

YOUTH SERVICES – YOUTH STRATEGY

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information to Elected Members of the developments within Argyll and Bute Youth Services, to highlight recent service activity and to outline the detail of the National Youth Work Strategy and Youth Work Outcomes.
- 1.2 The report will advise Elected Members of the publication of national outcomes, including the implementation model in support of the National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019, 'Our ambitions for improving the life chances of young people in Scotland'.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:-

- a. Note the current development of Youth Services and the publication of The National Youth Work Strategy (Our ambitions for improving the life chances of Young People in Scotland.);
- b. Note progress within Argyll and Bute in achieving the ambitions of the Strategy, and
- c. Endorse the adoption by Youth Services of the new National Youth Work outcomes.

YOUTH SERVICES – YOUTH STRATEGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. The Argyll and Bute Council's Youth Services team was established in 2010 following the Best Value Review of Community Learning and Development (CLD). The team was located within a new department - Leisure and Youth Services (Community and Culture).
- 3.2. A subsequent Education Management Review recommended that the management of Youth Services be placed in Education and the relocation of the Youth Services team to the Learning and Achievement Team in Education was completed in 2015.
- 3.3. Youth Services currently have CLD Youth Workers attached to 9 of the 10 secondary schools in Argyll and Bute, working directly with young people to develop a range of informal and curriculum based learning opportunities. CLD Youth Workers (Primary) in Helensburgh and Oban also target work with pupils in the upper end of primary schools and lower secondary school: aged 8 to 12.
- 3.4. The National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019; 'Our ambitions for improving the life chances of young people in Scotland' advocates that: 'All young people should have access to high quality and effective youth work practice' and sets out 5 key ambitions shown below at section 5.2.

Progress towards these ambitions and the outcomes associated with them are already well developed in Argyll and Bute. This is illustrated in Appendix 1.

- 3.5. To support the implementation of the Strategy a nationally agreed suite of outcomes has been developed. Appendix 2 shows these outcomes within the context of National Policy and practice.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:-

- a. Note the current development of Youth Services and the publication of The National Youth Work Strategy (Our ambitions for improving the life chances of Young People in Scotland.);

- b. Note progress within Argyll and Bute in achieving the ambitions of the Strategy, and
- c. Endorse the adoption by Youth Services of the new National Youth Work outcomes.

5.0 DETAIL

5.1 The National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019; 'Our ambitions for improving the life chances of young people in Scotland' builds on the previous strategy and reinforces Youthlink Scotland's statement on the nature and purpose of youth work, specifically to:-

- Build self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Develop the ability to manage personal and social relationships;
- Create learning and develop new skills;
- Encourage positive group atmospheres;
- Build the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control, and
- Develop a 'world view' which widens horizons and invites social commitment.

Youth Services integrated the Youthlink Scotland's statement on the nature and purpose of youth work into service planning and have made good progress in delivering programmes that contribute to achieving the outcomes detailed above. Capacity building activities such as residentials, involvement training, Young Leader Training and Youth Bank have given young people the opportunity to learn new skills, broaden their experiences and meet new people. Youth Forums encourage and support young people to identify issues in their community, collectively voice their opinion and organise events including the AB Awards (a celebration of youth achievement), the Big Day Out (an annual youth festival) and international exchanges. Youth Workers in schools have contributed positively to wider achievement, curriculum delivery and supporting pupils most at risk of disengaging. As the main provider of Trusted Professionals for young people without a positive destination, Youth Services team members are working directly with some of the most disenfranchised young people in our communities.

5.2 The National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019; 'Our ambitions for improving the life chances of young people in Scotland' has five key ambitions:-

- Ensure Scotland is the best place to be young and grow up in;
- Put young people at the heart of the policy;
- Recognise the value of youth work;
- Build workforce capacity, and
- Ensure we measure our impact.

The Youth Services service plan is currently being reviewed to incorporate the new National Youth Work Outcomes and the National Youth Work Strategy's key ambitions. A good track record and foundation exists to realise the key

ambitions; however increasing the involvement of young people in influencing and setting of policy is at an early stage and will require significant input. The relocation of Youth Services into Education has increased the profile and status of youth work and further planned realignments will create opportunities for further work in Developing Young Workforce. Building workforce capacity includes our third sector youth work partners and initial discussions have taken place to establish improved joint data collection, evaluation and training.

- 5.3 The strategy also notes that the introduction of the 'Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partners: Community Learning and Development' (June 2012) and the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 'provide a platform for work with young people to be recognised as a key and distinctive component of our present and future agenda for young people.'
- 5.4 There are 7 nationally agreed outcomes for young people through youth work. They form a suite of outcomes that can be achieved in a range of youth work contexts and practices. They are not interdependent nor found in every context, but neither are they mutually exclusive. Youth work methodology recognises that outcomes for individual young people come as a result of a negotiated process between the young person and youth workers as partners in a learning process. The outcomes are:-
- Young people are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future;
 - Young people manage personal, social and formal relationships;
 - Young people create, describe and apply their learning and skills
 - Young people participate safely and effectively in groups;
 - Young people consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control;
 - Young people express their voice and demonstrate social commitment, and
 - Young people's perspectives are broadened through new experiences and thinking.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 A youth work approach and methodology, together with the relationship youth workers develop with young people, makes a significant contribution in schools to the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and in preparing young people for their future.
- 6.2 Youth work contributes to a number of targets set out in the Single Outcome Agreement. In particular:
- Those improving positive destinations for young people;
 - Those improving the health and well-being of young people, and
 - Those seeking to improve communities.
- 6.3 Youth Services principal aim is to work with young people to improve their life chances through learning, personal development and active citizenship. However the definitive features of youth work and the outcomes it achieves intersect with many areas of policy, including, but not limited to:-

- Education;
- Health and Wellbeing;
- Social Justice and Inequalities;
- Employment;
- Democratic Participation, Civic Participation and Citizenship;
- Criminal Justice;
- Community Safety;
- Sport and Physical Activity;
- Environment;
- Play, Arts, Culture and Creativity, and
- Community Empowerment.

6.4 Implementation of the National Youth Work Strategy and Youth Work Outcomes will positively influence service delivery in Argyll and Bute.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Policy – Adoption of the Youth Work Outcomes will assist the Council to demonstrate compliance with Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013. Youth Services directly links to the achievement of SOA outcomes 1,3,4 and 6.

7.2 Financial - None

7.3 Legal - None

7.4 HR - None

7.5 Equalities - Youth work opportunities will be all accessible, equitable and inclusive for all young people – this is explicit in the Statement of Ambition and in youth work practice.

7.6 Risk - None

7.7 Customer Service - None

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Argyll and Bute progress against Youth Strategy Ambition and Outcomes.

Appendix 2 – Youth Work Outcomes within the context of national policy and practice.