



2018 CELEBRATING a Year of Young People



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year of young people
bliadhna na h-òigridh
2018

FOREWORD

2018 was an incredible year for our Young People and one in which they really had a chance to shine!

In a global first, Young People had a platform to showcase all of their incredible personalities, talents and achievements, and to have their voices heard even more clearly. Everyone from age 8 to 26 had new opportunities to influence decision making on issues affecting their lives and to be involved in cultural and sporting opportunities across the country.

We kicked off the Year of Young People in East Ayrshire with a very vibrant Colour Run in the Howard Park which was followed by a whole range of events involving Young People at the heart of their development. There was the first annual hearing of the East Ayrshire Children and Young People's Cabinet where our young people got engaged in meaningful discussions about Brexit and how it affects younger people and the wider community. They also spoke about public transport links and helping our young people to succeed.

There was also the annual Play Day event in August which attracted a record number of 10,000 children and families. There were educational roadshows; meetings of the East Ayrshire Junior Sports Council; free lunches and fun at holiday club programmes; two youth conferences which had a focus on Children and Young People's rights, and a very successful sitting of the Scottish Youth Parliament in Kilmarnock.

The year's events culminated in a spectacular awards evening at Dumfries House which celebrated the fantastic achievements of our Young People. The standard of entries for the awards was incredibly high which made the judges' job very difficult. Over 100 young attended the evening which had a 'masquerade ball' theme and our winners in categories such as Young Carers' Champion; Intergenerational Champion; Young Volunteer Champion; Sporting and Physical Activities Champion and Diversity and Inclusion Champion were all so deserving.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

**Depute Provost
Claire Leitch**
*Children's
Champion*



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To top the year off, Young People braved the cold at the end of December to bury a time capsule filled with memories and images from the twelve months of activities which made up the Year of Young People. It was buried in the grounds of Dumfries House Estate and will be dug up in 50 years' time.

The Year of Young People provided an opportunity for all generations to come together to recognise and celebrate the contributions that our Young People make to society, and we thank everyone who was involved in what was a fantastic year. Special thanks go to the Steering Group of Young People's Cabinet Members for all of the excellent work they have done to help make the voices of Children and Young People be heard more clearly in East Ayrshire.

We now look forward to continuing the legacy of Year of Young People and to building on the positive work that our young people achieved in 2018.

Throughout 2018, I have been a member of the Children and Young Peoples Cabinet and Year of Young People Steering group. We have met on a regular basis to discuss the issues that affect young people with the authority.

What a year it has been! We have been able to contribute to so many projects such as our Youth Conferences, planning them in depth, our Year of Young People Awards Night where we influenced the evening and helped shortlist and vote on the winners for the evening. We have also given our opinions on photo competitions, Gaelic awareness days, our YOYP launch and so much more.

Year of Young People has been an incredible experience for myself and others across the authority with loads of activities for us to participate in and get our voices heard.

This report showcases the many opportunities that young people had and hopefully will continue in the future. I hope you enjoy reading the report and help spread the word about children being the future.



Ryan Bartolo



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INTRODUCTION

2018's Year of Young People was an initiative from the Scottish Government to showcase the skills and talents of our young people. The bold step focused on co-delivery of activities for young people by young people. This was evident throughout the year at local and national activities, campaigns and projects and the momentum began to grow and develop further. The year centred on 6 sub themes; Participation, Education, Health and Wellbeing, Equality and Discrimination, Enterprise and Regeneration, and Culture.

East Ayrshire was no different, with a programme of events that encouraged and inspired young people to participate and show that they are at the heart of everything we do and strive for within East Ayrshire.

A working group of young people were engaged and keen to bring new, fun and bold opportunities for participation and involvement. This working group was formed of young people from the newly established Children and Young People's Cabinet, the diverse group were from various localities, academies and backgrounds and were always keen to be involved.





Awards, Participatory Budgeting and Youth Conferences and still be extremely active with the Youth Cabinet and their personal lives.

Overall, the year was a great success and highlighted that we need to continue to listen to the future generations to give us new inspiring ideas and to create fantastic programmes for young people of our communities.



Due to ages of the steering group, consideration was given to meeting times and outside pressures such as school exam timetables which meant collaboration and co-delivery on all of the projects would have been extremely hard. To ensure continuous delivery, the steering group took the lead and were the driving force behind the larger events but gave their thoughts and feedback on smaller projects leaving East Ayrshire Council employees to progress the project with their suggestions. This co-delivery method meant young people could focus their attentions on what they would like for our Youth



ANNUAL HEARING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES CABINET

The inaugural meeting of the Children and Young People's Cabinet was held on 6th February 2018. The establishment of the Cabinet has enhanced the profile of our Children and Young People locally and has connected young people with East Ayrshire Council's Cabinet.



The Cabinet is made up of 2 representatives from all secondary schools within East Ayrshire, 3 ASN schools, 3 Children's Houses, FE representatives, Young Carers, LGBT+ representation, Young Employees and Modern Apprentices, 2 Junior Sports Council Members and voluntary organisations are also invited to send 2 representatives to become members, local forum reps and East Ayrshire Council's 3 Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament. The age range is from 13 to 22 at present but is open to all young people from 11 – 26 years of age.

Agendas are set by the young people involved prior to each meeting with requests from outside agencies and Council Departments for time slots to promote regular updates affecting young people both locally and nationally. The Joint Cabinet Meeting with the Full Council Cabinet was scheduled for August 2018 with conversations about Brexit, developing our communities and public transport. This great success will continue on a yearly basis into the future to ensure we continue to listen to young people.

In addition to the quarterly scheduled meetings, the Youth Cabinet were invited to Dumfries House to meet the Scottish First Minister: Nicola Sturgeon and her Touring Cabinet, where the Group met them with very relevant questioning taking place. The steering group were invited to a Joint Local Community Planning Partnership meeting and have now timetabled this as an Annual Meeting. Cabinet members have also participated in the National Transport Bill feedback, amongst many other varied meetings and presentations which has seen a huge rise in confidence in some of our members as well as learning new skills such as presenting and leading debates/talks/meetings etc.

2018 has been a particularly busy year for the Young People's Cabinet and as they grow in confidence and take on their roles as Portfolio Holders in line with their matching Council Cabinet Officers, the group will go from strength to strength. Certain events from the YOYP Plan have produced a legacy for young people to continue into the future.

“We met the Community Planning Partnership and it was really beneficial as we felt we were listened too, it was obvious they actually listened to us as we met again in November and they gave us feedback about what they have done since June! We have future meetings scheduled and it really shows they care about our opinions.”

Aimee Purdie

“My favourite bit was meeting so many new people, we were all given cabinet folios and through this I met with Eddie Fraser. He really explained what they were doing to help young people and he listened to our thoughts. I feel very empowered as he was listening to what I had to say”

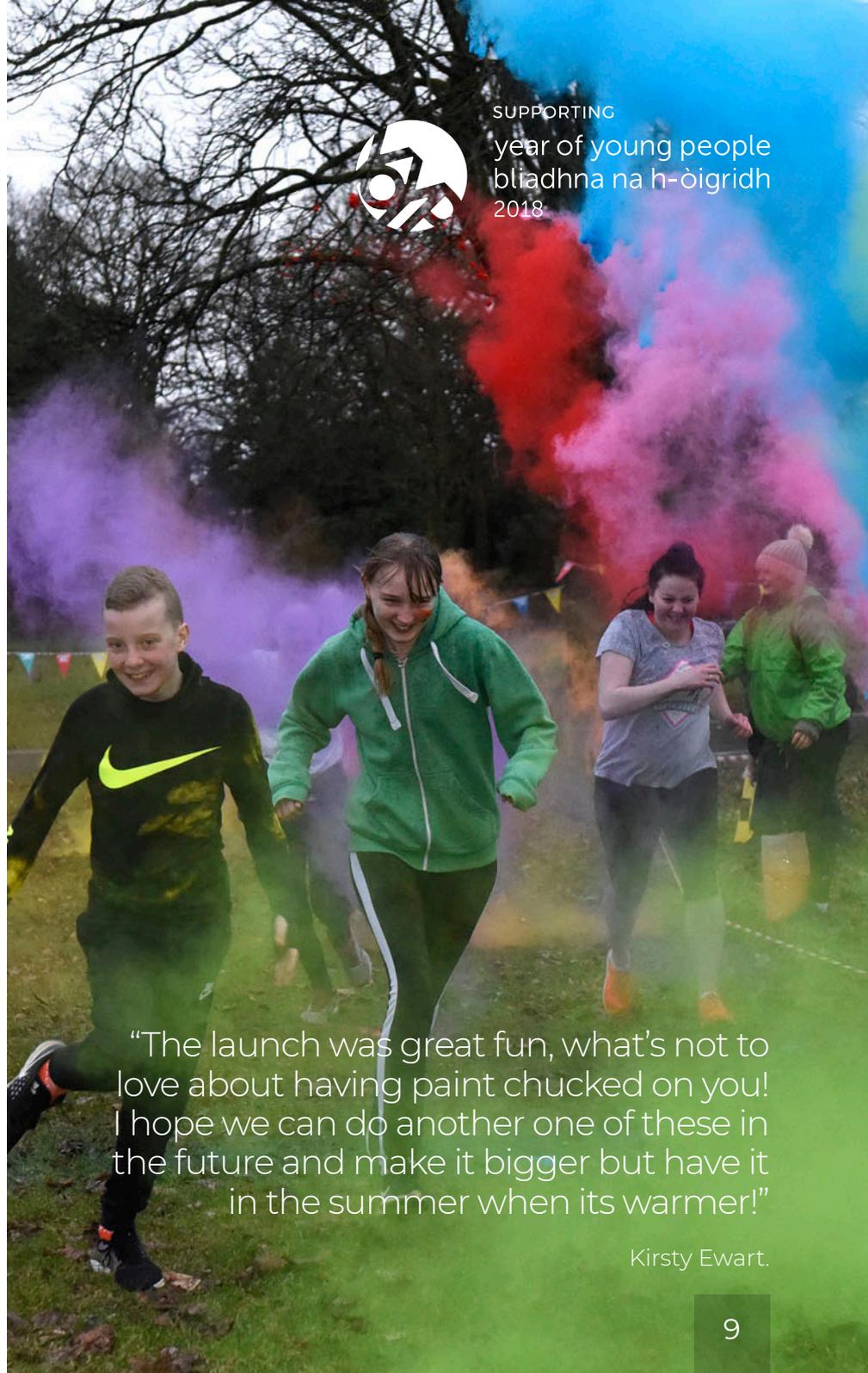
Terri Brown, SYP

THE OFFICIAL EAST AYRSHIRE 2018: YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE LAUNCH

To launch 2018, our steering group suggested having a Colour Run in Kilmarnock Town Centre with the aim to launch and highlight the year with colour and show the vibrancy of East Ayrshire's Young People. The event held in Howard Park was a success with approximately 100 young people participating.



The park, lined with helium balloons, glow sticks and bunting, was alight with colour, fun and many members of our communities. The Year was jointly launched with our Depute Provost East Ayrshires Children's Champion, Councillor Claire Leitch and Cameron Raeside a member of the YOYP steering group. We were also treated to some dancing by Grange Academy pupils and music by an aspiring Euan McIlvanney. Young People ran 2018 metres whilst being showered in colourful paint resulting in an event which was enjoyed by all the young people, if a little cold!



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“The launch was great fun, what’s not to love about having paint chucked on you! I hope we can do another one of these in the future and make it bigger but have it in the summer when its warmer!”

Kirsty Ewart.

Participation Subtheme:

This Subtheme encouraged young people to participate and become more involved in public services and decisions which affect their lives. Three projects to help encourage and developed young people's enthusiasm were noted as key projects for 2018.

Scottish Youth Parliament Sitting:

East Ayrshire hosted a Scottish Youth Parliament Sitting in October, the event was organised in partnership with the East Ayrshire's Youth Parliament Members and Vibrant Communities. Hosted at our newly established Ayrshire College, 190 young people participated on each of the days. East Ayrshire Council provided valuable support, running logistics of the weekend and provide Saturday evening's entertainment.

East Ayrshire's Scottish Youth Parliament Members chose to have a carnival theme for Saturday's entertainment which was delivered by Vibrant Communities Staff. The carnival included inflatables, carnival stalls, food and had a fantastic fun atmosphere.

88% of the participants said the sitting was very good or good.





“The staff who worked on all the equipment for the Saturday Evenings entertainment need a really well done having gone to all that effort”

“The entertainment on Saturday was the best entertainment, whoever you hired to run the entertainment did a great job”

“The sitting was great, there was a real buzz and my friends from around the country were talking about how good it was, I am so glad we had a fun carnival. It was one of the best”

Terri Brown



East Ayrshire's Junior Sports Council:

East Ayrshire's Junior Sport council was established in March and has a core group of 9 young members. The group, ranging in age from 11- 25yrs, are keen to shape sporting activities and be a voice for young people in sport. So far the group have been working with East Ayrshire's Sports Council and now have a member on the Sports Council Executive committee giving young people a voice and place to promote young people's rights. Since forming, the Junior Sports Council have re-shaped the Sports Council's training calendar to include junior coaching qualifications. This is a big step and will increase the numbers of coaches as well as increase capacity and opportunities for future generations.

The group are confident to be the leading way and ensure that young people in East Ayrshire who participate in sport either competitively or just for fun are able to do so in the best way possible.



East Ayrshire Leadership Academy:

The Leadership academy gives young people the opportunity to develop and build upon their skills and talents as well as gaining valuable qualifications. Across all Secondary schools, 28 young people achieved a National Sports Leaders Award which equips them with skills and the opportunity to progress as **SportScotland Young Ambassadors** within their school cluster as well as progress into a young workforce through volunteering and bank staff opportunities made available to them through Vibrant Communities. With the development of the Junior Sports Council, progress has been made to amalgamate leadership academy training opportunities with the Junior Sports Council.

sportscotland
the national agency for sport

Education Subtheme:

The aim of this subtheme is to create a stronger role for young people in shaping their learning, showcasing their contributions and new methods out with the traditional classrooms settings. These ventures were chosen to highlight the differing ways in which young people in East Ayrshire are learning;



Champions Showcase:

The Young People Awards Evening in December 2018 was a wonderful and very fitting end to a remarkable year. Young People were recognised for their achievements, diversity and civic contribution's to East Ayrshire.



The steering group worked to create a fantastic event held at Dumfries House, developing the categories, helping to shortlist and vote on category winners. In addition to this the group chose a wonderful theme and provided ideas for decoration, chose the meal and worked to ensure the evening was a great success. The event was hosted by Jim Todd, Provost of East Ayrshire and Ryan Chynoweth a member of the steering group, this is a great example of the partnership and co-delivery throughout 2018.



It was decided this event would showcase these talents and reward young people for their contributions. The evening was part funded by **Cashback for Communities** and each of the Awards were sponsored by local companies, reducing cost implications of the event. In addition to this, videos of the different nominations were created, shown at the event and will be used for future promotion and publicity of our special young people in East Ayrshire and to create a legacy of the day.



“My favourite event was the awards night, seeing young people get recognition and we got to meet the young people who are trying to make a difference in their community. The idea of celebrating young people at the end of the year was great as this brought down the stigma. I feel older generations tend to see the bad in young people but actually the awards night meant we can show all the good we have achieved.”

Aimee Purdie





Modern Apprenticeships:

Throughout 2018, the Housing and Communities Department within East Ayrshire Council made a commitment to appoint 20 Modern Apprentices giving young people an opportunity to learn and gain qualifications in a different setting than in the traditional School or College method.

This target was reached easily with 29 young people being employed across Outdoor Services, Housing Asset Services and Vibrant Communities. These young people will continue to work within East Ayrshire and while gaining various qualifications. The opportunities not only provides a place for young people to grow and learn but will cultivate the future workforce within East Ayrshire.

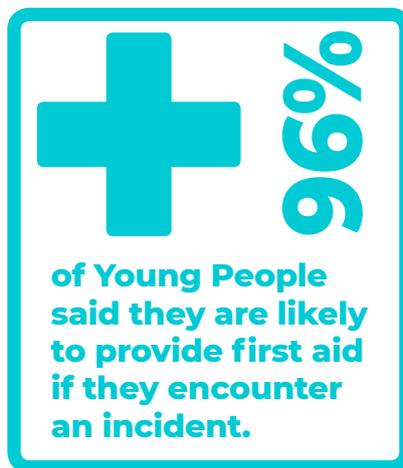


Educational Roadshows

Health and Wellbeing continues to be a big focus in East Ayrshire for young people and the extremely successful Educational Roadshows proved to be just as successful as previous years. These are delivered by Education's Health and Wellbeing Officers in partnership with various youth organisations across East Ayrshire. In 2018, 4 different roadshows were delivered to varying ages of young people in schools across East Ayrshire.

A Drugs and Alcohol roadshow was delivered to Secondary 3 pupils, which gave young people an insight into the effects of drugs and alcohol from life experiences and information about the dangers of New Psychoactive Substances as well as teaching valuable emergency first aid information.

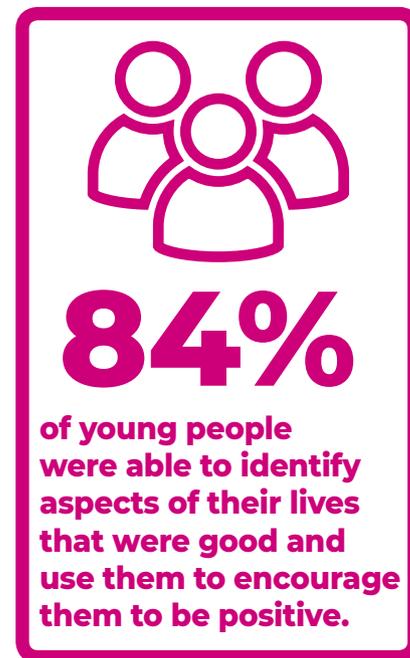
From this roadshow:



Mental Health and Wellbeing Roadshow

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Roadshow, in conjunction with a presentation from The Samaritans, delivered to Secondary 1 pupils taught young people about emotional intelligence and positive thinking as well as Samaritans support that is available to them.

From the workshop:





87%

of young people indicated they have been taught strategies to support themselves and others emotionally.



81%

of young people had learned techniques to support their mental wellbeing.

A Primary 7 Transition roadshow focused on wellbeing and safe choices and was delivered to various primaries throughout the authority. This focused on particular topics appropriate to the pupils such as bullying, safe choices, peer pressure and social media.

A No Knives Better Lives roadshow was also delivered to Secondary 3 pupils which focused on knife crime and encouraged young people to consider how they would react in various situations, promoting the ethos of No Knives Better lives.



No knives, better lives.



Health and Wellbeing Subtheme:

This subtheme aimed to support young people to lead healthier, active lives and have opportunities to learn about rights and responsibilities. Projects that incorporate youth voice, youth engagement and peer education were proposed;

Youth Conferences

2018's Youth Conferences were held during National Youth Work Week in November and were once again organised and delivered by the steering group. Having indicated they would like to see more delivery from young people with the event more engaging the group undertook various stages of the planning to develop a consultation and decide on a fantastic topic looking at the United Nations Rights of the Child. This topic would allow them to incorporate various issues that are affecting the young people of East Ayrshire whilst still encouraging a greater understanding on the Rights of the Child and the importance of their opinions in the Year of Young People.

With 230 young people across the 2 youth conferences, the steering group ran a programme of events that engaged everyone in activities and even allowed for attendees to hear from local budding young musicians. The Cabinet ran various workshops with the support of Vibrant Communities staff and Police Scotland. Each day was incredibly well organised and showcased the skills of the steering group with their delivery.



East Ayrshire's Youth Conferences, continue to provide a platform for Health and Wellbeing topics to be discussed in an informal but educational setting. The Conferences are part funded by Cash Back for Communities and invite all Secondary Establishments and Education Groups to send pupils to the Senior or Junior Youth Conferences.

“At the conferences I was asked to speak and do the icebreaker with Sinead. I was really nervous but it made me enjoy the conference more as I really felt part of it”

Kirsty Ewart



Junior Youth Conference Feedback

CONFIDENCE



81%

felt that they were more confident

INVOLVEMENT



90%

felt that they are more involved in their school or community

TEAM WORK



88%

felt they had improved their team work skills

RESPONSIBLE



85%

felt that they are a more responsible person

COMMUNICATIONS



83%

felt they have improved their communication skills

EMPLOYMENT



75%

felt they have improved their chances of employment

Senior Youth Conference Feedback

CONFIDENCE



75%

felt that they were more confident

INVOLVEMENT



79%

felt that they are more involved in their school or community

TEAM WORK



88%

felt they had improved their team work skills

RESPONSIBLE



66%

felt that they are a more responsible person

COMMUNICATIONS



93%

felt they have improved their communication skills

EMPLOYMENT



69%

felt they have improved their chances of employment



3 Peer Education Groups

Throughout the year, Vibrant Communities Young People’s Mentors have worked and built up 3 Peer Education Groups across the Academies. These groups of young people took forward issues that directly affected them including Mental Health, Alcohol and Smoking. The young people involved were all young people who were at risk of being socially isolated and/or excluded from their educational establishment. Building rapport with the young people and encouraging them to participate in this group meant the Young People were supported and encouraged to be proud of their abilities.

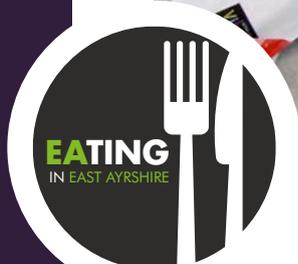
The groups came together to attend a National Year of Young People Residential in Port Glasgow.

Over the weekend, the young people were given the opportunity to create an interactive presentation and present to an audience. This was great achievement for the young people involved. From this programme, some of the young people are now volunteering with Vibrant Communities which is a positive step and a direct result of the support provided by the Young people’s Mentors.



Equality and Discrimination subtheme:

This subtheme will challenge the negative perceptions of young people and support young people to take leading roles in challenging discrimination as well as supporting vulnerable young people to be strong empowered individuals.



Holiday Lunches

During the holiday period Vibrant Communities continued the provision of free lunches which were gratefully received by participants and grew from strength to strength. The aim to provide nutritious, healthy lunches to children and families across East Ayrshire as well as delivery of positive activities over holiday periods, providing support with holiday hunger to families and

encouraging engagement in positive activities on offer in some of the most deprived areas across East Ayrshire.

Holiday lunches were distributed through Active School provisions, Youth Clubs, Home Link Workers, Youth Action Team delivery (YAT) and Play Team activities.

Youth work partner organisations who were offering free activities and working in partnership with Vibrant Communities also received free lunches.

East Ayrshire Council distributed 14,300 lunches over Easter, Summer and October holidays in 2018, an extensive number which far exceeded expectations. It was found that any additional lunches on the day were absorbed by families who would gladly take the additional foods to continue to feed their children and families.

This programme will continue in 2019 which hopes to continue reducing the holiday hunger across East Ayrshire.



90%
of young people said they improved confidence by attending holiday programmes

Holiday lunches uptake	
Easter	2000 lunches
Summer	10,500 lunches
October	1800 lunches



LGBT Empowerment Residential

In February, our LGBT+ Youth Groups and local area youth forums attended a residential at Inverclyde Sports and Fitness Centre. In addition to members of these groups there was also representation from Duke of Edinburgh groups, a Member of SYP and East Ayrshire's Young People's Cabinet. This diverse group of young people led to some interesting and fantastic discussions. The programme was developed with the Galston Youth Forum who provided various workshops about public speaking, committee skills and presentation skills. These workshops, once all delivered gave attendees the skills to create and deliver a presentation on a topic that was important to them.

Young People were given free rein to work in groups or give individual presentations which meant they were all extremely varied, the topics chosen were; Gender Inequality, The Suffragettes, The Phonetic Alphabet, Personal LGBT+ Journeys, Peer Pressure and The Residential Experience.

Overall the Residential was enjoyed by all young people:



CONFIDENCE



96%

felt that they were more confident

COMMUNICATIONS



92%

felt they have improved their communication skills

TEAM WORK



93%

felt they had improved their team work skills

White Ribbon Campaign Pledge

The Active School's Competitive Sports Calendar signed up to promote the White Ribbon Campaign and ensure pupils were more aware of the pledges that can be made. White Ribbon branded sporting bibs were issued and were worn at all 22 of the Competitive sports calendar events in 2018.



CONFIDENCE



73%

improved in confidence as a result of the sports calendar competition.

TEAM WORK



97%

felt they had improved their team work skills

PARTICIPATION



94%

said they had fun

Enterprise and Regeneration Subtheme:

The aim of this subtheme was to celebrate young people's role in innovation, entrepreneurship and the Scottish economy. In East Ayrshire we are keen that young people are able to give their views on how money is spent as well as taking positive action themselves to raise money as young entrepreneurs.

Participatory Budgeting

East Ayrshire Council's Vibrant Communities applied to the Scottish Government's Community Choices fund for money to run Participatory Budgeting Events linked to the Health and Social Care Partnership. As 2018 was the Year of Young People, it was agreed that half of the funding should be allocated to events for young people.

The YOYP steering Group took on the co-delivery of this project, agreeing on criteria, event types and voting systems. The group also made decisions about age restrictions and having their opinions listened to was a milestone for many of the young people, knowing



that adults would not dismiss what they were saying giving them an incredible insight into democracy and the importance of their vote. Over the 3 PB events, 34 Projects shared £60,000 which would be used on Youth activities in 2018 for young people.

“The Participatory Budgeting project was my favourite part of the year. We were able to steer everything, writing criteria and help behind the scenes. It was really interesting how it big events are organised. It felt like we were one team.”

Terri Brown

Enterprise Challenge

Youth provisions within the Vibrant Communities Service were given the opportunity to take part in a “seed investment” challenge of £50 and use this money to create a profit. 9 youth groups took on the task to fundraise money for their youth groups. By participating, young people learned skills in fund raising, money management and how to organise an event from start to finish. The activities varied from Halloween parties, Christmas fayres and fundraising with raffles and creating products to sell. In total the groups made a fantastic £694. The groups will now choose to reinvest their monies or spend it on something fun for up and coming term.



Youth Work Network Funding

East Ayrshire's Youth Work Network set up a grant scheme for affiliated members. The grants were devised to support local groups to create and host innovative events in their communities as well as training opportunities. This scheme would allow smaller organisations to run specific events for Year of Young People and encourage a greater understanding of co-production and working with young people to develop programmes. The Youth Work Network has continued to grow in members throughout the year and all members were encouraged to take part in the grant scheme. Throughout the year, grants were distributed to a third of the members with a total of £2550 being awarded.





In addition to this, the Youth Work Network, decided to buy a number of event shelters which would be available to all affiliated organisations to use on request. These shelters are fantastic resource and can be used when the weather turns to rain allowing positive outdoor play to continue to run. So far these shelters have been used by several of their members and are a valuable asset.

This investment from Youth Work Network will continue into 2019.



£2550
IN GRANTS
AWARDED

Culture Subtheme:

This subtheme celebrates the talents and contribution to Scottish culture and arts as well as promoting our local area and local people.

Intergenerational Project

An application to the Lottery Heritage fund was awarded for an Intergenerational Project to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the First World War. The Project brought together 4 older adults in their 60's and 70's and 8 young people who ranged from 15-20 years of age.

Throughout the project the group mixed with one another, sharing stories and learning about the First World War as well as learn from the extensive knowledge that the different generations held. Together the group steered the direction of the project, learning about areas of interest such as trenches and weapons, local war hero's and loved ones who were left at home.

The group, along with 2 Vibrant Communities staff, visited the Somme in France over the commemorative weekend in November 2018. The group visited battlefields, trenches and a significant number of war graves. On November 11th the group participated in a commemorative service at the Theipval Memorial creating a strong bond of friendship and understanding during an emotional ceremony. The weekend was enjoyed by all and everyone learned a great deal. Throughout the visit the group created Vlogs which explained the emotional rollercoaster they had been on. This was turned into a short film about the project to give others the understanding all about the war. Some of the participants shared their thoughts:

“I had a fantastic time on the trip with good company, but found it very emotional. Young People are great fun and they made me laugh and helped me throughout the weekend.”

Marion Rodgers 66

“I feel it will be easier to approach older people and people I don't know”

Sophie Boyd 17



“I really enjoyed the France trip because of the different people I met throughout the project. It was real. I learnt so much about the people who fought and the older people’s lives were really fascinating. I feel more confident since going on the trip, I can speak to more people and not feel I need to stay in the house.”

Sinead McBride 15

“It was amazing getting to be apart of a once in a lifetime opportunity, this was my first time abroad and i will definitely going to more countries in the future.”

Chloe Campbell 20

 
LOTTERY FUNDED

Cultural Workshops

As part of the Cultural Workshops, a photography project was established on the Year of Young People's Instagram account. Through consultation with the steering group they indicated they would like the project to be fully on Social Media and show East Ayrshire through a young person's eyes. Through this project social media 'followers' grew to almost three hundred who were interacting with the account. The project had over 30 entries with images of insects, people and views of East Ayrshire's countryside. Young People were extremely creative with their images.

The project was led by our steering group who taught East Ayrshire Employees how best to run the competition on social media. The Children and Young People's Cabinet chose 2 winners who each won a pocket sized printer.

The images that won were: "Nice time of the year to be picking brambles" and "Not all who wander are lost"

"We were able to get more young people involved in the photo competition, I liked being able to see what they thought of East Ayrshire"

Terri Brown



Gaelic Awareness Day (*Mothachadh air Gàidhlig batha*)

In November, James Hamilton Primary School, and Sgoil na Coille Nuaidh celebrated a cultural Gaelic day teaching pupils throughout the new James Hamilton primary school simple phrases such as good morning, hello, and my name is...

The day encouraged the newly amalgamated Primary School pupils to learn about the Gaelic learning base and ensure that pupils at James Hamilton Academy had an understanding of the different culture. Simple phrases will now encourage more inclusivity of the Gaelic Learning base within the school.

Gaelic primary school pupils also performed at assembly to the rest of the school, teaching their peers about colours and numbers in Gaelic. Pupils were treated to a performance from Eilidh Cormach, a Gaelic singer from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, a Community based Gaelic arts group. Eilidh spent time teaching pupils new songs and phrases throughout the day, as well specific time just for the Gaelic learners. The school also had a visit from BBC Alba who created a news article that was broadcast on the following day.

Youth Engagement Masterclasses

To build on the importance of the Youth Voice in East Ayrshire and encourage more young people to be aware of their civic contributions and responsibility, a workshop was created in partnership with young people from Kilmarnock Young Carers. The workshop would encourage young people to be more aware of the United Nations Rights of the Child, enthuse a greater understanding that young people have the right to be taken seriously and have their voices heard.

The workshop questioned the Young People's knowledge of youth voice structures in schools in their community and signposted young people to participate in their local area youth forum, or Children and Young People's Cabinet. There was even discussion about becoming a Scottish Youth Parliament Member.

The workshop was delivered by Vibrant Communities and Barnardos to youth groups and from these workshops:

100%	said they were more aware of their rights
86%	said they felt more involved in their community
86%	said they felt a more responsible person after the workshop

"I see myself educating others and starting a pupil council"

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS OUT WITH THE PLAN

Throughout the year, the momentum of Year of Young People grew and additional projects were supported and celebrated.

Many of these projects were to awareness days celebrated over social media or by creating photo opportunities such as flying the flag. In addition to these, East Ayrshire welcomed an Austrian school group visit in July. The teenage pupils were learning English and touring Scotland. A tour of East Ayrshire and William McIlvanney Campus was provided which gave the steering group members an opportunity to participate and meet people from overseas.

Time capsule

The finale piece of Year of Young People, was a time capsule being buried in the grounds of Dumfries House. The time capsule filled with memories from an eventful year such as a photobook, leaflets, brochures and merchandise, were all sealed in the capsule. The event, similar to the launch was a windy, cold day but the steering group, Fiona Lees, Depute Provost and members of staff from Vibrant Communities who were the driving force behind the year and were happy to celebrate one last time. Depute Provost and Children's Champion Councillor Claire Leitch along with 2 steering group members said a few words to mark the special occasion.

The time capsule will be opened in 50 years time 2068 to show how the world has developed and changed dramatically over time.

“The time capsule was so cold and windy but I am glad we were able to commemorate this fantastic year for children and young people for the future!”

Ryan Bartolo





SUPPORTING Year of young people 2018 bliadhna na h-òigridh eav/ian/communities @eayoy2018 @vibranteac

IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Throughout 2018, the Young People, Sport and Diversion Team and Play and Early Intervention Team part of the Vibrant Communities Services have continued to work with children and young people delivering services that promote positive play, active and healthy lifestyles and giving children and young people engaging opportunities to participate in.



20,461
YOYP
attendances
at programmes
across the
authority
in 2018.



2829

volunteering hours were recorded by young people participating with Vibrant Communities



365

young people participated in Consultations for YOYP



91%

of young people noted their communication skills had increased by participating in YOYP activities



95%

of young people noted their teamwork skills had increased by participating in YOYP activities.



100%

of Children and Young People Cabinet members noted their confidence increased as a direct result of YOYP



92%

of young people noted their confidence had increased by participating in YOYP activities

STEERING GROUP THOUGHTS:

My confidence has come on so much from working on loads of things this year. I am able to leave the house and speak to people, I feel comfortable talking to people and not embarrassed. I am making life decisions now and the support I get from here is helping me loads. I have just left school and am going to college to do mechanics.

Sinead McBride

I wasn't part of the Youth Cabinet at the start of the year but I heard about it from a friend and started coming along. The youth cabinet has got me involved in so much. I enjoyed planning the youth conferences and the awards night. I have definitely got a lot more confident, at the start I was so quiet and now I just say what I want as I trust they will listen. I have made loads of new friends too. I think we should continue to do this, get young people involved in doing projects. I definitely want to be part of it. I am hoping to get into volunteering with Vibrant Communities this year. I can't wait!

Kirsty Ewart

I have enjoyed the fact we got to interact with Young People across East Ayrshire, and we got to be part of decision making and we had a real chance to have our say in loads of activities for teenagers. I am so much more confident, it has given me the confidence to run as a Scottish Youth Parliament Member in coming elections. In the past I would have shied away from it. I also have a better understanding of what's



happening in the council too. I am considering volunteering. Through this it has opened up my options and the work with the Children and Young People's Cabinet and YOYP steering group.

Aimee Purdie

My favourite part was the cabinet meetings as I met people I can share interests with. My confidence has increased as I can speak out about things that affect me and others that I know. People are listening to me and it feels quite fulfilling!"

Ryan Bartolo

FUTURE AND LEGACY

Year of Young People has been an incredible year, Young People across East Ayrshire have participated in projects, collaborated with East Ayrshire Employees and learned about their rights, responsibilities and importantly learned the value of their contribution to East Ayrshire's future. For this reason, it is essential we continue to celebrate the success of the year into 2019 and beyond encouraging young people to continue to speak up and have their voices heard.

To help build on this, it is planned that the Year of Young People Steering Group will continue to meet monthly out with the planned Children and Young People's Cabinet. The group will be the driving force and voice behind the larger youth events within Vibrant Communities, helping to organise and deliver Youth Conferences and future events. The group will continue to develop the skills from the last year with opportunities to develop budgeting and management skills as well as bringing new members to the group to ensure the momentum continues for future years. All of the cabinet members noted an improvement in their confidence, in public speaking and they all have a passion to organise events and drive forward youth work in East Ayrshire, we will help to harness these skills for the future and improve our programmes by doing so.

During 2018, Young People highlighted that volunteering for young people should be more readily available, introducing opportunities for young people under 16 and encouraging the development of skills into the future. This will be a future objective to build and develop the opportunities available to young people ensuring they are aware and understand how to become involved in volunteering.

Many of the projects and events from 2018 will continue to grow and improve the lives of young people in East Ayrshire. Free holiday lunches will be provided again during school holiday periods, Educational Roadshows, Youth Conferences and peer education groups will all be prominent in the future delivery with young people.

It is also hoped we will continue to celebrate the achievements of East Ayrshire's Young People with another fantastic awards evening.





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2018

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