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## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** Argyll and Bute Dialogue Youth was a pathfinder project for what has become a national initiative more than five years ago. Dialogue Youth is the Partnership between Young Scot, COSLA, local authorities, the Scottish Government and young people.

The idea is that young people have a real and effective say in all the services that effect them, how they are designed and delivered, as well as what's still needed in our communities. Dialogue Youth is not a 'project' or a short term answer, it's a whole new approach to connecting with young people and encouraging them to be informed and active citizens. It is modern active citizenship, connecting young people with their communities and giving them a real chance to engage, inform and influence

Argyll and Bute Dialogue Youth has developed over the last six years with different co-ordinators, government initiatives, funding and policies; however the priorities for young people in Argyll and Bute has remained the same.

The 2007 Dialogue Youth conference 'Looking at the Role of Dialogue Youth in Argyll and Bute' was held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November in Drimsynie Hotel, Lochgoilhead. The theme of the conference was picked after consultation with partner organisations and young people who were confused about the role Argyll and Bute Young Scot/ Dialogue Youth could play.

Eighty five delegates attended over the two days, of which 43 were young people from all four areas of Argyll and Bute. Partners included representatives from Strathclyde Police, NHS Highland, Careers Scotland, ACHA, Fire and Rescue, Argyll and Bute Council, Choose Life, Fyfe Community Learning and Regeneration, Perth and Kinross Dialogue Youth and National Young Scot.

The aims of the conference were to

- Have fun
- Give young people and professionals the opportunity to discuss issues, voice their concerns and identify ways of addressing local and national issues.
- Enable young people to discuss and explore issues that

- effect them in a safe environment
- Focus on six areas of interest to young people
  - Health Lifelong Learning
  - Leisure            Employment
  - Transport        Housing
- To promote Dialogue Youth and the work it does for young people living in Argyll and Bute.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

**2.1** The conference programme included a play by Naomi Breeze entitled 'H is 4', presentations by Fyfe Community Learning and regeneration and Perth and Kinross Dialogue Youth and Fire and Rescues 'Cut it Out' programme; however it is the outcomes of the discussions on young peoples priorities which will shape the aims and objective for Dialogue Youth for 2008/2009

Previous conferences and consultations have looked at the priorities for young people living in Argyll and Bute and as these have not changed for a number of years (we did some surveys online to confirm this) we decided to look at these priorities in a bit more detail. Recommendations made by young people for each priority were:

### Health

- Youth Café's in all areas of Argyll and Bute
- More drop ins run by young people friendly health professionals
- Trained health peer educators working in schools and communities
- Improve sexual health information in schools
- Subsidise cost of facilities
- Improve access to facilities for young people, i.e. out with school hours
- Restrict where you can smoke around youth clubs/ cafes etc
- Discounts on healthy foods
- Visiting hours in hospitals more flexible

### Leisure

- Better promotion of activities so that everyone knows about it.
- An events diary for Young People
- Continuation and expansion of Splashdown
- More activities focused on young girls, not just sports.
- Later opening times for youth clubs.
- Somewhere provided where young people can just 'hang out'
- Late night football/ netball for young people.

### Transport

- Additional training for young drivers/ Young drivers schemes
- Continuation and expansion of Splashdown
- Provide mini buses for all villages and towns
- Later running of ferries
- Discount on Cal Mac ferries
- Discounts for young people who travel on public transport regularly
- Improve the roads
- Free/ discounted driving lessons
- Dial a bus for young people
- Transport groups involved in Community Planning
- Raise the age at which you have to pay adult fares on buses and ferries
- Training for bus drivers to make them more young people friendly and inform them of any discounts they are entitled to

#### Lifelong Learning

- Free internet access for online college courses
- More services added to Young Scot card
- Support with transport to college and university
- Provide life skills courses in schools
- More financial support for young people from rural areas going on to further education
- Provide video learning for young people with disabilities
- Support employers who employ local young people in providing on the job training

#### Employment

- More assistance given in job centres
- A youth support worker in job centres
- CV and application help out with schools
- More access to computers both in and out of schools
- More information on volunteering through schools
- More/better advertising of jobs
- More/ better employment transport
- More apprenticeships for young people
- Notice board or magazine dedicated to jobs/ training for young people
- Lower the age for getting a job

#### Housing

- Build more Houses
- Build more single occupancy houses
- Accommodation for groups of young people willing to share
- Relax planning/ building laws
- Improve play facilities
- More opportunity for shared ownership/ renting
- Provide money management for young tenants
- Provide more community areas
- Encourage elderly to relocate to smaller houses, freeing up  $\frac{3}{4}$  bedroom houses for families.
- Include information on 1st tenancy in school curriculum

- Support for young people setting up home on their own
- Better soundproofing when building new properties

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1** The 2007 Dialogue Youth Conference proved to be a great success with many young people and partners saying by the end they had a greater understanding of Dialogue Youth and the recourses available to them.

A lot has changed since the last conference which was held in 2005; Cashless Catering has been rolled out to now ten schools, with just Oban remaining. The new National Entitlement card has been launched with just over 1000 16- 19 year olds already signed up. We have added free school transport and Helensburgh 21 onto our Young Scot card.

The website has gone from strength to strength with now more than 3500 hits per month, we have also added our own bebo pages with 61 friends already added. Our new technology includes podcasting, text messaging and an online consultation toolkit. We have launched WOW, an online youth opportunities database and we have been involved in many projects including the Young Drivers Project, the Young Scot Awards, the National and Local Youth Work Strategy.

Some of these developments were a direct result of comments and suggestions made at the last conference, young people commented that they had seen positive changes and progress, although there is room for more. They came up with some great recommendations which will help shape our plan for the coming year.

For further information contact: Roanna Taylor

Telephone: 01546 600035