



Special Winter Supplement 2005

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www.layc.org.uk

Lothian Association of Youth Clubs Website

Welcome to LAYC's Website Special Winter Supplement 2005.

In recent years LAYC has dragged itself into the 21st Century by setting up and developing it's own website. This supplement takes a closer look at some of the developments and highlights the on-line services available for both our members and those with a 'surfing' interest in Youth and Children's Work. If you are interested in finding out more about what we've been up to then read on, alternatively you could always check out www.layc.org.uk and get clicking. You never know, you may end up adding us to your favourites?

Late Breaking News . . .

LAYC sails past Yacht Club - Latin America here we come !

It's official - We're a hit, but we're not feeling lucky...yet! When you enter LAYC into the worlds most popular search engine we are number 1 in pages from the UK and number 2 in the web! Google prioritises searches based on the number of visits (or hits) made to websites and we are currently sandwiched between the Latin American Youth Center and the Los Angeles Yacht Club, based on their world wide stats. This means that there are more of you out there hitting on us more often than ever before! As a direct result, what set out as a somewhat reluctant foray into cyberspace, the website has now become a key area for development. Our website is under constant development and we always welcome feedback and comments on how this can be updated and improved. Drop us a line on 0131 667 1828 or e-mail enquiries@layc.org.uk with your thoughts.





promoting quality youth and children's work

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LAYC E-Bulletins

Question

So what are these? Why would my group want to use them?

Answer

Only LAYC member groups get to use this method of contacting nearly 300 local youth and children's workers direct to their personally chosen e-mail address. Most of these people are actively interested in new job opportunities or training events.

Question

What's the benefit? Our club still has to interview them and all the rest . . .

Answer

Hey . . . how much would you normally pay for your job adverts? Many of the people subscribed to the Bulletins are experienced sessional staff looking for additional hours and some are just new to the area! Some are looking to work in youth and children's work for the first time so yes, you still need to carry out the proper recruitment and selection process.

But don't just take LAYC's word about the benefits

'We use the LAYC Bulletins all the time now when 6VT are recruiting staff'

Dot Horne - Edinburgh City Youth Café

'We get a lot of good candidates for jobs through the LAYC Bulletin - sometimes we don't need to advertise anywhere else'

Willy Barr - Citadel Youth Centre, Leith

And from the point of view of the part-time worker, here's a genuine case study written by the person themselves.

'Finding My Feet with LAYC'

'About a week after my return, jobless, temporarily homeless, and feeling the post-degree panic, my fortunes changes. I was wandering through the Meadows, having dropped off my umpteenth CV to another restaurant in the hope of finding anything to stave off the overdraft limit. I spotted a plaque outside a building on Boroughloch Lane: 'Lothian Association of Youth Clubs', which I must have passed a thousand times in my Uni days.... Welcomed inside for a chat ... put on the opportunities and training bulletins database. I'd come to the right place for sure ... A week later and the job adverts started coming through. The first was for a post working in a youth club at Penicuik YMCA-YWCA. Two weeks later and the job was mine. Then one came through from Wester Hailes Youth Agency, which looked right up my street. As I'm writing this I'm just waiting for my papers to be processed before I join the team there and I can't wait!

I now have two exciting new jobs thanks to the LAYC opportunities bulletin, and I'm feeling really positive about the future. Not only that, but LAYC are also giving me the chance to air my thoughts on these pages and I know where I can go for a cup of tea if I ever get caught on the Meadows in the rain!

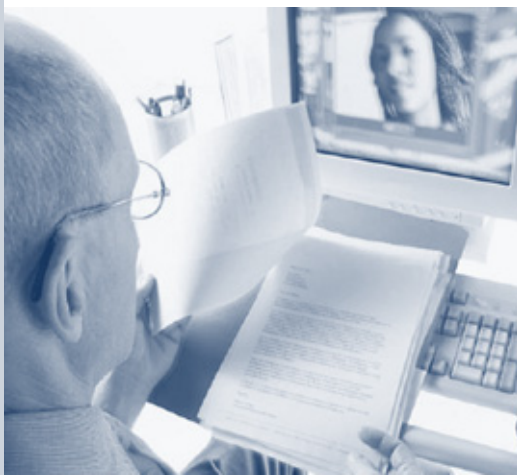
Maddy Ryle - Networks Winter 2004 Issue

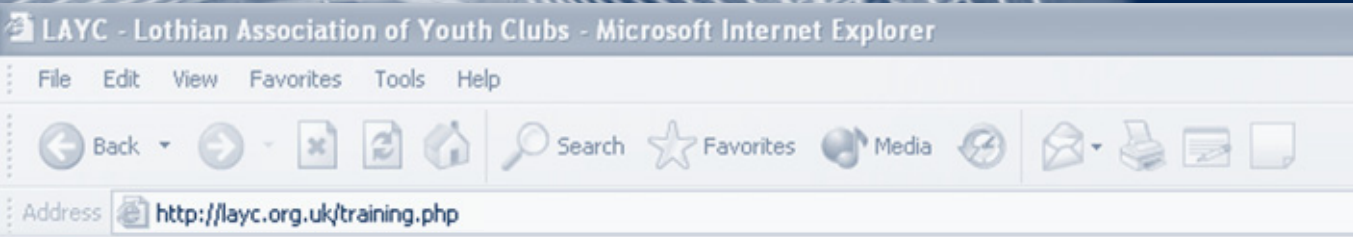
And it's not just one or two hour a week jobs, here is a breakdown of a typical month in the life of Bulletins:

- p/t Sessional Youth Work Posts (7) (Girls Work, Youth Work (generic))
- f/t Youth and Children's Post (1)
- p/t Play Work for 12 hours (1)
- p/t Youth Work Post 20 hours (1)
- p/t Clerical Post (1)
- Volunteering Opportunities (7)
- Training Courses (2)

You will notice that the training courses are circulated by E-Bulletins as well.

This is a way of letting your staff know about courses they might be interested (or you might want them to go on!) So why don't you get all your workers to register with LAYC. It's not just our own training that we highlight either - if there are other agencies offering training to youth and children's workers then they can join LAYC too! As an existing member group however, you can advertise your training **free!** So why not try and get back some of the costs of training your own staff by selling spare places to other workers or groups?





LAYC Training

LAYC's training programme has never been so accessible! Relevant and affordable training for members (and non-members) on days and at times that are convenient has always been our aim here. The development of the website has further served to bolster this service, with the likes of the aforementioned bulletins promoting training opportunities being just one example of this. In addition to this workers now have the opportunity to access details on line about LAYC's General Programme of Training (e.g. Emergency Aid, Child Protection, Dealing with Challenging Behaviour and Youth Achievement Awards amongst much more) and the Quality Development Unit's Programme of Training (e.g. Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003, Terms and Conditions and Effective Recruitment).

Training On-line with LAYC

- Training bulletins direct to your email account
- Access to training programmes
- Detailed outline of courses
- Booking on-line

As well as detailing dates, times and venues etc. those interested can click on to the title of the course concerned to view a more detailed outline of the course content. Booking on line used to be something that other websites did and we could only dream about - not anymore! If you see a course that you're interested in you can book on to it there and then and an email will be forwarded to your account confirming the booking has been processed.

Half Price Training for LAYC Member

LAYC Library

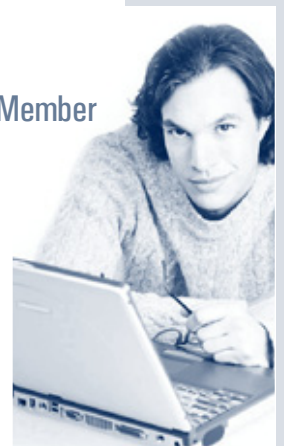
LAYC has re-vamped its library of resources. In doing so we have added some new titles to the existing ones and made them all available to browse and reserve on-line. This means that, whilst you are more than welcome to access the library in the more traditional way, you can now search the entire catalogue (and add up to 6 items to your basket for collection at any one time) from the comfort of your own home or office! We currently have over 600 resources available to borrow, from books and journals to training packs and videos. Categories practically range from A - Z and include an extensive range of topics and issues relevant to the field of youth and children's work!

Resources Database Search

In order to access this service, workers simply need to register their details on-line by clicking on the library link located on the left hand side of the home page. An e-mail confirming registration will be forwarded to your account and then it's just a case of logging in, reserving items and collecting them (not to mention returning them when the loan period has elapsed of course)!

LAYC Resources Database Search	
Title	<input type="text"/>
Author	<input type="text"/>
Description	<input type="text"/>
Keywords	Select keyw ord from the list below <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	

Access for LAYC Members only





LAYC Links

It's a great big worldwide web out there as you'll know if you've ever hit Google's 'I'm Feeling Lucky' button. But if you've not got the time nor inclination to follow that route, there are a raft of good youth work websites that are worthy of being on your favourites list.

On LAYC's site follow the Contacts button and you'll find links - an index of named sites with short descriptions with live links you can connect through. This has been sub-divided to ease access with them grouped in a number of categories.

The index ranges from LAYC affiliates to Scottish bodies and from policy/practice to Funding. It's worth taking a scroll through and checking what's in there.

Of course, you may well have come across further youth and children's work related web nuggets so don't hesitate to let us know what they are. You can do that through our contact button and we'll check it out with a view of putting it on.

A new web feature is our 'Website of the Month', which will highlight both relevant and some irreverant sites that just might be worthy of a visit.

Website of the Month

www.coolfoodplanet.org

This website is about healthy eating from the European Food Information Council and carries a raft of cartoon based tips across a range of health related topics.

Aimed at teenagers the site is fairly colourful with lots of interactive elements including quizzes, practical advice, etc. Despite a bit of an old fashioned look, it's worth a visit. Check your own healthy eating score while you're on!

Website Statistics . . . more than just some pretty graphs

We all know about 'damned lies' and statistics, but the figures for www.layc.org.uk can give a bit of a picture about what is going on out there in web land . . . people tend to visit the site between 10am and 5pm - so that's the bulk of the usage during 'normal office hours' with a peak about 3pm in the afternoon. Then there's a bit of activity between 8pm and 10pm - in from work, had your tea, kids ready for bed and just a little surf before telly and bed for the grown ups?

The number of different users of the site continues to grow - well above the 300 mark now giving a total number of 12,339 'hits' for October 2005. (Interestingly enough 18 months ago when the website started and only 100 people used the site, a lot more night owls logged on!!)

But what does it all mean - rising usage from individuals - yes and along with that the number of organisations using the site too. Equally a rising amount of usage within the various pages with an average of 24 hits per visit.



What does LAYC Seek to Achieve?

MORE USERS

YES

put www.layc.org.uk in your 'favourites' - get your colleagues to do the same.

MORE REPEAT USERS

YES

LAYC will seek to continue to add useful information to the site - update it regularly so you can see there's new stuff for you to check out.

MORE INTERACTION WITH USERS

YES

we will continue to seek your ideas about what to add. Let us know what you would like to see on the website!

For further information contact LAYC staff on 0131 667 1828, email: enquiries@layc.org.uk or visit: www.layc.org.uk

www.layc.org.uk