



networks

The Journal for Youth & Children Workers in Lothian

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Youth Scotland - Stacks o' Packs

Over coming months LAYC affiliated groups will be getting a practical demonstration of the benefits of being part of a nationwide network of youth and children's groups. During September groups will be receiving copies of 'Up and Running - supporting the development of quality youth work'.

Also in September a re-vamped and expanded 'Safe and Sound' will be landing on your doorstep. The 'Safe & Sound' pack will also be highlighted on the internet - check out the links at www.youthscotland.org.uk - but only affiliated groups will get the packs with their very 'user friendly' (because they've been designed by 'youse') sample forms and policies totally free of charge!

These packs are practical demonstrations of how Youth Scotland has used its Community Fund support. Unfortunately this funding for training and resources has now come to an end and means that despite Youth Scotland's network training and menu of training programmes having benefited hundreds of youth and children's workers throughout Scotland over the past couple of years. A lot of time and effort was needed to secure funding for this important work to continue. LAYC is grateful to Youth Scotland having benefited from many of these on a wide range of topics from Disability Awareness; Working with Volunteers; 'New' Games; Managing Challenging Behaviour; and 'Safeguarding Children.

Later in the year Youth Scotland will also be unveiling 'Keeping it Real' - a practical resource to support participation work with young people.

Also scheduled to appear shortly are the 'Pole Position' and 'Live it to the Limit' resource packs which have been produced by specific strands of Youth Scotland's programme and support project work based around vehicles and health & physical activity programmes respectively. (Unfortunately without continued financial support for their Training & Resources project a charge will have to be applied to these packs).

Valuable Volunteers

Grants of up to £500 are available from the Scottish Executive's Valuing Volunteers scheme, launched last year to recognise and reward people who contribute to their communities through volunteering and also to recruit new volunteers. Organisations and community groups can apply.

To find out more, ring Unemployed Voluntary Action Fund (UVAF) on 01383 620 780 or visit www.uvaf.org.uk

Underground

55 Albany Street, Edinburgh

Underground has joined forces with Caledonia Youth to offer a Sexual Health Clinic every Wednesday from 1.30pm - 3.30pm. The clinic is a satellite point for Caledonia Youth, offering the same range of services and staffed by the same nurse, Mhari.

The clinic at Underground offers free condoms, pregnancy testing, starting the pill, emergency contraception and info and advice relating to sexually transmitted infections and general chat about relationships.

The clinic is drop-in. Young people are welcome to bring a pal or worker and they can get a nice cuppa and enjoy the full range of Underground facilities while they wait.

For more information contact Ali or Sharon at Underground on 524 9875.

Inclusion : Fact or Fiction

A one-day seminar for people working with school aged children with physical and/or learning disabilities

Thursday 25th September 2003 from 10am to 4pm in the Signet Library, Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 3RF.

Seminar fee (to include buffet lunch) £25 per delegate.

For further information contact **Iola Wilson, John Watson's Trust, Signet Library, Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RF. Tel: 0131 220 1640 e-mail: jwatson@signet.fsnet.co.uk**

Youth Access Project



Carolyn Jenkins, from Edinburgh & East of Scotland Deaf Society writes

Our one year project, following on from the Access All Areas research, is now drawing to a close. We have successfully trained some young deaf people to become Deaf Awareness Trainers and some Service Providers have benefited from this.

Part of the project involved producing information on specialist equipment and services available to young deaf people. We have a poster created by a deaf artist, depicting a house containing the equipment, colourful leaflets and a new interactive website which is almost ready to go on-line. Look out for www.youngdeaf.net

If you would like copies of the poster or leaflet, or any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us here at the Deaf Society, 49 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QY or telephone 0131 556 3126.

Youth Scotland Conference

Practical Problems
Sensible Solutions 2003 - Youth Scotland's part time and voluntary youth workers national training event is again being held during National Youth Work Week at the Hilton Edinburgh Airport Hotel on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd November. Offering the chance to take part in 4 workshops from around 12 key, topical issues such as Youth Participation; Mental Health; Challenging Behaviour; Young People and Alcohol; Child Protection; and Maximum Fun, Minimum Resources; the conference is sure to be as popular as previous years, so for more information contact Youth Scotland on Tel: 0131 554 2561 or www.youthscotland.org.uk (Day delegates rates are available)

John Muir Award in East Lothian Regional Manager

The John Muir Award, in partnership with East Lothian Council and with funding from the Rank Foundation, is appointing a 3 year post of Regional Manager.

This environmental Award scheme has established strong foundations with schools, youth and community groups, environmental and conservation organisations in East Lothian. The aim of this initiative is to maintain and develop the John Muir Award, including:

- Promote the John Muir Award to 10-26 year-olds, and to the wider community
- Recruit and manage 2 'Gap' placements per year
- Support Providers of the John Muir Award
- Set up training and residential events to support this work

Cash Back?

Co-op Community Dividend Scheme:

Community groups and organisations are able to apply for grants from £100 to £5,000 from this fund. The Co-op recognises the importance of self-help, social responsibility and caring for others. Grants are issued twice a year to groups sharing these values. For application or other information go to www.co-op.co.uk

Comic Relief: The new grant programme runs up to July 2004 for sums up to £5000. Application should address the priorities of Fighting for Justice; Supporting Young People; Domestic Abuse; Refugee and Asylum Seekers; and Local Communities Working for Change.

For more information about this (or the 2 stage application programme for larger grants) go to www.comicrelief.com

LAYC DIRECTOR MOVES ON

At the start of July, Ian Boardman, Director LAYC took up a position as Professional Advisor to Rev. Cllr Ewan Aitken, the City of Edinburgh Council with responsibility for 'Youth Strategy and Education'.

Ian, who started with LAYC on the 1st April 1982 (and that's no joke) is at pains to stress to people that this is a 23 month secondment and that much like the Terminator "he'll be back!!"

Rather than argue that point, LAYC would like to wish Ian well in his new position where we feel sure he is admirably equipped to help the City of Edinburgh Council respond to all the opportunities and challenges being posed of it as an Education authority.

LAYC welcomes Cllr Aitken's open acceptance of the 'Youth Strategy' aspects of his remit, as well as his responsibilities for the interests of mainstream education within the city and hopes that Edinburgh (along with the other 3 local authorities) will get fully involved in the Scottish Executive's moves to re-invigorate youth work through its current review.



LAYC AGM and Lecture

Slightly earlier than usual in the Autumn calendar of events comes this year's AGM which is being held along with the first Nancy Owens MBE Memorial Lecture on Tuesday 30th September 2003 in the Signet Library, Parliament Square, Edinburgh.

Full details will follow, but the AGM will be starting earlier than usual to accommodate the Memorial Lecture so make sure you take a note of the start times properly!!

The speaker at the Memorial Lecture is Fraser Patrick who some of you may remember from Community Education

within the City of Edinburgh Council a number of years ago. Fraser has just retired as Director of Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department of Dundee City Council and is the recently appointed Teaching Fellow looking at Research in Community Learning and Development at the University of Dundee.

The venue itself is very impressive, historic and up-market for LAYC having been built by the Faculty of Advocates and then sold to the Writers to the Signet. Thanks must go to the John Watson Trust for their assistance in securing the venue for LAYC.

STOP PRESS . . .

Edinburgh Launch Youth Services Strategy 31st October

A launch will be held at St Thomas of Aquin's High School on Friday 31st October to raise awareness amongst young people, key decision makers, youth workers and others about the Youth Services Strategy. As part of a day of activities involving over 100 young people, a group of key politicians and decision makers are being invited to join young people in dialogue about the strategy and future youth services in Edinburgh.

A full report on this high profile event and of the open debate (to be hosted by a well-known celebrity) will appear in the Winter issue of Networks!! LAYC will also be assisting City of Edinburgh Council to distribute materials to organisations who plan and provide services to young people in the city drawing their attention to the strategy and highlighting how all organisations correspond to the priorities identified by the strategy.

Networks Answers

Some people are easily bought offer than a cup of tea and they fill in your Networks Readers Survey forms in their droves Well a 20% return is good enough for some local government elections.... Seriously though, the views of over 30 groups of readers of 'Networks' have been really useful - LAYC is still working out the details of how to respond to the points raised, but has plenty to be thinking about.

- Like why only 4 local authority groups responded
- Did slightly fewer children's work groups respond for the same reason the comments about Networks not being relevant to that age group were made

It's heartening to hear that readers view Networks as:

- Up to date (16 comments)
- Very Interesting (15)
- Helpful (15)
- Useful (11)
- Practical (11)
- A good read (7); and that it is . . .
- 'Well laid out' (23); and
- 'Easy to Read' (18)

Over the coming issues Networks will be looking at the type of articles you say you like to see and trying to make sure that those topics you identified as missing (like features on small local groups and what is happening in areas other than Edinburgh) are also included.

Thanks once again to those who took the time to respond - hopefully over time you will see your comments reflected in Networks itself.

[It has been suggested that the survey was contrary to Equal Opportunities as the inclusion of a teabag did not take the needs of coffee drinkers into consideration And some people said they liked to have a biscuit with their tea. Listen, we do our best!! Listening organisations aren't built in a day you know!!]



healthy respect

Chlamydia : The Facts

Chlamydia is the most common curable sexually transmitted infection and is on the rise within the UK. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are passed on through vaginal, anal or oral sex without a condom, or if a condom is used but it bursts.

It is thought that 1 in 10 people under the age of 25 years have Chlamydia and about two thirds of people do not have any signs or symptoms. If someone did have symptoms they might have pain when peeing, unusual discharge, lower tummy pain all the time or during sex and some unusual vaginal bleeding in females. If they do have any of the above signs or symptoms it is important to take a test for Chlamydia or speak to a doctor or nurse.

If Chlamydia is not treated it can lead to long term problems for the person who has it and the people they go on to have sex with. Females can develop Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). PID is caused when the Chlamydia infection goes up into the uterus (womb) and can spread along the fallopian tubes. This is a rare side effect but can cause serious problems with fertility in the future. These include problems such as Infertility, or if the female does get pregnant the pregnancy can grow in the fallopian tubes instead of the uterus (Ectopic Pregnancy). For men Chlamydia can cause the testicles to become swollen, red and sore.

If someone does have a test and gets a positive result the infection is easily cured with antibiotics. Most people get four tablets to take all at once and that is it sorted. Sometimes the person will need a week's course of antibiotics which also treats the infection. Chlamydia is a bacterial infection which means that once treated with antibiotics, the Chlamydia bug has been destroyed and will not come back again unless they have unprotected sex.

A urine test for Chlamydia has been developed making it easier to test people and therefore making the test much more widely available. At Healthy Respect we have developed an easy to use testing kit. The person gives a specimen of urine which is sent in the freepost envelope to the laboratory, and the result is ready in about two weeks. There are four options on how to get the result,

making the service as confidential as possible. These are: the person phones us; we phone the person; we e-mail the person, or we send a letter. If the result is positive we can arrange to see the person in a mutually convenient location for treatment. Above is a picture of the kit.

Within the Healthy Respect Project we have been trying to find out exactly how many people under 25 in Lothian have Chlamydia. Over the past two years we have put our postal testing kits in many different locations throughout Lothian, including young people's drop-ins, Further Education Colleges and pharmacies. Our target population is young people between 14 - 25 years of age. If you or any of the young people you work with are interested in more information or a postal testing kit please phone 0131 536 2106 or go to www.healthy-respect.com



Free 'Morning After Video & Resource File' Copies ?

Healthy Respect was funded by the Scottish Executive in 2000 to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards good sexual health and respectful relationships among young people;
- Reduce teenage pregnancy rates (Lothian has the 2nd highest under 16 teenage pregnancy rate in Scotland);
- Decrease levels of sexually transmitted infections.

Along with delivery of the SHARE programme (Sexual Health and Relationships Education) and health drop-ins for young people, this video has been produced by Healthy Respect to help young people access local sexual health services.

LAYC has been provided with some complimentary copies of the video resource pack and will be adding two copies to the LAYC Information and Resources Library.

However, it occurred to LAYC that perhaps some of you already working with young people around health or sexual health issues might like the chance to have your very own copy absolutely free of charge!! But how to decide who should get one?

The first 3 articles to be received by LAYC from groups, giving details of their past work with young people around health/sexual health or of your plans to do something around these issues within the next 6 months (and thereby demonstrating the need to have a copy of the pack at hand to use) will get a copy of the pack for their youth group. Details of the successful groups will be featured in future issues of Networks.

You can also borrow a copy of the pack from the Lothian Health Library and Resource Centre - telephone 0131 536 9246 for details.

West Lothian Young Scot's Mission Incredible



West Lothian's Provost Joe Thomas unveiled Inveralmond student's Fiona Greer's winning entry in a special presentation to launch the all new West Lothian Young Scot logo.

Fiona's winning logo design was chosen by a panel of young people from entries across West Lothian. The Mission Incredible competition was distributed to all 11 high schools and youth clubs to design a logo that represented the new initiative, West Lothian Young Scot. The agents across West Lothian came up with some innovative designs however Fiona, Inveralmond student successfully completed the mission.

The design will be used on the website, promotional material and merchandise and will be the first addition to Fiona's folio, as she is due to begin Art College in September.

West Lothian Young Scot is part of a national initiative called Dialogue Youth which is being rolled out to all 32 authorities after successful pilot projects in Angus, Glasgow, Argyll & Bute and Edinburgh were launched in 2001.



It is a national strategy funded by the Scottish Executive designed to put young people at the heart of government services.

The project will support young people in West Lothian to gain a voice at community, council and national level through a Youth Congress which will meet for the first time at the end of September. West Lothian Young Scot also offers the opportunity to participate in the project through developing and writing for a website and negotiating with local retailers to gain discounts for young people.

The project's official launch will be held in conjunction with Youth Work Week from the 1st - 8th of November.

West Lothian young people can get active now. West Lothian Young Scot Roadshow will be visiting all 11 high schools in September and delivering packs to S1 and S4 students.

If you would like any more information about any aspect of the Project, please email: youngscot@westlothian.gov.uk or phone 01506 776 479 and speak to Rebecca Lynch, Nan Matthews or Derek Bonnar.

Dialogue Youth - East Lothian

East Lothian Council has been especially active in developing Dialogue Youth and view Dialogue Youth very much as a corporate initiative and one that contributes to the Community Planning agenda. East Lothian see it as critical that young people are involved in all aspects of the initiative's development. eg young people were involved in the appointment of the Dialogue Youth Co-ordinator. First day in her job Caroline Davis, Dialogue Youth Co-ordinator said, 'I find East Lothian's approach to involving young people fantastic; the enthusiasm is just great. I will be ensuring that young people are given a real voice and are afforded every opportunity to drive the initiative in a direction that will really matter for them'. Young people from

Musselburgh Grammar School have been working with Community Learning and Development Staff, with Architects, with IT Specialists on the setting up of a new Resource Research base next to their school. Young people from the Inter.Esk cyber café working closely with Community Learning and Development and Policy and Business Management to move forward Smartcards. Remarkable designs integrating East Lothian and Young Scot logos have come out of this work. A very ambitious e business framework incorporating Young Scot Smartcards for every young person in East Lothian is being looked at!! 'Building on this excellent work; development of Hack Pack and Ur Say training; PSE and Citizenship Education are also high on my list of

'to do's' said Caroline. For more information on how Dialogue Youth is doing in East Lothian, call Caroline on 0131 653 3003, or drop her an e-mail with your interest Cdavis@Eastlothian.gov.uk



Networks would like to wish Caroline (an old friend of LAYC) well and welcome Rebecca to the Area. Hopefully there will be plenty of opportunities to keep everyone up to date with what's happening Dialogue Youth wise in their areas.

EDINBURGH YOUTH COUNCIL

September 2003 will see the launch of an Edinburgh Youth Council

For years the young people of Edinburgh have had very little opportunity to become fully involved in the process of making decisions which affect their lives. Hopefully the Youth Council may prove to be the most dramatic event ever to impact on the lives of Edinburgh's young citizens.

The Edinburgh Youth Council was originally an idea spawned by the Edinburgh Youth Task Force, which was created in 1997 as an organisation which the City of Edinburgh Council could consult with on issues affecting young people in the City. In 2002 the Council's Youth Services Strategy laid out the commitment to create this Youth Council with the Task Force acting as the lead agency.

Since then the Task Force has developed the idea of an Edinburgh Youth Council into a reality.

For too long have young people been the subject of discussion and debate but have never really been listened to themselves or their opinions acted upon. It is hoped with the creation of this new forum that young people will be enabled to become full and active participants in the decision making process.

The Edinburgh Youth Council itself will be made up of young people aged between Secondary 1 and 25 who shall be elected from Schools, Youth Organisations, colleges, Universities and Communities of interest. In addition young people who do not participate in any of the above may be eligible to become an individual member.



The Youth Council will be made up of different branches:

EYC Full Council: The full Council will be made up of all the young people elected to the Youth Council. They will discuss citywide issues and will have a campaigning and lobbying role. As well as linking to other decision making groups a large part of full council meetings will be to provide training to the members and debate policies.

An Executive: The Executive of the Youth Council shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the organisation and shall be elected by the members annually.

Themed Groups: The themed groups will focus on and debate specific areas of concern for young people such as transport, education etc.

Area Forums: The Youth Council will divide itself into six Area Forums that will parallel the Local Development Committee boundaries and discuss and lobby on local issues.

The Edinburgh Youth Council will have direct links to decision makers, be able to raise one issue a year at City of Edinburgh Council meetings and be involved in allocating resources to improve youth services.

The creation of this Youth Council is a great move forward in involving young people in the political structures of the city and shall change the face of the decision making process for years to come.

For more information on the Edinburgh Youth Council please contact Liz Walls at Wellington Court, 10 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3EG or call 0131 469 3459.

Dialogue Youth Midlothian

The development of Dialogue Youth in Midlothian is still at an early stage due to delays in appointing a co-ordinator to lead the project. Work has been going on behind the scenes doing some of the preparation so that the new staff can hit the ground running! A group of staff from the Council and the voluntary sector in Midlothian has set up meetings with The Youth Platform which paved the way for a wider consultation held in June. This consultation showed that there was interest in Young Scot card being used to replace various other membership cards and passes as well as providing discounts.

Interest in joining 'The Hack Pack' to develop local pages were of interest to some participants or they knew of someone who would want to get involved.

One issue was that shops and traders of interest were national companies and that possible local targets were restricted to fast food outlets, hairdressers, transport and driving lessons. Developing a smartened card for use in cashless cafeterias and in vending machines is moving ahead too! The new Dalkeith Campus will open in October after the holidays and cards need to be in place by then. All the other High schools will follow by March 2004.



LEISURE LINKS

Leisure Links Scheme

After reviewing the success of a six month pilot project it was decided to establish and implement the Leisure Links Scheme in April 2003. The scheme 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 both children and young people's programmes.

The scheme is currently only available to groups affiliated to LAYC & PACE who deal with all registration issues. There are two strands to the scheme. One encouraging youth workers to access Edinburgh Leisure facilities at a special discounted rate and the other offering group discounts for young people.

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



The scheme also offers group discounts for youth groups wishing to access Edinburgh Leisure facilities. Groups are entitled to 10% off at standard times and 20% at off-peak times for casual usage of

swim, gym and hall hire.

To arrange a booking please contact the facility Duty Manager prior to visit.

Edinburgh Leisure

Community Education, Leisure, Youth, and Sports Services

GO4IT Summer Holiday Programme 2003

Edinburgh Leisure's contribution towards Community Education's Summer GO4IT programme has been a huge success this year. Young people from across the city have taken part in an explosive array of activities covering three venues.

The programme is heavily subsidised by both Community Education and Edinburgh Leisure ensuring young people can access high quality sporting activities for an affordable price.

All courses were fully booked within a matter of weeks. Over fifty-five young people aged 11-15 years took part in the fun packed multi activity week held at Meadowbank Sport Centre. The Meadows Tennis programme filled up instantly and over forty girls took part in a girls only multi activity camp at Drumbrae Leisure Centre. The programme

gave young people an opportunity to take part in a diverse range of activities including football, street dance, nrg zone gym, athletics, basketball, climbing, gymnastics, bodycombat, tennis, trampoline, rounders, badminton, netball, swimming, cheerleading and much more.

Look out for future programmes in a venue near you!



PLAY FOR IT



Project Awards up to a maximum of £250 are available for a special sports and physical activity week for Primary School Children (P4-P7) which is being organised during the October School holidays.

The main programme includes sports camps, coaching courses and taster sessions in all sorts of activities ranging from blo-karting to badminton.

However, we realise that some children may find it difficult to travel to the main sports centres in the city. In recognition of this we have introduced the ideas of the 'Project Awards' into the programme of events. Last year we funded twenty groups and clubs across the city and they organised their own activities in their local communities or took children to specialist venues often for the very first time.

So if you want to organise a coaching session at your Junior Club or organise a sports fun day in your local community, here's your chance!

Application forms are available from: Sporting Chance, New Parliament House, 5-7 Regent Road, Edinburgh EH7 5BL. Tel: 550 6820 or by e-mail: admin@sporting-chance.org Applications will be dealt with on a rolling basis up to a funding deadline of Friday 3rd October.

THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES



Celebrating our youth, promoting their gifts, talents and success's is exactly what **Citizen Y** is giving you the opportunity to do. **Edinburgh Youth Social Inclusion Partnership (EYSIP)** as lead organisation behind the campaign is delighted with the overwhelming support that the campaign has received throughout the UK.



Citizen Y started as a local campaign to promote the positive images of youth and to ask adults to challenge their perceptions of young people. To-date it has been praised for its energy and innovativeness by the Children's Rights Alliance for England and Dialogue Youth Stirling have invited us to share our experiences with them over the coming months.

Local support for the campaign is immense. The variety of supporters is incredible. MSP's such as **Susan Deacon** and **Rosie Kane** have become involved with great zest gotten involved, we have celebrities such as Gary McCormick and Grant Stott volunteering their services to help with promotion and a never ending list of organisations (**6VT Youth Café, Lothian and Borders Police, LGBT Youth Scotland, Streetwork, Crew 2000, Parentline Scotland, HYPE**, etc) who have given their contacts, reputation, expertise and time to making this a valuable campaign.

Since its launch in March **Citizen Y** has distributed thousands of postcards, badges and posters through out Edinburgh. **The Citizen Y** Drama group participated with Mike Greenlaw in the production and unveiling of St Johns Church Mural in June with the support of Rosie Kane MSP.

In July the campaign invited parents to come along and talk about the facts and issues surrounding being a parent of a teenager and Susan Deacon MSP and Grant Stott lent themselves to us for the afternoon to help make this event memorable for all those involved.

The drama group took the name for their Fringe production from the St Johns Mural -

Citizen Y 'Who are you calling a NED?' and since May were working hard on the script, designing of the set, producing and directing the drama through to presenting 3 performances held at Theatre Workshop in Stockbridge (8th, 9th, and 16th of August) performing it to the masses in Edinburgh's Fringe Festival.

This particular form of expressing young people's views has drawn a lot of attention from media across the board. The Evening News has been very supportive of the efforts of the drama groups and has been a key player in promoting the **Citizen Y** drama to the Edinburgh public. The drama group have been involved in BBC Scotlands Gary Robertson Show and have shared interview time with the likes of Esther Rantzen.

The drama has received considerable attention from television. BBC Scotland's NewsNight have filmed rehearsals and the first live performance of the show for an evening broadcast in August. BBC News Round have also filmed a rehearsal and taken a couple of the young people around Edinburgh to act as their roving reporters. This program was broadcasted on Wednesday the 13th of August on BBC 1.

After such a successful program we are hopeful that with the guidance and support of our partner organisations that the Autumn program will be exactly what's needed to blow away any remaining negative perception of our young people.

**For further details please contact:
Paula Aldin-Scott on Tel: 0131 555 5111**

e-mail: p.aldin-scott@youthinclusion.org
web site: www.citizeny.org

HAVE A BLAST YOUNG PERSONS FORUM

As it moves into a second year, "Have A Blast" continues to change and evolve as young people become more involved in the running of the event. In the last twelve months it has helped young people from all over Edinburgh to find their voice on issues that affect them and begin to explore different ways of making this voice heard. Thus there have been political question-time events and many workshops with topics as diverse as performance poetry, stand-up comedy and young people and mental health.

At the end of August the "Have A Blast" stage became a young persons' forum, called in order to generate a response to the Scottish Executive's proposals for tackling anti-social behaviour: "Putting our Communities First". The forum, at the City Art Centre, was co-facilitated by EYSIP and the Scottish Civic Forum and the outcomes will help generate EYSIP's response to the Executive's consultation document.

Currently there are several events being held to help organizations to respond to "Putting our Communities First". EYSIP hopes that events like the young peoples' forum will ensure that young peoples' viewpoints are included as well. Such viewpoints are of particular importance as it is young people who are likely to be most affected by the anti-social behaviour proposals contained in the document.

**For more information about
Have A Blast events contact
Mike Forrester at EYSIP.**

e-mail:

m.forrester@youthinclusion.org

Good Practice Database

Some of you will have received an invitation at the start of the summer to send details of good youth work practice to YouthLink Scotland who are compiling a database which will eventually be able to be accessed by other workers seeking to develop similar projects in their own areas.

The idea is that recording what others have done in an easy to understand format will have a greater 'spin-off' benefit throughout Scotland than other more formal evaluations and reports.

Apologies for the very short timescale (LAYC got the request late and contacted groups within 24 hours) and many thanks to the half dozen or so groups who were able to respond in some way. [LAYC hopes in future 'Networks' to provide local groups a chance to get more recognition for their good work by featuring regular practice articles reflecting all types of member groups.]

Reform of Charity Law

Following the recent scandal involving the running of a Scottish based cancer charity, the Scottish Executive have dusted off the McFadden Report with some speed and embarked on practical steps like consulting as to what should be included in the new legislation. They have also announced that the new office of the Scottish Charity Regulator will be based in Dundee and employ about 30 staff.

Hopefully the proposal to set up a new type of group, the 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation' will be part of this. Groups currently thinking of becoming Companies Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status should bear this in mind.

Tax Back!

From April 2004 charities can benefit from people receiving repayments due to them after completing a Self Assessment tax return (last year nearly 3 million tax payers got around £3 billion re-paid).

So who knows, maybe one of your supporters is about to get a windfall from the Inland Revenue or perhaps a grateful parent will share in their good fortune - and remember any donation like this would qualify for Gift Aid and the Inland Revenue would pay the charity even more - equivalent to the basic rate of tax on the amount donated!

To participate in the scheme charities need to provide certain details - the form has to be completed and returned by 30th September 2003, so phone IR Charities Helpline on 0845 3020203.

Green Team Sponsored Walk 2003

Saturday September 27th

This year the Green Team will be walking from Levenhall Links, Musselburgh to Holyrood Park in the centre of Edinburgh - a mere 15 kilometres!

They are trying to raise money for their minibus and to buy some new tools and equipment to run their activities.

A Great Green Quiz has been organised for walkers as they go along and there will be tea, coffee and cake at the Holyrood Park Education Centre at the end of the walk.

The Green Team would like as many people as possible to take part. If you would like to participate or publicise this good cause, contact Penny Radway, Green Team Manager, Room 7, New Parliament House, 5-7 Regent Road, Edinburgh EH7 5BG. Tel: 558 9571 or e-mail: info@greenteam.abel.co.uk

Web Sites

- In England and Wales the Department for Education and Skills is drawing up guidance for Local Education Authorities and Schools to consider when involving young people and children in decision making.
www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations2/18/docs/ParticipationGuidance01.pdf
- Alan Whitehead, Labour MP for Southampton, has published research resulting from surveys and interviews with young people on how politicians can better engage with young people. Type the address slowly Mr Boardman!
www.alan-whitehead.org.uk

In Case You Missed It!

Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 has various strands that Councils are going to be affected by. The Act:

- Confirms that 'best value' is 'an appropriate balance' among quality of performance, cost to the authority and any charge for that service.
- Places a duty on Councils to set up, maintain and facilitate a process of 'community planning' involving consultation 'with such community bodies and other bodies or persons as is appropriate.' The Council, Health Board, Police and Fire Authority and local enterprise company must all participate in community planning. A report has to be published on what has been done by way of community planning in an area and what action has been taken.
- Gives Councils the power to do anything, including spending money which advances the well being of the local authority area and/or people within the area (unless it unreasonably duplicates anything being done by someone else under any legislative enactment).

While You Were Away!

In England and Wales the 'Transforming Youth Work - Developing Youth Work for Young People' report was published earlier this year by the Department for Education and Employment which says amongst other things that 'youth work is important' and challenges people to 'tackle second and third rate provision'. It supports 'the concept of youth development' and says this can be provided in a number of ways including 'high quality youth work, volunteering community activities, organised sport and out of school and summer activities.'

Good youth work 'offers quality support enables the voice of young people to be heard provides a rich diversity of personal and social development opportunities and choices to young people promotes intervention and prevention to address the individual institutional and policy causes of disaffection and exclusion.'

The report commends the National Youth Agency's 'Youth Service Pledge' as a helpful framework for local authorities as they consider quality and appropriate levels of funding to meet local community need. The report can be accessed on the internet at www.connexions.gov.uk/publications

A critique of the report also appears on the excellent www.infed.org website (just follow the obvious signs!)

Are you planning a Commonwealth Youth Exchange between April 2004 and March 2005?

The Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council is the national agency for the promotion and grant aiding of youth exchange visits between 15-25 year old Britons and their contemporaries in Commonwealth countries, especially those in Africa, Asia or the Caribbean.

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of nations, which now has a membership of 54 countries. In 2004/05 CYEC will particularly welcome applications from exchange projects using active and global citizenship themes.

If your youth group is planning a Commonwealth youth exchange visit during the next financial year and you want to apply for financial assistance from CYEC, please note the deadline dates for submitting your applications are:

Wednesday 24th September 2003

Wednesday 29th October 2003

You can apply for a grant to help subsidise your group's overseas travel from UK or to help with hosting an overseas group in the UK. It is essential to apply on time because CYEC has normally committed its entire budget by Christmas.

For an application and information pack, please send a SAE with two 1st class stamps to:

*Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council
7 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, London SW4 7NQ*

Innovative Project for Young Disabled People

The Lothian Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL), a user-led disability organisation, has been awarded a grant from the Camelot Foundation Transforming Lives Fund, resulting in the groundbreaking It's Your Life Project.

It's Your Life is a unique new project offering support and advice to disabled people aged between 16 and 25. The journey towards adulthood and independence requires numerous decisions: where to live, whether to study or get a job, where relationships fit in and so on. Whilst such questions affect all young people, it can be particularly difficult for young disabled people to make informed choices, and It's Your Life addresses this problem directly.

The project provides a training course, which includes an introduction to the Social Model of Disability. Hazel Farley, the Manager of LCIL believes this a vital part of the project. "Hopefully young people who take part in this training will then feel stronger and more able to challenge discrimination".

It's Your Life aims to increase awareness of Direct Payments and Independent Living options and to address the social isolation experienced by some disabled people by providing a peer support group. On an individual basis, professional peer counselling will be available.

It's Your Life is funded until May 2005, by which time LCIL will have produced a guide to good practice to be disseminated to interested organisations all over the UK.

The Camelot funding has enabled LCIL to employ a part-time Training Officer to oversee It's Your Life. Abi Gibb can be contacted on 0131 475 2350 for more information about this project, or check out LCIL's website www.lothiancil.org.uk



Bridges Project - Web Group Launch

With more than a passing nod in the direction of the other democratic process taking place on May 1st, young people using the services of Bridges Project, launched the first stage of what is hoped will be a sustainable user participation process for the agency. The launch was attended by friends and family as well as staff from the 15-24 Projects in East and Midlothian and Bridges Project. John Dickie, Head of the Youth Unit at Scottish Council for Single Homeless presented the successful participants with their certificates.

New Futures funding and premises provided by MYPAS in Dalkeith, enabled ten young people from Midlothian and East Lothian to attend a twelve week bespoke web design training programme with CRF Computer Consultancy Ltd. The young people successfully designed and constructed their own web pages and web

sites, some of which will be hosted on Bridges Project's main web site. The technical skills developed by the participants will be of great value for the design and construction of a young person's web site at Bridges Project, as well as being very marketable commodities to potential employers.

Participants have developed extra communication, team work, numeracy and literacy skills through the work and where requested have had one-one sessions with personal tutors to enhance these skills. They have also enjoyed trips to the theatre as part of the process and have been introduced to actors, set designers, directors, dancers and a host of other professionals involved in arts and the media. The participation site will showcase the work organised and undertaken by young people at the project. A virtual newsletter

is planned, and this will report on activities already in the pipeline including CD burning, video making, drama production, European exchanges, and script writing. Some young people have already identified downloads they want to make available to others. These include cheap and healthy recipes and tips on how to survive B&B.

Now in its third year of operation in East Lothian and its second year in Midlothian, Bridges Project hopes to build on the previous success of other participation activities, including the Smash 'n' Grub cookbook and Leaving Home-A Few Home Truths, a pack designed by school leavers for school leavers in East Lothian. As participants graduate into peer volunteers, they will be able to pass on their skills to other young people, perpetuating the circle of involvement.

Powerbases are Go !

EYSIP, YPSO & CAPRO Deliver New Service

It was this time last year when Networks carried an article by Ruth Campbell, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Youth SIP making a spirited argument for the Powerbase concept contained within the Council's Youth Services Strategy Action Plan.

She argued that 'many young people don't want to follow the yellow brick road of being part of a nondescript group, fundraising and planning for a one off taster of some new experience. They want to cut to the chase - try it, see if they like it, and if they do, find a direct route of support and facilities to help them pursue their new interest without any further delay.'

And here we are 12 months on and Networks are happy to announce that strangely enough for a 'strategy' things have actually changed in less than a year - admittedly it was EYSIP who had to put a little money in the pot to make things happen and (YPSO) Young People Speak Out and (CAPRO) Craigmillar Adventure Project are the only organisations who have been able to draw up proposals, get approval and funding, recruit staff, plan programmes and actually begin to offer young people access to a new service.



And guess what else these small independent youth work projects are doing? They are making things easily available and accessible to young people (rather than at more traditional and convenient times for the provider). As last year's article put it 'Hopefully [specialist centres] will seize the opportunity to develop some provision That is both targeted at young people and is as open access as possible (nothing worse than finding a new passion and having to put it on hold until the next course runs in a year's time!)

Ruth Campbell isn't here to see it, having taken up a post with the Scottish Executive earlier this year, but 12 months after her article, YPSO's ScreenScene and CAPRO's new service are here and delivering services to young people - hopefully the Council and other partners on the Youth Services Strategy will help publicise this new provision to make sure young people know it's out there. Again, hopefully funding can be found not just to keep these developments going, but also to extend the range of Powerbases to other interests identified by young people!