

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE –10 FEBRUARY 2014

REPORT ON: THE DRAFT NATIONAL YOUTH WORK STRATEGY, 2014- 2019

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 53-2014

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee about the contents of the draft National Youth Work Strategy and Dundee's position in the national consultation about the strategy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 2.1 Welcomes the development of a National Youth Work Strategy for 2014 – 2019. See appendix one.
- 2.2 Acknowledges the important role that Youth Work plays in the achievement of the National Outcomes.
- 2.3 Agrees the Dundee position described in this report for input to the national consultation about the strategy.
- 2.4 Notes that a Dundee implementation plan will be brought to Committee following the launch of the strategy.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Local Authorities have been invited to comment on the draft National Youth Work Strategy for the period 2014 – 2019. Consultation about the draft will conclude at the end of February 2014. The intention is to launch the strategy on 4th April 2014.
- 4.2 The draft strategy has been developed by the Scottish Government, Education Scotland and YouthLink Scotland (the national youth work agency). It sets out the Scottish Government's ambitions for improving outcomes for young people through youth work provided by Local Authorities and voluntary organisations.
- 4.3 The draft strategy reinforces YouthLink Scotland's statement on the nature and purpose of youth work which outlines three features that underpin youth work. These are that:
- Young people choose to participate
 - Youth work builds from where young people are
 - Young people and youth workers are partners in the learning process
- 4.4 The draft strategy states that:
- All young people should have access to high quality and effective youth work practice.
 - It is only by placing young people at the heart of our work that we can begin to develop services and realise ambitions.

- Youth Work offers young people development opportunities which encourage them to take the lead, take responsibility, make decisions and make a real and lasting contribution to Scotland's future.

4.5 There are five strategic aims described in the draft strategy. Dundee's position regarding these aims is detailed below.

4.5.1 **Put young people at the heart of policy.**

- Dundee has developed structures and opportunities for young people to be heard in the development of policy. Examples of these structures include Dundee Youth Council, support for the local Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, the Pupil Councils and the Looked After Children/Young People Champions Board.

We agree with this as an aim but would like to see more detail in the strategy about the expected levels of commitment to achieving this goal at national and local levels.

4.5.2 **Ensure Scotland is the best place to be young and to grow up.**

- In Dundee we have recently agreed that an elected member should be identified as a Young People's Champion. This position should help to ensure that young people have a voice at the highest levels of decision making.
- Through developments under GIRFEC and Curriculum for Excellence, Dundee has committed to meeting the standards expected in providing opportunities for all young people in the city to develop and achieve.
- There are regular opportunities to celebrate young people and their achievements. Examples of these are events such as the Lord Provost's Youth Festival, events celebrating youth volunteering and awards ceremonies such as The Corner's and Xplore's annual celebration events.

While we agree that this is something we should all strive to achieve, we feel it is the hardest strategic aim to be clear about measuring outcomes and identifying expectations. The outcomes associated with this are more consistent with the first strategic aim. The strategy should be clearer about what the expectations are on those who provide Youth Work Services in the Local Authority and Voluntary Sectors.

4.5.3 **Recognise the value of Youth Work**

- The City Council and Voluntary Sector Youth Work programmes in Dundee offer learning opportunities for young people through universal and targeted provision.
- The value of Youth Work in Dundee is being recognised, increasingly, through the involvement of Youth Workers in developments under GIRFEC in Dundee and in supporting young people who need alternative approaches to learning.
- The CLD Youth Work Team in the City Council produces an annual report describing the impact of its Youth Work programmes.

The strategy emphasises that both universal and targeted youth work should be equally valued and supported. There is the potential, as we move to more individualised support packages through initiatives such as GIRFEC, for this to be achieved at the expense of group based social and recreational opportunities open to all. It is important that the strategy is clear about national expectations in this regard. It would be helpful if the strategy could be clearer about the role of Youth Work in targeted work with young people.

The views of the wide range of providers in the Local Authority and Voluntary Sectors should be acknowledged in the development of Plans for Community Learning and Development, as described in the National Guidance to Community Planning Partnerships. The strategy should commit Education Scotland and YouthLink Scotland to improving awareness of Youth Work at national level and be clear about the position of Youth Work in meeting expectations of national policy.

4.5.4 Build Workforce capacity

- City Council and Voluntary Sector Youth Workers have participated in the CLD Upskilling programme supported by the Scottish Government.
- There is a strong focus on developing young volunteers who can take on leadership roles and contribute to the ongoing delivery of Youth Work programmes.
- The City Council CLD Youth Work Section is currently developing three Youth Work Modern Apprenticeships.

We would like to see the strategy being used to press for greater investment in supporting young people to progress, through taking on leadership roles and becoming volunteers, to employment opportunities in Youth Work.

We would like to see the strategy clearly identifying the development of Modern Apprenticeships in Youth Work as a key strategic aim across Scotland.

4.5.5 Ensure we measure impact

- The CLD Youth Work Section in the City Council measures impact for all programmes under its control. This is reflected in the annual impact report.
- The development of local Learning Partnerships in Dundee provides opportunities for partners to work together on self evaluation and improvement planning.

We agree with the general strategic direction described in this aim. The strategy emphasises the need to work with partner agencies in undertaking self evaluation and identifying areas for improvement and this is consistent with developments underway in Dundee.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 A national implementation plan will be developed following the launch of the strategy. It is our intention to return to Committee with a plan which summarises the actions required in Dundee to achieve the strategic aims.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. No major issues have been identified.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Dundee City Council's Young People's Champion, the Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Democratic and Legal Services and the Directors of Education, Leisure and Communities and Social Work have been consulted. Dundee Youth Council has also been consulted.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 The Draft National Youth Work Strategy for 2014 - 2019

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES

Our ambitions for improving the life chances of young people in Scotland

**DRAFT NATIONAL YOUTH WORK STRATEGY
2014-2019**



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Ministerial foreword

We want Scotland to be the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up. We want a Scotland where the rights of children and young people are not just recognised, but rooted deep in our society and in our public and voluntary services. And we want a nation that treasures the whole wellbeing of children and young people.

Right now, we have a unique opportunity to ensure our services are fit for 21st century Scotland and take full advantage of our resources and talent to maximise potential and to build a fairer society. A strong, responsive and imaginative youth work sector that supports and empowers young people is vital in our drive to improve their wellbeing and life chances.

The [Christie Commission](#) reported on the future delivery of Scotland's public services in a challenging world. It highlighted how services must better meet the needs of the people and the communities they serve. In welcoming its recommendations, we set out a vision of reform through early intervention and preventative spending, greater integration and partnership at a local level, workforce development and a sharper, more transparent focus on performance.

As the [Programme for Government](#) outlines, we want all young people to have the skills for lifelong learning and work. Every day, thousands of youth workers and dedicated volunteers across Scotland are helping our young people to be the successful, confident, effective and responsible individuals that our nation needs.

We know that youth work changes lives for the better. We remain committed to supporting and working collaboratively with national youth work organisations to give young people the skills that they need - and indeed deserve - to succeed in life.

This draft Strategy, developed jointly by the Scottish Government, Education Scotland and YouthLink Scotland aims to set out our ambitions for improving outcomes for young people through youth work. It has been developed in the context of the [Strategic Guidance for Community Learning and Development](#). And it aims to ensure that we harness and build on our partnerships and what we know works in delivering vibrant and effective youth work practice.

It recognises the contribution that youth work makes towards the [National Outcomes](#) and the wide range of activities and policies that impact on young people's lives. And it recognises that both universal and more targeted specific work have equal validity and importance.

It has been published in draft to allow time for a National Discussion with all those who have an interest in youth work, including young people. We want you to contribute to its future direction and implementation. A final document and implementation plan will be published next year [2014], helping take us towards 2018 – the themed [Year of Young People](#).

Soon we will have a referendum on our nation's future in which young people aged 16 and above will be able to vote. Youth work and youth citizenship organisations play an important part in helping to ensure that all young people get the opportunity to engage in the democratic process and with our comprehensive blueprint for an independent country - [Scotland's Future](#).

It's an exciting time for Scotland. Let's work together to support and empower our young people to make positive choices. To put them in charge of what they want to do and learn. And give them every opportunity to contribute to their communities, our wider society and beyond.

Let's use this draft Youth Work Strategy to harness the value of youth work practice, build on what we know works and strengthen partnerships so that we can keep delivering vibrant, fun and effective youth work provision that helps young people become confident individuals who are ready to succeed.

Aileen Campbell MSP
Minister for Children and Young People
December 2013

Introduction

The Scottish Government, Education Scotland and YouthLink Scotland are working collaboratively and with others to create a more equal and tolerant society where generations work together for the common good and the development of individuals and communities.

Our young people have a major role to play in this. The introduction of the Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partners: Community Learning and Development published in June 2012 and The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 which came into force in September 2013 provide a platform for work with young people to be recognised as a key and distinctive component of our present and future agenda for young people.

YouthLink Scotland's ¹**Statement on the nature and purpose of youth work** received widespread support. It was informed by a number of key documents and influenced policy and workforce development in the sector. It outlined three features that underpin youth work: young people choose to participate; the work builds from where young people are; the young person and youth worker are partners in the learning process. The sector uses many different methods, for example the arts and cultural activities, outdoor learning, physical, activity and single topics to engage effectively with young people and is present in many different situations and learning environments. Its uniqueness and value is in the way youth workers engage with young people through building trusting and supportive relationships. Also through using social group work and mentoring skills to negotiate with young people. Diverse activities help young people gain confidence, develop important skills for life and achieve success but also to have fun, and engage with others as they progress through adolescence to adulthood. Workers develop trust and confidence in the young people in a non-judgemental and informal setting.

This partnership approach was demonstrated in **Distance Travelled**² (2011) which showed the increased engagement of the sector in policy development and service delivery. Since then significant partnerships have developed with other professionals who work with young people around the implementation of *Curriculum for Excellence*, *More Choices More Chances* and *Getting it Right for Every Child* placing young people at the heart of all we do.

As we move forward, we know youth work organisations and the youth work sector is continuously engaging with young people and other professionals in

¹ [Statement on the nature and purpose of youth work](#)

² [Distance Travelled](#)

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innovative collaborative ventures with schools, colleges and key services around employability, sports, culture, health justice and many more.

Youth work contributes positively to a wide range of government policies and has a significant impact in improving the life chances of young people.

In this draft Strategy, Education Scotland, YouthLink Scotland and the Scottish Government together, are focussing on building on these strengths and experiences to place the needs of young people at the centre of the work.

The key purpose of community learning and development is empowering people, individually and collectively, to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities, through learning.

By working in partnership with young people we know we are creating a learning process which contributes to improving their life chances, through learning, personal development and active citizenship. Ultimately we are building stronger, more resilient and inclusive communities.

Alex Linkston CBE, Chair of YouthLink Scotland - The National Agency for Youth Work

Dr Bill Maxwell, Chief Executive, Education Scotland

1. Our ambitions for young people in Scotland

All young people, in every part of Scotland, should have access to high quality and effective youth work practice. This is what we believe and this is what we aspire to. We can only achieve this by working together with young people, Community Planning Partnerships, relevant organisations and other partners. We know we already have a great foundation to build upon. Changing the way public services are delivered is key to ensuring that young people continue to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Youth work principles and values are integral to developing these services and ambitions but only by placing the young person at the centre and listening to them can we begin to do so. The development, learning and experiences that young people gain in youth work situations are long lasting and can have a positive impact which is lifelong.

The Government's [National Performance Framework](#) sets out the strategic objectives for all public services, including those delivering community learning and development (CLD).

We know that engaging with young people must be an empowering process. It must offer young people developmental opportunities as well as the ability to lead, take responsibility, make decisions, and make a real and lasting contribution – both economically and socially to Scotland's present and future.

To achieve this we will:

- (a) **Put young people at the heart of policy**
In keeping with Article 12 of the UNCRC³, we support and promote the active participation and engagement of young people in the planning, delivery and management of services, strengthened through the community empowerment agenda, Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and relevant legislation⁴. This will ensure that the best interests of young people underpin our policies.
- (b) **Ensure Scotland is the best place to be young and grow up in**
By working collaboratively to inspire young people and to ensure that Scotland is the best place to be young and continues to be at the forefront globally of innovative work with young people.

³ http://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights_overview.pdf

⁴ Children and Young People's Bill will enhance the existing policy framework in relation to Getting it Right for Every Child and ensure that children's rights are taken into consideration across the whole of the public sector, including education, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

OUR AMBITIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND

(c) **Recognise the value of youth work**

By continuing to recognise, promote and celebrate the value of both universal and targeted youth work in improving young people's life chances. We will learn from each other's expertise and experience and value not only our achievements but young people's achievements too.

(d) **Build workforce capacity**

By building on the strength of those working within the sector to develop their capacity. We will ensure that youth workers and all those who work with young people, in a paid and voluntary capacity, have access to high quality workforce and volunteer development to enable them to lead the field in youth work practices. This will help to continue to improve the quality of services and outcomes for young people.

(e) **Ensure we measure our impact**

By measuring success, monitoring and evaluating, in partnership with young people, the impact and delivery of these actions. We will ensure improvement through robust and rigorous self-evaluation and assessment of impact in youth work practice. We will enable more opportunities for youth workers and other professionals to engage in joint evaluation of young people's progress and achievements. We will promote this both locally and globally.

2. Conditions for success towards achieving our ambitions

We are committed to improving outcomes for all young people and to eradicating the inequity which currently exists.

We can only achieve our ambitions successfully through working collectively for this common purpose. Working together with Community Planning Partnerships and youth work organisations, we will monitor and evaluate the provision of youth work in local plans for the delivery of community learning and development (CLD). This will help ensure that all young people, in every part of Scotland have access to high quality and effective youth work practice.

This draft Strategy is about the potential and possibilities of what young people can expect through our collective efforts.

2018 is to be Scotland's Year of Young People. This will bring with it many opportunities, to shine a light on the amazing contribution that young people make to communities across Scotland every day.

Policy Context

The Scottish Government policies outlined next whilst not exhaustive, are key areas that those working with young people in any setting should be aware of and take into consideration when planning and delivering work to achieve better outcomes for young people.

These policies reflect the principles of the Christie⁵ Commission where through early and effective intervention we prevent situations arising which adversely affect young people's lives. We must collaborate at a local level to have better integrated services for young people and to ensure that those who work with young people have good opportunities for training and development.

We know significant progress has been made in the youth work sector, but we must not be complacent. We need to be ambitious. More work needs to be carried out to raise awareness in all schools and colleges of the benefits that working with youth work providers brings not only to the curriculum but to the young people it serves.

The Scottish Government values the significant contribution that youth work makes towards its focus on the UNCRC, prevention, early intervention and

⁵ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Review/publicservicescommission>

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improving outcomes for children and young people. Maximising life chances for young people is part of this bigger picture and this is what this draft Strategy is about.

In June 2012, [Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partners: Community Learning and Development](#)⁶ was published which stated that CLD's specific focus should be: improved life chances for people of all ages through learning, personal development and active citizenship; stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.

New Regulations [The Requirements for Community Learning and Development \(Scotland\) Regulations 2013](#) mean that in each local authority area a three year plan has to be developed that outlines how CLD will be delivered. Local authorities have to consult with partners in drawing up these plans, evidencing the assessment of need including those of young people. Where needs cannot be met local authorities will be required to outline why they cannot be met. The first of these plans will be ready by April 2015.

[GIRFEC](#)

GIRFEC - *Getting it right for every child* - sets out a consistent way for people to work with all children and young people.

This helps practitioners to focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people – and how they can act to deliver these improvements. Getting it right for every child is threaded through all existing policy, practice, strategy and legislation affecting children, young people and their families. Whilst Government is not legislating universally for 18 plus, it is our ambition that good practice established for pre 18s would be extended into young adult service provision.

[Early Years Collaborative](#)

Working with young people includes working with children and young parents. The objective of the Early Years Collaborative (EYC) is to accelerate the conversion of the high level principles set out in GIRFEC and the Early Years Framework into practical action. Thus narrowing the gap between what we know works and what we do.

The [Early Years Framework](#) aims to break negative cycles of inequality through early and effective intervention. Together with the Scottish Government's other social policy frameworks: [Equally Well](#) which focuses

⁶ CLD strategic guidance was developed in the context of [Putting Learners at the Centre: Delivering Our Ambitions for Post 16 – Education](#)

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on addressing health inequalities, and [Achieving Our Potential](#) which aims to tackle poverty. Those working with young people are well placed to make early interventions to break these cycles of inequality.

[Curriculum for Excellence](#)

Community Learning and Development and the youth work sector have a significant role to play in Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). They are important delivery partners, offering young people valuable opportunities for learning and personal development, both in and out of school. [Curriculum for Excellence Briefing 10: The role of Community Learning and Development and partnership working](#)

Strengthening partnerships between school staff and youth work practitioners remains a priority for the Curriculum for Excellence programme, particularly within the planning and delivery of the senior phase. The onset of the senior phase, the launch of the senior phase benchmarking tool, together with the outdoor learning agenda and 16 plus Activity Agreements present new opportunities and challenges for schools and colleges in their interfaces with youth work.

The senior phase of CfE can only be delivered through effective partnership working. It is becoming more common for young people to learn through a range of providers. As a result, it is particularly important that partners work well together to plan and deliver the curriculum.

There are many good examples where schools and youth work are working collaboratively to plan and deliver personalised learning opportunities for young people as part of the curriculum and we must continue to build on this. It is important that youth work activities undertaken outwith the school day are also recognised and valued as part of Curriculum for Excellence. This includes sharing young people's considerable achievements with schools.

Teachers, youth workers and others who work with young people both inside and outside school are central to young people achieving the four capacities. These are to be successful learners who both attain and achieve, responsible citizens who participate in and effectively contribute to their society, confident and assured young people who know that they have skills, values and a contribution to make to Scotland's common weal.

[Health and Wellbeing](#)

The above provides a summary of key Scottish Government policies that aim to support young people's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

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Community Empowerment

Promotes young people's involvement in decision making locally and nationally and builds skills to enable young people to make their views known and to understand the impact of policy and legislative developments.

Opportunities for All

Opportunities for All brings together a range of existing national and local policies and strategies. It provides a single focus to improve young people's participation in post 16 learning or training, and ultimately employment, through appropriate interventions and support until at least their 20th birthday. This builds on and adds impetus to existing entitlements and commitments to support youth employment through the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence. It includes the development of skills for learning, life and work, robust transitions through 16+ Learning Choices and the targeted support offered through More Choices, More Chances (MCMC) and Activity Agreements.

It is an explicit commitment to offer a place in learning or training to every 16-19 year old who is not currently in employment, education or training. It requires the post-16 learning system to re-engage young people who are not currently in education, employment or training appropriately with learning or training between their 16th and 20th birthdays. It also enables support to be offered to young people more effectively beyond that age. Youth workers, teachers and others who work with young people have a key role to contribute to this agenda.

Commission for developing Scotland's young workforce

The overarching ambition is to enable Scotland's young people to move into sustainable employment. To do this, young people need to make the best transition from a broad general education into a senior phase which has a comprehensive range of opportunities which will improve their employment prospects.

Time to Shine - Youth Arts Strategy

Time to Shine supports all Scotland's children and young people to flourish and achieve in, and through, the arts and creativity.

Scottish Government's Youth Sport Strategy

Giving Children and Young People a Sporting Chance – A Draft Strategy for Scotland will be/was published in December 2013 for consultation. This draft Strategy focusses on what children and young people have said will ignite and excite them to get involved and stay involved in sport. It actively encourages them to influence and shape the future of sport in Scotland.

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Learning for Sustainability

Youth organisations are key partners in taking forward learning for sustainability which encompasses outdoor learning, sustainable development education and global citizenship. Learning for sustainability aims to build the values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and confidence needed to develop practices and take decisions which are compatible with a sustainable and equitable society.

International Work with Young People

International work with young people builds understanding of global citizenship through opportunities to visit and volunteer in other countries and learn about different cultures and share these experiences with others.

Generations Working Together

Scotland has an ageing population, intergenerational practice is inclusive, building on the positive resources that young and old have to offer each other and the community at large. Youth organisations and young people can promote greater understanding and respect between generations and contribute to building more cohesive communities.

3. Investing in our workforce to improve outcomes for young people

Young people in Scotland have an entitlement to be supported by skilled, competent, youth work practitioners who take account of their whole wellbeing. This includes paid staff and volunteers.

We value highly the contribution of the professional youth work workforce. The work of national and local youth organisations, together with Education Scotland and the CLD Standards Council, is critical to building a sustainable culture of training, support and continuous professional development to meet the needs of the 21st century.

We will work to ascertain the scope of the workforce to build capacity and the provision of relevant quality training and development consistent with the values, principles and ethical practices required to work with young people in a challenging climate.

Supporting and valuing volunteers

Much of the youth work delivery in Scotland relies on the time and skills of volunteers. Without volunteers, youth work provision in Scotland, irrespective of whether delivered through local authority provision or third sector, would be severely limited. Volunteering also offers personal development and leadership opportunities for young people and adults that builds core skills, in some cases supporting their transitions into further learning and employment. Volunteering benefits the individual and community and helps develop greater social cohesion.

Volunteers need to be recruited, trained, supported, retained and celebrated.

We will continue to work collaboratively with our partners to promote and celebrate the vital contribution that volunteers make to youth work in Scotland. This will include ensuring that we are able to provide guidance and resources to support new and existing voluntary youth work groups, partnerships and volunteers to ensure high quality standards are met and maintained.

Recognising young people's contribution

Many young people are themselves volunteers in the youth work sector, supporting their peers and contributing to their communities and beyond; volunteering to further enhance their engagement, leadership and creative skills.

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Many young people are young parents and carers. Many young people have additional learning needs. We ask that partners continue to promote, celebrate and support all young people through the many transitions and challenges they face.

We know that in Scotland there are 220,000 children living in poverty⁷. Poverty affects future life chances, with children in low income households more likely to have poorer health, lower educational attainment and reduced life expectancy. Working together we can create a virtuous cycle of improvement to break the cycle of inequality and improve life chances for young people. We are committed to break this cycle and ensure that all young people have opportunities which will improve their life chances.

The different strategies for learning and the myriad of learning environments offered by the youth work sector gives opportunities to all, while engaging particularly well with those young people who have for whatever reason disengaged from more formal education and training. The track record of the sector in re-engaging the most hard to reach young people is strong and is a key component in the delivery of present Scottish Government aspirations and strategies. The youth work sector plays a substantial role in maintaining and developing young people affected by unemployment, mental and physical health issues, and lack of family support.

Improvement through self-evaluation

Improvement is about building the capacity of the workforce to carry out effective self-evaluation. Self-evaluation is forward looking, it is about change and improvement, whether gradual or transformational, and is based on professional reflection, challenge and support.

Self-evaluation processes use the triangulation of evidence-based information and data, people's views and direct observation of practice to inform outcomes and measure impact on young people. In order to plan improvement effectively we need to know how well we are doing.

Education Scotland will ensure that the approaches and tools we promote for the purposes of self-evaluation are reviewed regularly and updated to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Education Scotland and YouthLink Scotland will work with national youth work organisations and youth work providers to build capacity, embed self-evaluation and improve the measurement of outcomes and impact for all

⁷ <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/where-we-work/united-kingdom/scotland>

INVESTING IN OUR WORKFORCE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

young people. Through evaluative activity, including inspection, we will identify best practice and share widely across the system.

DRAFT

4. Conclusion

In implementing our ambitions within this draft Strategy the Scottish Government, Education Scotland and YouthLink Scotland will ensure that we:

(a) Put young people at the heart of policy

In keeping with Article 12 of the UNCRC⁸, we support and promote the active participation and engagement of young people in the planning, delivery and management of services, strengthened through the community empowerment agenda, Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and relevant legislation⁽⁹⁾. This will ensure that the best interests of young people underpin our policies.

Outcomes:

- young people, and their contributions are respected and valued, and their views are listened to with regard to issues that affect them;
- young people are well informed, encouraged to make positive choices and contribute to civic society;
- youth work continues to make a positive contribution to young people's health and wellbeing;
- young people should be directly involved in local and national decision making, designing, co-producing and delivering services.

(b) Ensure Scotland is the best place to be young and grow up in

By working collaboratively to inspire young people and to ensure that Scotland is the best place to be young and continues to be at the forefront globally of innovative work with young people.

Outcomes:

- young people, and their contributions are respected and valued, and their views are listened to with regard to issues that affect them;
- young people are well informed, encouraged to make positive choices and contribute to civic society.

(c) Recognise the value of youth work

By continuing to recognise, promote and celebrate the value of both universal and targeted youth work in improving young people's life

⁸ http://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights_overview.pdf

⁹ Children and Young People's Bill will enhance the existing policy framework in relation to Getting it Right for Every Child and ensure that children's rights are taken into consideration across the whole of the public sector, including education, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

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chances. We will learn from each other's expertise and experience and value not only our achievements but young people's achievements too.

Outcomes:

- youth work, through the CLD Guidance and CLD Regulations, is firmly embedded within the broader field of Community Learning and Development within Community Planning arrangements;
- the youth work sector, voluntary and statutory, and its workforce in its entirety is clear that their contribution is both valued and understood;
- youth work is firmly embedded at the heart of policies that are central to making Scotland the best place to be young and grow up in.

(d) Build workforce capacity

By building on the strength of those working within the sector to develop their capacity, we will ensure that youth workers and all those who work with young people, in a paid and voluntary capacity, have access to high quality workforce and volunteer development to enable them to lead the field in youth work practices.

Outcomes:

- Scotland will have well-motivated, well trained and supported practitioners in order to achieve our ambition;
- the contribution of volunteers is recognised and valued and that volunteers are properly supported and encouraged;
- youth work organisations are supported to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of their members.

(e) Ensure we measure our impact

By measuring success, monitoring and evaluating, in partnership with young people, the impact and delivery of these actions. We will ensure improvement through robust and rigorous self-evaluation and assessment of impact in youth work practice. We will enable more opportunities for youth workers and other professionals to engage in joint evaluation of young people's progress and achievements. We will promote this both locally and globally.

Outcomes:

- youth work organisations self-evaluate practice and demonstrate the impact on outcomes for young people;
- youth work organisations and partners have opportunities to engage in joint-evaluation of young people's achievements;

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- Young people are supported to record and articulate their own learning through youth work practice.

There is much to be done to fulfil this ambition and implement the outcomes. We look forward to working in partnership with the common aim of helping young people in their transitions from childhood to adolescence and from there to adulthood.

Youth work has a critical role in that process.

Next steps

Over the coming months, we very much look forward to developing the Implementation Plan through national discussions with key stakeholders, including young people. Our aim is to have an ambitious Strategy that encourages innovation and leads the way globally for our young people.

The Implementation Plan which will be an appendix to this document will outline the key actions that will be taken forward in partnership and delivered over the coming five years, ensuring young people receive the best opportunities to improve their life chances in a Scotland that places them at the centre.