



networks

The Journal for Youth & Children Workers in Lothian

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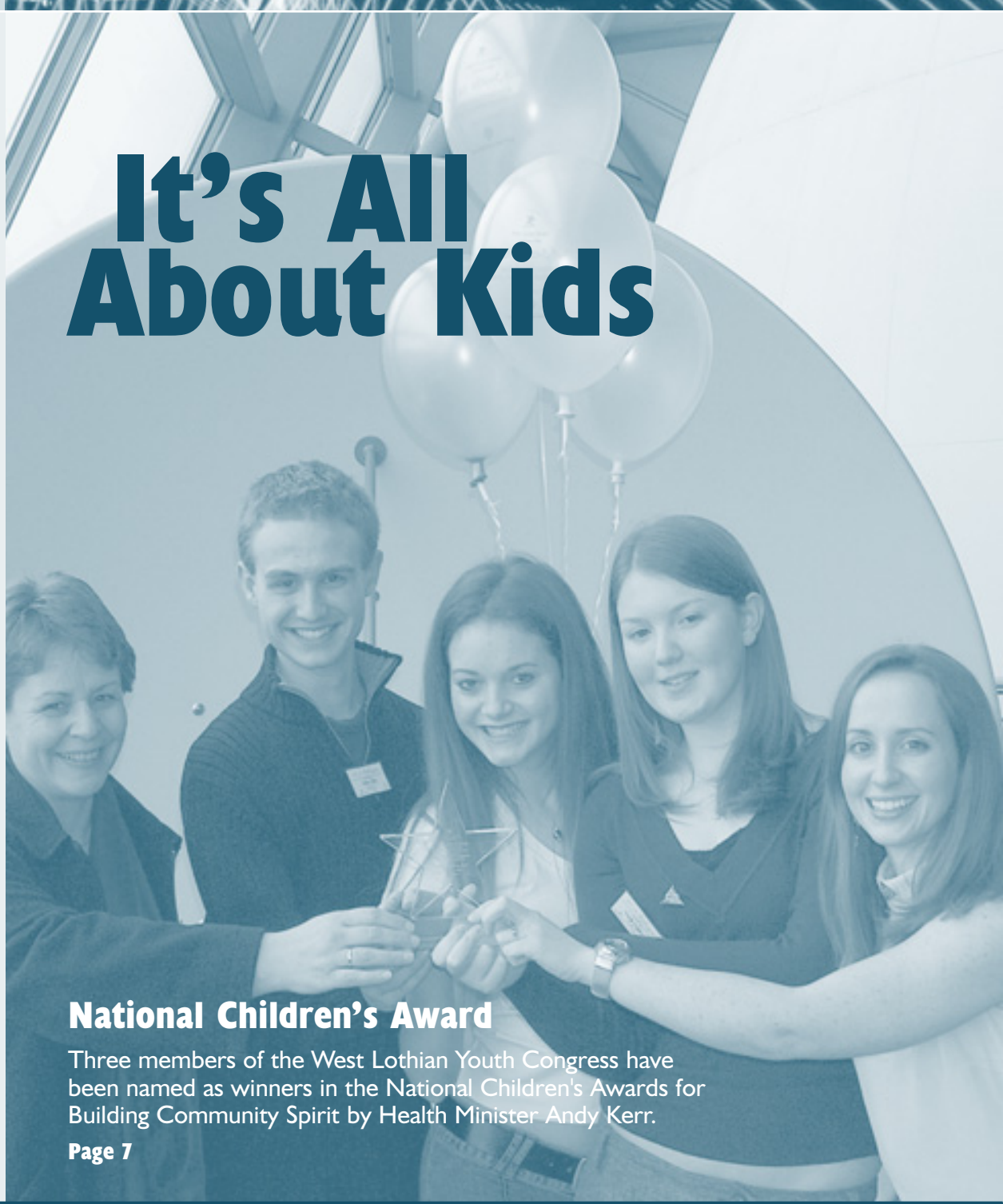
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Fives is a floodlit football complex in Gracemount offering six 5-a-side pitches and one 7-a-side pitch.

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Are You Looking for Affordable & Accessible Transport for Hire?

Are you a local non-profit community organisation? Dove Transport could help!

Dove Transport has 4 fully accessible buses and an MPV (8 seater) available for self-drive (must be MIDAS trained) and with driver hire (limited availability for with-driver hire)

For more information or to arrange a hire contact Kevin Selkirk or Caroline McKinna at Dove Transport, 26 Hailesland Place, Edinburgh EH14 2SL - Telephone 0131 453 4656. Website: www.dovecentre.org.uk e-mail: dovetransport@hotmail.com

New Website for Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland have launched their new website www.oystcotland.org.uk

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland is the leading provider of youth work at sea in the UK for young people aged 12-24 in a safe, yet unique environment. It provides adventurous educational opportunities for young people aged 12-24 to develop their knowledge about themselves, others and society.

The new website is packed with information about the organisation, its development and what it has to offer.

There is an events calendar, a multi-media gallery, a discussion forum and a FAQ page allowing you to ask questions on-line. You can also check availability of voyages and fill out the downloadable booking form to reserve a place.

For further information contact: Matt Roche, Education Officer Tel: 0141 221 1200. Mobile: 07771 930 5666.



Young People and Alcohol Help is at hand!

Local agency Fast Forward Positive Lifestyles Ltd are behind two very successful resource manuals which are fresh out on the market.

"Hammered - Young People and Alcohol" is an intensely

practical A4 100 page resource manual with all the material tried and tested in various settings. Loads of exercises and photocopyable resources and advice on devising and delivering alcohol education programmes.

"Exploring the Depths" - described as a comprehensive resource pack for those wishing to develop peer education initiatives (save time and benefit from Fast Forward's training activities, policies, guidelines and procedures developed over the past 16 years).

Fast Forward can be contacted at 4 Bernard Street, Leith Edinburgh. Both publications can also be ordered from Russell House Publishing Ltd, 4 St George's House, The Business Park, Uplynie Road, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3LS. Tel: 01297 443948. e-mail: help@russellhouse.co.uk website: www.russellhouse.co.uk

Improving Children's Services

On 11 November 2004 Edinburgh voluntary sector groups working with children, young people and families were formally consulted on the report "Putting Children First", commissioned by the Working Together Management Group. Overall the report was well received and endorsed by the organisations attending the consultation. The recommendations (23 in all) put much emphasis on, amongst other things, strengthening structures and processes for improved partnership working, better communications and information/data sharing, security and stability of funding and looking for ways of attracting hard to reach users such as disengaged young people, vulnerable families and ethnic minorities. This was all with a view to improving children's services, not just in the South West of the City, but throughout Edinburgh.

At the meeting of the Working Together Management Group on 25th November 2004 it was reported that Children's Services Strategy Group (CSSG) has agreed to establish a small group that will develop an 'action plan' to take forward the recommendations contained in the report.

The group members are Zoe Dunhill (NHS University Hospitals Division), Ian Glen (Head of Pupil Support Services, City of Edinburgh Council Education Department), Pam Smith (Commissioning Officer, Children and Families Department), Marion Macleod (Changing Children's Services Fund Manager), and Martin Black (Lothian and Borders Police). Stewart Green, the consultant with Leaders in Action and the author of the report was of the view that the group should also include representatives from Primary Care and the Voluntary Sector. The Eke-Out Project understands that, although not arranged yet, the voluntary sector representation is welcomed. We will inform our members as soon as an appointment has been made.

In the Heart of Midlothian

Candice Tait is the new face around in Midlothian's Community Learning and Development Service. She is the new Youth Work Team Leader - more details will be in the next issue of Network as she only starts in January. Candice - hello and welcome from all at LAYC. Hope that we will hear from you soon!

Positive Group Work - 24 January, Edinburgh

Learn how to become a more effective group worker with the help of this two-day course. Participants will be introduced to techniques for leading and directing groups, and will discover how to identify and develop their own style. There will be an examination of group dynamics and helpful leader behaviour and experiential exercises will help participants to appreciate the group behaviour experience.

Contact SCVO Training Services. Tel: 0131 556 3882. Web: www.scvo.org/learning

Lochgoilhead - are you Experienced ?

... no it's just a road sign at the top of the 'Rest and Be Thankful' - the place really does exist ... and it seems the ley-liners or something make the area have a strange fascination for outdoor activity aficionados.

Now the Scout Association Centre there is sending out its detailed brochure to youth organisations, clubs and students (see, you don't have to be a Scout to go there!!) Licensed for watersports, trekking and climbing by AALA contact The Warden on 01301 703217 or e-mail: arden@lochgoilhead.org.uk

Check out the website on www.lochgoilhead.org.uk

Get In on the Act

WHALE is recruiting for the 18-week Access to Creative Arts course delivered with Stevenson College starting on Monday 31st January 2005.

Students study a range of exciting modules:

Photography . Drama . Media . Communications . Video Skills . IT

The course is free and benefits won't be affected. Study support, extra guidance and childcare will be provided. There are no formal entry qualifications but applicants must meet certain criteria.

Want more information?

Contact Co-ordinator Gail on :

Telephone: 0131 458 3267

E-mail: info@whalearts.co.uk

Web: <http://www.whalearts.co.uk>

WHALE Arts Agency, 30 Westburn Grove, Edinburgh.

Are You a Good Driver ?

Lothian Community Transport Services want you to:

- Enhance the safety and comfort of your passengers and members
- Develop your staff and volunteers by providing affordable high quality training
- Protect your organisation against bad practice and negligence claims.

Offering a range of training from the full-throttle nationally recognised standard for minibus drivers - MIDAS to Passenger Assistant Training, Minibus Evacuation Procedures or Emergency First Aid - for further info visit www.lcts.org.uk or contact Lothian Community Transport Services, 200 Sir Harry Lauder Road, Edinburgh EH15 2QA. Tel: 0131 669 9959 or e-mail: info@lcts.org.uk

Key Change for CAB

'Keynotes', the Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureau the comprehensive and regularly updated information sheets on nearly everything (well everything you'd ask about in a CAB) is being laid to rest on 31st December 2004.

Some advice to those in need of public information - those clever people have put it all on the web. Anyone who is familiar with Keynotes should find www.adviceguide.org.uk/scotland easy peasy to use.

YOUTH WORK WORKS - LAYC AGM

Around 50 brave souls ventured into the formal and impressive surroundings of the City of Edinburgh Council in the Royal Mile for the LAYC AGM on 3rd November 2004.

In keeping with the usual business in that august chamber of agendas and proposers and seconds the formal legalities of the evening passed smoothly to allow us to get on to the more entertaining (certainly more lively) part of the evening the presentation of LAYC Long Service and Outstanding Achievement Awards.

Standing between the audience and the buffet (but only metaphorically) was Patrick McMenamin, YouthLink Scotland (and in a previous life once the long serving Chair of LAYC where he rose

through the ranks of youth participation so many years ago he'd rather forget).

Patrick outlined a number of issues, which face youth work currently giving some air to last years YouthLinks survey of young people in Scotland and drawing people's attention to a forthcoming consultation by the Scottish Executive into the establishing of a National Youth Work Strategy. Urging everyone present to take the opportunity to highlight the benefits of the work that they do with young people he challenged LAYC to play their part in allowing local youth groups and the people who work in them to get involved in the consultation and have their say! And never one to shirk a challenge, Jamie Rennie Chair of LAYC both accepted the responsibility for keeping the forthcoming consultation in mind in workplans for the coming year and declared the meeting closed.

Awards for this year included :

- Sharon Miller, Towerbank After School Club (10 years)
Sharon is in the process of sitting an SVQ3 and has recently been promoted to 'Senior Playworker'. She is a good team member, liked by all children, polite and always ready to help when she can.
- Sas Martinez, Wester Hailes Youth Agency (20 years)
Sas came to the Star Coffee Bar as a young person and became a youth work assistant. He was one of the sessional team for 13 years. Sas became a full time member of the staff team in 1998 when he also completed his Community Education qualification through the LAST training programme. He now has lead responsibility for the Detached and Peer Education programmes.
- Johnny Smith, Wester Hailes Youth Agency (20 years)
Johnny started coming to the Star Coffee Bar as a young person and began volunteering when was 15. After a few years as a volunteer he became a member of the sessional team for 10 years. Johnny became a full time member of the staff team in 1997 and has lead responsibility for the Environmental Programme running at the Youth Agency.
- Steve Fenton, Wester Hailes Youth Agency
Steven started coming to the Youth Agency as a young person in 1998. Through his involvement in the Wester Hailes Environmental Action Team he started to volunteer at the Agency working with the 2000. He began sessional work and has since been involved in Adventure Play, Detached Work and the Environmental Programmes at the Agency.
- Carol Motion, Wester Hailes Youth Agency (15 years)
Carol joined (what was) the Youth Programme as administrator in July 1989 and has been a key figure in the (what is now) the Youth Agency for 15 years.
- Jean McGuigan, Wester Hailes Youth Agency (16 years)
Jean started work as the domestic assistant for the Youth Programme in 1988. After ten years Jean moved over to one of the administration posts and has never looked back.
- Heather MacAlpine, YWCA Roundabout Centre (12 years)
Heather worked as Creche Supervisor and latterly as the Summer School Co-ordinator at the YWCA Roundabout Centre, giving 12 years of excellent service. Her deep knowledge and understanding of children's needs and the challenges presented by racial discrimination made her an invaluable part of the Roundabout team.
- Jamie Tatton, YWCA Roundabout Centre
Jamie has worked very hard in the YWCA Roundabout Centre intercultural Creche, using his extensive experience of anti-discriminatory child care and creating numerous very enjoyable activities for the children.

'Finding My Feet With LAYC'

by Maddy Ryle

It was the middle of September 2004. I'd just returned to Edinburgh after a summer abroad, with my History degree freshly tucked under my belt, and like most graduates I was wondering "What Now?" Over the course of the summer I had it in the back of my mind that Youth Work was where I wanted to be heading, but my knowledge of projects and services around Edinburgh was pretty thin and, beyond the local papers, I didn't really know where to start actually looking for a job.

About a week after my return, jobless, temporarily homeless, and feeling the post-degree panic, my fortunes changed. 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 Place: 'Lothian Association of Youth Clubs', which I must have passed a thousand times in my Uni days. But on this occasion I knocked on the door and was welcomed inside for a chat and a cuppa, given a pile of brochures and back copies of 'Networks' and put on the opportunities and training bulletins database. I'd come to the right place for sure and left with new hope and encouragement. 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!

Take a Leaf out of Maddy's Book - and hit on us anytime!

Subscribing to LAYC's FREE opportunity bulletins service will keep you up to speed with the latest vacancies for posts working with children and young people. With over 200 people subscribed to date, and that figure growing all the time, no wonder more and more organisations are using this service to advertise their vacancies! Signing up couldn't be easier, just go to www.layc.org.uk and click on bulletins or give us a call on 0131 667 1828 and we'll do it for you!

We're not really sure what the technical definition of a 'hit' is, but there were more than 2000 of them on the LAYC website during the month of September. So it would appear that you are using it more and more - we know you're out there - but what can we do to improve the site? Do you want fancy twirling icons, quizzes, lots of useful information or even wacky links to strange websites? Let us know by using the website survey link on our homepage, e-mailing, writing, phoning, text messages, semaphore or smoke signals - by any means necessary in fact. After a year of trying to deny the obvious, we have to admit the fact that it looks like LAYC's website is here to stay!



In Memory of Ali Amos

It is with deep sadness that LAYC heard of the passing away of Alison Amos following a tragic traffic accident. Ali was a member of CYP's Management Committee and volunteered in their Thursday Club for 8 to 11 year olds.

Ali first got involved in CYP in June 1996. It would be fair to say that when she started her work in the clubs she lacked self-confidence and needed a degree of reassurance from project staff. Even so, she impressed in demonstrating high levels of commitment and enthusiasm, and a willingness to face the challenges presented.

She soon established herself as a warm, caring and helpful person, her background in nursing being quite evident. She was highly thought of by full time staff and volunteers, popular with the children and perhaps unusually for a volunteer, was successful in establishing purposeful relationships with many of their parents.

Ali always had a clear understanding of her role in relation to the promotion of safety, respect and equal opportunities and was always conscientious in her attempts to ensure that these important principles are upheld in practice.

Over the years of her involvement at CYP she branched out to volunteer with a number of other voluntary organisations, most notably with Woman Onto Work where she served as Chairperson to their Board of Directors.



Recognising Young People's Achievements

The photo consists of

(right), Emma Croan, Ada Cattanach Award Winner, (centre), Ronnie Wilkes, Chairperson and (left) Linda Stirling, Winning Edge Consultancy winner).

At their AGM in November, Canogate Youth Project made two awards to young people involved in the project for their efforts and achievements. It is encouraging to see projects finding ways to 'honour' young people in their own way.

Other projects do something similar in their own ways and at the AGM of 6VT - the City Youth Café, it was similarly heartening to see a packed audience of young and old alike give 'respect' to some of the city's young people.

Elsewhere in Networks there are details of Edinburgh's own Youth Work Week in March 2005. Why not plan something in your club to show what Edinburgh's young people are doing to improve their lives and the city. (Of course, let LAYC know about it and we will be happy to feature it in future 'Networks')

Young Scottish LGBT Volunteers Win Philip Lawrence Award for Outstanding Contributions to Local Community

A group of young people from Edinburgh have won a Philip Lawrence Award for Community Safety, in the national scheme funded by the Home Office for citizenship and outstanding achievement in the local community. They were the only Scottish group to reach the final. The award includes a prize of £1000.

The news was announced at a ceremony in London attended by such VIP's as Sir Trevor McDonald OBE, Philip Lawrence's wife, Frances and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Lesley Hinds.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth volunteer group from LGBT Youth Scotland was short-listed for their work in educating young people and the wider community about LGBT issues, to reduce homophobia and bullying.

Jamie Rennie, Chief Executive of LGBT Youth Scotland, said:

'As well as organising peer education and training events, they ran a conference to raise awareness of LGBT issues including homophobic bullying, identity, self harm, suicide, substance abuse and sexual health. The event was open to all young people in Edinburgh aged 13-25. Feedback was very positive.'

Communities Minister Malcolm Chisholm also congratulated the group on winning the Philip Lawrence Award. He said:

'In Scotland, every young person, whatever their gender, race, colour, creed or sexual orientation, has an equal right to contribute to the life of their community, and should be able to do so in a safe and supportive environment. I commend LGBT Youth Scotland for supporting young people, through volunteering, to make the differences they want in their own way.'

Ann Marriott, Participation Worker at LGBT Youth Scotland, said:

'Six of our volunteers have also received Gold Youth Achievement Awards and been nominated for Nationwide Awards for Voluntary Endeavour. They are now supporting our new intake of volunteers.'

Who Ya Gonna Call ?

If you have a problem - if no one else can help - and if you can find them - maybe you can hire . . .

No, not the A-Team or Ghostbusters for that matter but LAYC of course! And that's exactly what our colleagues at the City of Edinburgh Council's Play Development Unit did recently when they needed a hand with a play session. The staff had been out with their Playbus to do some sessions at a traveller's site, just outside Whitecraigs, on the border between East Lothian and Midlothian. The workers had experienced some difficulties with young people looking to access the bus and as a result disrupting the children's session. Cue LAYC - could we help with a bit of work to keep the young people occupied in order that the Playbus staff could get on with their work? Equipped with a rough programme and some basic equipment LAYC and the Play Development Unit co-worked a session, which seemed to go fairly well.

Now we are admittedly getting on a bit at LAYC (some more than others!), however we do enjoy a trip out on occasions and are always open to offers. If you would like a visit from a member of LAYC's staff team why not get in touch with us and we'll see what we can do? You might want some practical help and/or advice, to discuss your staff training needs, a write up in Networks or even just a social call. We can visit during the day, evening or even at weekends and can be as hands on or off as you want us to be. We work for you, so why not put us to work?

Iain Dickson

To the many who knew him, Iain Dickson was one of the cheery faces of youth work. Sadly Iain's time was cut short with a rare and abnormal protein disorder, which resulted in his death in October.

Through his work in Community Education in Midlothian and West Lothian and particularly in his interest in youth participation (including the old SMIT - Senior Member Involvement Training), Iain always moved with the times trying to make sure youth work tried to offer young people new experiences and opportunities. He will be sadly missed.



healthy respect

CREATING THE CULTURE

For an insight into the breadth of work carried out by Healthy Respect it's worth taking a look at our latest annual report. Called **Creating the Culture**, it focuses on the progress that has been made by Healthy Respect and partner organisations towards generating a more responsible attitude towards relationships and sexual health among young people in Lothian. The report, which covers the second half of 2002 and the whole of 2003, highlights the partnership approach that is encompassed by Healthy Respect. It uses case studies to illustrate the importance of taking a co-ordinated approach which links sexual health and relationships education with the provision of good-quality information and services. Examples include the 'All I want' consultation with young people, development of drop-in services in formal and informal education settings, awareness campaigns and the development and production of resources.

Phase 2

When Healthy Respect was launched in 2001, baseline data revealed a rather gloomy picture of young people's sexual health in the region. Sexually transmitted infection rates, unprotected and regretted sex and unintended pregnancy were rapidly increasing. However, in a relatively short space of time there have been encouraging signs of change and young people, parents, professionals and other stakeholders have all connected strongly with Healthy Respect. Dona Milne, Project Manager said, "In 2003 we learned that the project would be extended into a second three-year phase, and the task ahead is to learn from the evaluation from Phase 1 and build on the hard work of all those involved with Healthy Respect to ensure even greater learning for the future".

New Resources

The issue of confidentiality in young people's sexual health services is often fraught with difficulty and ambiguity. For young people using services, fear of disclosure can be one of the factors which deters them from getting help when they need it. And from the point of view of the practitioner, the area of confidentiality is generally viewed as a grey area, lacking clear consistent guidelines. Healthy Respect have talked to young people and a range of practitioners including youth workers, community education workers, doctors, nurses and teachers about confidentiality, and as a result, a series of six information booklets about how confidentiality works have been produced.



Moray Paterson, Senior Health Promotion Specialist with Healthy Respect comments :

" The 'In Confidence' booklets will be extremely useful in clarifying for young people exactly what they can expect with regards to confidentiality from the range of professionals they may encounter. They will also provide clarity for professionals to help them deal more comfortably with child protection and confidentiality issues".

To obtain copies of *Creating the Culture* annual report and the *In Confidence* confidentiality booklets and/or further information on the work of Healthy Respect contact:

*Healthy Respect @ Lothian NHS Board
Deaconess House,
148 Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 9RS
Tel 0131 536 9454
Email healthy.respect@lhb.scot.nhs.uk
www.healthy-respect.com*

Bangers and Smash!



The Pilton Banger group is a project recently started at Pilton Youth and Children's Project. Ten young people from the local area are involved in an innovative programme based around the design and building of a banger stock car. A Youth Literacy worker and an Employment and Training worker are supporting the group, with the main focus on the development of literacy, numeracy and employability skills of the group members. These skills are required and employed in each stage of the process, from the design through to the building of the stock car. The project of building a stock car has provided a unique learning experience and the perfect platform for young people to build on existing skills, develop new skills, and develop an alternative view of their own abilities.

As part of the research for this project the young people went to visit John Davidson at T & J Garage. John spoke about his job that involves reclaiming cars that have been involved in accidents in East Lothian and both highlighted and stressed the importance of safe and legal driving to the young people. In addition meetings took place with a Road Safety Officer from Fettes Head Office, who will be doing a couple of sessions with the young people including a practical test of their braking ability. The young people involved are looking forward to meeting new people and hanging around the track. One young person said that the stock car project is about "crashing nicely".

To find out more about how PYCP are making the links between building stock cars and literacy, numeracy and employability skills contact Lisa O'Brien on 0131 332 9815 or e-mail info@pycp.demon.co.uk

THE 'BIG EVENT'

After months of planning the North Berwick Youth forum "Big Event" went ahead with a large crowd and a festive party atmosphere despite the heavy rain, which put a bit of a damper on the afternoon activities. The event was such a success that the Forum members are hoping that this will become an annual event.



The heavy rain in the afternoon forced the stalls, the Bucking Bronco Bull and the Kangaroo Boxing to move inside the marquees and put paid to the Bouncy Slide, the Bungee Run and the Kung Fu Kickboxing demonstrations and the skaters competition. However, the young people had a great afternoon, which turned out to be very healthy with lots of exercise, thanks to trying to stay upright on the Bucking Bronco Bull and the Kangaroo Boxing, and drinking their way through over 300 "fruit smoothies".

The skies cleared by 6.00pm and this allowed the live band performances and the DJ sets held in the marquees to go ahead as planned. Over 400 young people danced the night away to the live music supplied by three invited Edinburgh-based bands and local bands "Jeppadyzed" and the headlining act "Pummel" from North Berwick. In the DJ tent members of North Berwick Youth Club's DJ project were joined by experienced DJ's from Edinburgh where they exchanged musical styles and techniques throughout the day.

QUOTES FROM THE DAY

"This has been the best thing to happen in North Berwick for young people" - Adam 15 years old.

"It was our own "E in the Park" - Laura 22 years

"We need more local events like this for young people not able to travel to the bigger festivals" - Ali 20 years

"Organising the "Big Event" has been a very valuable and important learning experience for all the members of the Youth Forum and their friends who are now feeling elated at its success.

"The young people were great - we all knew that we would be judged by the community and everyone clubbed together to make sure the event was impeccably organised, right down to collecting the last piece of litter. When I went back the next morning there was nothing except a pile of bags waiting to be picked up by the Council" - Heather Gardner, Community Development Officer.

The event was supported by a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations, including members of East Lothian Council Community Development and Groundcare Staff, North Berwick Youth Network, North Berwick Rotary, Round Table and Youth Café, the Community Police, the School Nurse, the Red Cross and several local firms who made generous donations in kind.

The event was free to all thanks to grants from East Lothian Youth Parliament and the Quality of Life Fund.

Did you get "Smashed" this year ?

The first year report from the Midlothian Young People's Advice Service (MYPAS) project of the same name I mean! In their first 12 months they have worked with over 300 young people. Set up due to increasing use of MYPAS by young people whose sexual health was suffering due to substance misuse, and in particular excessive drinking.

Want to find out more about the action research methods used or the education workshops or 1-2-1 support service developed over the year? Or maybe their plans for years 2 and 3 of this Midlothian Drugs and Alcohol Action Team and Lloyds TSB funded project.

Contact Yvonne Muirhead at MYPAS on 0131 454 0757

HMI Hands out LAYC Long Service Awards

Anne Hampshire (pictured) 21 years service to youth work at the Countess Youth Centre. Orlando Sammels (also pictured). Others were Freda Kelly and Lorraine Taylor. Presenting the certificates is Jim Rooney, HMI



Between them clocked 75 years of experience.

Photos were taken at Hallhill Healthy Living Centre following a series of interviews with staff and volunteers working in the field of CL&D. Unfortunately Freda and Lorraine could not make the photo session and a separate presentation was made at the regular Thursday night youth club. Between them these youth workers have 'clocked up' 75 years of experience.

Each of the workers put in a tremendous amount of voluntary time on top of their paid hours and this is very much acknowledged and appreciated by all involved in the activities at the Countess.

PAYING LYPP SERVICE

Linlithgow Young Peoples Project has been providing a service in the town for over 12 years. Originally set up by the churches of Linlithgow the project has developed, from one worker providing a street work service, into a broad based youth work project with 3 members of staff. Unique to the area, LYPP continues to offer a wide-ranging and far-reaching programme for young people. From giving them a place to be themselves to taking them to places where they can find themselves; from meeting them on the streets at night to going to them in the schools during the day; from promoting the development of facilities they want to providing activities and courses they will value; from organising exchanges to exchanging organisations; LYPP does it all - and does it all on a limited budget but with endless energy.



The Power Station is quite rightly seen as LYPP's flagship youth service. It remains the only drop-in youth club in Linlithgow and is the focal point for many of the town's young people. In the last year a new influx of young people from the S1/S2 age group resulted in many activities being consolidated. Open for 4 sessions during the week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday nights and Friday afternoon) up to 90 young people attend and take advantage of the many recreational opportunities on offer including; computer lab, Xbox/PS2, pool, table tennis, music studio, information services and more.

Staffing the Power Station with this level of activity is always a challenge but with the commitment of volunteers and through partnership working with West Lothian Council at least 3 members of staff operate each session. All this has allowed positive relationships to develop with many young people and enabled staff to look at issues with young people such as drug and alcohol use, self harming, eating disorders, careers advice and much more. Exciting developments planned include the redevelopment of the Power Station (incorporating a reorganisation of the floor space, the creation of an art/projects room, the development of a state of the art music workshop and the creation of a "chill-out" room) to ensure that it remains a fresh and exciting venue in responding to the needs of young people. The consolidation of the Outdoor Activities Club will continue with the addition of a winter sports programme and a winter "Survivor" course.

LAYC would be happy to feature other projects, clubs and groups in future editions of Networks, so drop us a line and we'll arrange to visit you! If you would like to find out more about the work of LYPP contact Crawford Bell on 01506 202610 or e-mail crawford@lypp.org.uk



WEST LOTHIAN WINNERS IT'S ALL ABOUT KIDS!

National Children's Awards

Three members of the West Lothian Youth Congress, run by West Lothian Council, Bobby Kirby from Linlithgow, Grace Kirkwood from Ecclesmachan and Delancy Johannson from Livingston, have been named as winners in the National Children's Awards for Building Community Spirit by Health Minister Andy Kerr.

'It's all about kids 2004' the National Children's Awards, organised by Kids Clubs Direct, invited the finalists to a 'Star filled Awards Ceremony' at the Glasgow Science Centre on 4th December 2004, where all 5 category winners were announced.

Our finalists planned a national conference over five months for 150 young people to look at issues around democracy and participation, and the conference was a fantastic success with delegates from all over Scotland attending earlier this year.

The awards aim to celebrate the successes and achievements of Scotland's children in particular highlighting gestures and actions, which may seem small in the eyes of adults but are huge accomplishments in the minds and hearts of children.

Y2K VIDEO LAUNCH

Are you 'Streetwise'? Y2K Are!

Y2K, Melville Housing Association, Midlothian Council Community Learning and Development and MVA have been working in partnership to address the needs of young people and tenants in Mayfield.

Y2K undertook a nine-week outreach project with young people in Mayfield, which culminated in a weekend residential ('Streetwise') where young people discussed the issues facing them.

Young people from Y2K have produced a video of the work and a report from the residential has been written as a guide for other young people's organisations who are thinking about running a residential.

If you would like a copy of the Streetwise Report and Video please contact Y2K on 0131 454 9805.



LEISURE LINKS

After reviewing the huge success of Leisure Links initial 15 months, Edinburgh Leisure has committed to establishing Leisure Links as an annual initiative starting from November 2004.

Leisure Links has been set up through a joint initiative between Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC), Play and Care Entrust (PACE) and Edinburgh Leisure to encourage the development of more leisure and sports activities in youth and children's clubs within Edinburgh.

Leisure Links has two aspects - one designed to encourage those working with young people to take up leisure pursuits for themselves and therefore become confident using Edinburgh Leisure venues, and secondly to offer significant discount opportunities to LAYC/PACE affiliated groups to use Edinburgh Leisure facilities as part of their regular provision.

Leisure Links is currently only available to groups affiliated to LAYC/PACE and staff working with Open All Hours.

The Leisure Links Youth Workers' Leisure Card offers individuals the opportunity to access Edinburgh Leisure venues at off-peak times for £1 gym, casual swim or fitness class. At standard times normal leisure card discounts apply.

Group discounts also apply for youth groups wishing to access Edinburgh Leisure facilities. Groups are entitled to 10% off at standard times and 20% off at off-peak times for the following:

- Hall/Room Hire
- Casual swims (15 maximum)
- Pulse centre gyms places need to be negotiated with Duty Manager.
- All groups must pre-book with facility Duty Manager prior to visit and confirm appropriate discount.

LAYC members should contact LAYC on 0131 667 1828 or e-mail: enquiries@layc.org.uk
PACE members should contact PACE on 0131 468 5505.

MEADOWS YOUTH PROJECT - "MOVE IT"

Under the guidance of local sports coach, Glyn Jones, our youth project has gone from strength to strength in 2004. In the main, this is aimed at youngsters who hang around near the tennis courts and bowling pavilion and are sometimes stuck for something to do. With the aid of a small grant from Edinburgh Youth SIP we have been working with the youths over the last couple of years. In 2004 the project has :-

- Run an Easter Sports Camp
- Run a Summer Sports Camp
- Had weekly training sessions for the youngsters at various venues including the bowling green, The Crag Sports Centre and Gracemount Leisure Centre
- Tested the youngsters artistic skills with "Frank" the graffiti artist
- Re-painted the bowling pavilion at the Meadows
- Played a friendly football match vs Granton Community Centre

MEADOWS 2004 - TENNIS

Another bumper year was had at the courts despite the lack of sunshine. Over 700 children signed up for the coaching programme during the year and membership of the club located at the courts doubled. In local tennis leagues young children also had the chance to represent the club and no less than 7 teams each week were flying the Meadows flag - some of them even won !

The big success story for 2004 has been the attendance and participation at Junior Club Day. This is where for a small annual fee children of all ages can spend the afternoon playing tennis, have a laugh and spend time making new friends. At times during the year we have had more than 30 young people attend these sessions - from 6 to 17 years old regardless of standard or experience. We are still there to this day and hope to continue into December. Why not pop along and give it a go - everyone is welcome.

We have also had a great response to the various competitions we have run during the season. In fact we have put on 7 different events and an amazing 503 people entered overall. As far as our competitions were concerned our big day was the Secondary Schools Championships held in October. We had a great response to this and 23 teams took part from 10 different schools in the City. This was a joint partnership between Edinburgh Leisure and the New Opportunities Fund. Again, it was a fantastic sight to see all the courts in use by young people playing with their friends and having fun - representing their school. On the day Portobello H/S got their hands on the trophy with the runners up being Broughton, Balerno and Royal High School.

With the Glyn's involvement things have grown so much we are looking at forming our own Sports Club and are actively looking for teams to play friendly football matches against. Fancy a challenge?

So it really has been another record year for the Meadows Tennis initiative which in 2003 was voted Lawn Tennis Association Club of the Year.

If you would like to get involved with anything at the Meadows or just come along for a game sometime then please just get in touch with me. You are welcome !

Alex Harkins - Tennis Development Officer,
Edinburgh Leisure
E Mail - alexharkins@EdinburghLeisure.co.uk

OPEN
ALL HOURS

GIRLS ONLY

Due to feedback from young people taking part in the hugely successful Open All Hours programme, funding has been secured to run a pilot Girls Only programme at Leith Victoria Swim Centre on Saturday afternoons 4.00-6.00pm starting on Saturday 22nd January 2005.

This youth activity afternoon will target secondary school aged young people and will work in partnership with Community Education. Activities will range from

swimming, sauna, fitness classes, Nrg Zone and a range of other specialist activities including health & beauty, arts and healthy living advice.

For further information please contact Rona Macgregor on (0131) 652 4338 or via email on:

ronamacgregor@edinburghleisure.co.uk



WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

The National Museums of Scotland and EYSIP have teamed up to give young people from diverse communities in Edinburgh the chance to tell the general public about the immigrant communities in the city, how they got to be here and what it is like to be a newcomer to Scotland.



A group of young people from diverse backgrounds have been meeting weekly since August to research and design their own exhibition. The event will include multimedia presentation with interviews of adults from immigrant communities, photographs, clothing, objects from home etc. The exhibition will run from 16th February 2005 and will then go on display in 4 communities in Edinburgh.

For more information about the exhibition or how a young person can get involved, please contact:

- Samea Khan at EYSIP (0131 555 5111 / s.khan@youthinclusion.org)
- Christine McLean at the National Museum for Scotland (0131 247 4199 / c.mclean@nms.ac.uk)

Young People put "Edinburgh On Trial" (virtually!)

On Friday 3rd December at 3.00 young people from all over Edinburgh got online and logged on to: www.edinburghontrial.org to talk about services for young people in Edinburgh.

There were expert witnesses online from the police, careers, housing, community safety, health and more all answering questions posed by the young people.

We had over 300 posts during the one-hour web chat with 60 registered users discussing bullying, mental health, careers advice, youth crime and support, under-age drinking and housing priorities.

The web forum is being kept open so young people can carry on posting their views about services in Edinburgh. Expert witnesses will be online regularly to answer any questions.

If you want to post your views go to: www.edinburghontrial.org

Young People in West Edinburgh

The Young Persons Service Forum has now been up and running under the coordination of the BIG project since August. With the extra funding coming from the Capital City Partnership, Edinburgh Youth SIP and the Land and Property Trust there is now an opportunity to make a real impact in terms of increasing the involvement and influence of young people in the way services are delivered locally. Proposals are currently being drawn up as to what form this expanded role would take and these will be considered by the WECPP at its next meeting.

At the last WECPP meeting it was also agreed that a list of those organisations providing services to young people in the area would be produced. The report will be presented at the next WECPP meeting and for further information on this please contact Lawrence Arscott of Community Education on 0131 458 5959.

For further information on the West Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership, please contact Steve McGavin on 0131 453 4885 or steve.mcgavin@wecpp.co.uk, <http://www.wecpp.co.uk>

EYSIP Participation Scrapbook

The Participation Scrapbook is a new resource drawing together over 20 examples of youth participation methods and exercises used by EYSIP and it's funded projects with young people in Edinburgh over the last four years.

The scrapbook is about our lived experience of youth participation work. It's not about showing you what you should do, it's about showing what we did and sharing the learning we've gathered along the way. As such it includes examples of work, photographs, drawings and comments by workers and young people involved in the different projects.

The Participation Scrapbook is aimed at:

1 - youth workers (We hope the scrapbook will inspire youth workers to 'have a go' and try out some of the methods in their own work.).

2 - decision-makers and managers (We hope that the scrapbook can give managers and decision-makers ideas on how to convert policy directives for youth participation, whether in the fields of education, health, social care or community planning, into meaningful practice).

The introduction to the scrapbook includes a section examining the overarching learning points from all the examples featured in the scrapbook. As well as images related to the work, every example includes the background to the use of the method; what we did; the major learning points; worker's warnings about potential problems or issues to be aware of; and comments from workers and young people who were involved in using the method. Some of the examples include 'serving suggestions' - these are hints about how you could adapt the method for your own work.

How much is it?

- FREE to Edinburgh-based organisations - but there is a small charge for postage and packing (£1.10)
- £20 for organisations based outside Edinburgh - plus £1.10 p&p = £21.10

* Please note, we are happy to invoice.

How can I get hold of a copy?

You can order a copy of the scrapbook by contacting Rebecca Dodd at EYSIP on 0131 555 5111 or r.dodd@youthinclusion.org

Alternatively, you can download an order form at: www.youthinclusion.org

IN THE PRESS . . .

Zero 2 Nineteen (0-19) - Issue 12, 2004

Page 7

"Youth Agency lays out demands . . ." Tom Wylie from NYA believes that the duties of local authorities and others 'need to be made clear and all young people regardless of age, gender and location, should be able to access youth services.'

Pages 12/13

Guidelines on physical contact - an article on the confusion and its costs. 'There is a considerable amount of completely contradictory advice out there which is nearly all about protection adults'

Pages 16/17

'Are We There Yet?' In England and Wales the Children Act has given local authorities until 2008 to appoint a Director of Children's Services . . . but bringing together education and social services for children is proving to be a slow process.

An Inspector Calls . . . So What ?

You have to be careful with statistics - but according to "Zero to Nineteen" magazine (from the publishers of Community Care), OFSTED investigated over 6,000 complaints about childcare providers in England and Wales).

"Terrible" - I hear you say. There are however a total of 84,000 childminders and 34,000 group care providers registered.

Maybe not so terrible then? But surely just one valid complaint would make the inspection system all worthwhile I hear you say. Only forty-nine registrations were cancelled after complaints and OFSTED only accounted for 1 in 14 complaints so that's between 3 and 4 of the cancellations money well spent then I'd say!?!?

Evaluating an Innovative Scheme for Preventing Youth Homelessness

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2004

ISBN: 1 85935 137 9

This report summarises the findings of a research study into new approaches to youth homelessness prevention. It evaluates the "Safe in the City" project, which delivered intensive packages of support through multi-agency working ('cluster schemes'). The research found that young people who were involved in the project were less likely to be at risk of homelessness. The authors argue that the project's success lay in its prioritisation of young people's feelings and needs, and the tailoring of the programme to meet individual young people's requirements.

Available to download at: www.jrf.org.uk

89 Into 914 Does Go

Newly released figures have revealed that just 89 young people made up 45.3% (914 referrals) of all the referrals to the Children's Hearings in the City. The research figures for Scotland as a whole found that there were 1201 persistent young offenders. A persistent young offender is someone who is aged between 8 and 15 who has committed 5 or more offences over a six month period.

There were an estimated 37,308 children/young people aged 8 to 15 in the City of Edinburgh (2002 figures). As a percentage, that means 0.024% (approx) of the total young people in the city are responsible for almost half of all the referrals to the Children's Hearings in Edinburgh. (Quoted in Eke-Outreach - December issue)

Scottish Youth Theatre

are delighted to send you a pack of information from Scotland's national theatre 'for & by' young people.

Next year promises to be an incredibly exciting time for the company. They will at last be moving into their purpose built, new premises with Summer Festival 2005 rehearsals and some performances taking place in the new building.

Applications to participate in Summer Festival 2005 are now being invited from anyone aged 15-25. Residential and non-residential theatre arts courses will run in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Moffat and Portree with auditions being held in regional centres across the country. More information and application packs are available from the website www.scottishyouththeatre.org or by calling 0141 221 5127.

The application closing dates are Friday 21 January for Foundation Courses and Friday 4 February for the Five Week Performance and Production and Technical Courses.

Artsplan Guidelines

Working Together: using the arts with young people
- Rosy Prue

An excellent introduction for those currently involved with young people, looking for further information on how the arts can be successfully used in their work. Written by Rosy Prue, previously Youth Arts Development Officer for Thames Valley Partnership, now working in mainstream education. An excellent starting point and easy to use guide to the benefits of youth arts, why and how to involve the arts in your work with young people.

Using the Arts with Young People at Risk - Virginia Haworth-Galt

Complementing the Artsplan course of the same name, this highly practical set of guidelines highlights the issues to be aware of when using the arts with young people at risk, covering all elements from project planning through to evaluation. Written by Virginia Haworth-Galt, Assistant Director and ACE Child Protection specialist advisor.

Price: £7.50 each (inc. p&p)

Additional Guidelines are due to be published soon.

Further details at www.artsworld.com or telephone 023 8063 2949 or e-mail: info@artsworld.demon.co.uk

Sunday Rock School

This popular course is aimed at 16-18 year olds who wish to develop their skills within Rock music genre. The course provides specialist tuition in guitar, bass, drums and vocals with additional classes including band style workshops, song writing and performance techniques. Taught by some of Scotland's finest tutors, it allows students the opportunity to develop their performance skills, meet other talented musicians and learn to work effectively in rehearsal situations. The course will culminate in a rock concert for family and friends and each student will receive a CD and certificate as a record of their efforts.

Applicants should be approx Grade 3 in order to join and gain maximum benefit from the course.

Beginning January 16th 2005

Sundays 10 - 2pm x 10 weeks

Cost: £145

Napier University CPPD Centre, Sighthill Campus, Edinburgh EH11 4BN. Tel: 0131 455 6801 or e-mail cppd@napier.ac.uk

Integrated Inspection Pilots Child Protection

Integrated inspection of child protection services is to be piloted in the Highlands and East Dumbartonshire from January 2005 as part of the Executive's child protection reforms.

Integrated inspections of children's services is expected to be in place across Scotland by 2008.

The multi-agency inspection team includes representatives from HM Inspectorate of Education, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, the Care Commission, Social Work Services Inspectorate and NHS Quality Improvement Scotland.

The approach promotes more "joined-up" working practices in the management and delivery of services for children in councils, other statutory agencies and the voluntary and private sectors.

Street work, works wonders

The results of a study of street based youth work by the University of London, find (surprise, surprise) . . . it works and it's under-funded. The Reaching Socially Excluded Young People report was launched at a London Conference in June, hosted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the National Youth Agency and led by John Pitts, Vauxhall Professor of Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Luton. The report investigated the geographical spread of street-based youth work, the young people it reached and its impact upon their lives. Said Prof. Pitts, "This study raises important socially excluded young people. It shows that even the most isolated and alienated youngsters can be reached and that creative work can be done with them. However, it also tells us that to be effective the pace and nature of the work will need to be shaped by their needs and abilities rather than externally imposed targets and time-frames."

More information on the report: Tel: (Prof. John Pitts) 07751 177013; e-mail:

john.pitts4@btopenworld.com or Tel: (Patricia Murchie) 07860 722566; e-mail patricia.murchie@luton.ac.uk

Courtesy of 'Upstart - 100% Youth Arts' - Autumn 2004 issue.

AFFILIATED . . . You'd Better Be !

To anyone who hasn't re-affiliated (your fees were due from 1st November) a reminder:

- You aren't insured for employee liability (a legal requirement) or public liability (very risky if someone wants to claim your group has been negligent in some way!)
- You won't get access to LAYC member services like:
 - *free advertising of job vacancies and training courses in LAYC's website e-bulletins*
 - *half price and subsidised training places*
 - *access to Youth Achievement Awards and more*
- Edinburgh clubs also have the Leisure Links scheme benefits as well as the new LAYC Quality Development Unit which, from January, will be assisting groups with their recruitment and child protection issues including supporting groups to access Disclosure Scotland checks.

. . . and you won't be getting 'Networks' to read anymore either!! (Maybe you'd better check that someone actually did fill in that form and send off a cheque - just in case!)

CHECKED . . . You will be soon!

At the start of December there was a great deal of unhappiness with whoever in the Scottish Executive was responsible for tabling the statutory instruments responsible for commencing the provisions of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act...the Watergate burglars were probably the nearest example of bungling you could relate these clowns to! (No offence intended to people employed professionally in the circus industries!!!)

..but hats off to the good guys ("Chewing the Fat" style)...to the voluntary youth and children's work organisations like YouthLink Scotland ; Youth Scotland ; the Scout Association and others like our colleagues PACE who then went into overdrive...

If the so-called civil servants plans had gone ahead youth and children's groups would now (from the 10th January 2005) be faced with the possibility of breaking the law of the land if they didn't carry out the proper procedures for background checks on staff and volunteers working with children and young people.

Good guys too were the Chair and MSP members of the Scottish Parliament Education sub- committee who alerted to the foul move shouted "Oi you! No!!!" and gave the idea a good kicking (perhaps not parliamentary language but how else do you describe them insisting that a Minister comes to talk to them about the sudden unannounced and unconsulted arrival of a plan from officials totally devoid of guidelines and assessment of the potentially catastrophic impact on activities for children and young people!?!)

IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 11 (3) (a) OF THE ACT HAS BEEN DELAYED UNTIL 11th APRIL.
(Groups do however still have to refer individuals who meet the criteria for being placed on the list of people unsuitable to work with children .)

LAYC is pleased to let affiliated groups know that from 1st January 2005 Dale Marsters (previously the temporary Assistant Director , LAYC) started as Project Co-ordinator of the new Quality Development Unit. Funded through City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Executive Changing Children's Services funding the Unit will be working hard to ensure that all affiliated groups in Edinburgh have support in meeting the requirements of the legislation by providing advice and guidance to groups, helping them develop their own policies and procedures to make sure that they are operating in a way which ensures maximum protection and safety for children and young people and if necessary assisting groups to access the Disclosure Scotland checking procedures necessary to comply with the legislation.

Edinburgh groups wishing to discuss the new services should contact Dale directly at LAYC (Tel: 0131 6671828 Email: dale@layc.org.uk)

In seeking funding from other local authorities that have groups affiliated, LAYC will try to extend this service to any Council which wishes the Association to carry out these roles for groups in their area (or try to get clear undertakings as to how the Council intends to support groups with these new responsibilities). Groups in East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian who wish to discuss these topics should contact Graham McCulloch, Director, LAYC (Tel 0131-667-1828 Email: graham@layc.org.uk)

