



# networks

The Journal for Youth & Children Workers in Lothian

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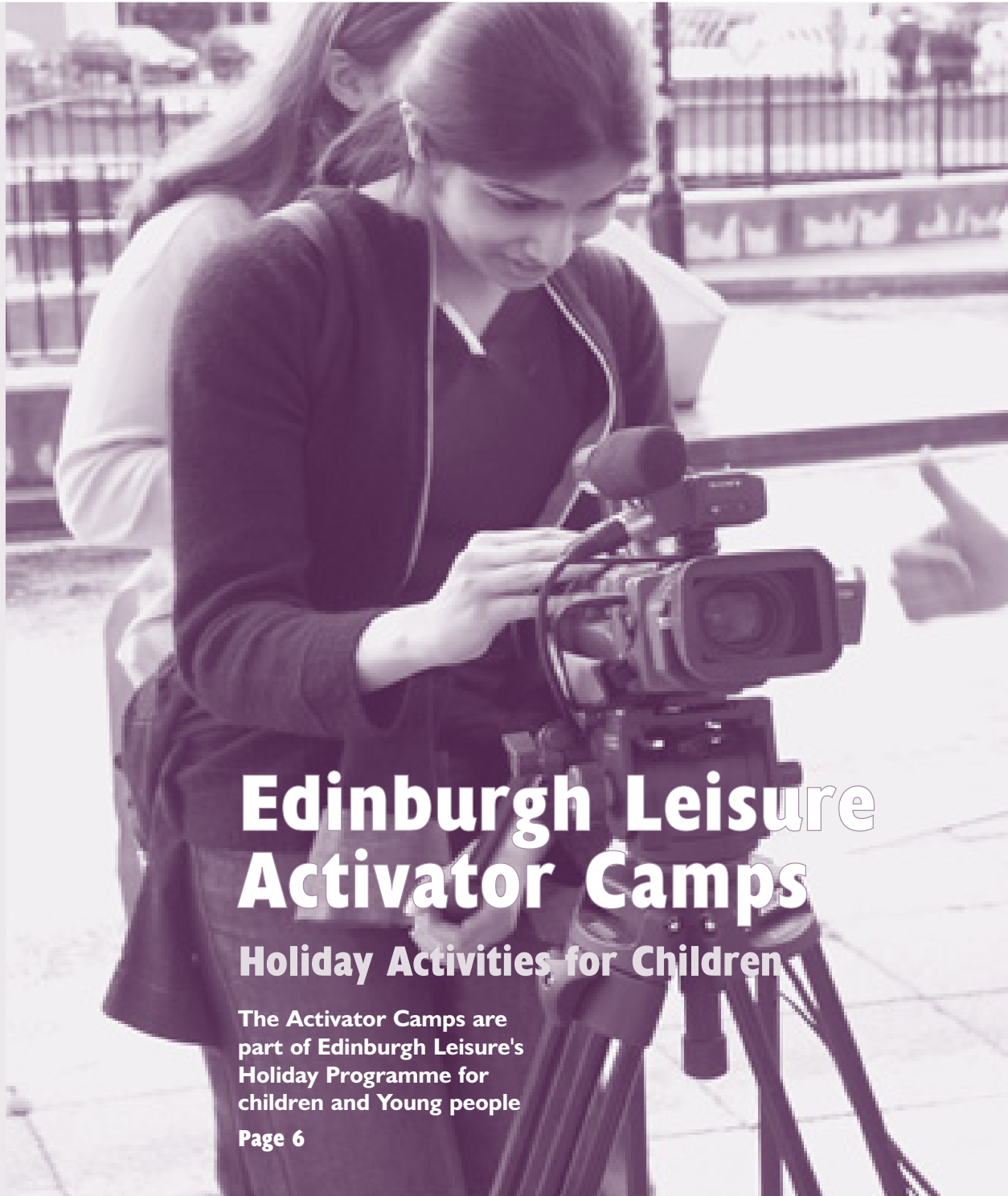
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## 'Another One . . . and another one'

In Edinburgh it has been a bit weird recently, everywhere you turn there's a brief consultation around the remaining Community Learning Plans for various areas of the City.

Progress has been made in finishing the planned plans in East and Midlothian too (apologies to member groups in West Lothian, but LAYC are a bit in the dark about the state of play out your neck of the woods.)

Anyway, if you or your group were involved in drawing up these plans in any way then 'congratulations' - you did better than most people . . . . And the Scottish Executive has just issued new Guidance on 'what happens next?'

'Son of Community Learning Plans' or maybe 'Community Learning Plans - Freddie's Revenge' I hear the cynics call out. No, next time it's serious - it's Community Learning and Development strategies and plans next time round!!! This time to show that they want children and young people's needs and interests taken into account they've come right out and said it . . . . Look out for plans in 2005 to use the phrase 'including children and young people' a lot !

## On the Move . . . New Addresses

**Fairbridge Edinburgh Team** have moved. Their new address is now: 73 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH6 4AQ

Tel: 0131 554 2568 Fax: 0131 555 1770

**Volunteer Centre Edinburgh**  
(moved 1st May 2003)

The move sees the project ensconced in newly furnished premises at the back of St George's West Church Centre on Shandwick Place. You will find the main entrance at 45 Queensferry Street Lane with wheelchair access from the side entrance on Stafford Street.

It is hoped that the central location will make the Volunteer Centre Edinburgh very much more accessible in terms of bus routes, and should encourage more people to use their services on a drop-in basis.

45 Queensferry Street Lane, Edinburgh EH2 4PF  
Tel: 0131 225 0630 Fax: 0131 225 0631  
e-mail: admin@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk  
Web: www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk

## New Name . . . Wider Remit

LGBT Youth Scotland provides a range of services and opportunities for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people across Scotland. The charity has bases in Edinburgh, Galashiels and Kirkcaldy; operates over 15 youth groups and development committees around Scotland; as well as representing the interests of young people to the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Executive. Over the next year, they will be developing work with local authorities and communities to develop more inclusive services for LGBT young people. Recently the organisation won a Glaxo Smith Kline Impact Award for innovative health promotion work.

## Granton Youth Centre

Calling all Lothian and Edinburgh youth clubs.

Granton Youth Centre need your help. They are looking for youth groups or clubs for some interaction and competition. If you have a skill to share, or are interested in a FRIENDLY sports fixture, then they are eager to hear from you.

Granton Centre are currently running a number of projects including Music and Dance, All sports, Arts & Crafts and Social Visits. They run a Monday to Friday club and are keen to start a sports league and are willing to help other groups and share ideas.

If you can help, or would like more information call David Morton or Kenny Harper on 0131 467 5854 or e-mail: grantonyouthcentre@hotmail.com

PS. If you have any old or unwanted musical instruments, sports equipment or garden tools they can put them to good use.

## Suits You Sir !

Carrying on the long tradition of networking that is one of LAYC's key strengths we have recently found homes for a couple of items of fitness equipment which members of the public had asked LAYC to help find good homes.

We have also recently been donated second hand p.a. equipment, photographic equipment and stage lighting. This too will be placed in good homes where people are going to use the equipment in their work with children and young people.

There's talk of adopting a slogan like 'if it's still working and we can find somebody who wants to use it then we'll take it!' (Admittedly it took a bit of time to find somebody prepared to take the cross country ski training machine halfway up the A9 to hand onto the Scottish Junior Squad, but hopefully when Scotland wins its next skiing medal we'll claim that LAYC was partly responsible!)

If you are thinking of getting rid of equipment that is still in good working condition, then think again - 'Could someone else get use out of this'. Over the years LAYC has found homes for all of the usual types of equipment - pool tables, table tennis tables, camping equipment, musical instruments, computers/ games consoles, sports equipment, camera equipment (even on one occasion a fruit machine!!) Those of you who know the LAYC offices, know that we don't have loads of storage space so we usually ask people to hold on for a couple of weeks/a month or so while we try and find a group able to arrange to uplift the equipment. . . . But if you've got something worth giving a home to then give LAYC a phone!

It also means that if you are looking out for a particular piece of equipment cheap or free of charge, then let LAYC know in case something turns up. (Obviously the usual small print applies "groups have to satisfy themselves the equipment is in a safe condition to use . . . . LAYC can accept no liability . . . . The value of your investment can go up or down . . . . Your home may be at risk, etc, etc")

## On Your Way to Hampden ?

Saturday 27th July and you are standing on the sacred turf at Hampden Park in Glasgow. . . . just you and your friend . . . . Oh yes and Sugar Babes, Mis-Teeq, Busted, Liberty X and Blue. Of course there are about 30 million total wannabee kids that are just sooo immature there too (30,000 actually).

Apart from 25 acts on 2 live music stages, the stadium and car park will be converted into a huge festival site with loads of things to see and do as well as a funfair, merchandise stalls, food and drink stalls.

This years Live + Loud Festival is backed by HEBS (Health Education Board for Scotland) and Youth Scotland has managed to get 2 free (ie. not having to pay £18 each like everyone else) tickets and the whole pile of 'Live + Loud goodies' like a bag, t-shirt, pen, mini radio, keyring, etc.



Lesley Hinds, Chair of HEBS and new Lord Provost for the City of Edinburgh says, "HEBS Live + Loud is a fantastic opportunity to make the link between music and health. It's not just a chance to highlight good physical health to teenagers, but also to emphasise the importance of positive mental well-being and happiness. You can't quantify the value of linking health to the vibrancy, energy and excitement of Live + Loud.

With HEBS backing the festival, the theme is focussing on health issues and raising the awareness of young people.

So what we need now is some sort of competition that combines young people, health (mental health issues are a particular interest this year) and grabbing the attention . . . but I'm too stressed out to work out what's best - something artistic or something written.

Maybe a poem or lyrics to a song, maybe design a poster or a t-shirt on a health issue that is relevant to young people. Design a logo around an issue or for the Festival itself. LAYC will leave it up to you. Enter something which catches the imagination and conveys a health message. Maybe something building in one of the HEBS catchphrases like 'HEBS - Live + Loud'; 'Be Yourself, be Live + Loud'; or 'Respect Yourself or 'Be what you want to be'. Accompanied by a completed entry form (included within this 'Networks' mailing) to LAYC by Friday 27th June. Give it a go - what better way to cope with stress and make yourself feel good than enter this competition. It could be you on your way to Hampden . . . **Did I mention Gareth Gates is going to be there ?**

Alternatively you could log on at the exciting 'Young Scot' website and answer a few questions to win a ticket. Click on at [www.youngscot.org](http://www.youngscot.org)

In Glasgow a shuttle service of buses from Buchanan Street will operate from 9.30am and return from 5pm in the afternoon (cost £2.00 return). The concert itself runs from 12noon - 6pm. More details from: [www.liveandloud.info](http://www.liveandloud.info)

## THE GAP CLOSSES FOR REAL

**With growing interest in 'youth crime' via the elections, it was not surprising that some 90 delegates attended Bridging the Gap's final act, their seminar 'Youth and Crime - A Reality Check' held in mid April.**

The half day seminar brought together both practitioners and policy makers with Tom Wood, Deputy Chief Constable, Bernadette Monaghan, Director Apex Scotland and Sarah Boyack MSP for Edinburgh Central the keynote speakers.

Their contributions highlighted the need to tackle persistent offenders who made a disproportionate impact on local crime figures. However, as Tom Wood and Bernadette Monaghan repeatedly pointed out, the level of youth crime has remained static for some years and less than 2% of all young people will ever be drawn into the criminal justice system.

This reality is rarely reflected by the media, who in stoking up the issue, raise the fear of crime and the need for politicians to come up with more and more instructive plans to respond to public concerns.

The seminar also highlighted the work of other agencies who were working at both the preventative and harder end. Information sessions were given by 6VT, Magdalene Youth Strategy, Breaking the Cycle and Bridging the Gap itself.

One of the themes that emerged from the seminar was the need for preventative work to be invested in. But this needed to be done in ways that enabled projects to plan ahead and to



work without the need to constantly be on the look out for funding.

The reality of this was not lost on Bridging the Gap who, after six years, were closing following a fruitless struggle to secure continued funding. Ian Boardman, Director LAYC took time to acknowledge the projects work and legacies.

However, there was praise for The Community Fund and Lloyds/TSB Foundation who had both invested heavily in the project and to all the staff who had worked for it. Particular thanks were given to those youngsters, parents and members of local communities who's engagement in the project had made it all worthwhile.

This was well and truly highlighted during the seminar when Aran and Roisin gave very personal accounts of their time in the project. Both had gained and achieved much, evidenced by their presentation to the seminar.

So after six years and eight projects, Bridging the Gap will finally close its doors come the end of May. The seminar and the projects three year report highlighted the significant work it carried out. The gap it sought to span has now been re-exposed and it's to funders shame that this has been the case.

If people wish to receive a copy of the projects final report, please contact the LAYC Office.



### MORE OF THE SAME

Some close results in Edinburgh eventually saw the Labour Party retain power, albeit with a reduced majority.

As we go to press, final details of the new Executive and other positions such as Chairs of Local Development Committees and Scrutiny Panels are still emerging.

However, with previous Executive members re-elected, the portfolios have largely remained as was. The appointment of Cllr Steve Cardownie as Depute Lord Provost has created a vacancy at Culture and Recreation which is being filled by Cllr. Henderson.

With Council elections and their manifestos slightly overshadowed by the Scottish Parliamentary ones, it's been difficult to ascertain what the priorities of the majority group will be. It's safe to say that the economic and transport issues will remain at the fore as will the development of schools courtesy of the PPPs arrangements.

An area that may surface higher up the agenda will be youth crime with significant announcements both nationally and within the city from senior politicians.

This could well have major impact on the collective youth work services and draw us into further debate about how best this can be more effectively tackled.

A settled Executive could well be of benefit to the youth sector with both Cllrs Ian Perry and Ewan Aitken having had a real impact (and interest in) youth services.

For Mid, East and West Lothian, the Councils political colours remain as previous despite the odd major scalp being taken.

On the Scottish Parliamentary front, the horse trading prior to an anticipated Labour/Lib Dem coalition has started (and completed when reading this). Again the position of youth crime and how to deal with it will be one to watch. The notion of parental fines will test the parties ingenuity to compromise around this issue. The nature of that will undoubtedly give us a real clue as to what path the policy will take.

Overall it appears that the general thrust of local and national government will be similar to before with a need to make sure joint up working actually happens in ways that make a real and improving difference to public services. If not the public may make its views known in the only way it can next time around.

### READERS VIEWS . . . CUP OF TEA AND A GOOD READ !

Enclosed with this mailing is a questionnaire, which hopes to make sure that 'Networks' caters for its readers as well as possible in the future. Also enclosed is a teabag, which is a blatant inducement to get you to sit down and fill in your answers (you'll notice it's a 'one-cup' teabag - feel free to share it with your colleagues if you are all filling in the form!!)

LAYC are keen to hear your views not just on what you think of what's in Networks and how it's presented, but what is not in Networks. What do you think we could be doing better and what are we needed to add to improve Networks? Some of the points which have come up in the past like 'you should aim it at young people and get young people to write it' have allowed LAYC to check out with all member groups whether the current aim to be a newsletter aimed at the adult youth and children's workers was still the preferred option.

..... it's always good to be asked questions - maybe not at the time, but once you have had a chance to look at all the surrounding information and think things over a bit.....

**Please take the time to fill in the form and send it back to LAYC. Cheers!**



## ON YER 'NEW-TO-YOU' BIKE!

**The Bike station is a charity and community project that repairs and refurbishes donated bikes. Bicycles that have been rescued from dumps, sheds and garages throughout Lothian are repaired with care and attention to give them a new lease of life. Anybody can buy a cheap roadworthy bike from us or "earn-a-bike" by volunteering. The Bike Station repairs and recycles everything - even the most dilapidated bikes can be stripped for parts and the frames rebuilt.**

The project started in early 2001 as "Castlecliff Bicycle Workshop" with premises on Johnstone Terrace. When the building closed for redevelopment we moved to new spacious premises underground at Waverley Station, with the support of Railtrack. With the help of lots of committed volunteers we refurbished the premises during the summer and reopened as "The Bike Station" in October 2002.

Our workshop is directly beneath the ticket hall of Waverley. Previous uses have included a stonemasons' workshop (for the ornate stonework in the Victorian ticket hall) and more bizarrely, a rifle range for Edinburgh Gun Club! Happily, the guns and bullets have now gone and the shooting range has proved an excellent space for storing and test-riding our huge collection of bikes.

The Bike Station's funding comes from a wide variety of sources. A landfill tax grant from WREN through Edinburgh Environment Projects has enabled the project to employ two part-time workshop managers. Fresh Futures funding is being used for cargo carrier bikes, website tools and a pedal powered cinema! B&Q on Easter Road have donated workshop tools as part of their "Better Neighbours" scheme. Most important of all is the time that volunteers put into the project together with the donations of bikes, parts and funds from the public.

The Bike Station workshop is well kitted-

out with tools and workstands and qualified staff to help learn bike-fixing skills. Workshop sessions are run several times a week and can be arranged especially for community groups and schools.

If you and your group would like to learn about bikes, we can arrange a dedicated session either in the Bike Station or in your Youth Club. Either way, the Bike Station has all the tools (and bikes) needed as well as the workshop managers' expertise. Please phone us to discuss. The Bike Station can also go out and about in Edinburgh, taking our fleet of bikes to 'taster sessions' in community centres, or our travelling 'Dr Bicycle' workshop to help fix bikes in places with no access to bike shops.

The Bike Station welcomes volunteers and donations of bikes and parts. Our opening hours are Mondays 10am - 1pm, Tuesdays 1-8pm and Saturdays 1-4pm. You don't have to be a bike expert - you'll learn! Contact Grace Nicol, Outreach Worker. Tel: 0131 558 1682 Mob: 07789 367010 grace@thebikestation.co.uk

### A CHANCE TO ACT GLOBALLY ?

Has the report 'Thinking globally - acting locally' dropped through your letterbox recently? What do you mean you haven't heard of it? The report published just before the elections had a foreword from Cathie Jamieson, then the Minister for Education and Young People, which talks a lot about globalisation and ends up with a short paragraph saying that the paper explains why international education informs and greatly enhances community learning and development work. That's nice - isn't it!!! Seeing as how I've read NoLogo and therefore understand what Cathy means by 'globalisation', I'll read the report and see if it's about the international work that has always been possible within community education/community learning and development, or if it's some new wonderful Scottish Executive priority that we've all got to do now ... within existing resources of course.

Meanwhile here's something real about a crowd that know a thing or two about working internationally...

IVS is a peace organisation working for the sustainable development of local and global communities throughout the world.



They believe that the more people can meet, talk and achieve with others from different countries, social, political and cultural heritable, the greater the development of understanding.

*'It was so positive to sit around at night with international volunteers and discuss issues of such importance to us all. It certainly made me think more about my country's systems and attitudes.'*

**Volunteer in Belarus**

#### IVS AIMS

- To work for peace, justice and greater understanding worldwide;
- To provide volunteer help to local communities whilst not replacing paid labour
- To organise international projects and other activities in Great Britain.

IVS projects offer you a unique opportunity to make a difference to the world around you. By taking part in an international project, you will be working and living alongside other volunteers from all over the world and contributing to local community development. Projects are short-term and usually last between 2-4 weeks with groups of 6-16 international volunteers.

*'I feel I have experienced something completely different and it has made me think about my future more carefully'*

**Volunteer in Greece**

There are hundreds of projects to choose from, for example:

- Environmental conservation on Morocco's beaches
- Community theatre in the Czech Republic
- People with disabilities in Italy
- Youth Work in Russia

There are lots of reasons to join an IVS project - a working holiday with a difference, travel off the beaten track, boost your CV, learn new skills, meet new friends. Share a few weeks of your life, for a lifetime of memories.

Hundreds of people have the will to do something different with their lives and take part in an IVS project every year. If they can do it .... Why can't you?

- IVS is open to everyone, but you must be over 18 to take part in projects abroad
- 16-17 year olds are also welcome to take part in projects in Great Britain
- No specific skills or qualifications are needed

Your food and accommodation are provided by the project. You will just need to pay for your own travel costs and any spending money.

For more information to join IVS contact:

**IVS Scotland, 7 Upper Bow, Edinburgh EH1 2JN**

**Tel: 0131 226 6722 Fax: 0131 226 6723**

**e-mail: ivs@ivsgbscot.demon.co.uk**



## it's a guy thing too . . .

In the past, sexual health service, education and provision for young people has been traditionally geared towards young women and delivered by women with young men's issues often sidelined or neglected. Healthy Respect is working to readdress the balance in Lothian with a project aimed specifically at young men.

The project's work, in conjunction with the Health Opportunities Team in South Edinburgh, is revealing that the traditional stereotype of the emotionally uncommunicative Scottish male, at pains to hide his feelings and reluctant to talk openly about anything not connected with football is a myth. Quite the contrary, young men are just as concerned about relationships as young women.

Healthy Respect's work is centred around using an approach aimed at taking into account young males' particular needs. Healthy Respect's work for young men encompasses a wide range of activities.

### The work

Schools: sexual health and relationships education work within local high schools including single sex workshops too

Community work: sexual health promotion for young men within informal environments (community centres and youth clubs)

Outreach: streetwork with young men to increase knowledge and awareness of sexual health services

one-to-one support: offering non-to-one support and advice in an informal drop-in setting

training: training events for professionals working with young men.

### Young men - quotes What they think about single sex groups.

"I think it was better to tell the truth with men"

"It was easier to talk openly about how we felt"

"It means we could talk more openly and not get embarrassed"

"Probably felt more comfortable and not as nervous"

"You were able to talk about buy's problems"

### Young Men's Quotes - Help!

Is it normal to wake up with an erection?

Will I get more hairy?

What are the 'worms' you can feel in your balls?

Why am I still skinny?

### Informal Settings

Young men acknowledge that one of the barriers to accessing sexual health support services is a lack of knowledge about the people who work for such services. Young people are used to being controlled by adults who are invariably in a position of power. With such a dynamic, young men are often fearful of being judged and of 'getting things wrong'. However, if the same person who works with groups of young men is also available elsewhere to provide more personalised support, young men are more able to access these services.

The educational needs of young men clearly extend beyond the classroom. Early experiences of such a one-to-one service in South Edinburgh offered within an informal drop-in setting have demonstrated how young men are able to open up with a safe and confidential space. Young men repeatedly feel that this is the only safe space where they can be open and honest about the feelings they experience in relationships and with friends, family and partners.

### Changing Cultural Expectations

Healthy Respect works with young men in small single sex groups by working closely within schools and community centres. Participative workshops based around interactive and task-focused exercises enable young men to explore emotional and interpersonal aspects of sex and relationships and increases their abilities to talk honestly about the physical nature of sex too.

For more information on Health Respect's work with young men contact: John Nicholls, Health Opportunities Team, Moredun Community Wing, Moredunvale Place, EDINBURGH EH17 7LB.

**Tel. 0131 468 4604**

For more information on Healthy Respect visit: [www.healthy-respect.com](http://www.healthy-respect.com)

### Lothian NHS Board

#### Training Programme in Health Promotion - Sexual Health Courses

We are offering a range of courses in sexual health over the next year, including two on Saturdays for people who can't make it during week days. They are as follows:

**Young People and Sexual Health  
an introduction (2 courses)**  
25 Sept 2003 and 4 Oct 2003 (Sat)

**Young People and Sexual Health  
developing good practice (2 courses)**  
30 October 2003 and 15 Nov 2003 (Sat)

**Young Women and Self Esteem (Part 1)  
(2 courses)** 5 June 2003 and 4 Nov 2003

**Young Women and Self Esteem (Part 2)  
(new course)** 27 Feb 2004  
Facilitator: Joan Robertson

**Developing Sexual Health Work with  
Groups of Young Men (2 courses)**  
8 Sep 2003 and 20 Jan 2004

**Sexual Health Work with Young Men  
working with individuals (New Course)**  
9 September 2003  
Facilitators: Mike Massaro, John Nicholls  
(Health Opportunities Team)

**HIV/AIDS in the 21st Century  
an awareness & information update (2 courses)**  
1 Sep 2003 (morning) and 29 Sep 2003 (morning)  
Facilitator: Fiona Doig

All these courses will be held at the LGBT Healthy Living Centre in Howe Street. For further details and application form, contact: Training Programme Secretary, Department of Social Inclusion and Community Care, Lothian NHS Board, Deaconess House, 148 Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 9RS Tel: 0131-536-9266 e-mail: [mary.allan@lhb.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:mary.allan@lhb.scot.nhs.uk) or [anne-marie.beaucolin@lhb.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:anne-marie.beaucolin@lhb.scot.nhs.uk) Susan Pollock (Senior Health Promotion Specialist)

## SUMMER PROGRAMME TO BE THE MOST AMBITIOUS YET . . .

**As you read this, the city's community education team who brought you GO4IT and PLAY4IT are working to create an even more ambitious line-up of activities this year.**

**Targeted at high school and 8-12 year old pupils respectively, the twin programmes will include extreme sports, journalism school, trips to Dundee skatepark and even a health and beauty roadshow for older students.**



Once again, events are set to climax with two free pop concerts in Princes Street Gardens and the Liquid Rooms. For now, the names of the headline acts remain a closely guarded secret but organisers are confident they should prove just as popular and high profile as Blazin' Squad and The Bluetones who were persuaded to appear last year.

Martin Hutchison, who oversees the whole programme explains:

"We are planning more opportunities to get involved with the Festival - whether you want to be a reviewer or actually take part in a show.

We're exploring the possibility of linking up with local restaurants to give people the low-down on how to prepare a gourmet dinner. More overnight expeditions are also on the cards involving cycling, canoeing and tackling the West Highland Way."

Brochures will shortly be distributed through schools, community centres, libraries, leisure centres, youth clubs, Internet cafes and music shops across the city. For more details phone 0131 550 6824 or visit [www.go4itedinburgh.com](http://www.go4itedinburgh.com)

At a local level, each of the five Community Education areas in Edinburgh have been allocated funding for projects aimed at young people from 51 to 18 years. Any organisation that works with this age-group can apply for an award (maximum £1000). Priority will go to projects that promote inclusion, reflect local priorities, enhance existing work and demonstrate value for money.

**Further details are available from area Community Education Youth and Children's Work Teams:**

**Douglas Jeffrey (South East)**  
0131 664 5101

**Mo Colvin (South West)**  
0131 441 1031

**Jackie Stewart (North West)**  
0131 332 6316

**John Hunter (North East)**  
0131 661 7463

**Callum Gibson (City Centre)**  
0131 558 3545



### Edinburgh Leisure Activator Camps - Holiday Activities for Children

The Activator Camps are part of Edinburgh Leisure's Holiday Programme for children and Young people, and aim to provide children with the best multi-activity camp in Edinburgh. Edinburgh Leisure's Activator Camps are regularly inspected and are all registered with the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care (Care Commission).

The camps run daily during the school holidays with a wide range of exciting activities available. Children can benefit from a choice of 10 Activator Venues across the city. A fully supervised drop off and late pick up service is available at most camps - ideal for working parents.



The Camps aim to provide a safe supervised environment with plenty of fun and enjoyment for everyone. The emphasis is on FUN and trying lots of different activities.

It's a great opportunity for children aged 5-13 years to make new friends, try a new sport or activity, and generally have a blast!

All Activator Leaders are selected for their enthusiasm, caring approach and experience. Staff are interviewed and recruited through our approved recruitment procedure. All staff are checked through Disclosure Scotland, and are trained in Edinburgh Leisure's Child protection Policy and good practice guidelines in the care of children and young people.

### **Variety of Activities**

Each facility offers a variety of different activities ranging from indoor games & activities, team games, quizzes, competitions, sports activities, sports coaching, outdoor activities, quiet games, Internet Café, Play Stations 2, The House (at Meadowbank), swimming, drama. This reflects only a small selection of the wide range of activities offered at our sites.

Programmes differ from Centre to Centre and are carefully organized by the on site staff to provide a variety of fun activities to challenge the children and to ensure that fun and enjoyment is had by all.

### **Funding**

Edinburgh Leisure secured funding of £30,000 from Edinburgh Childcare strategy to purchase equipment for the camps to improve the quality of childcare provision. Each Camp received £3,000 to purchase a variety of equipment.

### **Providing A Service**

The Activator Holiday camps continue to provide a service to the children of Edinburgh. The popularity comes partly from the provision of a reasonably priced all day childcare for the children of Edinburgh. There are not many other service providers that offer all day care at such a reasonable cost.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PLAYWORK?**

### **Playwork Recruitment Fair**

**Assembly Rooms 1st of May 2003**

A recent Playwork Recruitment Fair, organised by The City of Edinburgh Council and the Childcare Partnership, gave people the chance to find out about the diverse range of jobs, volunteering and training opportunities within the Playwork sector.

The interest in the event was encouraging with there being 32 organisations represented and over 300 members of the public coming along. People were able, at their leisure, to talk to the organisations, to gather information and to apply for positions if appropriate. Refreshments were provided by Dash Coffee, their enthusiasm and nature of delivery adding to the success of the event.

For the organisations involved in this and recent Recruitment Fairs it has proved to be a successful and cost effective way of attracting appropriate staff. For the individuals attending the event it has allowed them to make more informed choices in terms of their careers and to become more aware of the challenging and rewarding opportunities the sector has to offer.

In the long run this can only help to enhance the quality of service offered by these organisations which in turn will benefit the play experiences of the children and young people present. A big thanks to all who made the night a success.

### **'Schools Out'**

#### **A Framework for the Development of Out of School Care**

The Scottish Executive launched this important document in February. The aim being: to promote Out of School Care; to encourage the development of quality, accessible and sustainable out of school care; and to deliver the priorities set out at the end of the document.

There are a number of recommendations that Local Authorities, Childcare Partnerships and Local Enterprise companies are being asked to act upon with the Scottish Executive expecting a response, in terms of the recommendations, by Spring 2004.

The document has been widely circulated with every Out of School Care project having received a copy. It can be downloaded from the Scottish Executive Website with copies also being available from the Childcare Partnership (Tel: 0131 270 6061).

The Childcare Partnership will be holding two seminars in September to look at the content of "Schools Out" and give organisations, school staff, parents, etc an opportunity to have their say and shape the future development of Out of School Care in Edinburgh.

## **PLAYSCHEME TRAINING**

**Saturday 14th and  
Sunday 15th June 2003  
Leith Academy**

All those involved in Summer Playschemes in Edinburgh are invited to attend this training. This will be an ideal opportunity to refresh existing skills and develop new ones. It will also be a chance to share ideas and learn from others in a similar position.

Workshops during the event will be: the Role of the Playworker, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Child Protection, Programming, Positive Health and Safety Management, Play Activities and Policies & Procedures.

The training will be free of charge with lunch and refreshments being provided.

Information regarding this event will be circulated to Playscheme organisers in the middle of May.

For any more information regarding Playwork or the contents of this article please contact

**Stuart Macfarlane**

Development Officer for Playwork,  
The City of Edinburgh Council

Telephone: 0131 529 7912

e-mail  
stuart.macfarlane@edinburgh.gov.uk

## OPEN ALL HOURS TO SET SAIL !

The popular Friday activity night is back after the Easter Holidays. Leisure Centres are once again providing a variety of activities to secondary aged young people venues and times are as follows:

### Gracemount Leisure Centre

tel. 0131 658 1940 Fri. 7pm-9pm

### Ainslie Park Leisure Centre

tel. 0131 551 2400 Fri. 7pm-9pm age S1 - S4

### Drumrae Leisure Centre

tel. 0131 312 7957 Fri. 7pm-9pm

### Kirkliston Leisure Centre

tel. 0131 333 4700 Fri. 7pm-9pm

### Warrender Swim Centre

tel. 0131 447 0052 Fri. 6pm-9pm

### Craiglockhart Sports Centre

tel. 0131 443 0101 Sat. 6pm-8pm

### Meadowbank Sports Centre

tel. 0131 661 5351 Sat. 6pm-9pm age 14+

Because the summer is almost here . . . and the evenings are warm and bright . . . We thought it would be a good idea to introduce an outdoor activity to Friday's varied and exciting programme . . . SAILING.

Every Friday evening during May and June a different group of young people each week from around the different Open All Hours venues will be braving the seas at Edinburgh Leisure's Port Edgar Sailing Marina to try their hand at Dinghy Sailing. Port Edgar is located in South Queensferry underneath the Forth Road Bridge. A very impressive construction, especially when you view it bottom side up.

Dinghy Sailing is perhaps not as tame an activity as it may sound. The River Forth is a busy place and much of the traffic on the water is much bigger than a little 4-person dinghy, and guess what it creates BIG waves. But that's only part of the excitement. The waves were one thing but the wind was another. However, in the very capable hands of the Port Edgar instructors we were able to be taken 'safely' to the limits of our fear and certainly enough to get the adrenaline pumping around our body (and many people's lungs in the form of screaming!) and brought safely back to the level again, and we really do mean back on the level since the boat appeared to be sailing up on its side!!!

The exciting sailing is great fun but it was also amazing to have the opportunity to sail underneath the Forth Road Bridge and the Forth Rail Bridge and see how awesome these Bridges are from way down below. We were also able to have a sail round the wee island which sits just underneath the Rail Bridge and see close up the remains of the buildings which acted as defence posts during World War II.

Port Edgar runs a whole summer programme of sailing courses and lessons as well as sailing equipment for hire. This is not only available to groups such as Open All Hours but for individuals as well. Courses are very reasonably priced and it is very possible to get a level II sailing certificate which means you can hire the dinghy for yourself and enjoy this activity regularly. There is always a rescue boat on hand, just in case, with useful advice on tips when needed.

The evenings have been great fun and the Port Edgar 'full' induction can be taken after the sailing, for those mad enough to actual voluntarily JUMP into the water. Would you believe it there are people who actually want to do this!!!!!!!

Anyone interested in finding out more about what's on offer at Port Edgar please give them a call on 0131 331 3330 and ask for a brochure or visit their website [www.PortEdgar.co.uk](http://www.PortEdgar.co.uk)

## Edinburgh Leisure

## SKOOT IN & SCORE EVENT @ MEADOWBANK

A big 'thank you' to all those who took part in Edinburgh Leisure's multi activity day on Friday 25th April at Meadowbank Sports Centre. The aim of the event was to bring together all the young people S1-6 who had been involved in projects recently managed by Edinburgh Leisure and have a real fun day out.

The day proved a huge success with over 150 young people taking part in a wide range of crazy activities. Young people came on their own, with friends, with their youth group and schools to take part in all the day's madness and mayhem. The inflatable Velcro Olympics proved extremely popular, as well as the DJ workshops, internet and playstations. The climbing wall was amazing with everyone showing much determination. The street dance workshops were a great laugh and extremely upbeat with everyone walking away being able to do the 'Lynx advert dance!' The pulse centre and bodycombat proved to be ever popular and if it was competition you were after the basketball and football were nail biting stuff.

Everyone walked away with huge smiles, tired muscles and a great goodie bag. Thanks to everyone who took part for all your hard work!

The Acti-vibe crew have been out and about visiting schools and youth projects throughout Edinburgh since January. We have been running workshops on the benefits of leading a healthy life style and putting on sessions in climbing, basketball and our most popular activity so far body combat !

These are some general comments from young people about taking part in sports activities around the city.

"gets you out of the house and you can have a laugh with your mates"

"keeps you out of trouble and folk can't shout at us for hanging about the streets"

"when you become a professional you can earn loads of money"

"makes you more popular at school if you're good at it"

"keeps you fit and helps you lose weight"

### Improvement Ideas from Young People

"not enough choice of the activities that we want to do"

"It's dead expensive to go to the leisure centre so I just kick a ball about in the street "

"my coach was crap so I didn't go back"

"get dead embarrassed cause I'm always picked last"


"not enough clubs and they only take the good ones"

### What Effect has Acti-Vibe had . . .

#### The results so far

Four mainstream schools, one special school and eight youth projects have participated in the project. In total 37 separate sessions have taken place and a total of 319 males and 289 females have been acti-vibed!!! Two schools have started Body Combat sessions as a regular after school activity for all pupils.

The project has been extended until the end of June so if you would like the acti-vibe crew to pay a visit to your youth group please get in touch with the activibe co-ordinator on 0131 652 2178 or e-mail [activibe@edinburghleisure.co.uk](mailto:activibe@edinburghleisure.co.uk)



## In At the Deep End! Want to learn to swim?

Like swimming, but want to be better? Swim4all provided over 30 schools with 45 minute lesson per week. This involved 260 Primary 6-7 non-swimmers in free lessons. Some lessons were organised within school hours and other lessons at evenings or weekends. With a maximum of 10 in a class, progress was geared to the individual with great results.

We can set up classes for your youth group at one of our 11 Swim4all centres in Edinburgh Leisure and tailor the class day, time, level and cost to the needs of the group (subject to availability).

For more information call Margaret Dougal on 0131 652 4345 or e-mail [swim4all@edinburghleisure.co.uk](mailto:swim4all@edinburghleisure.co.uk)

# WORKING WITH YOUNG VICTIMS OF CRIME

Talk about young people and crime is common. We hear from politicians and the media about youth crime and how we can tackle this problem. Yet another example of how we see young people as part of the problem and not part of the solution. Young people are increasingly the victims of crime, and yet this fact can often get forgotten.

For the last year, EYSIP has been involved in two major projects examining the needs of young victims of crime. "Speak out be Safe" a project carried out using a range of creative and participatory techniques, suggests that different young people are at risk from different kinds of crime. For example lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) young people were most at risk of physical and sexual assault, whereas ethnic minority young people were most at risk from crimes associated with discrimination and harassment. In an Edinburgh-wide survey conducted by The Ark's "Catch 22" project, it was found that 90% of young homeless people had been victims of crime and 79% had failed to report these crimes. Rough sleeping was particularly dangerous for young people.

Young people were failing to report crimes for a number of different reasons, including; not wanting to be seen as a grass, distrust of "the system", having been in trouble with the law themselves, and preferring to take justice into their own hands. These reasons alone are often enough to make young people think that reporting a crime is not worth bothering about and that they can do without the hassle. As a result young victims of crime are not able to access adequate support.

The results of these surveys, as well as practical guidelines to help practitioners to deal with working with young victims of crime are available in the form of a booklet. Details of how to offer individual support, deliver empowering activities, use mediation and restorative approaches, set up peer-led projects and other innovative ways of tackling victimisation, as well as a list of useful national and local referral agencies are included.

*Vicki Ridley*

## Having a Blast at EYSIP's Question Time Event

"Have A Blast" is a monthly EYSIP event which explores the range of ways that excluded young people can get their voice heard in society and have fun at the same time. Previous evening workshops have looked at the likes of: stand-up comedy, performance poetry, logos & branding, campaigning and media skills. Throughout the process participants have gained confidence and uncovered skills they never knew they had. Each event has a councillor's surgery running concomitantly to the main event where young people can ask questions in confidence regarding council services.

In the run up to the parliamentary elections, March's event examined the voting system, considering both the potential of new methods of voting (e-voting, text voting) and whether voting itself was seen as worthwhile by participants. Many of those present thought that there was little difference

between the political parties and that none of them respected the views of young people. Councillor Paul Edie (Lib Dem) was present for the councillor's surgery and took time out to speak about how he became involved in politics and why for him voting was a right worth exercising. In the second half of the evening, questions for April's event were generated.

April's event took the form of a "question time" event with panel members being quizzed by an audience of young adults. The panel consisted of Ian Baxter from Edinburgh University Conservative and Unionist group, Patrick Hannon from Edinburgh University Scottish Socialist group and Jamie Heckert an Academic with anarchistic leanings. Unfortunately the representative from the University Labour group had to pull out at short notice.



## Democracy In Action?

From the start the "question time" structure was itself brought into question with all present agreeing that they would be more comfortable sitting in a large, open circle rather than the panel sitting behind a table in front of an audience in rows. The structure was further changed after the break when everyone agreed it would be more conducive to free discussion if the panel was disbanded and it's member's became of an equal footing to everyone else. To this end the panel members, who had been sitting together, split themselves throughout the circle and the discussions continued. This change in structure echoed the sentiment of March's event where the confrontational, ego driven nature of politics was highlighted as a factor that put young people off voting.

### QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS

The questions generated at March's event provided the backbone for what proved to be an open and flowing debate. The following are just some of the topics that came under the spotlight:

#### THE IRAQ WAR

The motivation of the coalition was brought into question: were they fighting for democracy or oil? A big concern was what country would be targeted next by the US and when it's military campaign would end.

#### THE BENEFITS SYSTEM

Some thought it was possible to live on state benefits others disagreed. It was argued that if benefits were too high then people would lack the motivation to work. The SSP proposal of a £7.30 per hour minimum wage was likewise welcomed by some while others thought it was a pipe dream.

#### VICTIMISATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

There was general agreement the young people were a soft target and that they are treated as a homogenous group rather than as individuals. It was proposed that it was because of this victimization that young people were put off voting and it was not because they did not care about the world that they live in.

#### HORIZONTAL NOT VERTICAL

Throughout the debates Jamie Heckert provided a foil for the political panel members, arguing that power can be exercised horizontally rather than vertically and that people themselves have the skills to generate solutions to society's difficulties. This was echoed by the structural changes to the event with the audience and panel wanting to be equal members in a group of informed and passionate young people. Whether the young people involved will be more or less likely to vote in the future remains to be seen but this should not be taken as a lack of interest in community and world events.

## Assertiveness and Work with Young Women Session

March, 2003

A varied group of workers from Chase, Dosti, West Lothian Youth Action, Stonewall, Canongate Youth Project, Currie Youth Club, Enlighten, Woods Youth Centre, Social Work department got together at Enlighten with Joan R (Resource Group worker), to look at how we could encourage young women to deal with situations more assertively.

Thanks to everyone for helping with the first pilot, trying out drama exercises, sharing so openly and giving constructive feedback. Practice development sessions are always just short tasters and resource sharing, so there is a problem with lack of time but

people found there were many benefits from meeting other workers, having space to discuss the issues at work and having time to reflect on assertiveness.

The sessions raised the idea that we can't encourage assertiveness until we have started to develop it in our own lives and work.

Some workers felt that some of the young women they work with are involved in criminal activities and aggression and wanted to learn more about assertiveness and how to encourage it, whilst acknowledging the realities of young women's lives.

Also people work with young women who are vulnerable, bullied, coping with peer pressure, excluded with low self esteem that put themselves in vulnerable positions, or cope with stressful situations in an aggressive manner.

In the short time we had, we looked at resources available, the value of changing attitudes, building up skills and peer support. Thanks to Enlighten for hosting these events and keeping the tea and biscuits flowing!



## CHANGES AFOOT !



**There are big changes afoot, after 21 years of the girls work project, there are plans for some changes. Watch this space !**

As a change of host organisation is being organised, this will be an exciting year. This is a time where the future development of girls work is being decided. Has this project helped your work with young people? Would you like to see a larger project with more hours and more direct work with young people?

The commitment of youth workers and LAYC as host organisation have ensured this project has continued over 21 years and this is the year for the value of this project to be marked with a positive commitment to Girls and Young Women's Work

If you're interested in being involved in these changes, get in touch. All views and ideas for the future will help us in the . . .

### Review of the Project

We are applying for funding to help us assess what we have achieved so far and what would benefit girls and young women's work in the future. A consultant will be working with us to look at various possibilities and strategies for the future, possibly using the theme of 'Blowing Our own Trumpets'.

For more info on Girls Work please contact Joan Robertson, on [joan@jorobertson.freemove.co.uk](mailto:joan@jorobertson.freemove.co.uk) or write to resource group c/o LAYC, Dunford House, 7 Boroughloch lane, Edinburgh EH8 9NL, fax 0131 667 9862.

## YOUNG WOMEN'S RIGHTS WORKSHOP

Thanks to the Canongate Youth Project and Suzanne Quinan, for hosting a fun, informal practice development session on rights.

We had a wee guided tour of the young peoples mural on their rights, including a rights tree. Have you seen it? Its well worth a visit. It was done with arts worker Joanna Boyce (@creative art works ([joanna@joannaboyle.com](mailto:joanna@joannaboyle.com)).

We tried out some games, arts exercises looking at the area of rights, responsibilities and the difficulties of young people getting these rights in reality.

The Scottish Child law centre provided us with good information about their service for young people and workers. Their e-mail address: [enquiries@sclc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sclc.org.uk)

**There is a freefone for under 18s: 0800 328 8970**

Tel: 0131 667 6333

Fax: 0131 662 1713

54 East Crosscausway, Edinburgh EH8 9HD.

## WE'VE GOT 8 HOURS AGAIN THIS YEAR

The City of Edinburgh Council have guaranteed the project worker on a 8 hour weekly contract, with no reduction in hours this year. Whilst these 8 hours are inadequate, they are a starting point. Although more hours would certainly allow us to undertake more of the work wanted by youth workers, these hours allow us to run a successful project (with email information circulation list, collaboration with various youth projects around the city to run relevant, practical, accessible training sessions and to respond to various requests for help). We hope that these hours can be maintained and used to find other funding. Thanks to CEC!

## BANNER MAKING & DRAMA WORKSHOPS WITH YOUNG WOMEN

We have received Funding in conjunction with the Pathway project for Inter-agency working and Direct young women's work, using arts and drama techniques. The £1,500 funding has been given for direct work with young women. This is an area workers in this network would like to see grow if we were to be awarded more funding.

If your group would be interested in joining either the banner making or drama workshops later in the autumn, let us know if they are for the under 16's or over 16's workshop. Contact Joan Robertson by e-mail or fax initially to note interest.

## THE PHILIP LAWRENCE AWARDS

**Recognising Outstanding Achievements in Good Citizenship by Young People**

The search is on now for the Philip Lawrence Awards winners of 2003. Is your group working to change things for the better? Are you inspiring other young people to make a difference to their lives? Then we want to know about you and your project!

Or do you know a group of young people who have acted as positive contributors to their community? Have you worked with young people who have taken the initiative to improve their lives and those of others? If so, don't delay in nominating them.

### Getting Recognition

The Philip Lawrence Awards recognise outstanding achievements in good citizenship by young people aged 11 to 20. They're looking for groups that are making a real contribution to communities and the lives of others. The Awards have three key themes: combating lawlessness and violence; promoting community safety; and promoting racial harmony.

The Awards focus on exceptionally praiseworthy activities rather than on the individual concerned and, in particular, on triumph over adversity. They seek achievements which result from sustained and sustainable effort by young people working together, on activity largely or entirely initiated by the young people themselves.

### Win Up to £1000

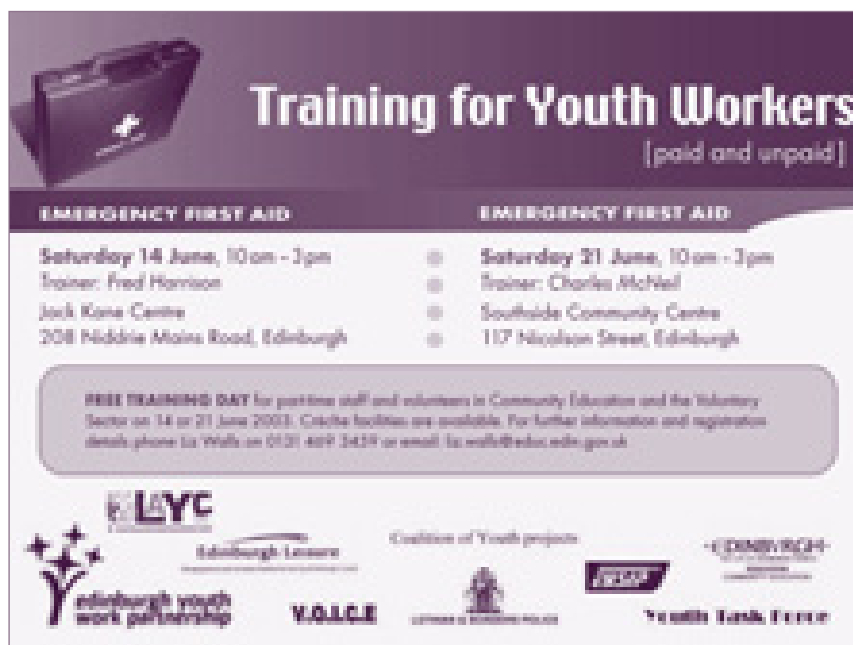
Winning groups will receive cash awards of up to £1000 to invest in sustaining or developing the Award winning activity. They also receive a specially designed memento and certificate plus the right to use the Philip Lawrence Awards emblem.

The Philip Lawrence Awards were set up in memory of Philip Lawrence, the inspirational head teacher of a secondary school in London. He was murdered outside the gates of his school in December 1995 whilst going to the aid of a pupil.

Nominations are open now! The closing date for this year's Awards is Friday 19th September 2003.

Nomination forms from [www.kidsclubs.org.uk/philiplawrenceawards](http://www.kidsclubs.org.uk/philiplawrenceawards)

Completed nomination forms should be sent to: The Philip Lawrence Awards, Kids' Clubs Network, Bellerive House, 3 Muirfield Crescent, London E14 9SZ. Tel: 020 7512 2100 Fax: 020 7512 2010 e-mail: [philiplawrenceawards@kidsclubs.org.uk](mailto:philiplawrenceawards@kidsclubs.org.uk)



**Training for Youth Workers**  
[paid and unpaid]

| EMERGENCY FIRST AID              | EMERGENCY FIRST AID            |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Saturday 14 June, 10am - 3pm     | Saturday 21 June, 10am - 3pm   |
| Trainer: Fred Harrison           | Trainer: Charles McNeil        |
| Jack Kane Centre                 | Southside Community Centre     |
| 208 Hobbie Mauns Road, Edinburgh | 117 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh |

**FREE TRAINING ONLY** for part-time staff and volunteers in Community Education and the Voluntary Sector on 14 or 21 June 2003. Credits facilities are available. For further information and registration details phone Liz Walls on 0121 409 3429 or email [liz.walls@ed.ac.uk](mailto:liz.walls@ed.ac.uk)

LYC Edinburgh Leisure  
Coalition of Youth projects  
EDINBURGH  
Edinburgh Youth Work Partnership  
YOLCE  
Youth Work Force

### ENCOURAGE, INNIT ?

#### The UK Youth Conference for Young People 18-20 July 2003

Loughborough University, Leics.

Aimed at young people aged 15-25, who are already or are becoming involved in their communities, this weekend-long event will focus on workshops delivered by members of the UK Youth National Members Group (NMG).

In fact, the whole thing has been planned and will be run by young people and is aimed at giving young people a voice on issues we believe are important to us!

They'll be running workshops on the following topics:

- **Assessing your Strengths and Achieving Your Goals** - planning and making decisions, changing your life
- **Stereotyping and Prejudice** - what are they and how can you resist the negative effects of them?
- **Rights and Assertiveness** - knowing your rights and knowing how to stand up for them

And on top of this they'll be putting on some cool entertainment and other stuff that will make this a really top weekend!

For more information on this event or on the work of the NMG, contact Tracey Ould on 0207 242 4045(e: [info@ukyouth.org](mailto:info@ukyouth.org)) or Tam Tansey on 0116 233 1702 (e: [tamtansey@ntlworld.com](mailto:tamtansey@ntlworld.com)).

#### Cost: £92 (including VAT) per person

Aimed at young people aged 15-25, who are already or are becoming active in their communities.

### ADVANCE NOTICE CANONGATE YOUTH PROJECT Ready to "CAST off"

Canongate Youth Project will be launching their exiting new project, CAST on Friday June 6th at the Project's premises in Infirmary Street. CAST (Canongate Advice and Support Team) will develop the hugely successful work, which began in October 1999 of their Preparation For Independent Living Project.

The first phase of the new programme will deliver housing information and advice, drugs and alcohol information and advice, support to new tenants and a group work programme at CYP and also in a range of other locations throughout the area. A drop in service has also been established for its 14-21 years age range. The service will also be targeted at community groups and parents in the community.

The programme is funded by Supporting People, Communities Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council Strategic Programme Social Inclusion Partnership and Loyds TSB.

## LEISURE LINKS

**Leisure Links is up and running and this time for a full year.**



Within days of the new glossy registration leaflet going out to affiliates of LAYC and PACE, some 40 groups returned their forms.

Following the previous pilot a number of slight changes have been made to the scheme in an attempt to simplify it for users and Edinburgh Leisure staff.

Groups registered for the scheme will receive 4 (or 8) Leisure Access Cards (4 per affiliation to PACE and LAYC).

These cards will give individual discounts on both peak and off peak rates at all Edinburgh Leisure facilities.

For groups, the previous group card has been replaced with a flat system of 20% on off peak rates and 10% on peak rates. As before you must pre-book any group bookings and now show one of your Leisure Access Cards as proof of being part of the scheme.

It is hoped that other special discounts and scheme only events will feature during the course of the next 12 months.

Helen McFarlane, of the Sports Development Unit, who's leading on the scheme for Edinburgh Leisure is delighted its going onto a second year. 'We want as many children and youth groups to use our facilities as we can. This discount scheme, alongside our other community initiatives and coaching staff hopefully enables more groups to get involved in sports and leisure activities.'

If you have not registered and wish to, but can't find the registration leaflet, you'll find another one with this mailing.

## It's An Ace Base

**When 6VT first opened its café doors back in 1994, it was hoped that other such facilities would spring up across the city and Lothians.**

Some 9 years on and the number of community based youth cafés remains lower than one might hope, but not in South Edinburgh.

The recently opened 'The Base' situated in the old upstairs lounge of Gracemount Leisure Centre, has brought youth café's right up to date.

A complete refurbishment has seen an amazing transformation. A trendy coffee bar with adjacent food preparation area provides the actual café element. In linked areas, top of the range techno equipment including wall mounted juke box, playstation and a large flatscreen TV/DVD screen surrounded by café style seating provide an impressive look. A small room for individual work also highlights that the café is also about giving the right kind of support when some young people need it.

The project is the result of some exceptional partnership working between South Edinburgh Partnership, Edinburgh Leisure and Community Education.

With South Edinburgh SIP providing the bulk of funds, Edinburgh Leisure the space and Community Education the staff, it's been a project that demonstrates what can be achieved when partners bring their skills/resources, and by sharing those, create something greater than the sum of its parts.

Cllr. Donald Anderson in opening 'The Base' played tribute to the work, efforts and commitment of all the partners, 'This is an excellent facility and one that the young people of South Edinburgh will, I'm sure, use and gain much from.'

For Keith Jackson, Chief Executive Edinburgh Leisure, it further demonstrates their commitment to developing a range of services for young people. He told LAYC 'We are delighted to be opening this exciting facility. Not only is it a stand alone project, but by being located in Gracemount Leisure Centre, it provides direct access to all the other facilities the centre offers.'



*Following the official opening Cllr Anderson and Angus McKay take on Edinburgh Leisure's Chief Exec Keith Jackson and LAYC's Ian Boardman at some bizzare table game! For the record, the politicians won, but only just ! Photograph courtesy of the South Edinburgh Echo.*

The Base will be open as a drop-in facility and Emma Walker, youth worker, previously based at Gracemount CE Office has been appointed to the projects full time post.

**If you wish any more information you can contact Emma at The Base on 0131 666 1056.**