

How will you prioritise empowering young people, particularly those from low economic or ethnic minority backgrounds, to volunteer and take social action?

Young Scot Hive #YSHive empowers young people to be system changers and influencers by sharing power with organisations and tackling society's toughest challenges. We support partners to fully involve young people in the definition, design and delivery of new policies and improvements to services. We promote #YSHive volunteering opportunities to the 700,000+ 11-26-year-olds Young Scot National Entitlement Cardholders. We co-deliver projects with partners who work with young people from under-represented backgrounds. This approach ensures we are fully reflective of all of Scotland's young people. Access and inclusion are at the heart of everything we do at Young Scot. This ensures that all young people, including those whose voices are seldom heard, can take part and are valued.

How will you open up your decision-making structures to young people, particularly those from low economic or ethnic minority backgrounds?

The development of our strategic plan 2019-22 was entirely led by young people. We recruited a group of 17 diverse young people from across Scotland to form #YSTthree, who engaged with young people, partners and stakeholders through a series of events, interviews, discussions and surveys to help us understand our direction of travel and shape our priorities and plans. We are now beginning to plan for our next strategic plan. This process will also be entirely led by young people – using our Young Scot Hive #YSHive service. We are also committed to ensuring that a quarter of our Board of Trustees is aged 26-years-old or under.

How will you work in partnership with young people & organisations to support youth social action & volunteering?

Our team has a fantastic blend of skills and expertise in youth engagement, citizen involvement, service design, improvement methodology and systems theory. Each one of us thrives on empowering young people to be system changers and influencers. To date, we have delivered over 150 projects, and we will continue to support organisations to partner with young people to define, design and deliver of new policies and improvements to services. We will promote the benefits of having young people at the core of improvement ambitions – to ensure that the final ideas, concepts and recommendations are based on the needs of current and future citizens.

How will you evidence the benefits of youth volunteering and social action?

Our in-house insight and intelligence service, #YSObservatory, offers a complete overview of the work we undertake with partners. This helps us to remain on the pulse of the issues affecting young people in communities across Scotland. It lets us know what it is like to be a young person in Scotland today, and highlights young people's experiences on a whole range of issues. We will continue to gather insights from all our projects using our Young Scot Evaluation Framework. We will use this to evidence the benefits of taking part in #YSHive projects – in our #YSObservatory and our annual Young Scot Impact Report.

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

The annual Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards recognises outstanding 11-26-year-olds from all backgrounds from across Scotland who are making a difference. The event celebrates the contributions made by young people to all aspects of our communities – from sport and the arts, through to enterprise and volunteering.