

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2019

THE YEAR OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 2018 was designated as the Year of Young People (YOYP) aimed at inspiring Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and on the international stage. The Year of Young People was co-ordinated and led by the Scottish Government.

1.2 Objectives

- Young people to be heard
- Showcase talents of young people through events and media
- Young people to mix with all members of the community to build good relationships and get to know one another.
- Provide opportunities for young people to express themselves through many different activities.

1.3 Outcomes

- Young people have a greater say in decisions that affect their lives
- For the community to view young people more positively
- Young people have more opportunities to take part in positive activities and experiences

2. PROJECT EXAMPLES

Across Angus a number of exciting projects were developed around the main objectives and themes for YOYP. The following summaries give a flavour of the projects developed for and with young people in 2018.

2.1 Youth Engagement Strategy

In order to ensure that there was a legacy beyond 2018 for young people it was agreed through the community planning partnership that a youth engagement strategy would be co-designed with young people. The strategy aims to ensure that young people have a voice in decisions that are important to them and to support the positive contribution they make in their communities.

Over the course of 2018, young people worked with a range of youth work partners from Angus Council and the third sector to look at the different aspects of youth engagement from consultation to co-design. From this work a strategy was developed and launched in June 2018

2.2 Corporate Parenting

Angus' corporate parenting plan details how we intend to 'get it right' for our looked after and care experienced children and young people. As a Corporate Parent we are all committed and determined to improve life experiences of our care experienced children and young people. The actions in the corporate parenting plan aim to narrow the gap in outcomes between looked after children and young people and their peers. Over the last 12 months we have developed opportunities for care experienced children and young people to engage with corporate parents, share experiences and ideas and co-produce plans for improvement. As part of the engagement activities a 'Games' event was held in June 2018 at Strathmore

Rugby Club, Forfar where some of our care experienced young people met with corporate parents to participate in a few fun games and start to get to know each other. A follow up event is being planned for 2019.

Young people who are looked after have a Ten out of Ten group where they can connect with other care experienced young people. Through this group and other engagement opportunities, young people have met with some of our corporate parents in individual interviews and group discussions; young people have met with the Strategic Director of People and the Chief Social Work Officer to share their views for the future.

Through partnership working with the Integrated Joint Board we have raised the profile of adverse childhood experiences and the needs of care experienced young people to have supported transitions into adult services where appropriate. Prioritising the needs of previously looked after young people who experience poor emotional wellbeing and mental health issues will ensure the young people have their individual needs met by the most appropriate service.

On an individual basis some local young people have had the opportunity to experience residential workshops through Who Cares? Scotland and one young person from Angus has also achieved the Barnardos young person of the year for his development of a digital avatar to support other young people to understand the service.

2.3 Participatory Budgeting Power of Youth

In February 2018 young people were recruited across Angus to work with Angus Council communities team to co-design a Participatory Budgeting (PB) process for youth work funding. The young people attended a residential to work out the different aspects of the process. It was agreed by the young people that of the £40k available, 10k would be given to each of the 4 localities in Angus for projects to bid in to. Bids could be made for between £2000 and £5000. Young people also agreed that voting should be done online.

Following on from this work, Angus Council commissioned Young Scot to manage an online voting process. Voting took place online using the Young Scot online voting platform. Young people were able to vote using a valid Young Scot card issued in Angus or by using temporary numbers that were issued to and managed by Angus Council youth work staff. This ensured a robust process was in place so that young people were not issued with more than one number.

Youth work projects from across Angus were invited to put in bids which had to show contributions towards the new National Youth Work Outcomes. The bids were assessed in each geographic area by panels of young people to ensure each bid met the required criteria and all those that did were put forward for the online vote

A total of 35 bids were put forward for the online vote. Voting took place from Friday 14th September 2018 until Wednesday 26th September 2018. A total of 1127 young people made their vote and as a result 15 projects were awarded funding.

As a result of this work, young people have been able to directly influence the youth work opportunities in their area. The work also supported young people to work together to make decisions for the benefit of their peers and allowed them to further develop their leadership skills. The young people who were involved in the co-design of this work have also received Saltire certificates for their contribution.

2.4 Forfar Gala Day

Forfar Action Network is a group of individuals and businesses that organise events and activities in the area. The community group were keen to encourage young people to be involved in the Forfar Gala Week as part of YOYP.

The group invited some YOYP ambassadors along to be part of the Gala Day Parade to promote youth voice and also to be volunteers at the actual gala day. Two Forfar YOYP ambassadors were invited to open the Forfar Gala Day.

The young people reported that they thoroughly enjoyed the event and felt that they had a role within in the event and had the opportunity to speak to the community and promote YOYP.

Attending the event was great for building confidence and also promotes positivity within the local community of young people in engaging with volunteering.

2.5 Sport leadership Academy in June 2018.

The Sport Leadership Academy ran for a week, and was a programme of workshops and qualifications for S3-6 pupils. Over 20 courses were offered and 140 young people from Angus attended (plus 170 from Dundee) at least one course or session in the week, with all 8 secondary schools engaging and sending representatives. The programme was a collaboration between Angus Active Schools, Dundee Active Schools and D&A College, with courses taking place at the college in Arbroath and Dundee. Costs to pupils were minimised through the free use of college facilities, the use of college and school staff to deliver the certified awards and financial contributions from each school.

Of those in Angus who attended 90 are volunteering within the extra-curricular programme at their school, 13 are volunteering in a local community club, and 9 are now in some form of paid work.

This year's Sports Leadership Academy will run 3-7 June, and is planned to run annually as a legacy of the YOYP.

2.6 #Destination

In 2018 a group of young people from Arbroath and Montrose were involved in a youth exchange with Italy. The project was developed 2 years ago and targeted young people who faced significant barriers to being involved in opportunities including traveling. These barriers included financial, mental health and caring responsibilities in the family.

Youth work staff in the Angus Council Communities team worked closely with the young people to prepare them to take part in the exchange. Schools also supported the project by providing some financial assistance which helped towards costs such as toiletries and passports.

The exchange took part between June and August of 2018 and evaluations have shown a significant increase in the confidence in the young people who took part with many describing it as life changing. Since returning young people have progressed on to further learning and opportunities including D&A College, volunteering and youth engagement work.

2.7 Sports Leadership and volunteering

Active Schools have consulted with the young people in various sports leadership programmes and roles, and have developed a clearer structure to the pathway for sports leadership in Angus secondary schools. The three main areas that a young person can volunteer and develop their leadership skills are:-

- Event competition organisers
- Deliverers/coaches and officials
- Young Ambassadors

Through each of these areas, young people will have the opportunity to develop a range of core skills which will help them to flourish in these roles. This has been communicated to all Senior Management Teams in Angus secondary schools. Information about this work will be displayed around Physical Education departments to show young people the type of roles they can opt to become involved in via Active Schools.

2.8 Angus Young Scot Media group

The Angus Young Scot media group has been running for over 4 years, recruiting young people in Angus to be young journalists for the local sections of the Young Scot website. Each year young people are recruited and are given a range of training opportunities including creative writing, animation, film and photography. As part of YOYP, some of the young journalists created short films about young people who were acting as young ambassadors as part of the wider 360 stories project run by National Young Scot.

This year, the group are also proud to say that one of their members has been accepted on to a modern apprentice (MA) programme with ITV. This is the 2nd young person in the last 2 years to be awarded a MA with a national broadcasting corporation.

Angus Council Communities team also recruited 2 creative and digital MAs in 2018 in partnership with Young Scot and SDS. The MAs have been working with the Communities team, developing film and media highlighting the work of local projects such as adult learning and community groups. Both young people have gained an SVQ in Creative and Digital Media.

2.9 1-2 History Crew

Following on from the change in timetable on Friday afternoons, a new youth group was set up in Arbroath. Young people worked alongside youth work staff and Scottish heritage to explore the history around the Abbey. Young people came up with an idea of heritage trail through the abbey and with support from staff, designed the trail using media and sound. The young people's experience was also captured through graphics which are still being displayed around the new housing developments at the Abbey.

As a result of this work, Scottish heritage put the group forward for an award at the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards which they won. As well as a lasting legacy in Arbroath beyond 2018, the young people describe gaining a range of skills and confidence from taking part.

3. THE ANGUS LEGACY

It was important to partners and young people that Angus had a lasting legacy beyond 2018. So as well as the exciting events and activities that have taken part, there is further work to be done to ensure that young people continue to have a voice.

All of the above projects have a legacy beyond 2018 either through continuing to develop work with young people or to use the evaluations to influence the direction of new work.

As part of the Youth Engagement Strategy work, a commitment was also given to the young co-design group that partners from the CPP will come together in 2019 to describe how they have implemented the strategy in to their day to day work. As part of this, elected members have also made a commitment to working more closely with young people across the county to ensure their voice has a direct influence over the Children and Learning Committee.

In November an event was held in Inverclyde which brought together young people from across Scotland to share their experience of YOYP. Young people from Angus delivered a presentation on the work in Angus and took part in a range of workshops. All the information from this event will be collated and used to influence the legacy beyond 2018 at a national level.

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