

YouthLink Scotland – National Youth Work Conference

Interactive Session Choices and Descriptors

Delegates will attend one morning and one afternoon session. Delegates will be asked to prioritise their top 3 sessions for attending (you will be sent a web-link once you are booked). We will do our best to allocated delegates to their preferred sessions.

[Book your conference place now](#)

Morning Session Options

(M1) Bored meetings - say goodbye to being bored in board meetings

No one likes to attend boring board meetings, especially young people. That's why Youth Scotland and Falkirk Champions Board have worked together to deliver sessions aimed at 14 – 18 year olds that helps young people participate in decision making processes. Attend this session to find out how you can transform your board meetings and make sure young people are empowered to create real change in their community – without a yawn in sight!

Organisations: Youth Scotland (@youthscotland) & Falkirk Champions Board

(M2) Get on Board! Youth Participation at Board level

Join Social Enterprise Academy for this interactive session where you will hear the learnings from their Leadership Programme which aims to get more young people (18 – 25) on Boards by providing a programme which helps to develop skills. Not only will you hear from David, Hub Manager, who designed the programme, you will also hear from a young person who has been through the process. This session will encourage discussions on the impact of youth participation at Board level and how youth engagement can help shape the local community. Be prepared to be inspired!

Organisation: Social Enterprise Academy (@SocEntAcademy)

(M3) Proud To Be Me - involving young people in campaign creation

Changing Faces' mini seminar will reflect on the charity's first major venture into putting young people at the forefront of one of their campaigns. The Proud To Be Me campaign resulted in twelve Youth Action Group members aged 12-25 years, from across the UK, coming together to plan and host an event at Westminster Parliament in May 2018. This launched a year of campaigning and actions specifically for children and young people with visible differences across the country. The seminar will take a critical look at the experiences of young people and Changing Faces throughout the coproduction process. Planning a campaign? This is not to be missed!

Organisation: Changing Faces (@FaceEquality)

(M4) Wait a minute. How Do You Actually Engage Young People in Local Issues?

Join Citadel for their mini seminar which will look at their experiences of engaging young people in local issues. The organisation set up a group called 'North East Youth Ambassadors' following the creation of Edinburgh's Five Year Development Plan. The organisation hoped the group would ensure young people's voices were heard in the process. However, they quickly realised they faced the problem of actually engaging young people in the group. How did they go about recruiting and engaging young people? Attend the seminar to find out!

Organisation: Citadel Youth Centre (@CitadelYCLEith)

(M5) Relinquishing control - handing over social media channels to young people

Giving over full control of a social media channel to young people with no adult control or restrictions might give you or your comms team the heebie-jeebies! That's exactly what High Life Highland did. They created Facebook, Twitter & Instagram channels specifically for Year of Young People and gave full control to young people – guess what, it's been a huge success! Attend this mini seminar to hear what High Life Highland have learned from the experience, what digital participation has looked like and see some of the fantastic content that has been developed.

Organisation: High Life Highland (@HLHsocial and @YOYP_Highland)

(M6) Putting young people at the heart of social change - it's not a dream

Join Helm for their mini seminar which will look at how they've used the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) approach to develop a young person led social change movement. Their vision is for "a Scotland where all young people dare to dream" and they will discuss their approach to making this vision a reality. From creating a new social change team (which employs four young people aged 16 – 25) to involving parent representatives. This is an excellent opportunity to learn from Helm's journey and experiences so far.

Organisation: Helm (@HelmDundee)

(M7) Reclaiming radical youth work - creating a movement of positive hope

Who Cares? Scotland have a team based in Renfrewshire called 'Communities that Care'. Their aim is to make the local authority the most empathetic and understanding area in Scotland around care experienced issues and to engage children and young people in kinship care and those who are looked after at home.

How do you go about engaging this marginalised group in order for them to connect with one another, and have a stronger collective voice to influence decision makers and contribute to the vision of the organisation? Join Who Cares? Scotland for their workshop which will look at reclaiming radical youth work for the hardest to reach through a range of interactive and creative methods.

Organisation: Who Cares? Scotland (@WhoCaresScot)

(M8) Getting children's rights, right

Do you wish your organisation had a group of committed young people fighting for their rights? Well, St Columba's High School (Gourock) does and it's called Rights Respecting School Group. It was created to promote and protect the rights of children and young people within the school. The group have explored several issues within the school and have implemented positive change. This workshop will explore how the school has enabled young people to take the lead, be human rights defenders and be involved in decisions that affect them. If you want to create a positive co-design system within your school, youth group or organisation – this session is not to be missed.

Organisation: St Columba's High School (@columba_rights @_stcolumba)

Afternoon Session Options

(A1) Recognising & Accrediting Young People's Decision Making Journeys

Did you know that young people that you work with who demonstrate decision making skills could get a Participative Democracy Certificate (PDC)? It gives 2 credits at SCQF Level 5 and for some young people could be the first step to gaining formal qualifications. The New Young Peers Scotland group was set up after staff from Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership, Glasgow Clyde College and Ypeople recognised that young people arriving in the city as unaccompanied asylum seekers could benefit from a peer support approach. The group of young people who got involved have been incredibly busy-from organising mentoring events to creating a digital magazine –they have been key in the decision making process throughout. This experience allowed them to achieve their PDC's. Join this mini seminar to hear how the group has helped them develop their decision-making skills and feel more at home in the Glasgow community and consider how you could use the PDC within your practice to recognise decision making.

Organisations: YouthLink Scotland, Glasgow City Council & YPeople (@YouthLinkScot, @GlasgowCC @YpeopleOrg)

(A2) It's not about bums on seats – Red Cross share their story on youth participation

A change in British Red Cross's governance model led to a six-fold increase in the number of young people who are volunteer representatives. But it's not just about bums on seats, a programme of support is needed to ensure young people get the most out of the experience and it's beneficial to the organisation. With Erasmus+ funding Red Cross were able to create a successful programme. Join British Red Cross to hear how they changed their organisational governance structure to better support young people's participation, what support young people needed in the role and hear from young people who were involved. A great opportunity to understand what support young people might need when becoming a representative.

Organisation: British Red Cross

(A3) Supporting young people with additional support needs (ASN) to make decisions

It is important that young people with additional support needs are equipped with the skills to make decisions about their lives. Join East Renfrewshire Council in this workshop to find out what innovative, and sometimes unique, approaches they've used in their Young Persons Services to ensure young people with ASN are fully involved in directing their participation, learning and decision making. You will also get the opportunity to hear from the young people involved and learn about the impact it has had on their lives. A not to be missed workshop for those wanting to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate in youth work activities and decision making processes.

Organisation: East Renfrewshire Council (@EastRenCouncil)

(A4) Youth led activism - you're never too young to change the world!

Join this interactive, fast paced and fun workshop to find out about the different forms of activism that young people can get involved with! Dumfries & Galloway Council have had a busy year running a range of youth led activism projects, including Secret Saints, The Toon and 10,000 voices. They will share their experiences with you through role playing, campaign creation, protests and much more. You will also get the opportunity to hear from a young person who has been involved in the process as well as get a chance to discuss your own practice and experiences in a think tank style activity. It's time to get active!

Organisation: Dumfries & Galloway Council (@YouthWorkDG)

(A5) Creating Stirling Youth Forum - The Journey

Local young people in Stirling recognised the lack of space to have their voices heard and listened to. Now the Stirling Youth Forum has been created and is changing the landscape of youth participation in the city. There are 179 young people between the ages of 10 and 25 who are part of the forum and who have shared their experiences on topics such as mental health, transport, education and city development. But how did Stirling Council successfully set up the forum? Join this mini seminar to hear about the journey Stirling Council have been on to create a model that gives local young people a voice and be inspired to implement change!

Organisation: Stirling Council

(A6) Youth Empowerment in Action - power to the (young) people!

Renfrewshire Council Youth Services have supported the Youth Commission on Mental Health which resulted in a Youth Symposium at the Council Chambers. The symposium was an opportunity for young people to speak to senior managers, elected members, service providers and professionals about the mental health services provided in the local area. This mini seminar will look at the impact young people's involvement has had and encourage attendees to think about what they could do in their local area. On the theme of empowerment, attendees will be encouraged to make pledges at the end of the workshop!

Organisation: Renfrewshire Council Youth Services (@RenYouthCommis / @LizzieYServices)

(A7) The Path of Life – exploring young people's unique stories

Arts and crafts at the ready for this interactive workshop! Cyrenians have been working in partnership with Royal Edinburgh Hospital Community Gardens to enable young people to create an exhibition about their lives, relationships, choices, struggles, hopes and dreams. In this workshop, participants will be guided through the process of creating their own mini art piece and look at ways to encourage young people to talk about their lives, take ownership over their history and strengthen their relationships. At the end a single art piece made up of participant's work will be formed – we already can't wait to see it!

Organisation: Cyrenians (@Cyrenians1968)

(A8) Standing up for young people's rights – becoming human rights defenders

Join this mini seminar with the Scottish Youth Parliament, Children's Parliament and Together to find out how you can support, empower and protect children and young people to become human rights defenders. Following on from the UN Day of General Discussion which has the theme children as human rights defenders, it's a very topical time to discuss how we make this possible. All of the organisations have planned activities on the UN Day of General Discussion and will be able to share their experiences with you, as well as discuss the wider impact on the youth work sector. You'll leave these session feeling more confident about how to empower young people to defend their own rights and the rights of others.

Organisations: Scottish Youth Parliament, Children's Parliament and Together (@OfficialSYP @Creative_Voices @together_sacr)