

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 18 January 2018

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Renfrewshire: Year of Young People 2018

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Scottish Government has designated 2018 as the Year of Young People (YoYP). The Scottish Government believes that the YoYP will inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and on the international stage.
- 1.2 Throughout 2018 the Scottish Government, local authorities and other partners are planning to deliver a range of activities and events which will address six themes identified by young people as most important for them. The themes are:
- Participation;
 - Education;
 - Health and Wellbeing;
 - Equality and Discrimination;
 - Enterprise and Regeneration; and
 - Culture.
- 1.3 Renfrewshire Youth Services works with a range of youth groups which have signed up to working in partnership to promote the YoYP. Work is being taken forward to develop a programme of activities which will link to the 6 themes outlined in paragraph 1.2.

- 1.4 Working with Young Scot, Renfrewshire Youth Services will lead on the Year of Young People 2018 in Renfrewshire. Partnership working with YoYP Ambassadors, Renfrewshire Youth Voice, as well as key council departments, schools and Renfrewshire Youth Work Network will contribute to a year of celebrating young people for Renfrewshire. Youth Services aims to harness the enthusiasm and the focus on young people that was generated during the UK City of Culture Bid.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Policy Board is asked to note:
- [a] note 2018 has been designated by the Scottish Government as the Year of Young People 2018;
 - [b] note that Renfrewshire Youth Services will be leading and facilitating a year of celebrating young people across the authority in partnership with young people and local youth work agencies and services across a range of sectors and locations ; and
 - [c] agree to the creation of a Renfrewshire YoYP 2018 activity Calendar on the Young Scot Young Renfrewshire portal and council social media, showcasing local talent and contributions made by young people, emphasising their role as creators and curators of their stories and achievements, not just passive consumers of services.
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3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government has designated 2018 as the Year of Young People (YoYP). The First Minister made an announcement in Dumfries, that as a global first, the Year of Young People 2018 will provide a platform to showcase personalities, talents and achievements of Scotland's young people. In addition, it will strengthen young people's voices and give them an opportunity to influence policy directly and be involved in decision-making on issues which affect their lives.
- 3.2 A Parliamentary Debate entitled 'Celebrating Our Future: Scotland's Year of Young People' was held on 12 December 2017 to demonstrate the Scottish Parliament fully recognises that 2018 has to be specifically aimed at young people. The Debate provided an opportunity to showcase the achievements and talents of our young people and will ensure that our young people's views are listened to and acted on.
- 3.3 The themes for the YoYP 2018 were identified as priorities by young people across Scotland. The 6 themes are as follows:
- **Participation** – looking at how young people can influence public services and decisions which affect their lives

- **Education** – creating a stronger role for young people in shaping their learning
- **Health and Wellbeing** –supporting young people to lead healthier, active lives and have opportunities to learn about and improve their mental health and resilience
- **Equality and Discrimination** – broadcasting the value of young Scots, challenging negative perceptions of young people, and supporting young people to take leading roles in challenging discrimination in all its forms.
- **Enterprise and Regeneration** – celebrating young people’s role in innovation, entrepreneurship and the Scottish economy as well as making Scotland a greener and more pleasant place to live
- **Culture** –celebrating young people’s talent and contribution to Scottish culture and arts

3.4 Renfrewshire is sector-leading in Youth Voice achievements. In 2014 Renfrewshire Youth Services won a COSLA Silver Award for commitment and the range of Youth Voice activities. Since then it has grown in strength to be one of the leading local authorities for MSYP voter registration, voter turnout and Young Scot card holders and reward users.

3.5 As the programme of activity rolls out over the next twelve months Renfrewshire Youth Services will ensure they link with the themes of the YoYP 2018.

4. Renfrewshire Youth Voice Leading to YoYP 2018

4.1 Renfrewshire can clearly demonstrate its commitment to listening and acting on young people’s views and concerns, creating youth voice structures that are sector-leading and have legacy impact:

- Renfrewshire Youth Voice has worked hard to achieve charitable status and have set up a Trustee Board and Executive made up of young people with Youth Services in support. RYV are currently investigating and campaigning for a town centre hub as a centre point run by young people for young people.
- Established a model of youth participation through a Youth Assembly, whereby young people can engage with key decision makers and service managers and elected members on issues that concern them. This model facilitated young people’s views on community planning themes, and allowed democratic voting on key issues of concern requiring collective action and measurable responses.
- The development of a Youth Commission on Young People and Mental Health to research the scope of the issue in Renfrewshire, consult with young people and communities and to engage key service providers in discussions to discover the gaps and possible solutions to safeguard young people’s mental health in Renfrewshire as they grow from children to adulthood.
- The Children’s Champions Board has been established over several years ensuring that young people who have experienced care are

included and have a bigger say in the decisions that affect their lives. Renfrewshire has already created strong partnerships with care-experienced young people and support their input into the development of services that directly affect them ensuring that they are fit for purpose, relevant and most importantly effective and protective. The partnership working between Renfrewshire Council and *Who Cares? Scotland* is ensuring corporate parenting responsibilities are fully realised and take into consideration how their role and establishment can enhance the life chances of care experienced young people.

- Renfrewshire Youth Work Network Partners who actively engage young people in a range of sporting, health, arts and culture activities and develop ways to work together in partnership to help young people reach their potential in line with national strategies and guidance; Renfrewshire Leisure, Active Communities, Erskine Music & Media Studio, Police Scotland, UWSC, Young Carers, West College Scotland, L.E.A.P. (Local Energy Action Plan), YMCA, Uniformed Organisations, are some of the organisations involved.
- Renfrewshire schools working in partnership with NHS, Police Scotland, Youth Services and Education Scotland to develop and deliver the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme. A peer - education programme engaging pupils in learning sessions to explore and prevent all forms of bullying and gender based violence.
- Members of Scottish Youth Parliament who campaigned in 2015-16 on Young People's Mental Health and produced a report – "Speak your Mind". The newly elected Renfrewshire MSYPs will be submitting the first Youth Motion to Education and Children's Policy Board on the need to develop PSHE programme in schools to reflect local expressed need.
- The Positive About Youth Awards, established in the local area as an annual event run by RYV to challenge negative stereotypes of young people and to celebrate local youth champions and unsung heroes.
- Youth Services secured financial support through the Council's Tackling Poverty Programme. The Young Scot Project pioneered a pilot programme to develop smart card rewards and discounts, and increase and invest in the National Entitlement Card for local young people aged 10-25 years. The project helped to develop smart travel options for young people in the employability hub and Throughcare service, and securing a gym discount through Renfrewshire Leisure. Youth Services continue to develop this project which has demonstrated it can have a real impact on the quality of life for vulnerable young people.

5 Year of Young People 2018 Renfrewshire Wide

- 5.1 To bring it in line with other local authorities in Scotland. Renfrewshire is considering an appointment of a Young People's Champion Working with Youth Services, the YoYP Ambassadors, Youth Voice groups and the Youth Work Network, the Young People's Champion will be able to galvanise support across the local authority. Youth Services recommend that a YoYP strategy group is formed, to co-ordinate and develop YoYP activities, supported by a communications strategy.
- 5.2 Three YoYP Ambassadors have been selected to promote the incredible opportunities on offer to young Scots in Renfrewshire. The Ambassadors have taken part in training through Young Scot, and will be invited to work with RYV to join in with local planning; helping them to organise local YoYP events and activities. They will be helping to raise awareness of YoYP and encouraging peers and older generations to challenge negative stereotypes in their communities.
- 5.3 Two youth projects have been successful in the first round of Create18; Twist and Hit Cheerleaders in Paisley in February, and Acustico in Paisley in April/May. More applications will be submitted through the second round of the application process to help fund local events from August to December 2018.
- 5.4 The Renfrewshire Youth Services "Signature" application to Event Scotland to fund a bigger and better Youth Assembly in June 2018 was not successful. There was a huge interest in the fund and it was over-subscribed to a total of £6 million. While Youth Services and partners can highlight on-going work and achievements by young people, investment would be required to assist Renfrewshire local opportunities, experiences and community activities, and ensure our young people can participate in national YoYP events and programmes. Renfrewshire Youth Work Network will explore other funding opportunities.
- 5.5 Renfrewshire Youth Services will help "badge" existing good youth work practice that addresses the key themes of the YoYP, which includes Culture, Education, Health and Wellbeing, Enterprise and Regeneration, Equality and Diversity, and Participation. As part of promoting any local youth activity under these themes, the "My Story 365" project will shine a light on young peoples' stories and experiences across Scotland, and Youth Services can offer schools support to get involved by branding existing learning activities and to encourage young people to develop their own individual YoYP celebration event.

- 5.6 Using social media and digital tools to connect and share and spread the word will be an important aspect of YoYP. Raising the profile in the new digital age, and also providing simple face to face opportunities to perform, talk and share across communities and locations and reduce isolation, will help young people to connect with others and lead on positive peer projects.
- 5.7 Following the co-design blue-print of YoYP 2018, produced by Young Scot, the Scottish Government, Scottish Youth Parliament and Children in Scotland, young people must be a key part of the driving force which shapes, develops and implements events and activities as part of the YoYP 2018.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** — to progress this year long initiative, Youth Services along with partners will negotiate with young people an exciting programme of calendar events. Further report will be submitted to a future Education and Children's Services Policy Board.
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3. **HR & Organisational Development** - None.
4. **Community/Council Planning** – the report details a range of activities which reflect local community planning themes.
5. **Legal** - None.
6. **Property/Assets** – None
7. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety**- None
9. **Procurement** - None
10. **Risk** - Risks related to the delivery and management of services are regularly monitored and included in the Children's Services Risk Register.

11. **Privacy Impact** - None
 12. **Cosla Policy Position** –None
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List of Background Papers: None

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