

How will you prioritise empowering young people to volunteer and take social action?

Here at Beyond Earlston we have no youth work base instead we work from a variety of community spaces within our locality including church and community spaces. We are able to use social media in school and through our own beyond Earlston work to engage with young people. We have some small areas recognised in the SIND but the main issue is in regards to social isolation and access to services and supports. We encourage young people to get involved in their community and we have done community clean ups, litter picks, gardening and intergenerational work. We have young people who volunteer with us at our clubs either as a step up from having been a member or as part of a YAA for example. We link into other groups such as greener Melrose to look at suitable living and we regularly work with Birkhill house around animals and recycling crafts.

How will you open up your decision-making structures?

Beyond Earlston is one of the only youth work locality leads who has a young person who actually sits on their board of trustees. This young person has the voting rights and has brought some great ideas and been able to voice their opinion at meetings. And overall has been a real asset to us. We conduct a whole school survey each year, which has the dual impact of enabling us to promote activities and opportunities as well as to get ideas, views and opinions.

How will you work in partnership with young people?

As mentioned we work closely with other youth work and community organisations and this enables us to take advantage of their opportunities as well as work in collaboration to develop new ideas which are either linked to wider campaigns and strategies as well as responsive to need. Being able to allocate time and resources is something we have the flexibility to do and we would not exclude any young person from wanting to take part

How will you evidence the benefits of youth social action?

We keep session recordings and take pictures to capture events and also help keep a portfolio especially if the young person is using this as evidence as an award. We promote young people achievements and share these with partners. By being innovative and encouraging young people to try new opportunities and to show their ideas will hopefully encourage this more in others

How will you recognise and celebrate young people's impact?

We will show case on social media, through school newsletter and community newspapers. we will ensure that young people use their involvement and achievements towards wider awards and recognition such as DoE, YAA etc. by word of mouth.