



REPORT FROM
COSLA / YOUNG SCOT
COMMUNITY PLANNING
PARTNERSHIP SEMINARS
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SPRING 2010

COMMUNITY PLANNING SEMINARS

A BIT OF **BACK GROUND**

After the endorsement of *Young Scot: Active* in October 2008 by COSLA Leaders, a further input was given in May 2009. At that, Leaders requested that COSLA, Young Scot and the Improvement Service hold four regional events across Scotland to raise awareness of *Young Scot: Active*. The purpose of the events was to:

Raise awareness of *Young Scot: Active* and its potential to support the work of local authority area community planning partnerships;

Seek the views and expertise of Community Planning Partnerships regarding their priorities in relation to young people within their areas;

Jointly identify the key areas for development of *Young Scot: Active* at both local and national levels.

LOCATION AND FORMAT OF EVENTS:

The format for the events involved presentations from keynote speakers followed by roundtable discussions.

GLASGOW: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

Host: Glasgow City Council

SPEAKERS:

Colin Mair (CHAIR)

Chief Executive, Improvement Service

Louise Macdonald

Chief Executive, Young Scot

Sandy Watson OBE DL

Chair, NHS Tayside

Steve Torrie

Chief Fire Officer, Central Fire and Rescue

DUNDEE: 15 FEBRUARY 2010

Host: Dundee City Council

SPEAKERS:

Colin Mair (CHAIR)

Chief Executive, Improvement Service

Louise Macdonald

Chief Executive, Young Scot

Sandy Watson OBE DL

Chair, NHS Tayside

Assistant Chief Constable John Mauger,

Central Scotland Police

(ACPOS Youth Issues Lead)

Depute Chief Fire Officer Alasdair Hay,

Tayside Fire and Rescue

ABERDEEN: 8 MARCH 2010

Host: Aberdeen City Council

SPEAKERS:

David Jones (CHAIR)

SOLACE Portfolio Group on Young People

Louise Macdonald

Chief Executive, Young Scot

Caroline Selkirk

Director of Change and Innovation & Child Health Commissioner, NHS Tayside

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Pete Murray,

Grampian Fire and Rescue

Sue Bruce

CEO, Aberdeen City Council

AYR: 15 MARCH 2010

Host: South Ayrshire Council

SPEAKERS:

Colin Mair (CHAIR)

Chief Executive, Improvement Service

Sandy Watson OBE DL

Chair, NHS Tayside

Alison Hardie

Strategic Development Director, Young Scot

Acting Chief Fire Officer Gerry Campbell

Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue

David Anderson

CEO, South Ayrshire Council

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS:

KEY POINTS

Discussions about *Young Scot: Active* were very positive, with unanimous support for the potential role Young Scot could play in supporting Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland. The following themes emerged:

Young Scot: Active could be a catalyst for Community Planning Partnerships to enhance their engagement with young people but more information and discussion required re: adapting Young Scot's services and products was needed at a local level.

Young Scot: Active needed to be adopted at a corporate level within organisations to maximise the transfer of information and knowledge and to ensure organisations as a whole and not individual departments were aware of its services.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS:

LOCAL LEVEL

The development of the next round of Single Outcome Agreements should make provision for the active involvement of young people in the process, with exploration of how *Young Scot: Active* could support this.

Focussed discussions should take place within Community Planning Partnerships about linking with Young Scot to develop innovative approaches to engaging young people.

Positive approaches to the local media in relation to addressing the negative image of young people should be explored – again looking at how Young Scot can add value.

Work with Young Scot to establish dynamic youth-led youth information points in schools and community settings to act as a focal point for engagement.

Continued and enhanced support should be provided for existing formal youth engagement structures such as Youth Forums, the Scottish Youth Parliament etc.

Priority discussions should be held at Council and Community Planning Partnership levels to explore the current and potential development of the Young Scot NEC and the shared services agenda.

The *Young Scot Says Who?* Consultation Toolkit and the joint developments on GLOW should be widely promoted and used.

Community Planning Partnerships should encourage the local development and use of the Young Scot WOW search engine promoting positive activities etc in their area.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS: **NATIONAL Level**

Young Scot should be supported to enable more knowledge of its services and the sharing of good practice.

Health information and supporting the information needs of More Choices, More Chances young people should be a priority.

Young Scot, where appropriate, should be engaged at a national level in national community planning networks.

The potential of the NEC/ Young Scot should be further explored to increase the services on the card including eVoting and incentives/ rewards.

Community Planning Partners should officially recognise the PASS dimension of the card with the production of targeted information for Police, Licensing Boards, etc.



PRESENTATIONS:

Key POINTS

FOCUS ON:

1. HEALTH
2. POLICE
3. FIRE & RESCUE

FOCUS ON HEALTH

Sandy Watson and Caroline Selkirk highlighted the current structures to engage with the public and patients including significant developments in relation to Patient Focus Public Involvement (PFPI) and the work of Public Partnership Groups. They stressed the need to engage with young people on their terms and gave examples of developments and actions with NHS Tayside including the innovative 'Cool to Talk' initiative. Opportunities for *Young Scot: Active* to support health boards included:

Development of mechanisms to get young people's views to the NHS Board.

Commissioning young people to undertake pieces of work.

Enhance the use of electronic surveys, local investigation model and Youth Commissions based on the success of the National Youth Commission on Alcohol.

Explore the full potential of eParticipation and eVoting.



Development of co-production approaches including training for young people.

NOTE: Young Scot has already made a presentation to a meeting of the Chairs of NHS Boards and discussions are being pursued at national policy and at an individual Board level.

FOCUS ON

POLICE

ACC Mauger described the range of positive activities being undertaken by Police forces across Scotland. On behalf of ACPOS he highlighted the new ACPOS Youth Strategy and the importance being placed on engagement particularly with 'hard to reach' young people. He emphasised ACPOS formal endorsement and support for *Young Scot: Active*, which has been illustrated through the recent re-energising of the ACPOS Youth Issues Group, including the appointment of Louise Macdonald, Chief Executive of Young Scot, as a member. ACC Mauger also highlighted their commitment to:

The importance of the Young Scot PASS Scheme, particularly relating to legislation around sale of restricted goods.

The need to engage with young people, and make services easier for young people to engage with, to build safer communities together.

The potential for the proposed National Reward Scheme linked to the Young Scot NEC in promoting and supporting positive behaviour with young people.



FOCUS ON

FIRE & RESCUE

At each event, senior officers from the Fire & Rescue Services highlighted the significant work currently being undertaken in relation to young people. Priorities are focused on reducing fire-related crime and anti-social behaviour, reducing road accidents and injuries, improved citizenship, life skills and employability and helping young people have a voice on Fire and Rescue Service policies and practices.

Examples of initiatives making a positive contribution to supporting the role of the service in prevention and education work included: cadet schemes, educational safety visits to schools and youth groups, experiential learning opportunities, multi-media road safety programmes, Fire Setter Advisors and consultation events.

Reference was made to the importance of the recently published Community Fire Safety Study, led by Chief Fire Officer Brian Sweeney of Strathclyde Fire & Rescue. This study included recommendations to develop a formal national accreditation qualification for youth engagement programmes and to develop multi-agency community safety resources to be delivered to schoolchildren via a Curriculum for Excellence.

A number of key opportunities for *Young Scot: Active* to support Fire & Rescue Services were identified. These included:

Taking forward the recommendations outlined in the Community Fire Safety Study

Enhancing linkages into Young Scot's communication approaches directly with young people

Investigating the potential of the Rewards Scheme in terms of areas such as road safety and young drivers programmes.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The seminars achieved their aim of raising awareness of *Young Scot: Active* and – crucially – receiving input and expertise from local partners around local adaptation and delivery. They have already triggered a number of subsequent contacts between Young Scot and individual Community Planning Partnerships to explore how to cascade the information and opportunities at a local level.

There was an acknowledgement of the current and future financial climate within the public sector and *Young Scot: Active* was viewed as having the potential to enhance joined-up approaches which would be cost effective and contribute to a shared services model. It would support key national and local outcomes particularly in relation to the information and transition needs of young people aged 11-26, taking account of their life circumstances, life events and lifestyles.

The continued support of COSLA, the Improvement Service and each local authority area will be crucial in maintaining the momentum and excitement being generated through *Young Scot: Active*. Local Authority contact requires to be enhanced, building on the existing Dialogue Youth Network, with consideration of Community Planning Partnerships as a strategic partner, promoting and resourcing the support and actions required to deliver the benefits of *Young Scot: Active* for Scotland's young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1

COSLA to continue to work with Young Scot, with a particular focus on local adaption to support SOAs and Community Planning Partnerships.

2

Continued support from Local Authority areas to explore a shared services approach to ensure consistent application of the Young Scot NEC for the benefit of young people across Scotland.

3

CPPs across Scotland to enhance their relationship with Young Scot to work in partnership to deliver local adaptations of *Young Scot: Active*

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Young Scot Enterprise is a recognised Scottish Charity No 029757. Young Scot is the Scottish member of the European Youth Card Association, recognised by the Council of Europe and the European Commission and is a member of the European Youth Information and Counselling Association. Young Scot Enterprise is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland No 202687. Young Scot is on Facebook, Bebo, MySpace and Twitter. Follow us, be our friend, share the love!

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