

---

**Young People and Community Planning Proposal**

---

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Local Area Community Planning Groups have been established to encourage community engagement and increase the involvement of communities in the Community Planning process.
- 1.2 There has been noteworthy success with the community events, which attracted significant numbers of participants from a wide cross section of the local community; however continued and ongoing efforts to engage with all sections of the local community will be required to make this process a success.
- 1.3 Although young people were present at the community event, they are under represented in most stages of the Community Planning process. This is not a criticism but rather a reflection of how the process is implemented – formal meetings, jargon, agendas which may appear irrelevant to young people, daytime meetings when they are at school/college/work etc.
- 1.4 Young people are valuable members of our communities, both in terms of the roles they currently fulfil and the potential they have to shape the future –

*“Organising public services around the needs and aspirations of service users and citizens is fundamental in our approach to reforming public services. Children and young people are an important and challenging group in this. Involving them now is an investment in the future of our public services, ensuring that they are responsive to our changing needs in coming years, but also an investment in citizenship for Scotland.”*

***Engaging Young People in Community Planning 2006***

**2. PROPOSAL**

- 2.1 To facilitate the involvement of young people in the Local Area Community Planning Groups by holding one meeting (or the main part of the meeting,) per year, which will be given over to youth issues and the views of young people? The meeting will be titled “Youth Focus” and the agenda will be set by young people and youth workers from the LACPG area.
- 2.2 Youth services staff will co-ordinate and support young people and youth work providers to programme the meeting with a mixture of examples of good practice/positive developments and local issues that are causing young people from Bute and Cowal concern.

- 2.3 The content of the programme will be decided from discussions involving young people and staff from local schools, Youth Forums, Youth Groups and other youth work providers in Bute and Cowal.
- 2.4 Ideally, young people will lead the session and the intention will be to give them as prominent position as possible in the presentations and discussion. Youth workers will also explore with young people different formats for expressing views and getting views across (video, powerpoint, photos etc,) to maximise the participation of young people.
- 2.5 The advantage of this model is it provides a clear structure for young people and youth work providers to link into Community Planning. It is cost effective and offers a link between youth democracy activities such as Youth Forums and School Councils to Community Planning.
- 2.6 Some people will no doubt ask why have a youth meeting rather than any other section of the community? However, if you look at the representation at LACPG meetings most sections of society are either directly or indirectly represented at the table. For various reasons, young people have little or no opportunity to feed into the structures.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Bute and Cowal Local Area Community Planning Group is asked to agree to pilot a "Youth Focus" meeting at the LACPG meeting scheduled in November 2010.

### 4. IMPLICATIONS

<b>Policy</b>	The Youth Focus meeting is consistent with CPP policy and the Community Engagement Strategy.
<b>Financial</b>	A small amount of funding may be required for transport.
<b>Personnel</b>	There are no personnel implications for this project.
<b>Equal Opportunities</b>	None
<b>Legal</b>	None

**Martin Turnbull**  
**Youth Services Manager**  
**Community and Culture**  
**26<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**For further information please contact Martin Turnbull, Youth Services Manager, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ Tel: 01369 708542**