Our year in quotes

“There is a lot to be optimistic about in terms of Scotland’s youth work sector.

We sit in Scotland with one of the few examples internationally of a strong and cohesive youth work sector, supported by Government and across the political spectrum. Every day, youth work in Scotland makes a positive impact to the lives of young people, often making a difference where school or other services have not. This year has brought further recognition of the value of youth work from other sectors and key figures in Scottish society, the increase in partnership working is evidence of this. The last twelve months have brought about further change and developments in the sector as we see the work of the National Youth Work Strategy bringing a renewed focus to the direction of youth work and outcomes for young people. On behalf of the membership I would like to thank the staff, board, associates and funders for their dedication and continued work to ensure that youth work receives the investment and recognition it needs to deliver equality of opportunity and results that change young people’s lives. Finally, as I step down as Chair of YouthLink Scotland this year, I would like to say it has been a great honour working with the sector and I wish you all the best for the future.”

Alex Linkston, CBE
Chair, YouthLink Scotland

“Strategically, youth workers make a massive contribution to developing the curriculum for the establishment, but most importantly for me, it’s about engaging the young people in the design, development and delivery of activities within Polmont.”

Sue Brookes
Governor, HMYOI Polmont

“We know that formal education is not always the most suitable option for all young people. This is particularly true for those from disadvantaged backgrounds and who lack support at home. This is where youth work can play a vital role in saving young lives.”

Craig Wilson
Senior Head of Programmes, The Prince’s Trust Scotland

“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
Cabinet Secretary for Equalities

“Schools cannot deliver Curriculum for Excellence of their own. Each curriculum needs to give young people as many opportunities to succeed as possible, and youth workers, along with other partners, have a key role to play in achieving the break-through children need today.”

Graeme Logan
Director, Education Scotland

*Being part of the youth work project gave me the support I needed at a really difficult time. It helped me feel more confident about myself. I know I can achieve anything if I put the hard work in. It’s really changed my life and I’m very grateful.*

Louis Pashley
Young Person

“I look forward to seeing more of the energy, inspiration and impact that youth work can bring, as we work together seeking to change the lives of young people across Scotland.”

Paul Johnston
Director General, Learning and Justice, Scottish Government

Front Cover Image - Demi, young peer mentor with Aberlour, Scotland’s Children’s Charity
Reflections on the year past

“Unless you walk into the unknown the chances of you making a difference are pretty low.”

These words by Tom Peters are, for me, a perfect reading of where we are as a sector, in a world which is unrecognisable from that of a few years ago.

The past year has been one of considerable churn and change, with Westminster and Holyrood elections either side of the EU Referendum. We have undertaken substantial cross party lobbying activity to ensure youth work remains on the political agenda. There has been a major drive to promote the ‘youth work changes lives’ message to those in government, industry, business and the media, with leading figures in Scottish society gathering at our Youth Work Expo in January, hosted by Royal Bank of Scotland, to support the sector’s vital contribution to our young people.

Our publications and events continued to improve in presentation and content and we gained new media partners, notably the Daily Record, who ran a week long campaign around ‘youth work changes lives’. Our Holyrood manifesto involved over 200 young people who met local politicians to tell their youth work story.

The impressive work of all our networks continued with discussions, training, policy development and sharing best practice.

In a major step forward, we developed the first set of National Youth Work Outcomes, with endorsement from the whole sector and sterling support from Local Authority Youth Work Managers and CEOs of National Voluntary Organisations.

The various projects, training, events and funding managed by YouthLink Scotland have continued to be of benefit to our members. Among these: Cashback for Communities; the National Voluntary Youth Work Organisations Support Fund; Looking Forward Not Back; Activity Agreements; #iwill initiative; Sky Academy, as well as our fortnightly briefing.

We as an organisation also became a Living Wage Employer and a recipient of the Investors in Diversity Award.

From a personal standpoint the board, staff and members have been an absolute joy to work with. As an organisation we are clear about where we want to go and what we want to achieve. We have continued to cement our relationships with Education Scotland, government departments, and with key partners and funders.

We all look forward to more interesting and challenging times ahead as we continue to convince others of the value of youth work and the importance of investing in our sector.

My thanks to all of you for your support and encouragement.

Jim Sweeney, MBE
Chief Executive,
YouthLink Scotland
Year in facts and stats

£656 Million
Social return on investment of youth work of at least £656 million established through Hall Aitken research.

Meetings of YLS networks including Policy Forum, Member’s Network, National Voluntary Organisations, Local Authority and Communications and PR Network.

303,848
YouthLink Scotland website page hits, +123% in 12 months.

+1.23%

1,800
Individual subscribers to the Youth Work Briefing.

29,951
YouthLink Scotland staff hours working on behalf of the youth work sector.

11
Government consultation responses.

£2 Million
CashBack for Communities Facilities Fund secured for 2016-17.

CashBack for Communities Youth Work Fund distributed to 215 projects benefitting 34,539 young people.

CashBack for Communities Open Arts Fund distributed to 32 projects benefitting 2,047 young people.

7,120
Twitter followers, up 67% from last year.

1,800
Individual subscribers to the Youth Work Briefing.

#iwill
Anniversary event at Sky Skills Studios celebrated #iwill Scotland campaign and positive impact of Scotland’s young volunteers.

19
Meetings of YLS networks including Policy Forum, Member’s Network, National Voluntary Organisations, Local Authority and Communications and PR Network.

2
Sector magazines published covering Equalities and the Arts containing 54 case studies of good youth work practice.

£200,178
CashBack for Communities Open Arts Fund distributed to 32 projects benefitting 2,047 young people.

£634,914
CashBack for Communities Youth Work Fund distributed to 215 projects benefitting 34,539 young people.
Year in facts and stats

- **£501,940** distributed to 47 programmes benefitting 16,347 staff and volunteers.

- **2,356** young people involved in an Activity Agreement with 74% moving on to employment, formal learning or further training.

- **4** meetings of the Cross Party Group on Children and Young People facilitated by YouthLink Scotland and Children in Scotland.

- **300** practitioners, managers and partners involved in the National Youth Worker of the Year Awards.

- **67** practitioners trained to use the Under Pressure resource (preventing abuse and exploitation in teenage relationships) in partnership with ZERO Tolerance.

- **12,950** sessions on the ‘Action on Sectarianism’ website.

- **+83% in one year**

- **8,809** by 8,809 users (104% increase) in 2015/16.

- **167** practitioners trained to use the No Knives, Better Lives toolkits and resources.

- **112** young people trained as NKBL peer educators.

- **28** young people supported to carry out research on sectarianism, in 5 different communities, with 5 youth work partners as part of the ‘Looking Forward Not Back’ project.

- **187** individual items of positive media coverage generated across national, local and online.
Year in financials

The following is an extract of the financial information contained in YouthLink Scotland’s audited report and financial statement for the year ending 31 March 2016. Copies of the full accounts may be obtained from the registered office.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016
(including income and expenditure account)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted Fund</th>
<th>Restricted Fund</th>
<th>Total Funds 2016</th>
<th>Total Funds 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>£1,297,389</td>
<td>£17,998</td>
<td>£1,315,387</td>
<td>£1,347,201</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on charitable activities: Services</td>
<td>1,315,836</td>
<td>42,084</td>
<td>1,357,920</td>
<td>1,353,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>1,315,836</td>
<td>42,084</td>
<td>1,357,920</td>
<td>1,353,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net incoming/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses</strong></td>
<td>(18,447)</td>
<td>(24,086)</td>
<td>(42,533)</td>
<td>(5,819)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gain/(loss) on pension plan</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>(272,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year</strong></td>
<td>28,553</td>
<td>(24,086)</td>
<td>4,467</td>
<td>(277,819)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reconciliation of funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds brought forward</td>
<td>311,574</td>
<td>46,821</td>
<td>358,395</td>
<td>636,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds carried forward</strong></td>
<td>340,127</td>
<td>22,735</td>
<td>362,862</td>
<td>358,395</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted Fund</th>
<th>Restricted Fund</th>
<th>Total Funds 2016</th>
<th>Total Funds 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Income</td>
<td>£5,601</td>
<td>£10,185</td>
<td>£15,786</td>
<td>£30,213</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors falling in less than one year</td>
<td>133,596</td>
<td>5,998</td>
<td>139,593</td>
<td>136,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors falling in more than one year</td>
<td>51,211</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>51,211</td>
<td>63,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension liability</td>
<td>208,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>208,000</td>
<td>259,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>340,127</td>
<td>22,735</td>
<td>362,862</td>
<td>358,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Funds of the charity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>337,896</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>337,896</td>
<td>309,343</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated</td>
<td>2,231</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,231</td>
<td>2,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,735</td>
<td>22,735</td>
<td>46,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>340,127</td>
<td>22,735</td>
<td>362,862</td>
<td>358,395</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our year – reach and influence

380,000
The sector reaches in excess of 380,000 young people in our provision of youth work opportunities every week.

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

13 Million
Youth work volunteers clock up 13,000,000 hours every year.

YouthLink Scotland launched a Holyrood manifesto calling for further investment in youth work as part of the drive to close the attainment and opportunities gap.

This national ‘Call to Action’ was delivered by 400 young people and youth workers who met with 151 Scottish politicians covering 113 constituencies.
To Scotland’s 80,000 youth workers

Thank You

we know youth work changes lives