

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2018



year of young people
bliadhna na h-óigridh
2018

2018 is the Year of Young People in Scotland and in this newsletter we want to showcase what is going on across the Scottish Borders to celebrate our local young people and to showcase their involvement in decision making.

We will also include some national updates from Young Scot, the Scottish Youth Parliament, the Children & Young People's Commissioner for Scotland and many others.



It's our Birthday

On March 15th 2018 Scottish Borders Youth Voice will have been running for 5 years.

We would like to thank all of the young people, staff (current and former), volunteers and funders that have helped to grow the voices of young people in the Scottish Borders.

Our Vision

Our vision is for children and young people in the Scottish Borders to feel empowered to be active participants in decision making processes, to engage in democracy and to have the knowledge and skills to fulfil their roles as rights holders under the UNCRC.

Youth Chex – YOYP2018 Edition

Youth Chex is a youth-led grant making scheme for young people decided upon by young people. In February this year 8 projects battled it out head to head in the public vote with the goal of receiving £1000 towards a project or event which aims to meet the themes of the Year of Young People 2018. The 5 Successful projects are:

- Hawick High News – For new filming equipment
- Jedburgh Grammar TV – For filming equipment to launch their school TV station
- Connect Berwickshire (Eyemouth) – for equipment to turn their youth room into a cinema room
- Scottish Borders YOYP2018 Ambassadors – For the creation of a film to promote YOYP2018
- Tweedbank Primary School – For new outdoor equipment.

There are currently 3 Scottish Borders Youth Voice teams up and running (Jedburgh, Peebles and Galashiels). The teams have been researching local issues for young people and raising these with Councillor Scott Hamilton, Children & Young People's Champion. In addition to this they have been exploring possible project ideas for the Year of Young People 2018 and starting to plan the Scottish Borders Year of Young People Awards (previously named Inspire Awards).



In order to increase young people's involvement in local decision making some of our SBYV Team members have been attending the Locality Partnership meetings.

As well as our Youth Voice Teams we also have 9 pupil reps (one for each high school) that represent the pupil voice on the Executive Committee – Education. Over the next few months we are hoping that these reps will also begin attending the CLD Learning Community partnerships with support from Ceri or Pam.



In February this year Nick and Cathy from the Children & Young People's Commissioner – Scotland Office met with a group of pupils from Galashiels Academy. The Commissioners Office is currently reviewing Restraint and Seclusion Policies and Practice in Schools and they met with the pupils to design the consultation materials that will be used in 6 different schools across Scotland.

The Scottish Borders currently has 12 Year of Young People Ambassadors who are out and about promoting the aims and themes of the year. The Ambassadors are currently working on creating a promotional film to support this.



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Rebecca, Gordon and Caitlin have also been part of the co-design team which led on the delivery of the Scottish Natural Heritage reception at the Scottish Parliament.

In the Movers and Shakers section of this newsletter we wanted to share some stories of what young people from Scottish Borders Youth Voice have been up to once they have moved on and how they continue to promote the rights and voices of young people in different areas across Scotland.

Zee Timmins

Zee began their journey with Scottish Borders Youth Voice in 2015 when they were chosen by Galashiels Academy to represent the School as the Pupil Voice Rep on the Executive Committee for Education. This role proved to be a major confidence booster for Zee as it wasn't long before this quiet individual set about championing social action across the Scottish Borders. They campaigned within their high school & across local authority area to allow same sex couples to dance together in physical education and ended up changing the whole council's policy! With this further developed level of confidence Zee jumped at the chance to become an MSYP for Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale in a late 2016 By-election.

In 2017, having gained experience as a local MSYP, Zee decided to go National with the role and was successful in being elected as the MSYP for LGBT Youth Scotland. Zee has tweeted, blogged, been interviewed on TV, campaigned, and shouted out about social action and the need for change for young people, in particular the LGBT+ community. Zee has not shied away from controversial subjects tackling issues such as Mental Health and period poverty, Zee also went on to become the convener of the SYP Equalities and Human Rights committee.

Since leaving the Borders Zee has gone on to study English Literature at the University of Glasgow. This hasn't stopped their community activism however, if anything it has made it even stronger. Zee is a #iWill Ambassador and through this aims to encourage other young LGBT+ people to get involved in social action & make positive change in society for LGBT+ people & other minority groups. More recently Zee attend the respectme 10 year reception at the Scottish Parliament and the second ever Scottish Government Cabinet meeting with young people to discuss key issues impacting on their lives, at home and in the community. This is just some of the things Zee has been up to since leaving the Borders and we are sure there are many more to come.



CYPCS – Youth Advisory Group

Since September 2017 Tanya Thomson MSYP, an S6 pupil from Hawick High School has been a member of the Children & Young People's Commissioner – Scotland Youth Advisory Group.

This group are supporting the Commissioner (Bruce Adamson) and his team to review their current Strategic Plan and to develop a revised Strategic Plan which reflects the issues that children and young people, and those working closely with them, think are most important. They are hoping to lay this new plan before the Scottish Parliament in March 2018.

Scottish Youth Parliament



It has been an extremely busy first year for our 3 MSYPs. As well as their normal day to day duties of promoting SYP and gathering the views of their constituents they have taken part in Brexit debates and what the future will look like for young people after we leave the EU, met with their MP, MSPs and local councillors, given various interviews to newspapers and other media outlets on their Right Here Right Now campaign, taken part in the Cash Back for Communities Youth Work Fund decision making panel and survived a an overnight election count.

Sanna Aziz has been particularly busy this year after being given the opportunity to travel to America through the Jo Cox Memorial Exchange. This gave her the opportunity to meet with a number of organisations that promote community cohesion, inclusion and tackle extremism in young people. Sanna has presented these findings to the full SBC Council meeting and is currently developing a training pack for teachers. Along with the other Scottish young people that attended the Memorial Exchange, Sanna met with Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister, to discuss how to implement what they learned in Scotland.

As well as being an MSYP, Sanna was also part of the Young Scot Fairer Future – Youth Vision for Scotland group, which developed a Youth-Led vision of Race Equality In Scotland by 2030. Due to her dual roles Sanna was given the opportunity to interview John Swinney, Deputy First Minister on Facebook Live.

YouthLink - Young People and Brexit Cross Party Scotland Group



At the end of January this year Ben Durkin from our Tweeddale Scottish Borders Youth Voice Team attended the Young People and Brexit Cross Party Group. The event was hosted by YouthLink Scotland and Oliver Mundell MSP. Ben is also a member of Peebles Community Council

You might even spy a former SBYV member of staff in the photo.

Young Scot Card

All young people who have a Young Scot card should check to see if their card looks like this and has a pink strip:



If it doesn't they should upgrade their card as soon as possible. If the young person is still in school they should contact the school admin team and if they are out of school they can upgrade online here:

<https://card.mygovscot.org/login-or-register?ReturnUrl=%2f>

Proof of Age: Young Scot cards are recognised in law as an acceptable form of proof of age and most places will accept the card. However, retailers and business do have the right to decide which forms of ID they will and will not accept and can refuse any sale. If a business refuses to accept the NEC/Young Scot card the young person should report that via the following link:

<https://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90013332/Proof-of-age-Refusal-Form>

Alternatively you can call the Young Scot InfoLine free on 0808 801 0338 (Mon-Fri, 10am til 6pm) providing us with the name of the premises that refused your card and the date of refusal.

500 poems, 500 Places

As part of Year of Young People 2018, Jackie Kay, the Scottish Makar, has taken residency with Young Scot. Throughout 2018 we will be working together to encourage young Scots to engage with and express themselves through poetry. Find out more about Jackie and 500 Poems, 500 Places project here and how to engage youth groups you are working with: <https://young.scot/makar/>

Sign Up To 2018 Walk the Year Challenge

Did you know that for the first time ever in 2018 we have created an exciting Connect Your Tech step challenge called Walk the Year?

We are challenging teams of four Connect Your Tech users to walk 2018 kilometres across three months in 2018 (April, May and June)

- 👤 Every day individuals should aim to complete 7000 steps - remember to sync your account!
- 👤 The team's progress will be shown on our Walk the Year Challenge table
- 👤 There will be loads of outdoor Rewards, information, hints and tips to keep teams motivated throughout
- 👤 As a reward when teams complete their 2018 kilometres they will be able to take part in an Ultimate Adventure Weekend later in the year!

Young People will also collect 250 Rewards points when they sign up to [Walk the Year](#). Entries close on **25th March**. For more information on Walk the Year and other active opportunities visit young.scot/active



Rights Respecting Schools

You may or may not be aware that part of Ceri Hunter's role is to be the Strategic Lead for Rights Respecting Schools in the Scottish Borders. The Award supports schools across the UK to embed children's human rights in their ethos culture.

There are 48 schools undertaking the RRSA journey. Priorsford and Langlee Primary Schools are both Gold Award holders, with Ayton, Reston and Tweedbank Primary Schools holding a Silver Award. Of the 48 schools registered, 5 are high schools. If you would like to know more about Rights Respecting Schools please contact Ceri Hunter.

Lauder PS – Child Rights Ambassador Day

CHILD RIGHTS
AMBASSADOR

In February this year the Youth Voice Team with support from Coreen and Rachel delivered a Child Rights Ambassador Day with the P7 pupils in Lauder Primary School as part of the transitions programme. The day of activities covers issues around equality and diversity, an introduction to children's rights and youth voice/participation stations, which this year focussed on their ideas on how to celebrate the Year of Young People 2018. This programme of activities is available for other primary schools in the Scottish Borders but we are limited to 5 per year.



SYP Campaign

The Scottish Youth Parliament Campaign for this year is called Right Here, Right Now. As SYP represents young people up to the age of 25, *Right Here, Right Now* will not just focus on UNCRC, which relates to children and young people up to the age of 18.

Instead, it will take a broader view of rights, to make sure all young people are recognised in the campaign activities, know their rights under the Human Rights Act and other rights mechanisms, and are empowered to take action. The key campaign messages of *Right Here, Right Now* will have both a local and a national focus, concentrating on strengthening the protection of young people's rights in Scotland; reinforcing the links between MSYPs and local decision-makers, and between SYP and national institutions; and empowering young people to defend their own rights and the rights of others.

[For more information about Scottish Borders Youth Voice or Children's Rights contact the team below](#)



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