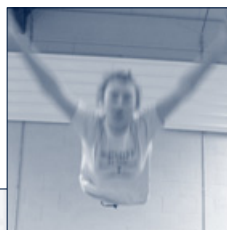


networks

The Journal for Youth & Children Workers in Lothian

Winter 2006



Edinburgh City Libraries

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OPINION PIECE

The Youth Club in Decline

It seems somewhat ironic that after the recent national consultation around youth work entitled "Opportunities For All" that I find myself writing about the youth club being in decline. However it is no secret that this has been the case in recent years. With fewer openings, falling numbers and the average age of young people attending lower, it is clear that something somewhere is going wrong. This picture was further illustrated to me by a senior CL&D worker in Lothian who said, "Once they (young people) get to 13, we lose them." A depressing outlook if ever there was one!

Some people talk about lack of investment being at the root of the problem, however youth work has lacked investment from the start. Whilst it is true that the current trend towards more targeted short-term work is a contributing factor in the marginalisation of the youth club, I'm not so sure that it is the only or indeed the main reason for the apparent decline. Neither do I entirely buy into the theory that young people require state of the art buildings kitted out with the most up to date equipment in order to attend. Don't get me wrong, it's true that young people deserve better facilities, equipment and programmes "...of a certain sophistication" (Young People Now, Youth Clubs: In Defence of the Youth Club, 16/11/05) - however this is not, never has been and never will be the be all and end all of youth work.

The key resource for any youth club is, and always has been, the Youth Worker and it is here that I believe the root of the problem and the solution lies. Whilst the issue of training is one that undoubtedly needs to be examined in closer detail, I think that there are more immediate measures that can be taken. The average age of the Youth Worker appears to me to be getting younger and as a result they naturally lack a certain breadth of life experience as well as experience in the field. Perhaps it is high time some experienced workers who think that their days of face to face work are



over, many sitting behind desks in "semi-retirement", dug out their Dunlop Greenflash and worked the odd session or two. The input from some wise "old" heads could serve to complement and support the existing staff. This blend of youth and experience has the potential to raise the quality in standards in youth clubs and begin to reverse the current trend.

As Tony Jeffs (writer and lecturer) has said on more than one occasion, "We don't need more youth workers, we need more good youth workers." Make no mistake; young people will continue to vote with their feet until the fundamental issue of improving the overall standard of youth work is addressed. Issues like funding and buildings will always be a factor here, the standard of the youth worker needn't be.

Dale Marsters, LAYC

Do you have views on this subject? Why not log on to LAYC's Youth and Childrens Work Forum on <http://www.layc.org.uk/> Or maybe try writing in to "Networks" about some other relevant topic that you want to air to a wider audience? Don't just sit there in your Dunlop Greenflash . . .



Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Practitioners Sub-Group

LAYC are on this multi-agency group that meets to look at practice issues around child protection. The sub-group reports to the full ECPC to support the review of local child protection systems. LAYC would like to contribute practice examples so that the committee are made aware of the issues that face voluntary sector organisations.

If you have had dealings with agencies such as the police, health or social work that you think are relevant and will contribute to the debate then contact us at LAYC. We guarantee sensitivity and would like to stress that it is the issues that we are interested in raising as opposed to the practice of any individuals or organisations.

LAYC Prescribe Check Ups for Management Committees

Are your child protection and recruitment procedures adequate? Want a free check up for your management committee from LAYC? We recently visited member groups to advise them around their responsibilities regarding the latest legislation and assist in Disclosure checking their committee.

Experience tells us that people think that they comply when in fact they don't. Get up to speed now as POC(S)A 2003 approaches its second anniversary with more changes in the pipeline. As always, LAYC is here to help.

Tony Jeffs at LAYC AGM & Nancy Owens Memorial Lecture



The lights went down, the curtains opened and the silver screen flickered into life . . .



Back at the start of October over 60 people sat in the plush red seats of the Cameo Cinema in Edinburgh and munched on their popcorn - if this was boring some of them were bound to fall asleep . . .

However, the tactic of racing through the formalities of the AGM - presenting the Annual Report and Accounts, electing the Management for the year and presenting a DVD showcase highlighting the full range of the youth and children's work provided by three LAYC affiliated groups - Citadel Youth Centre, Pilton Youth & Children's Project and 6VT , The City Youth Café - left about an hour for the audience to concentrate on the main attraction - a presentation by Tony Jeffs, youth work writer and lecturer, around the theme 'Youth Work - Back to the Future'.

Disclosure Service Developments

LAYC are now offering access to the Disclosure process for non-affiliated groups and clubs. A fee of £30 per check is applicable here. Groups and organisations wishing to access checks through LAYC are subject to our compliance regulations. LAYC will only process checks for organisations involved in work with children and young people and reserve the right to refuse access to this service on a discretionary basis. Disclosure checks processed for members of LAYC are currently free of charge.

'Inspiring', 'Fascinating', 'Really motivating' were some of the comments heard in the bar afterwards to describe an expansive discourse starting by looking at the debt youth work owes to the pioneering women who established services around 150 years ago and in who's work we can still clearly see the core aims and values of youth work today. Diverting via reflections on the lasting impact youth work can have on young people's lives over afternoon tea in a café in the Welsh border country and some historical interviewing Tony has been carrying out around the life changes for people through their involvement in youth work in the 1920's and 30's.

Having convinced us of the value of the 'wise adult' role Tony quickly dispatched teachers and further education to the bins marked 'faulty' and 'past their sell by date' and sent many out into the night re-invigorated and recharged - ready no doubt to give their views on the sort of youth work we need in the National Youth Work Strategy consultation (which was the reason LAYC had invited Tony to address the AGM in the first place).

If you weren't there, one of Tony's more succinct points was that there are more anti social behaviour Community wardens (and projected that there will soon also be more "spin doctors" employed to promote government policies) than there are youth workers in England and Wales.

THANK YOU TONY YOU SHALL RETURN !

The full 20 page LAYC Annual Report & Accounts is available to consult and download from www.layc.org.uk

News

The Rock Trust Active Futures Programme

The Active Futures Programme is a newly funded project that aims to provide an inclusive, sensitive, fun approach to active recreation for vulnerable and socially isolated young women aged 16-25. The programme will run in 10 week blocks, with 5-6 different types of activities offered on a weekly basis. These activities will be varied, from dance and swimming to climbing and other outward bound activities. The first block is due to start January 2007.

For details of the referral process and other enquiries, please e-mail jo.surcouf@rocktrust.org or telephone 0131 524 9862.

Edinburgh Women's Aid

. . . is an all women, confidential organisation which provides information, support and, where appropriate, refuge accommodation for women and any accompanying children or young people who have been abused by their partner or ex partner.

Our children and young people's service has been expanding and we are now offering support to children and young people on an outreach basis.



If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Alison or Christine on 0131 315 8116 or e-mail info@edinburghwomensaid.co.uk

safe 'n' sorted

Essential information for young people on sexual health and relationships



WHAT IS IT?

safe 'n' sorted is the young people's mini sexual health and relationships handbook and guide to services in Edinburgh and the Lothians. It has been in circulation since 2000, and is updated annually by Healthy Respect. This year Healthy Respect have undertaken a full review of the resource with young people and professionals to ensure that it remains relevant, and that the information is easily accessible. We've also been working to ensure that the resource is sustainable to produce.

The latest edition contains updated information on sex and the law, confidentiality and pregnancy. In response to young people's feedback the contacts chart has been significantly reduced, making it easier to find specific sexual health and relationships services.

LOTHIAN WIDE DISTRIBUTION

Healthy Respect will be distributing safe 'n' sorted as widely as possible to young people in Lothian. It is designed for young people aged 13-16. As in previous years, we will distribute copies free of charge to every young person in S3 at school (including special, and independent schools, and pupil referral units). In addition, this year we are increasing distribution to include GP surgeries, Community Learning & Development, and Youth Clubs.

In total, 24000 copies are being produced, and it is our hope that all young people in Lothian will get a copy to keep for themselves.



USING SAFE 'N' SORTED WITH YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Through research, Healthy Respect has learned that the best way to issue leaflets in bulk to young people is through an interactive session. When leaflets are only handed out, most young people will take a copy, but only a fraction of them will read it. However, when leaflets are used in an interactive session, young people become much more familiar with its contents, and are more likely to retain it for future use.

Therefore, it is important that if you are going to issue copies of the latest edition to young people, you build in a bit of time for an interactive session. To help with this, Healthy Respect can provide you with our fun safe 'n' sorted quiz that you can run in around 40 minutes. This is available to download from:

<http://www.healthysrespect.co.uk/Trainresources.htm>

ORDERING COPIES

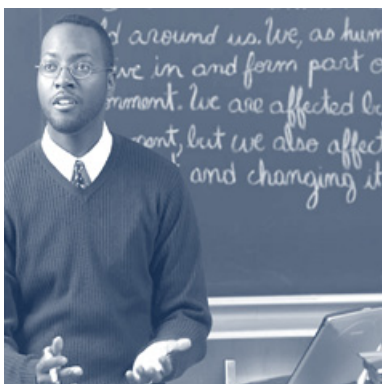
To order free copies of safe 'n' sorted for the young people you work with, and a free copy of the safe 'n' sorted quiz, contact the Library and Resource centre at NHS Lothian.

Their details are:

NHS Lothian
Library & Resource Centre
Deaconess House
148 Pleasance
Edinburgh EH8 9RS
Tel: 0131 536 9452
Fax: 0131 536 9246
e-mail: Library@lhb.scot.nhs.uk



Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Bill Published



As indicated in Autumn 2006 Networks, the new Bill aimed at bolstering existing child protection legislation was introduced in the Scottish Parliament in late September. The Bill is based on proposals from the Bichard inquiry into the Soham tragedy and includes the following measures:

- **Extending the Disqualified from Working with Children List and creating a new list of those unsuitable to work with adults at risk**
- **Continuous updating of the barred lists and notifying an employer if new information comes to light**
- **Introducing a Vetting and Barring disclosure check to centralise and streamline the existing process**
- **Establishing a Central Barring Unit to assess whether someone should be placed on one or both of the lists.**

It is clear that this piece of legislation, which will become live at the end of 2007 or early 2008, is going to impact significantly upon the sector. We need only look to our experiences of POC(S)A 2003 which, with its comparatively small number of strands, caused considerable confusion. Indeed there are still worryingly high levels of ignorance around this piece of legislation. There was in the region of £1m of Scottish Executive money spent on training and guidance to support the introduction of POC(S)A 2003 and

the plan is to spend almost £1.5m on supporting the implementation of the new legislation. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to foresee similar problems on the horizon here. However it is not so much the amounts of money in question that we are primarily concerned with, but rather how and where it will be spent.

At the moment plans include £200k to be spent on developing training materials, £600k on delivering training and £300k on a telephone helpline service over 3 years. This begs the question as to how much of this £1.5m will reach its intended target audience of those directly involved in the delivery of services with vulnerable groups? Will the training materials developed be relevant to the majority of those part-time workers and volunteers engaged in the field? Will the training be targeted appropriately and be made accessible and affordable and will a telephone helpline be able to cope with the sheer volume of queries that this legislation will inevitably generate? LAYC's Honorary President, Donald Gorrie MSP, has been raising some of these concerns in parliamentary circles and we hope to highlight these sufficiently in order that the Executive take a keener interest in how and where this money is spent in order that we can avoid going down the same road as before.

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

fast forward
POSITIVE LIFESTYLES LTD

Fast Forward has secured funding from Community Safety Partnership and Action on Alcohol and Drugs in Edinburgh to provide free health promotion on alcohol and drugs.

They can also provide taster sessions, which can be face to face with young people, but also with workers who may wish to develop their knowledge and skills further. They have a new leaflet detailing some of the work they are able to carry out.

If you think you or any of your colleagues may be interested in any aspects of Fast Forward's work, please don't hesitate to contact:- Alexis Stewart, Development Officer on 0131 554 4300 or e-mail admin@fastforward.org.uk and log onto www.fastforward.org.uk

amber

Amber - Homelessness can and does happen to anyone. It is the most vulnerable however, who are most at risk - young people coming out of care, those with mental health difficulties, asylum seekers and refugees and those affected by family breakdowns.

Edinburgh Cyrenians projects make a lasting, significant difference to people's lives - often taking months or years of hard work to help them build a safe, secure and fulfilling life away from homelessness.

What is Amber? Amber is a mediation service for the use of young people (16-21) and their families - people who are having trouble getting along, some of whom may be at risk of becoming homeless.

For further information please contact: amber@cyrenians.org.uk or visit their website at www.cyrenians.org.uk

Skate N' Rock 2

Skate N' Rock 2 took place this year at Haddington Corn Exchange on Sunday the 22nd of October. The event was the second of its type, and followed on from the highly successful event that took place during the schools October break last year. 250 young people attended the event that was run by Haddington Music Initiative (HMI). The HMI has eight years of experience in promoting musical events in the local area. The HMI aim to showcase up and coming local young talent and always aim to provide opportunities for these young artists to perform alongside professional musicians. In recent years they've had youth bands from the Bridge Centre Music Project perform alongside Snow Patrol.

Bands playing this year were:

- Edelweiss Pirates
- Chronic Influence
- Black Malcolm
- MC Lightnin

All four above mentioned acts are members of the Bridge Centre Music Project.

- Rage
- Ben Cozine
- Tyrant Lizard Kings
- Bombskare (Top Billing)

In addition to a full afternoon and evening of bands, Rusty Ramps provided an indoor mini-ramp for skaters to use throughout the day.

The HMI is managed by a committee of local people with wide spread professional experience in business, banking, management and the music industry. Several members have been involved since the Initiatives inception in 1998, and have gained significant experience of festival/event management during this time. The committee also receives support from a full time Community Development Officer from East Lothian Council who has experience of working with children and young people and access to the Council's support networks.



West Lothian Youth Action Project

It has been another busy year for West Lothian Youth Action Project; we have an ever increasing demand for the streetwork service, throughout the region. Young people have for many generations chosen to socialise on the streets, however, as the media frequently likes to remind us we now have a generation of 'hoodies' and 'Buckfast louts', terrorising our streets. This perception of young people is one that organisations such as the Youth



Action Project constantly battle against; it is our role to ensure that the positive work carried out by many young people receives recognition and accreditation. Some of the positive achievements for our organisation this year have been the production of the Alcohol DVD, this involved young people aged 10-20 years of age throughout West Lothian. The DVD is divided into 4 sections, relating to the views of primary school children, professionals involved in or dealing with, the consequences of alcohol related issues in the community, a hard hitting personal impact story and a drama depicting the potential damaging consequences of alcohol use. The DVD was launched at the Regal Theatre in Bathgate on 24th October. The funding for this piece of work was provided by West Lothian Drug Action Team Alcohol sub group, to whom we are very grateful. The DVD is being distributed throughout schools and youth groups, the organisation is willing to provide staff and peer educators to run sessions to explain the use of this tool if agencies request this support. It is an interactive tool, which can provoke much discussion and thought.

"Alive and Active" in Wester Hailes



Evelyn Pennycook, community education worker at WHEC, states;

"The Buddy scheme evidences successful and effective collaborative working between Community Education, the Youth Agency and the Wester Hailes Education Centre. S5 and S6 buddies have secured a chill-out room with one-to-one space, which provides S1 pupils with a safe, positive and supportive environment, Monday to Thursday. Since it opened the number of S1 pupils using the drop-in has increased dramatically with between 10 and 16 young people visiting the drop-in daily. The Buddy scheme supports and promotes youth participation and active citizenship; tackling the isolation and social exclusion experienced by some young people in society."

Contrary to rumours about its very existence, the Youth Agency is undoubtedly **alive and active**, contributing positively to, and enriching the lives of young people in West Edinburgh.

Based in Wester Hailes, the Youth Agency provides a diverse range of opportunities, programmes and support to young people, aged 8-25 years. Youth work provision includes: work in schools, groupwork, streetwork, environmental work, individual work and drop-in provision.

After experiencing an unstable and turbulent time, the Youth Agency continues to embrace its commitment to recognising, understanding and meeting the needs, abilities and aspirations of young people from the wider west city area.

New Initiative in Schools Work

In addition to delivering Peer Education and John Muir Award environmental programmes in local secondary schools, a new initiative known as the **Buddy Scheme** has been established at Wester Hailes Education Centre.

Adopting a peer support model, the scheme trains S5 and S6 pupils in communication, child-protection and youth issues, to equip them with the skills required to take on a responsible, positive, peer support role.



Future Work

In November the Youth Agency starts working in partnership with Wester Hailes Health Centre to provide a weekly youth sexual health drop-in. The Youth Agency will also be delivering a pilot 'think twice' programme targeting young people aged 12-15, involved in offending and anti-social behaviour.

New Coordinator

Appointing a new Coordinator (Clare Taylor) in August, the Youth Agency envisages greater stability and continued progressive youth work practice which meet its primary aims: to relieve poverty and disadvantage, advance learning and further participation and citizenship in the West Edinburgh area.

News



The Risk Factory is an exciting new purpose-built centre in Edinburgh, designed to allow visitors to experience first hand a range of real life hazardous situations and learn how to deal with them in a controlled and supervised environment.

They are looking for Volunteer Safety Guides - keen, reliable individuals with good communication skills to help children learn key safety skills as they escort groups around the lifelike hazard scenarios at the centre, encouraging them to identify dangers and take action to reduce and avoid risks.

- Would you know what to do if your house was on fire and your Granny was trapped inside?
- Or how about if your dog fell into a canal?

Training is provided on communicating with children, and presentation skills, to ensure the children get the most out of their visit to the centre.

INTERESTED? Call Jess on 0131 455 8930 or email jess.wade@edinburgh.gov.uk

The Green Team Programme for 2007

... It's out now! Ranging from Sunday events to whole residential weekends throughout the year go to www.greenteam.org.uk to check out what this voluntary organisation which works with young people carrying out practical conservation projects and having fun are up to now. Whether as an individual or with your group you can just take part out of interest in the environment or use the Green Team programme of events as part of your Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Volunteering in Sport

"Are you between 14-25 years old and would be interested in Volunteering in Sport?"

If your answer is "Yes!" then you need to contact Stewart Roy, the New Youth Volunteer Worker for Edinburgh Leisure - Stewart's role is to identify enthusiastic young people within the Open All Hours programme and across Edinburgh that may be interested in Volunteering, Stewart will be able to support young volunteers in many different ways:

- Identify suitable Volunteer placements
- Complete a personal development plan which will help the volunteer reach their full potential
- Access training opportunities in Sport & Life skills
- Mentor young volunteers through their experience
- Recognise achievement through award ceremonies and Millennium Volunteer Awards
- Create opportunities for employment and further education

If you feel Volunteering for Edinburgh Leisure is for you then give Stewart a call on 0131 652 2178. Alternatively email stewartroy@edinburghleisure.co.uk

Girls Only @ Leith Victoria Swim Centre

Good news girls . . . after closing for a couple of months due to gym and reception refurbishment, Girls Only Open all Hours is back with a bang. If you're aged between 11-18 years then why not head down and try out the fantastic activities on offer. Have a workout in the gym, take a plunge in the pool, have a blast on the dance mats, or simply chill out with your mates - Girls Only sessions run on Saturday afternoons from 4pm - 6pm.

For more information, please contact Leith Victoria Swim Centre on 0131 555 4728.



Crime Pays

Edinburgh Leisure's Sports Development team is working with the community and local partners at the Craggs Sports Centre to bring the young people of the area more opportunity to take part in sport and physical activity.

Funding for the programme has been received from 'Proceeds of Crime money' - recovered from the ill gotten gains of criminal activity in Scotland - that is now being reinvested in communities across the country

Heavily involved, the Craggs has funding to deliver several programmes to the young people of the area. One of the most exciting programmes, a girls-only programme, will invite the local girls to take part in trampolining and dance sessions. Meanwhile, the boys will be given the opportunity to work towards the Junior Sports Leader Award.

We are also assisting our partners in the area to deliver several other programmes, including the hugely popular Twilight Basketball.

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

Mums on the Move

On the back of the 'Mums on the Move' project at Ainslie Park, we have now launched a similar project at Kirkliston. Funded by 'Girls on the Move', the programme invites younger mums from the area to take part in a programme of physical activity.

The 10-week programme of activities, which combines sport and physical activity with a health element, has been designed by the girls themselves who are now looking forward to taking part in trampolining, fencing, the gym, fitness classes, smoothie making, alternative therapies and learning about diet and nutrition.

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

FCUK FRI Open All Hours

Are you 13 and over?

Bored on a Friday night?

Do you want to meet new people and chill with your mates?

Young People are involved in all sorts of decisions about what happens at Open All Hours.

With activities such as Football, basketball, Gym, Multi-media & creative arts, internet access and PS2 games. Why not come along and get involved?

We hold consultation meetings every month so it's up to you what we get up to.

BEST OF ALL IT'S FREE !

Contact Café K Jack Kane Centre 0131657 1595 or check their website www.cafek.org

Edinburgh Leads the Way



As part of engaging on Edinburgh, **Cllr Aitken**, Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council spoke to the seminar and set out his take on young people and how the city needed to be responding.



The Consortium promoted seminars around the Scottish Executive's youth work consultation topped the hundred and twenty mark as the Edinburgh youth work sector took up the challenge to actively respond.

The seminar to launch the consultation saw the room at Meadowbank bulging as Simon Jaquet, Chair of the Consortium led off the event.

A contextual input from YouthLink Scotland was followed by a series of workshops aimed at encouraging youth workers to respond and engaging young people.

With over 200 consultation documents taken away on the day, Edinburgh got off to a flyer.

The second seminar on the eve of the consultation deadline focused on the consortium's own response. With over thirty volunteer, sessional, full time youth workers and managers, it provided opportunities to shape the Consortium's final response. Some lively debates in workshop groups and feedback, which in the main endorsed the Consortium's approach.

But the consultation was not only about tamerly feeding into a Scottish debate, it also provided a unique opportunity to take a critical look at youth work in Edinburgh and how it can be better sustained and developed.

For both seminars thanks are due to Edinburgh Leisure and Edinburgh Scout Association for providing use of their buildings. LAYC also provided the staff support and funds to underwrite both events, without which they couldn't have happened.

And the response nationally? Over 3000 responses have been received from youth work organizations, workers and young people making one of the largest responses to a Scottish Executive consultation.

In awaiting the outcomes to the consultation, the Consortium will be pushing forward with its intentions of using the momentum gained by this to improve youth work in the city.

If you want more information about the Consortium and its work please contact Ian Boardman on 0131 667 1828 or e-mail: ian@layc.org.uk or Rab Byfield 0131 469 3361 e-mail: rab.byfield@educ.edin.gov.uk

News

New Disclosure Application Form

Disclosure Scotland is in the process of revising the Disclosure Application form. Well let's just say it's about time as you can reel off a list as long as your arm the faults that there are with the existing form! The new version of the Disclosure Application form will probably become available by the end of the calendar year, or possibly early 2007. So it's likely to be a case of a New Year and a new form - let's hope it's not the same old story Disclosure Scotland!

LAYC will of course keep you posted on any further developments here and be on hand to offer ongoing advice and support around any changes implemented.

Winter Wonderland 2006

Normal admission price for a child is £7.50, but for youth groups within the Edinburgh area we are offering the special reduced rate of only £4.00 per child! All accompanying adults/minders (a maximum ratio of 1 adult to every 4 children) get to skate for free!

There are reserved sessions of every weekday until the 20th December to allow Edinburgh's youth groups the exciting opportunity to get their skates on and take part in the magical Christmas experience of Winter Wonderland.



Places are limited and will be in high demand, so if your group is keen to take part, then contact Ginie Naisby or Ann Russell on 0131 622 6554.

6VT goes contemporary!

6VT had a fantastic opportunity this summer to perform in front of 330,000 people in the 'Le Defile Biennale', the biggest dance festival in Europe.

6VT hosted a French exchange with Theatre Du Mouvement based in Lyon, France from 23 July - 1 August. The purpose of the exchange was to bring together young people from different ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds who shared an interest in dance. 22 young contemporary dancers together with choreographers Annie Legoros and Claude Decaillor stayed in Edinburgh for 10 days. Contemporary dancing all over the city from outside the Scottish Parliament to M&Ds teaching 6VT young people the dance routine for the parade.

In September Theatre du Mouvement hosted the second part of the exchange. A group of 12 young people and 2 members of staff from 6VT went to Lyon for ten days of dance practice to prepare for the dance festival they all worked really hard to learn the routine as the French dancers had been practicing for several months. Both the Scottish & French enjoyed meeting up again and strengthening the relationships that were started during the French trip to Edinburgh in July.



The dance festival was amazing and fun with dancers from all over Europe taking part. The whole experience has been viewed as really positive. It has built self-confidence with our young people. They have also made real friendships with people from different backgrounds and cultures.

Edinburgh City Libraries



Award-winning work in Sighthill library has sparked interest in Edinburgh City Libraries' good practice in working with young people. Libraries are being increasingly creative in their methods of engaging with teenagers and have worked in partnership with other agencies to achieve excellent results.

Kathy Softley and the staff at Muirhouse library hold a weekly Internet café for teenagers eager to improve their ICT skills. Kathy says that *"the cafe is a meeting place for young people and provides a supervised surfing venue with literacy support and careers advice. The young people choose the activities themselves so we have followed many different avenues!"*

This form of consultation with young people has been key to many of the libraries most successful initiatives. After speaking to local youths about their interests, Sighthill and Ratho library staff delivered gaming workshops, a graffiti art project, job clubs and currently run a football literacy group and video project in partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The library recently won the Public Finance's 'Outstanding team of the year' award, with their innovative youth work being cited as a major factor in the judges' decision.

Craigmillar library has taken stock of the views of local teenagers by setting up a Young People's Advisory Forum to ensure that the library service is responsive to young people's needs. Top of the list of teenage requests was a proposed relaxation of rules relating to 'eating in the library!' This, combined with a rise in activities offered to young people in the evening, has improved the service and developed good relations between staff and local young people.

Teenagers are often keen to borrow music CDs and DVDs and to make use of the playstations and free Internet access offered in all Edinburgh libraries, yet books alone are at the heart of a vibrant teenage group in Portobello. The group's eight members meet once a month for heated discussions about the latest in teen fiction.

All Edinburgh libraries have a dedicated teenage area and Wester Hailes has taken this one step further by opening a youth library. The youth library - launched as a response to community requests- is now open every Friday afternoon to increase young people's library access. The call for opening hours tailored to community needs was put succinctly by one fifteen-year-old when he declared, "Monday, Wednesday and Friday are my favourite days as the library is open longer." Weekend opening at six libraries has also attracted many young people.

Libraries are very aware that there is always scope to develop the service, to offer a wider range of activities for young people and to be more responsive to teenagers' needs. Francesca Brennan, teenage library officer, feels that there could be many exciting opportunities for libraries and youth agencies to work together in building literacy skills and widening access to services. Libraries are eager to work more closely with youth groups and to hear young people's views on the library service.

Please contact Francesca Brennan at francesca.brennan@edinburgh.gov.uk or telephone 0131 242 8121 if you would like to find out more about the library service or discuss ways of working together.

Training Programme gets Pass Marks



We are now at the midway point of our training programme for 2006/7 and seem well on course to surpassing last years' efforts in terms of numbers of courses run, attendees and new courses piloted.



This term has seen us pilot a total of 5 new courses along with our core programme which featured a further 6 courses. Generally uptake on the courses has been very good and the feedback from participants positive.

The only blemishes this term were the cancellation of our course on the POC(S)A and Terms and Conditions courses due to a lack of uptake. Try as we might we just don't seem to be able to attract people to courses that cover changes to legislation.. However not to be too perturbed we are trying a different tack regarding this subject matter (see LAYC prescribe Check Ups for Management Committees on page 2).

The overall success of our training programme to date is particularly pleasing given that back in Autumn 2006 Networks we acknowledged that it represented an ambitious one. So in true school report terms it's not so much a case of "could do better", but more like "keep up the good work". In the New Year we will certainly be attempting to build on the momentum gained as we take some of our training courses out to East Lothian and Midlothian.

Courses featuring in 2007 include Challenging Behaviour, Emergency Aid, Child Protection, Group Work Skills, Games and Basic Food Hygiene amongst others. **For more details of these courses and information on how to book check out our training page at www.layc.org.uk Alternatively you can use the booking form included with this edition of Networks.**

Avanti Youth Work!

After a gap of some five years, accredited training for youth workers in Edinburgh is back!

Thirteen sessional and volunteer youth workers from across the city are currently concluding a CeVe accredited advanced youth work course. The pilot is being run by LAYC in conjunction with CLD youth work staff drawn from the neighbourhood areas and HQ.

LAYC set up a joint steering group to help recruit, provide tutors and pull together a significant evaluation of the course and its impact on practice. "LAYC looked at a number of quasi national training programmes before deciding to go with North Lanarkshire's youth work course ... part of the evaluation will be to assess if the course does what it needs to do." The successful participants will be receiving a CeVe endorsed certificate, which levels off against an SVQ Level Three.

A major spin off to the course has been the chance for participants to share information, practice and support. This has been such a significant part of the course it's being built into the final Saturday.

As one participant said *"it's been a really enjoyable course and the whole group has been really supportive. The course made you think a lot more about how you work and what other youth workers are doing in other parts of Edinburgh."*

Special thanks to go to the thirteen youth workers who have acted as the 'guinea pigs' on the course and have played such a critical role in feeding back their views.

News

News

Must be something about the bracing maritime lifestyle down in sunny Leith that brings out the seaside postcards. No sooner does the memory of the 'Say No to Violence Against Women' Arts Project pants postcards start to fade than the Citadel Youth Centre take over Ocean Terminal with an art exhibition and recollections from young people who used the center 25 years ago when it opened ... and their Annual General Meeting was marked not just with a beano, but a rather dandy stylish report.

Different Time - Same Place Smash Hit Training Event Returns

Youth Scotland's sixth national training conference Practication normally packs them into Hilton Edinburgh Airport Hotel around about October/November, but this year what with the national youth work strategy consultation and everything, the event is going to be held on 24/25 March 2007 - again at the Airport Hilton.

A variety of topics (14) in all ranging from Games, Dance, Drumming, Events Management, Challenging Behaviour, etc will be crammed in to a busy programme which usually attracts around 100 youth workers - volunteers, sessional and full time from a wide range of settings around Scotland. Prices range from about £60/£70 up to over £150 - naturally the best prices are available for affiliated groups.

For more information contact Mandy Patterson at Youth Scotland on 0131 554 2561 or visit www.youthscotland.org.uk

LAYC's Individual Membership



Historically it has only been clubs and groups working with children and young people that have been able to join LAYC and thus enjoy the benefits of affiliation. However there is now a whole new way to tap into LAYC's services. We are currently in the process of launching an individual membership scheme targeted at those who were previously unable to take advantage of the benefits of affiliation.



So this could be what you are looking for if you are:

A freelance worker looking to promote your services

A worker who has previously been unable to access our services because your club or group were not affiliated

A worker looking to access additional benefits on top of your clubs affiliation

A student of a relevant discipline

Someone with more than a passing interest in work with children and young people

LAYC has a growing network of contacts that includes around 160 clubs, groups and organisations throughout Lothian and over 400 people subscribing to our e-bulletins service.

We are keen to build on this success and develop contacts with others involved in the youth and children sector and see our individual membership scheme as one way of doing this. The benefits on offer through this new membership represent good value and could be of interest to, amongst others, managers interested in signing up their staff team, Community Learning and Development workers responsible for part-time sessional workers and volunteers and those with a responsibility for students. We are confident that this scheme will increase our network whilst offering practical benefits to those interested in work with young people and children.

Individual Membership provides

- Access to up to 3 **free** training courses
- LAYC's training programme at member rates
- Access to Library services
- Quarterly Networks (The Journal for Youth & Children Workers in Lothian)
- Access to LAYC mailings
- Access to E-services
- Access to LAYC website (members only section)
- Advice and support
- Access to study/quiet space

LEVEL OF FEES

Freelance Membership	£20.00
Individual Membership	£10.00
Staff from affiliated groups	£5.00
Students	£5.00

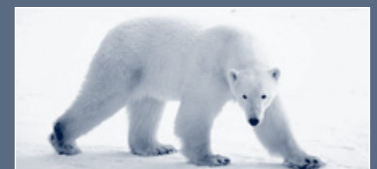
Individual Membership Application forms are available to download from the Affiliation page of LAYC's website at www.layc.org.uk Alternatively you can request these directly from LAYC.

YAA Star in the West

... and lo there was a twinkling in the sky as LAYC affiliated voluntary organisation West Lothian Youth Action Project became the first youth group in West Lothian to complete their Youth Achievement Awards - 6 awards at Bronze level were confirmed at the YAA Moderation meeting in Elgin at the end of September. Well done to the young people and all the youth workers involved. Congratulations too to Christine Hamilton of LGBT Youth Scotland, Project Scotland's volunteer - Platinum Award - and Adam Harrington (from the now sadly departed Edinburgh Youth SIP) - Gold Award.

The next YAA Moderation meeting is on December 14th - if you are looking to submit portfolios for this even you are now too late, but fear not Spring 2007 beckons with a meeting in March.

HELP YOUR MEMBERS HAVE THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME IN THE ARCTIC



Young people aged 13-17 in the UK can enter. Your youth club can enter as many teams as you wish. There will be a winning team from each region in the UK who will join the field trip.

ICE EDGE combines doing something for the environment with practical and vocational learning and creativity. To enter, teams need to come up with a practical solution for an environmental issue. ICE EDGE could involve science, geography, IT, vocational subjects or design and technology. Ideas should be about everyday situations in life, not necessarily the Arctic. Each team should register on the competition website www.iceedge.co.uk and every young person who completes an entry will be rewarded with a certificate from an Arctic explorer. Finalists will be invited to a live final event next Easter.