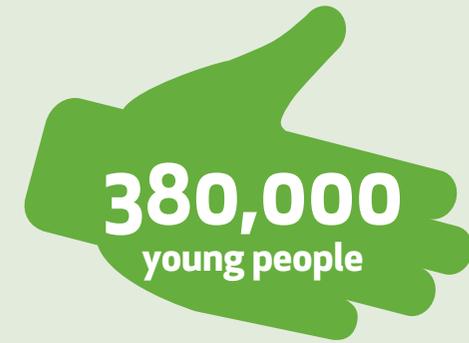


80,000

Our sector has a workforce in excess of **80,000**, including over 70,000 adult volunteers.



Youth work **volunteers** clock up **13million** hours every week.



We reach in excess of **380,000** **young people** in our provision of youth work opportunities each week.

Youth Work Changes Lives – A Prospectus

This prospectus includes testimonies, key policy, facts and figures, demonstrating the value of youth work in Scotland today.



A STRONGER AND FAIRER SCOTLAND

A STRONG, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

"When I was young I was angry and aggressive – youth workers showed acceptance and tolerance but also challenged my attitude and behaviour. On reflection, I had space to talk, and someone who listened"

Youth Work Beneficiary.

"Whatever the activity, the purpose of youth work is to build young people's self-esteem, confidence and sense of wellbeing; to develop their ability to manage relationships; to help them to learn new skills and solve problems; and to improve their life chances. In thousands of instances, young people themselves are youth work volunteers who take the lead, think creatively and support their peers to be all that they can be and make positive life choices."

Aileen Campbell MSP, Minister for Children and Young People.

In excess of **550** **Young People**, to date, have been actively involved in designing the **2018 Year of Young People.**

Scotland's Young People are represented by 145 democratically elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament. In 2015, **70,234 young people** cast their vote in the **Youth Parliament election.**

Youth Workers recognise and realise the 54 articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – this includes:

Article 2: right to protection from discrimination

Article 12: right to express views freely

Article 28: right to education

Article 29: right to education which develops personality, talents, and abilities

Article 31: right to rest, leisure, play, cultural life and the arts



of young people furthest from the labour market and participating in an Activity Agreement progressed to a positive destination, through a youth work approach.



The initial assessment of the social and economic value of youth work estimates that **Youth Work in Scotland delivers** at least **£7 in value for every £1** it costs.



The **confidence and motivation** that **youth work develops** is rated by 85% of employers as very important, compared with 27% rating qualifications this way.

"My involvement in [youth work] let me understand concepts and put them into practice...working with others, caring for others, problem solving, taking responsibility, leadership, motivation, tolerance and confidence. All of these skills were increased through activity in youth work."

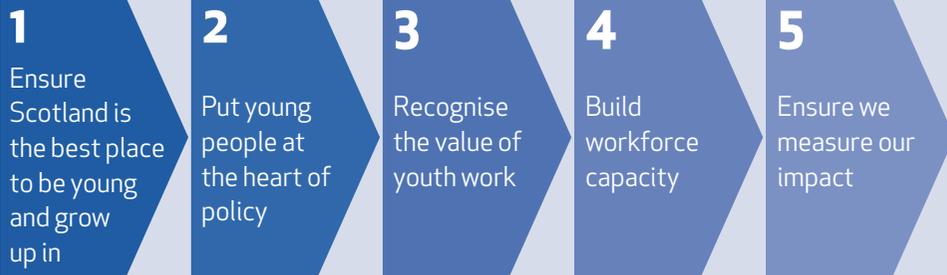
Youth Work Beneficiary.

"Youth work builds the self-esteem and confidence of young people, provides space for personal development, and prepares young people for future opportunities. We must continue to invest in youth work programmes, which are a valuable complement to the educational system, in allowing all of our young people to reach their potential."

Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning.

PROTECTING AND REFORMING OUR PUBLIC SERVICES

National Youth Work Strategy - 5 Ambitions



"Youth work is a central component of a social Europe. A failure to invest in youth work has three consequences. It is an abdication of responsibility to the next generation. It is a loss of opportunity to strengthen contemporary civil society throughout Europe. And finally, it weakens the potential for dealing effectively with some of the major social challenges of our time."

Declaration of the European Youth Work Convention.

HM Inspectorate of Education graded **157 of Scotland's Learning Communities** as a **positive inspection.**

157 ✓

12,000 young people

each month are engaged in youth work contributing to the Curriculum for Excellence's Senior Phase

"Youth work has been shown to make a strong contribution to many crucial outcomes, including educational attainment and increasingly safe and cohesive communities."

Paul Johnston, Interim Director, General Learning and Justice, Scottish Government

In 2014/15 more than **60,000 young people** achieved a youth award, and were supported by youth workers to do so.

60,000

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES

The Role of the Youth Worker

- Youth workers work with young people who choose to participate
- Youth workers work with young people where young people are – this could be the physical space, or respecting the needs of the young person and their life experience
- Youth workers are active and equal partners with the young person in a learning process

"youth work has allowed a breathing space in my life to grow and to be happier... I am deeply gratified for all the possibilities it has opened in my life."

Youth Work Beneficiary.

450,000

In a recent YouGov poll, **Youth Work has changed the life of more than 1 in 10 of the Scottish Population.** 450,000 people say youth work played an important role in achieving their life goals.

"Before I went to a youth club I had low self esteem, no confidence and I didn't have close friends. I felt alone and insecure. The friends I have now are the friends I built close relationships with at the youth club. They encouraged me to go to college, I now have a degree and bags of confidence to try new things and get stuck in!"

Youth Work Beneficiary.

45%

27%

More young people (45%) than adults (27%) volunteer their time to help others.

- 28%** of young people supported other people through volunteering
- 16%** of young people helped to improve their local area
- 10%** of young people campaigned for something

About YouthLink Scotland

YouthLink Scotland is the national agency for youth work. We are a membership organisation, representing over 100 regional and national youth organisations from both the voluntary and statutory sectors. We champion the role and value of youth work and represent the interests and aspirations of our sector.

We have a vision of a youth work sector which offers sustainable, dynamic and accessible youth work opportunities that support young people to become:

- successful learners
- confident individuals
- effective contributors
- responsible citizens

Our vision is of a nation which values its young people and their contribution to society, where all young people are supported to achieve their potential.

Scotland's Youth Work Sector

Scotland's youth work sector is as rich and diverse as the nation itself. In Scotland there are more than 80,000 adults working with young people through youth work. We reach in excess of 380,000 young people in our provision of youth work opportunities each week.

The activity, venue and approaches utilised in youth work are varied. They include, amongst others:

- Youth Clubs
- Youth Projects and Issue Based Work
- Uniformed Organisations
- Specialist or Targeted Youth Services
- Social Activism and Campaigning
- Outdoor Learning
- Youth Awards Programmes
- Democratic Participation and Youth Voice

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YouthLink
Scotland
The national agency for youth work

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Acknowledgements:

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- YouthLink Scotland
- Education Scotland