the year.

The re-arranged date, therefore, has already been confirmed. The event will now take place on 3/4 November 2007 at the Hilton Edinburgh Airport Hotel.

For further information about any aspect of the Conference please contact Joe McIvor at Youth Scotland on 0131 5542561 or email joe.mcivor@youthscotland.org.uk.



THE NETWORK OF YOUTH CLUBS AND GROUPS IN SCOTLAND

News

Cancellation Policy

At LAYC we pride ourselves on delivering relevant, affordable and accessible training opportunities. In order to offer this level of service our training programme is heavily subsidised. By and large we are more than happy with the way people are accessing this service, however occasionally people don't turn up to courses that they have booked on. This is frustrating for us, particularly given that most of our courses are oversubscribed and this ultimately means that some people miss out on an opportunity as a result. Of course we understand that sometimes things crop up that means people are unable to attend for legitimate reasons, however we have an expectation that we are contacted in reasonable time in order that we can offer the places to others who have shown interest. LAYC now operate a cancellation policy, which means that clubs and groups will be charged a fixed fee for unexplained non-attendance on our courses.

CRBS Introduce New Cover Sheets

The Central Registered Body in Scotland introduced new Disclosure Application Multiple Coversheets towards the end of last year to replace the blue envelopes that previously accompanied Disclosure applications made through them. The new cover sheets are intended to save some administration when processing multiple applications i.e. you'll only need to complete 1 cover sheet per batch of applications as opposed to completing a covering envelope with each individual application. For more information on this change visit their website at www.crbs.org.uk

Ambitious Programme Awaits Funding

The Consortium's planned programme for this year has been put on hold as it awaits the outcome of various funding bids. The programme, as agreed at the latest Consortium meeting, sought to build on the positive feedback from the national youth work strategy consultation events.

Simon Jaquet, Consortium Chair expressed a degree of frustration "the partners have committed a raft of good will and direct funds that enabled us to get to this point. However it was always clear that dedicated funding was needed to invest in our programme that sought to keep the momentum gained via the events last year."

Following meetings with the Council word is awaited about possible funding being made available. Ian Boardman, LAYC Director said that "It's been a highly successful start to the Consortium, but LAYC has carried the financial costs from our own limited funds. We are not in a financial position to keep doing that, but hopefully the value of the work and the level of partner goodwill already invested will enable Council funding to be unlocked."

The Consortium are continuing to meet and work up the plans for this year which include a further series of practice based Seminars and a major youth work conference this side of the summer.

The first of these seminars aimed at youth workers will be focused on the issue of youth work, young people and sport. Consortium member Fiona Wernham from Edinburgh Leisure is currently working on the details of the seminar which will provide a real opportunity for youth workers to identify what needs to be in place to better provide access to sport and leisure activities for young people they work with.

The seminar is to be held on Wed 18 April 2007, 10.00am-1.00pm at Meadowbank. To book a place contact or e-mail LAYC on 0131 667 1828 or ian@layc.org.uk



Consultation Returns Posted Missing

Talk of a Ministerial statement launching the national youth work strategy at YouthLink's Conference in mid March has been met with some scepticism. Scottish Executive failure to put any of the 3,000+ consultations on their website as promised by late November has left many wondering what the strategy is drawn from.

Ian Boardman raised concerns, "During the highly successful consultation we were constantly advised that there would be early sight of the range of commentaries. This would have given the chance to make some sense of these and provided insight as the drafting of the strategy. Without this we have no reference points and the promise of transparency is lost."

For the Consortium access to the web accessible Consultation is even more critical as it sought to use the Edinburgh based returns as a basis for developing a city wide youth work strategy. A spokesperson for the Scottish Executive indicated that the volume of returns had meant they had not been able to get information on to the web, but we are still working to achieve that as soon as possible.

The Consortium will continue to press their view expressed in Edinburgh that a representative group from the youth work sector should work alongside the Executive to produce a draft strategy that takes account of the 3,000+ practitioners and young people who contributed to the consultation.

The Consortium will circulate any relevant strategy papers that may emerge from the forthcoming YouthLink Conference as widely as possible.

A report of the Conference will be carried in the next issue of Networks.

Outline Programme 2007-08

March

Youth Workers Seminar
Sport & Youth Work?

June

Youth Work Conference

September

Youth Workers Seminar
targeted at sessional + voluntary staff

November

Youth Workers Event

February 08

Youth Workers Seminar

Ongoing

EYWC promotion via Networks;
web; mailings, etc
Developing a youth work charter



Training Programme Update



As reported in Winter Networks 2006, our Training Programme continues to go from strength to strength



At the heart of the success here lies the high numbers of people attending our Child Protection, Emergency Aid and Dealing with Challenging Behaviour Courses. We generally restrict numbers to two from each club on these in order to avoid a situation of one or two clubs block booking the majority of spaces. If you find that this limits your organisations ability to attend training with LAYC then you should read the subtly entitled article below Buy an LAYC Course!

Due to their popularity, we make no apology for continually including the core element of our programme. However, having said that, we are always looking for ideas to freshen the programme up. Our current programme sees the inclusion of a Sexual Health session and a TOPS training workshop in collaboration with Healthy Respect and Edinburgh Leisure respectively. Of course if there is anything that we are not currently delivering that you think is relevant and would prove popular with other groups why not let us know?

There are still places on some of our courses that have yet to run (see below for details).

For more detailed information on these courses including how to book check out our training page at www.layc.org.uk Alternatively contact us on 0131 667 1828.

Saturday 10 March 07

Group Work Skills
Lasswade Community HS

Saturday 31 March 07

Child Protection
Musselburgh

Wednesday 9 May 07

Young People, Sex and Relationships
LAYC Offices, Edinburgh

Saturday 26 May 07

Basic Food Hygiene
City Youth Café, 6VT

Saturday 26 May 07

TOPS Training
Southside CC, Edinburgh

Buy an LAYC Course

In addition to the main programme we have started selling courses to member clubs and groups at discounted rates. It couldn't be simpler - find us a venue, a date and time that is convenient and our staff team will deliver a course for you for £100. Clubs and groups can sell on additional places in order to subsidise their costs here. So if you are looking for courses on child protection, dealing with challenging behaviour (youth work), dealing with challenging behaviour (children's work) or group work skills then look no further! Courses are 2½ hours long, practice based and are pitched at an introductory level.

News

Be More Post Specific

CRBS and Disclosure Scotland will no longer accept Disclosure application forms that simply detail the post as worker/volunteer. The reason given for this is that police need a more specific job title in order to determine what relevant information, if any, they should forward on. In order to avoid having applications returned, the following examples should be adopted instead of the more generic worker/volunteer terms: "Youth Worker", "Play Leader", "Befriender" or "Badminton Coach" etc.

Register your charity before it's too late.

OSCR the new Scottish charities watchdog is about to remove charitable status from 5,615 charities that have failed to respond to its efforts to make contact.

Once removed from the Register, the benefits that charitable status brings will be lost and OSCR, as regulator, has powers to act against any such organisation still calling itself a 'charity'.

Check out the OSCR website to see if your charity is on the list to have its charitable status removed and if it is, call OSCR now on 01382 220 446 or email: info@oscr.org.uk before 15th March 2007.

Networks Summer 2007

Article Wanted - tell us what your up to with your youth or children's group. Articles for the June 2007 issue of Networks should be submitted to LAYC before 27 April 2007.

Contact LAYC on 0131 667 1828 or e-mail enquiries@layc.org.uk

A Credit to Youth Workers



When LAYC President Donald Gorrie MSP handed out twelve youth worker training certificates to their worthy recipients, he was witnessing the culmination of a years work.

The occasion was a presentation night when volunteer and sessional youth workers from across the city, who had successfully passed their CeVe accredited Youth Work Course, received their certification.



The course, purchased from North Lanarkshire Council in December 2005, was piloted by LAYC in conjunction with CLD youth work staff from across the Neighbourhood Teams over an 8 week period. It covered topics including social exclusion, group work theory and skills, participation and empowerment, curriculum development and evaluation.

Ian Boardman was delighted with the outcomes of the pilot, "the whole course from organising, recruiting, delivery and accessing was done in partnership with LAYC and local CLD Youth Workers. The response from all the participants was very positive and provided unequivocal evidence

that there's a place for accredited youth worker training in Edinburgh."

Following the pilot the training steering group met to map out the next phase of their work.

One of the initial tasks will be to redraft the course materials following the feedback and experiences of delivering the course. Once completed this will provide an 'Edinburghised' course ready to be run again.

The steering groups ambitions go further. They are looking to purchase and pilot a further accredited course form NLC designed for those youth workers with slightly less experience. It is hoped that this will be piloted either just before or after the summer.

Beyond that the steering group hope to be able to run a rolling programme of these accredited training courses over an 18 month period.

The final word however ought to go to one of participants who said "being a volunteer I found all the course relevant and it gave me a much greater knowledge of what youth work as a whole is all about Best course I've been on."

Thanks go to members of the steering group - Ian Boardman, Graham McCulloch and Dale Marsters of LAYC and from CLD John Cooper, Graham Neal, Jenna Lawson, Virginia Lopez and Rab Byfield.



100 Years Old

Global Xchange is a 6-month volunteering programme run by VSO, the British Council, CSV and British Airports Authority. The programme we are currently on runs between Calabar in Nigeria and Edinburgh. The scheme comprises of 18 young adults all aged between 18-25 from all over both countries, there are 9 Nigerian volunteers and 9 British volunteers. Throughout the 6 months we live and work in counterpart pairs at different host homes and work placements.

Charlie and Umar are currently on placement at the Edinburgh Area Scout Council. Other placements are at Shakti Woman's Aid, The Scottish Executive and Solas to name just a few.

Whilst we have been on our placement with the Scouts we have been busy compiling a booklet, to assist Edinburgh Scouts to celebrate the centenary of Scouting. Scouts in Edinburgh are aiming to complete 100 different service projects over the course of the year and we are creating a booklet to support them in doing this. The booklet comprises guidelines to making a service project work, gives information on different regulations that need to be followed and also has a list of possible service projects.

They are anxious to add to the list and are looking for possible projects for a wide range of sizes of groups and also for individuals and projects suitable for the age ranges 6 - 25 that Scouting works with in over 200 sections across the city

So if you know of any Service Projects that might be considered by a Scout Group in your area, please make contact with the Area Secretary, Alan Willoughby at Edinburgh Area Scout Council at 15 Valleyfield Street, Edinburgh EH3 9LP or phone 0131 229 3756 or email to area-secretary@edinburgh-scout.org.uk

THANK YOU