A year of life changing outcomes for young people

YouthLink Scotland
Annual Report 2017/18

The stats and facts
This last year has brought home to me the incredibly challenging nature of the work we do, in terms of volume, and complexity. As the national agency and the voice of the sector we were called upon, more than ever, to re-iterate the offer that youth work makes for society and the benefits to individual young people and communities.

Our links to key government strategies were further cemented and we published our progress regarding the National Youth Work Strategy. The interim report on the strategy clearly shows the steps the sector is taking to strengthen and improve our offer to young people, the report was welcomed and endorsed by the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney. The Education Governance Review heralded in changes to our relationships with Scottish Government and Education Scotland, and we look forward to further developing our partnerships with them for the benefit of the youth work sector and our members.

The many projects, funding programmes and networks we host have gone from strength to strength. Our National Youth Work Awards, designed with young people for the first time, were a great success. The annual conference, in partnership with NHS Health Scotland, put a focus on mental health and wellbeing and highlighted the preventative role youth work plays.

It has been a rewarding year on many levels and I would like to thank our members for their trust and support and our funders for their continued commitment. To my fellow board members and our incredible staff team, a massive thank you. It is a real privilege and honour to chair this organisation.

Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood OBE, Chair of YouthLink Scotland

Photo Credit: AYR Community Learning Hillwalking & camping near Derwent Water (Lake District)
Chief Executive’s report

As this will be my final annual report before I retire I thought it would be worthwhile to revisit the very basis of why YouthLink Scotland exists and its present role in Scottish society.

The bringing together of two agencies to form YouthLink Scotland back in 2002, brought statutory and voluntary youth work together under the one banner.

The merger saw the government of the day take a stance that it wanted a clear approach to youth work, and the first youth work strategy in 2007 strengthened that position, as well as giving YouthLink Scotland the role as the national agency and intermediary for youth work.

YouthLink performs many roles, but its three main pillars are around Information, Formation and Influence. We are a critical friend to government on policy development. We are always seeking and developing new ways of working and establishing a solid training offer for members and staff development opportunities. In addition, we do everything in our power to increase the resources available to our members to deliver services for young people.

The last year has been an amazing one. The run up to the first ever Year of Young People (YOYP) was exciting, hectic and at times uncertain. I think the youth work sector has responded magnificently and ultimately our young folk have had amazing opportunities in the process.

We hope we can create a real legacy, not least with the prospect of a third youth work strategy on the horizon.

One of the main themes of our year has been a focus on improving young people’s mental health and wellbeing, an issue that the sector has, and will always have a key role in. Our work around closing the poverty-related attainment gap has seen strong policy partnerships forged with the education sector and Scottish Government. The many funding streams we administer continue to support youth work staff and volunteers. Our emphasis on working in partnership with our EU counterparts has seen real innovation in digital youth work.

Work underpinning the National Youth Work Strategy continues to develop the sector with highlights here being the work around the Youth Work Outcomes, something that’s a real milestone and the continuous research work been done to help validate our contribution.

The amount of activities around YOYP has been phenomenal even in the first quarter of the year. The National Youth Work Awards were co-designed by a great bunch of young folk who helped us to put together a magnificent awards ceremony.

I would like to finish by thanking the Board of Directors, and our Chair, the Very Reverend, Dr Lorna Hood OBE, for the great support they give me and the trust they place in me. My special thanks to the staff for their skill, passion, love and enthusiasm for the work and their unfailing belief in our young people. My thanks to all our members, funders and supporters many of whom have become close and trusted friends over the years. To my wife and two boys... thanks for putting up with me and for listening.

What we do matters so much to so many. Youth Work Changes Lives...Let’s do it.

Thank you all, it’s been a privilege and a blast!!

Jim Sweeney MBE
CEO, YouthLink Scotland
What the sector did

Contributed at least £656M to the Scottish economy.

Thousands of young people’s achievements, attainment, mental health, job prospects and life chances were improved because of the preventative and nurturing approach that is at the heart of youth work practice across Scotland.

13M volunteering hours were put in over a year.

Embraced and influenced the Youth Work Outcomes, ensuring we have excellence in youth work practice and development.

Worked with 350,000 young people, against a backdrop of funding uncertainty and cuts in budgets.

Celebrated young people and articulated the benefits of the youth work approach leading up to and during the Year of Young People 2018.
Access to high quality youth work

No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL) in partnership with other agencies created an innovative touring play for schools, ‘Balisong’ exploring the issues of knife carrying. The play toured 17 local authorities and reached around 12,200 people.

2,164 young people participated in an Activity Agreement, 79% of leavers progressed into employment, further learning and training.

Unlocking the Potential of Erasmus+ awareness raising and capacity building, in partnership with Xchange Scotland. We reached over 1,700 people in person and over 376 practitioners trained to use NKBL toolkits and resources. We continue to train around 200 police officers per year as part of the programme. We delivered seven NKBL peer education training days and reached 83 young people.

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“We are based in a very deprived area of Edinburgh, which was left devastated by two fatal stabbings and a further stabbing leaving a victim seriously injured. Pat and I were left feeling heartbroken and desperate to find a way in which we could help. We were alerted to a training course being offered by NKBL and we both felt like our prayers had been answered. At last, we will be able to help young people and hopefully prevent another crime involving a knife.”

Cat Macdougall, Youth Work Practitioner

“My volunteering journey was to launch a campaign to help educate others about accessible needs. ‘Grace’s Sign’ is a new sign for accessible toilets which will raise awareness that those who use an accessible toilet may not have a visible disability.”

Grace Warnock, aged 12 from Prestonpans, #iwill ambassador

262,000 online with over 7,000 active engagements.

#iwill Scotland cross-party reception for MPs and Lords at Westminster hosted by the Scotland Office. Even more #iwill young ambassadors recruited to highlight the benefit of volunteering, along with a series of partner events across Scotland to celebrate #iwill week. Establishment of #iwill advisory group for Scotland.

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Policy impact


Joint campaign with Children in Scotland to increase participation for all children and young people in all areas of policymaking.

Link magazine published highlighting youth work’s positive impact on young people’s mental health.

Political engagement with all political parties, highlighting the value of youth work on a range of policy issues.

Westminster manifesto launch calling on Westminster politicians to make policy changes to help our ambition for equality of opportunity for young people.

National Youth Work Awards 2018 co-designed with young people, furthering our commitment to increasing participation at all levels of society.

YouthLink Scotland launched #KeepErasmusPlus campaign alongside organisations UK-wide, with the aim of retaining the Erasmus+ programme post Brexit.

Week long YouthLink Scotland Parliamentary Exhibition at Holyrood engaged with MSPs and staff across the political spectrum.

Organised special visit to the Jack Kane Centre in Craigmillar for Holyrood’s Europe and External Affairs Committee, where they met young people who had benefited from Erasmus+.

National Conference in partnership with NHS Health Scotland on youth mental health and wellbeing.

National Youth Work Outcomes rolled out across the sector.

Joint secretariat for Cross Party Group on Children and Young People, topics for meetings included: Outdoor Learning; the use of the new social security powers and the incorporation of the United National Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Policy impact

“Youth work widens young people’s horizons and builds resilience and capacity to support young people at key transition points in their life.”

John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

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“The state of our mental and physical health affects us all. Understanding what is personally nurturing and protective allows us all to flourish. Youth work can provide the place for that self-development, setting young people on a healthier and happier future trajectory.”

Catherine Calderwood, Chief Medical Officer
Investment

Last year we funded 298 projects to the tune of £1,493,254. The Youth Work Fund through CashBack made 180 awards worth £701,207 engaging over 13,000 young people across Scotland in great youth work.

Our capacity building fund, the National Voluntary Youth Organisations Support Fund handed out grants totalling £498,167 to 60 projects, benefitting 30,513 young people. The CashBack for Creativity Open Fund supported 1,722 young people. A total of 34 projects totalling £250,873.

What some young people involved in our Youth Work Fund projects have said:

“I love the youth club because it’s a place I can be myself without being judged.”

“Workers are great. They listen to me and help with loads of advice.”

“Through coming to this group I feel I’ve figured out more about myself.”
Training and sector development

followers **2,020**
+ 23% in a year
Like us at fb.com/YouthLinkScotland

followers **11,339**
+ 25% in a year
Follow us at @YouthLinkScot

YouthLink Scotland account launched!
Follow us at @YouthLinkScot

**800**
articles of positive media coverage across print, radio, television and online news.

**27**
Network meetings including Members Network, National Voluntary Youth Work Organisations, Local Authority Youth Work Managers, Digital Youth, Equalities and Communications.

**Scotswummin exhibition** at Glasgow Women’s Library.

**56**
young people worked as social investigators, conducting research in their communities to celebrate influential and potentially unnoticed Scotswummin in their communities both past and present.

Scotswummin report on Youth Work’s Contribution to the Women’s Movement published.

**20**
government consultations.

Youngwummin, youth-led research project launched, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and delivered in partnership with the National Library of Scotland.
Training and sector development

YouthLink Scotland started the development of Action on Prejudice, with 40 young people involved in shaping this new hate crime portal.

Digital Youth Work Strategic Partnership funded by Erasmus+. YouthLink Scotland with 6 partners from 6 countries started to develop digital youth work through sharing good practice.

We continued to support the Awards Network and we were involved in the development of Amazing Things 4.

16,336 downloads of 229 resources from the Action on Sectarianism website.

As part of our training offer to the sector, we trained 121 Police Scotland adult volunteers through the youth programme, 52 people received training in Child Rights, 54 practitioners were trained in the Healthy Young Lives course and 40 people were trained to deliver the Participative Democracy Certificate.

Action on Sectarianism, in partnership with ScotCen, published the ‘Sectarianism on Social Media’ report, which suggested 7 in 10 people had come across sectarian language online.
## Financials

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted Fund</th>
<th>Restricted Fund</th>
<th>Designated Funds</th>
<th>Total Funds 2018</th>
<th>Total Funds 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>£1,563,167</td>
<td>£24,328</td>
<td>£1,587,495</td>
<td>£1,327,303</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure on charitable activities:</td>
<td>1,617,221</td>
<td>24,404</td>
<td>1,641,625</td>
<td>1,399,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>1,617,221</td>
<td>24,404</td>
<td>1,641,625</td>
<td>1,399,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net incoming/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses</td>
<td>(54,054)</td>
<td>(76)</td>
<td>(54,130)</td>
<td>(72,066)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross transfer between funds</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net incoming/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses</td>
<td>(54,054)</td>
<td>(76)</td>
<td>(54,130)</td>
<td>(72,066)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gain/(loss) on pension plan</td>
<td>83,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>83,000</td>
<td>(65,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year</td>
<td>28,946</td>
<td>(76)</td>
<td>28,870</td>
<td>137,066</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconciliation of funds: Total funds brought forward</td>
<td>211,203</td>
<td>14,593</td>
<td>225,796</td>
<td>362,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds carried forward</td>
<td>240,149</td>
<td>14,517</td>
<td>254,666</td>
<td>225,796</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted Fund</th>
<th>Restricted Fund</th>
<th>Total Funds 2018</th>
<th>Total Funds 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>£5,725</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>£5,725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>583,080</td>
<td>20,513</td>
<td>603,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors falling in less than one year</td>
<td>163,085</td>
<td>5,996</td>
<td>169,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors falling in more than one year</td>
<td>27,571</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>27,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension liability</td>
<td>(158,000)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(158,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>240,149</td>
<td>14,517</td>
<td>254,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds of the charity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>240,149</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>240,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,517</td>
<td>14,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>240,149</td>
<td>14,517</td>
<td>254,666</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2018. Copies of the full accounts may be obtained from the registered office.
#YouthWorkChangesLives