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**Argyll and Bute Community Planning  
Partnership**

**CPP Management Committee  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010**



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**Youth Focus Update**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** The idea of Youth Focus is to enable young people to be better equipped to participate in the Community Planning process. Giving them skills and knowledge to engage more constructively; avoiding adult making assumptions on their behalf.

Youth Focus mirrors the full Community Planning Partnership by holding meetings four times a year, two weeks prior to the full partnership and discusses the same agenda, but in a young people friendly manner. The meeting is chaired by young people and is creative and interactive. At the end of each meeting, two reps are picked to attend the full partnership; with support, to put across the views of young people. They then feed back through the Young Scot website, to Youth Forums and youth groups and at the next meeting.

Youth Focus has held four meeting throughout 2008/2009. A total of 85 Young people have attended form the four areas of Argyll and Bute either through the Youth Forum, Pupil School Councils, the HELP project, Youth Projects, SYP or Young Scot. The quality of participation at these meetings has been extremely high.

Since the first meeting; Youth Focus has covered an introduction to Community Planning, equal opportunities and Community Engagement. Eight young people have been supported to attend the full partnership meetings or CPP seminars as representatives for Youth Focus.

- 2.1** Developing a participation culture takes time although Youth Focus has made some great progress and needs to continue the momentum, building on the experience and confidence of the young people who have been involved

Youth Focus is still in the early stages, and more work is needed to ensure the young people and partners get the most out of the

process. It has been recognised that more work needs to be done in the local areas preparing young people for attending meetings to make Youth Focus as productive as possible. The young people need to not only understand why they are attending, but also need to ensure they understand the needs and views of young people from their area/ interest group.

We have also missed a meeting which should have been held in early October, this has been due to the high workload of Young Scot, and a lack of time to organise. It is recognised that time, effort and commitment of resources are required to achieve worthwhile engagement.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

**3.1** With Community engagement at the heart of Community Planning, and young people being an important part of our communities, Youth Focus has an important role to play in Argyll and Bute, it has an important role to play in strengthening the ability of young people to engage in Community Planning.

Although a lot more work is needed, the feedback has been very positive, both from young people taking part and partners. With the issues we face in Argyll and Bute, Youth Focus as part of the wider community engagement strategy is an appropriate and valuable tool. It is hoped that Youth Focus will provide a sustainable structure for ongoing engagement, allowing a real sharing of power in decision making.

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