



networks

The Journal for Youth & Children Workers in Lothian

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Calling all Voluntary Organisations Working with Young People from West Lothian . . .

£50,000 worth of community grants are available for Scottish projects each year from media company BskyB.



You may be eligible if you run a project in West Lothian that has a remit covering at least two of the following themes:

- Developing the creativity of young people
- Enhancing the communication skills of young people
- Preparing young people for the world of work
- Building the confidence of young people

BskyB employs 6000 people in Scotland in two customer contact centres in Fife and West Lothian. Each site has a community forum which enables staff to vote on how they spend their allocated £25,000. Recent successful applicants based in West Lothian include Livingston Pipe Band, the 56th Girls Brigade Company, Pentland Gymnastics Club, Polkemmet Pipe Band and the Broxburn Family and Community Development Centre.

The forums meet every two months and awards are made throughout the year. The application process is very straightforward. For more information please contact - Rachel.dunachie@bskyb.com or phone 01383 814259.

Winter Wonderland

The open air ice rink and Christmas Fair spectacular 'Winter Wonderland' is back in East Princes Street Gardens this festive season, bigger, brighter and better than ever!

Normal admission price for a child is £5.50 but for youth and community groups/clubs within the Edinburgh area, they are offering the special reduced rate of only £3.00 per child! And all accompanying supervisors get to skate for free!

There are reserved afternoon sessions 4.00pm - 6.30pm Monday to Thursday from 1st December - 18th December to allow Edinburgh's youth and community groups/ clubs 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 get in early to make the most of this fantastic offer because places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Contact Ginie Naisby on 0131 226 6550.

E-cynicism?

Are you getting a bit tired of hearing how the answer is in the Internet? Portals for this and web-sites for the other . . . Every day the list grows longer. It used to be the same for the latest expensive CD-Rom resource - as it was when the youth work video tape was the new best thing since sliced bread.

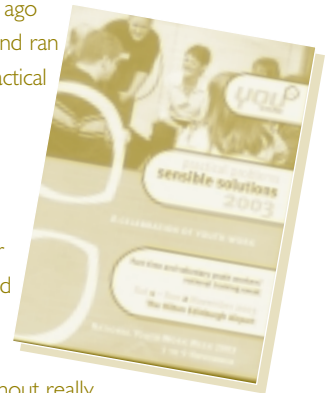
What workers really needed then and now, was a Which? Guide to help them decide how to spend their hard won 'resources' budget.

Networks wants to hear from you if you really have unearthed a digital nugget - lets hear how you use 'Sim-city' in your youth work or if the kids at your after school club really do get a buzz out of a particular piece of educational software?

It doesn't have to be 'War and Peace' - a couple of paragraphs is enough (as long as you tell us all the name of the particular gem you are on about so Networks readers can all go out and buy a copy or log on and join in the fun!)

Practical Problems, Sensible Solutions 2003

Three years ago Youth Scotland ran their first Practical Problems, Sensible Solutions training weekend for part-time and volunteer youth workers without really knowing how well the idea would be supported.



This years turnout of 100 participants mirrors the success of previous years with over a dozen local workers from 7 LAYC groups taking part in a range of workshops covering everything from sexual health, challenging behaviour, child protection, young people and alcohol and getting young people active and having fun.

The picture of everybody doing the Time Warp on the Sunday morning will last a long time. . . . And how they will evaluate the bit with the blindfolds and the paper cups . . .??? You should have been there to see it . . . maybe you should go along next year!?

The Sexual Health Needs of LGBT Young People

This report looks at the sexual health needs of young LGBT people and identifies areas for work and further research.



If you would like a copy of the report, contact Samuel Porter on 0131 622 2266 or e-mail Samuel@LGBTYouth.org.uk

WALKING WITH DINOSAURS?

LAYC AGM

This years LAYC AGM was held in The Signet Library in Parliament Square in Edinburgh exactly two weeks after First Minister Jack McConnell had been there addressing an assembly of the Scottish legal profession (what would you call them? A bench of lawyers? A courtroom of litigators? A shower?)

Our senior Scottish politician seemed to favour the latter term and added lawyers to the list of people to blame for how people feel about crime - that still means it's a very short list - young people and lawyers! Without them everything would be fine!

Conscious of being in such a grand, imposing and historic building a svelte and agile LAYC flitted through the required business in record time in order to mingle with those who had attended YouthLink Scotland's simultaneous AGM in another part of the same building.

The co-joining of youth work interests was for the inaugural Nancy Ovens Memorial Lecture which was delivered by Fraser Patrick OBE, Former Director of Neighbourhood Resources and Development, Dundee City Council and currently Teaching Fellow at University of Dundee Department of Community Education.

His theme was 'What are adults for - a reflection on 50 years of work with young people'.



And what can be said about Fraser's lecture without sounding trite and using words like 'erudite'; 'thought provoking'; 'stimulating' and 'relevant to the situation working with young people faces nowadays'?

Networks could say that Fraser did miles better than Jack - he found some woman in the 7th Century that could maybe be added to the list of people to blame [that'll get their interest (Editor)].

We could also say that people who heard it (and some who only heard about it) have been asking if copies are available! Well, thanks to YouthLink Scotland's good offices, a transcript is being prepared and should be available.

What more can you say about AGM's and Lectures? - Thanks to everyone for coming and thanks to YouthLink Scotland and Fraser Patrick OBE for giving the evening a national perspective; thanks to The John Watson Trust and The Signet Library staff with making the venue available and affordable.... Oh and one more thing about AGM's and Lectures - no sooner than you have one, but there's another to plan for next year. See you all there!

Crime? Gentlemen, please !

General street disorder and petty crime traditionally increase over the school summer holiday period. 'To attempt to reduce the number of unsupervised young people causing such disorder, and the number of calls received by the police linked to this', the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) were awarded £70,541 for sport, leisure and transport initiatives targeted at 12-16 year olds over the summer break. With a two-week gap between the Scottish Executive bid and implementation, the successful delivery of the 21 projects within such tight timescales reflects the hard work and dedication of all of those involved in making the events happen.

- Over 10% of the 19,047 secondary school children in Edinburgh attended at least one of the programme events
- Over 2000 young people have participated in activities ranging from rock climbing to music workshops.
- There have been mainstream activities such as free football coaching and access to football pitches city-wide, and work with smaller, targeted groups such as the sports taster sessions for young people with disabilities in Muirhouse.
- Of those who attended 38% were 'new faces' to the service provider and it is hoped that these young people will continue to use the services provided.
- Over 50% attended more than one event/session, male attendance was significantly higher (63%) than female attendance (36%).

City-wide there was a reduction in reports of young people causing a nuisance to the police - a drop of 5% since last year. Additional factors make a causal relationship is difficult to establish however it is clear that the summer money has helped contribute to the reduction of youth-related problems in local communities complementing existing projects and initiatives already being undertaken by the Police, the City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Leisure.

- The Burdiehouse/Southhouse Project where money was targeted to tackle a specific problem to divert young people away from building sites showed that there was a reduction in youth calls received over the June/August period from 171 in 2001/02 to 94 this year, a 55% reduction in calls
- Fifteen out of the twenty-one projects indicated that they had developed managed to work with other partner agencies to deliver their programmes

Overall the projects have made a real impact on the quality of life of young people across Edinburgh.

An evaluation of the programme has been submitted to the Scottish Executive and the ECSP hope that as the programme was an undoubted success that further monies will be available next year to target community safety issues.

Comments to graham@layc.co.uk

Affiliation and Insurance

This year clubs have again been faced with a massive rise in the costs of the insurance package available through LAYC - can we think you all for your understanding and assure you that LAYC will be continuing to do all that they can to add to the benefits clubs get through their affiliation.

The shortness of time in the negotiations with insurers means that clubs have had to respond quickly to re-affiliate and ensure that their insurance cover has been maintained [maybe you should check the contents of your mailing - if you have received an LAYC Affiliation Certificate then you're "covered"].

For groups who haven't re-affiliated, please remember that last years LAYC insurance cover has now ceased and you should make sure that you have adequate alternative arrangements in place.

Naturally there has been a high level of enquiries around affiliation and insurance. Please feel free to telephone, e-mail, write to LAYC and we will do our best to answer all your queries.

Once again thank you for your responses and understanding.

www.layc.org.uk Web Site

LAYC has dragged itself into the 21st century by setting up our website which we hope will become a useful resource for all our member groups. We hope the content of the site will evolve to meet the needs of our member groups so if you have any suggestions or ideas please let us know. Our new web address is www.layc.org.uk so please have a look and tell us what you think of it.

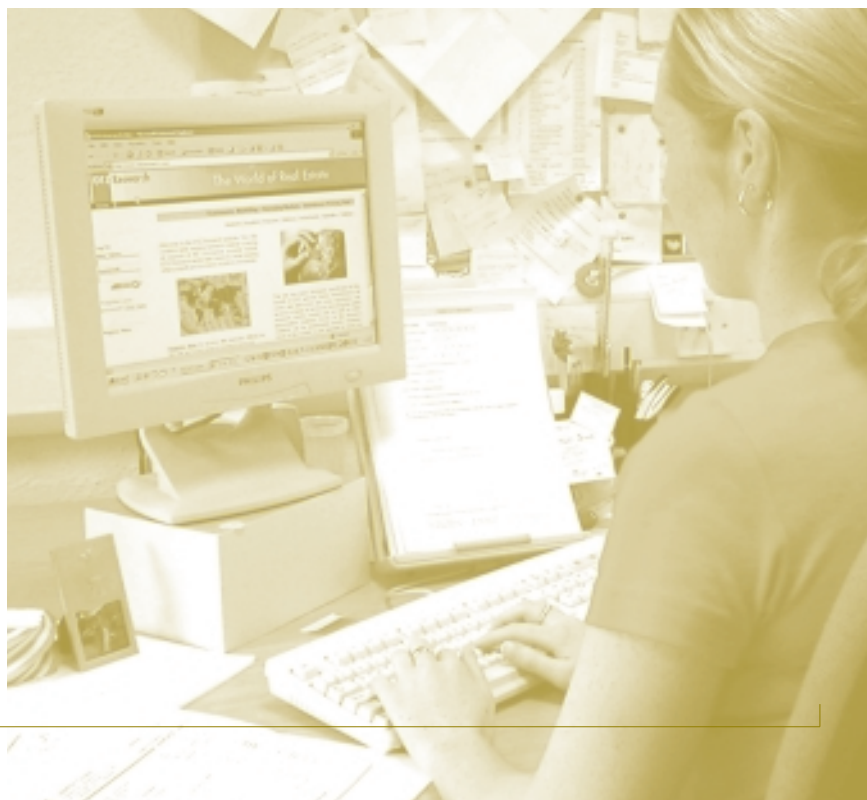


At present the site includes a background to LAYC, our core services, information about affiliation, a calendar of events and training as well as giving you access to our recruitment and training bulletins.

We're also wanting to build up our library of links to our member groups and organisations - so if you want to be included drop us an email with your web site address to enquiries@layc.org.uk and we'll add you to our list.

The main part of the site has been constructed using The Community Website Builder which allows registered UK charities, non-profit making organisations and volunteer led groups or organisations to build and maintain their own website free of charge. All you need to do is log on to www.communitykit.co.uk and you could have your own site up and running in a few minutes. This scheme is operated by BT Volunteering and ik.com limited.

If you would like find out how we managed to get our site up and running without much cash or technical knowledge you can download an information sheet for the resources section of our website (www.layc.org.uk) or give the LAYC office a call and we'll send you one.



Jobs 'R' Us @ layc

Are you trying to find a paid or voluntary work with children and young people in the Lothian area?

Are you wanting to kept up to date on all the training opportunities and youth work events across the Lothians?

Have you ever had problems recruiting new staff, getting hold of new volunteers?

Have you ever struggled to let people know about an event or training course your organisation is running?

LAYC now have a new service that could help you with all of these...

We have launched an email based bulletin service that will allow you to...

- Find out which groups are looking for staff and volunteers
- Advertise your own groups staff and volunteer vacancies
- Find out about training sessions and courses
- Keep in touch with youth and children's work events
- Promote your training course or event

If you're looking for either paid or unpaid work in youth and children's work in the Lothian area you can subscribe to our free Recruitment Bulletin which will send you all the latest vacancies from clubs, groups and organisations.

If you're after training and event information you can subscribe to our Opportunities Bulletin and you'll receive regular updates from LAYC about training courses and youth & children's work events across the Lothian area.

To get either of the bulletins all you need to do is complete a simple online form (by visiting www.layc.org.uk and going to the LAYC Bulletins page) and you'll receive a regular information bulletin which might have just the job or opportunity you're looking for.

If your group or organisation is affiliated to LAYC you'll be able to send us information about your vacancies, training sessions and events through a simple online form (go to the LAYC Bulletins page). We'll then include your information which will be sent to all the everyone who has subscribed to get the information.

If you subscribe to any of these services LAYC will not pass your details onto any other organisation or use them for any other purpose than sending the bulletins. If you have any questions about this service have a look at the Bulletins page on the LAYC Website or give us a call at the office.

Youngedinburgh Launch

100 Young people came together to celebrate the launch of Youngedinburgh, the city's new youth strategy to cover the next 10 years. The event was held at St Thomas's of Aquins High School on Friday 31st October.

A full day starting at 9.30am started with the introduction to the day and then the young delegates were split into groups for their morning workshops.

The first set of workshops was called Youngedinburgh The Lo-down which explained how the strategy came about and what it is hoping to achieve in the next ten years. During The Low-down workshop the young people were asked to enter a competition and had to complete a sentence saying what Youngedinburgh means to them.

I did not attend this workshop as I was busy organising my workshop and make sure my co facilitators knew what they were doing.. I helped run a workshop with Tam Wilkinson & Graham McCulloch getting young people's opinions about a one stop health drop-in service. The four themes for workshops were (Health & Support, Citizenship & Safety, Leisure & Learning and Transitions).

During lunch there were things for young people to do such as a DJ in the



drama studio, the Young Scot Smartbus and information stalls in the hall from a variety of different organisations.

Shereen Nanjiani hosted the afternoon session. Participants included young people, practitioners, organization representatives and decision makers from the city. Councillor Rev Ewan Aitken opened the session with "I have a dream..." and this was backed with a video shot in Edinburgh young people expressing their aspirations for life in the city.

Shereen then took control of the 'Your Voice, Your Vote' part of the proceedings. The questions covered a number of topics such as homelessness, images portrayed by the media and what is our tolerance of minority groups in the city. The second half of the session took us into discussion time. This brought out a juicy debate around

various topics between young people and professionals. I felt the debate was quite productive as it gave the professionals a chance to hear what the young people were saying but it also gave the young people a chance to hear what the professionals had to say.

Myself and Karen Sutherland then awarded the competition winners their prizes and gave our closing speeches. Karen asked the audience to have more accessible and appropriate meeting spaces for young people I identified the need for partners who provide a service to young people to consult with young people as well as the need for young people to have a visible involvement in the strategy. We thanked everyone for their participation in the day.

Over the coming years there will be a lot of hard work required for the strategy to succeed. Young people with Youngedinburgh's Advisory Committee will need to work hand in hand for the young people of Edinburgh to make sure we notice a difference in the way people treat young people and services provide for them.

I hope Youngedinburgh will make people sit up and take notice of the positive work young people are doing for Edinburgh, which I hope will dispel some of the myths regarding young people and anti-social behaviour.

Adam Harrington



Greater Pilton Summer Programme

The Greater Pilton Summer Programme was organised a little bit differently this year. Events were planned to encourage participation in central events with the aim of the events being to break down territorialism and encourage friendships between young people from all over the area. The Summer Programme supported individual programmes run by 9 different local established youth agencies and was funded jointly by Pilton Partnership, City of Edinburgh Councils GO4IT and Community Safety.

Young people were included in planning events and individual programmes. Activities and events were organised for young people aged 11-14 and 15+ and aimed to attract over 400 young people over 4 weeks in July. Some of the events organised were:

Films @ North Edinburgh Arts Centre

Catch Me if You Can and Swim Fan were shown for the under 14's. 70 young people from all over the area enjoyed the whole cinema experience including hotdogs and fizzy juice.

The hit movie 8mile was shown for the over 15's. The thumping soundtrack and the brilliant acting by Enimem made this movie a sure fire hit.

Everyone who participated enjoyed having films shown in the local area. This could be the start of something at North Edinburgh Arts Centre.

Multi-Cultural Event

A multicultural event, organised by the Black Community Development Project, was held in Pilton Youth & Children's Project and included young people taking part in many different activities and learning more about their own and other different cultures. Feedback from this event showed that young people enjoy learning more about each other and liked taking part in different activities. Activities included cooking, arts & crafts and dance and samba drumming.

The Girls Consortium Events

For the over 14 years young women from all over the area gathered together for a music and dancing evening. Participants took part in a song writing session and enjoyed some hip hop dancing. A track written and produced by a group of young women who live in Greater Pilton (Angels from Hell) was the highlight of the evening.

Tam Treanor (All Ears Music) ran the music session and showed the participants how easy it was to put together lyrics. The young women and youth workers put together their own rap song. A specialist dancer showed the group how to perform their own hip hop dance routines.

A wet afternoon in July was brightened up for the Under 14's with the participants taking part in African drumming, jewellery making, henna tattoos and making fruit kebabs at Granton Youth Centre.

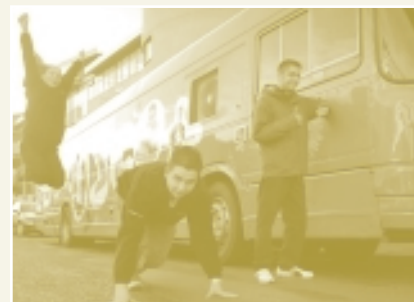
40 Girls from all over the area came along and enjoyed all the activities on offer. We were split into 3 mixed groups and then took part in a wide variety of activities. Bangles, necklaces and rings were designed by the girls. Henna tattoos were also designed by the girls and everyone made a healthy fruit kebab. Tomi showed everyone (including some very bendy youth workers) the art of hip hop dancing. The 'beautiful' sound of the drums were heard all over Granton as the group learnt how to use the different samba drums.

The Quest - Biggest Scavenger Hunt in History!

On a very sunny Thursday in July young people from different youth groups took part in a massive scavenger hunt around Edinburgh. Groups had to solve tricky clues and collect a multitude of items including a 3amp fuse, a dock leave, a marble, tea bag, match box and the list goes on! After finding all of these things everyone had to find, make or borrow funny hats and get their faces painted. Clues led you to all over Edinburgh and outside to the 'honest toon' (Musselburgh)! We finally made it back to the finish line at Cramond beach for a well deserved barbeque. Answers and items were gathered together and the winning team was finally announced a few days later. The team was from MYDG and included Joanne Stewart, Sarah Airlie, Ashley Jack, Zoe Stewart, Peter Airlie and Dean. Well done to everyone who trekked the whole of Edinburgh and ended up still smiling at the end.

Launch of Youth Services Strategy, 31st October 2003

Friday 31st October saw a number of key decision makers, youth workers and other invited delegates - young people and adults alike - joining in the celebrations of the launch of the new youth services strategy in Edinburgh. The strategy, named Young Edinburgh, is to be implemented over the following ten years, and aims to improve services and opportunities for young people across the city.



This high-profile event was held at St. Thomas of Aquin's High School, where the new One Edinburgh Smartcard, part of the strategy, is currently being piloted.

The morning saw young people from across the city participating in a number of stimulating workshops designed to provide them with an insight into the key themes which Young Edinburgh aims to address. Young people are key partners in the strategy, alongside a range of partner organisations from public, private and voluntary sectors.

Adult delegates began to arrive in the afternoon for the climax of the event - the open debate hosted by STV presenter, Shereen Nanjiani. Amongst talks from respected figures such as Councillor Reverend Ewan Aitken, the audience also had the chance to vote using keypads on a number of key issues affecting young people in the city. This also gave young people a chance to voice their opinions, and most importantly to be heard by many of the policy makers present on the day.

However, this day also saw the launch of the new Edinburgh Young Scot Smartbus, which was parked outside St Thomas's for tours and workshops. The bus, which is equipped with cutting-edge technology, is Edinburgh's first youth bus and will visit secondary schools and youth clubs, as well as community events and festivals, across the city of Edinburgh.

Youth Coaching Edinburgh

is designed to support socially excluded young people (14-25 years) in sports coaching within Edinburgh. In conjunction with our partners we will be running British Sports Trust Awards such as the Community Sports Leaders Awards, as well as sourcing appropriate courses for the youngsters of Edinburgh to become qualified in leading sports of their choice. We are trying to attract people into the sports and leisure industry, either within a coaching capacity or within leisure employment such as lifeguarding.



A pack with information on the project has been produced with 2 different referral forms - one for giving to interested individual young people to self refer and one for situations where a group wants to refer young people they are supporting.

If you would like more information please call Eilidh McCall on (0131) 652 4338, or email EilidhM@edinburghleisure.co.uk

It is hoped that the first group of young people will be ready to start in February by taking part in a specially arranged Community Sports Leader Award Course, which will run on Tuesday evenings. Around about Easter time, the young people will be supported to assist in delivering sports activities in a community setting. Afterwards, individual training routes in different activities of interest to the young people will be organised eg Level 1 coaching courses, which could be the first rung on the ladder of a career in the sports and leisure industry or the starting point for a coaching involvement in a particular sport.

Edinburgh Leisure

Managing leisure and recreation facilities for the City of Edinburgh Council

Opportunities for Black and Minority Ethnic Young People

Edinburgh Leisure's Sport Development Team have been successful in securing funding from Edinburgh Youth Social Inclusion Partnership. The funding will support a project aimed at reaching out to Black and Minority Ethnic young people in Edinburgh.

The proposal aims to create the opportunity for training and employment for Black and Minority Ethnic young people within Edinburgh Leisure.

Through developing links with organisations working with this Black and Minority Ethnic Young people the project will aim to:

- Actively encourage and support Black and Minority Ethnic young people to gain the Bronze Medallion and National Pool Lifeguarding Qualifications free of charge at Glenogle Swim Centre.
- Develop a voucher scheme to encourage friends and family of the participants to access Edinburgh Leisure facilities.
- Provide opportunities for Black and Minority Ethnic young people who have successfully completed their Bronze Medallion and National Pool Lifeguard Qualifications to gain work experience by shadowing fully qualified and experienced Edinburgh Leisure staff.
- Provide application forms and information on potential lifeguarding employment opportunities with Edinburgh Leisure.

The project will aim to launch in November and run through to April 2004. For further enquiries please contact Helen Macfarlane, Youth Development on (0131) 652 4340 or on email at:

helenmacfarlane@edinburghleisure.co.uk

NEW POST FOR EDINBURGH LEISURE

Raymond Girling has recently been appointed as Community Liaison Officer. The post aims to consult with current users and non users of Edinburgh Leisure services and work towards making our services more accessible and inclusive for all citizens within Edinburgh.

Raymond is launching a new initiative for parents and primary aged children called Family 'Open All Hours' within Ainslie Park, beginning January 2004. Adults with their children will be provided with FREE access to swim, gym, sports hall, computers and more from between 2pm - 4pm every Friday afternoon and given a leisure card to encourage participation within the centre during the week.

For more information regarding Raymond's post or Family Open All Hours call 0131 6524341, email: raymondgirling@edinburghleisure.co.uk

Access 2 Adventure



Billy Edwards, the Youth Worker responsible for Access 2 Adventure, the Craigmillar Adventure Project Outdoor Education Powerbase funded by EYSIP and part of the Young Edinburgh Strategy, is keen to hear from anybody wanting to find out more about the project.

The project provides a drop-in centre where young people 12+ can get info and advice on a wide range of outdoor activities across the city and sign up for a variety of taster sessions in a wide range of activities.

So if you fancy and adventurous activity one week, or want to find out about the monthly weekend day activities contact Billy at CAPRO on 0131 652 1557.

THESE GIRLS ARE LOUD !



Over the past 5 months in Greater Pilton a group of young women have been developing their musical skills supported by Greater Pilton's Girls Work Consortium. The girls live in different parts of the Greater Pilton area and initially had reservations about their ability to work together. The group have also developed their lyric writing, music production and individual skills.

"Born 2 Perform" have been working in partnership with All Ears Music Production (www.all-ears.org) to produce an excellent R & B track entitled "Skip Me". Tam Trainor and Polly Phillips support groups to develop their lyric writing and musical abilities in a very informal and fun way.

The group members were successful in receiving Chase Millennium Award, which enabled the group to continue working towards producing the 3 tracks and increase their own personal skills e.g. keyboard tuition, dance lessons etc. The awards has enabled the group to produce a documentary style video on their individual and group journey.

"Born to Perform" have performed in North Edinburgh Arts Centre in front of their friends and family and the performance was met with great applause and admiration from the audience. The Skip Me track has been circulated in the Greater Pilton area and has been greeted by a very positive reviews and the group have been asked to perform in front of both Craigmoynton and Broughton High Schools.

The group also entered the North Edinburgh MTV Music Challenge Competition. The group performed in the Carlton Hotel in front of many people including the Lord Provost



Lesley Hinds and although the competition was fierce, talent won through and Born to Perform won not only the Music category but 12 tickets to the MTV Awards in Leith. The screams of delight must have been heard all the way home.

The group aim to build on their success, a special event will be held in December to premiere their video and the girls will be performing the 3 tracks from their CD which will be released at the same time. After the festive period the group will be delivering music workshops in the local area to encourage young people to express their feelings and views through music.

Well done to everyone involved. Group members are Stacy B, Sharron, Lisa, Jennifer, Olga, Sarah, Gemma, Sami Danielle, Stacey M, Jenna and Ashley. Special thanks to Tam and Polly.

For more information about the group, please contact Karen Black on 332 9815.

ARTS EXPLORERS

"When can we go to the theatre again?" is not exactly a refrain that you expect to hear from a group of 14-15 year olds but that's exactly what some young people have been saying after taking part in an innovative project known as Arts Explorers. Devised and run by The Audience Business (TAB) and funded by the Edinburgh Festivals Youth Development Fund, Arts Explorers worked with 4 youth groups between February and September. Project Manager Mary Dunne explains:

"The young people were taken through a journey into the arts, starting with a drama workshop and followed by a number of visits to a range of arts events including theatre, musicals, opera, dance, art exhibitions and music. They attended 4 events and then told us exactly what they thought about their experiences, with the initial help of a 'real' critic. Many of the young people started out with negative perceptions towards the arts and didn't really think that it was for them. After the project, they were all enthused, more confident and keen to explore some more!"

Pentland Community Centre's Senior youth groups were the largest group involved in the project (other groups taking part in the project include 6VT, The Fort and Burdiehouse). Youth Workers, Margaret McLean and Stewart Smith were delighted with the project, as Margaret explains:

"Our first contact with TAB was when Mary dropped into a club night and gave a group of young people information on the project. They were keen enough to sign up for it (the fact that they got £3 at every performance for a programme and drink had nothing to do with it!) although they did have reservations and thought it would probably be boring.

The youth workers also had reservations - a group of 14/15 year olds into a theatre full of an unsuspecting public could cause a bit of a problem! The other question mark was how much extra work would be involved. But TAB provided all the support we needed and all we had to do was organise the young people and turn up on the day.

Taking part in this project, not just the theatre and gallery trips, but also the actors & critics workshops, has helped the young people develop their confidence and they would now consider going to the arts on their own. Comments changing from "how long will this last" and "if it's crap can we just leave" to "when is the next outing" and "can we go again even if we have to pay something" sums up the success of the project!

All in all, it was a very enjoyable experience for both young people and staff."

To follow-up on the project, TAB has decided to enable more youth workers to find out about how to make the most of Edinburgh's arts and culture. This takes the form of a monthly ebulletin, specifically designed to provide youth workers with information about the arts including highlights, special events and offers for young people. To register to receive this free ebulletin, contact: tara@tab.org.uk.

The Audience Business, 50 George Street, 1st floor, Edinburgh EH2 2LE, t: 0131 243 1430 www.tab.org.uk.

INCENTIVE PLUS

'Incentive Plus' provides a range of high quality and carefully selected resources to help professionals working with young people. Their current youth work catalogue details resources to help workers develop their practice and skills whether tackling disaffection, promoting self esteem, addressing behaviour issues or developing emotional literacy.

For a catalogue phone 01908 526120.

Incentive Plus Ltd, PO Box 220, Great Horwood, Milton Keynes MK17 0YN. www.incentiveplus.co.uk

Fast Forward

Fast Forward Positive Lifestyles Ltd, a national



voluntary organisation based in Edinburgh which has been working with young people and adults in the field of drug, alcohol and tobacco education since 1987, offers a programme of participative training using a variety of interactive exercises to promote learning. For more information contact Fast Forward, 4 Bernard Street, Edinburgh EH6 6PP. Tel: 0131 554 4300 or log onto www.fastforward.org.uk

Issues

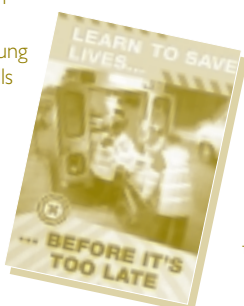
Issues is a series of photocopiable resource books and study guides which improves workers awareness of key social issues and is aimed at teachers, youth workers, health workers and others looking for stimulating topic based activities suitable for a wide range of ability levels and interests. Recent titles include Coping with Depression; Adolescent Health; Obesity and Eating Disorders and Dealing with Bullies.

Published by Independence Educational Publishers. For more information check out www.independence.co.uk



Learn How to Save Lives

St. Andrews Ambulance Association run a wide range of classes throughout Edinburgh and the Lothians. Apart from their 12 week adult courses (16+ years), they also can provide classes for 8-15 year olds and even run 'Badger' classes for 6-8 year olds where children and young people can learn first aid skills in a fun way. For more information contact: St Andrews Ambulance Association, 16 Torphichen Street, Edinburgh EH3 8JB or telephone 0131 229 5419 or e-mail: standy@btconnect.com



Volunteer Seeks Youth Work Opportunities

Perhaps this will be the last time networks will be featuring this type of article - in future people seeking paid and unpaid opportunities in youth and children's work will be able to receive regular e-mail bulletins on vacancies from LAYC groups by registering via the LAYC website (www.layc.org.uk).

Anyway, here goes - LAYC have heard from John Taylor from Edinburgh who is looking for voluntary youth work in Central Edinburgh. John is available weekday evenings, is a driver and holds coaching certificates in a variety of sports, including badminton, volleyball and basketball. He is currently completing a 'Men in Childcare' training course. John can be contacted via the LAYC office (or telephone 0131 332 4469).

PACE Training & Ideas



Apart from their busy Play Squad delivering training for staff and providing games, activities and ideas for children in playschemes and after school clubs, they also provide a wide range of short training courses.

Hopefully in the future LAYC groups looking for training will begin to register via the LAYC website for regular details

by e-mail of training courses being offered by reputable organisations such as PACE. For more details about PACE's training and other services contact Stuart McCallum at PACE, Unit 7, Castlebrae Business Centre, Peffer Place, Edinburgh or telephone 0131 468 5505.

It's Good to Talk Read #1

The pile of back copies of 'Young People Now' was reaching a dangerous level - somebody needed to do something . . . and quickly!

Accepting the challenge and armed only with a bag of mini doughnuts and a mug of coffee, I soon had the situation under control - I opened the first magazine and began to read. Most of the afternoon had disappeared by the time I had actually finished!!! But it had been time well spent - there were a few bits of policy I'd caught up on, I'd had a fairly good idea of the ins and outs of a couple of interesting youth projects up and down the country, and I realised three things:

1. We are not alone! Not in the extra-terrestrial sense, but there is youth work life in other parts of the country (trust me - the truth is out there!)
2. You can still recognise good youth work when you see it in print - it might have a fancy title (down south just now if it isn't 'Connexions' it isn't in funding wise) and it might be a bit bright and full of glossy photos, but then it is a magazine and you can't deny people their 15 minutes of fame (and a photo - eh Mike!?!)
3. This magazine has gone weekly so it must be doing something right - and it's crammed full of job adverts for youth workers so we must be doing something right.

And as a warm feeling spread over me, I realised something else . . . I'd spilt my coffee (and the doughnuts were all gone!!!)

'Youth Workers are, paradoxically, both highly politicised and strategically naïve' Howard Williamson - Young People Now No 205.

. . . Discuss. All contributions considered. Send to Networks Opinion Piece, c/o LAYC, Dunford House, 7 Boroughloch Lane, Edinburgh EH8 9NL. Or e-mail: enquiries@layc.org.uk

