

“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” National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019

Falkirk Council’s Community Learning & Development Service (CLDS) supports the delivery of universal youth work in communities across the Falkirk Council area for children and young people ranging from 5 to 18 years.

CLDS provides learning and training opportunities for both paid and voluntary staff to support the development and delivery of community based club activities

Each CLDS supported youth club is provided with Youth Scotland membership. As a result each club has access to training and resources designed to recognise the wider achievements of young people, as well as the accreditation framework for a range of SCQF¹ credit rated & levelled awards eg Hi5, Dynamic Youth and Youth Achievement Awards. All youth club activities reflect the CLDS core skills offer.

CLDS AIMS: By March 2018 we will improve outcomes for young people by

- Ensuring 20% of all participating young people will achieve accreditation
- 3 Universal Youth Work projects participating in research activities
- Increasing the number of adults and young people volunteering within their communities

METHOD

- Activities planned with children & young people, based on identified needs
- Build the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control
- Develop the ability of children and young people to manage personal and social relationships
- Provide a diverse range of learning opportunities for children and young people eg outdoor education, creative arts, sports, games, peer education and volunteering
- Offer accreditation and/or celebration and recognition of learning and achievements
- Develop positive links to the wider community and participate in local events

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1300 children & young people per week attended youth clubs provided in 13 communities, 50% of which are within SIMD areas (FIG 1)
- Participation in International Research Project to evaluate the impact of Universal Youth Work (case studies 1-3)
- Scots Wummin Project delivered in partnership with Youth Link
- 22% of young people achieved accreditation (FIG 2)
- 73 Volunteers supported to deliver club activities (FIG 3)
- 32 Training sessions delivered to paid and voluntary staff

NEXT STEPS

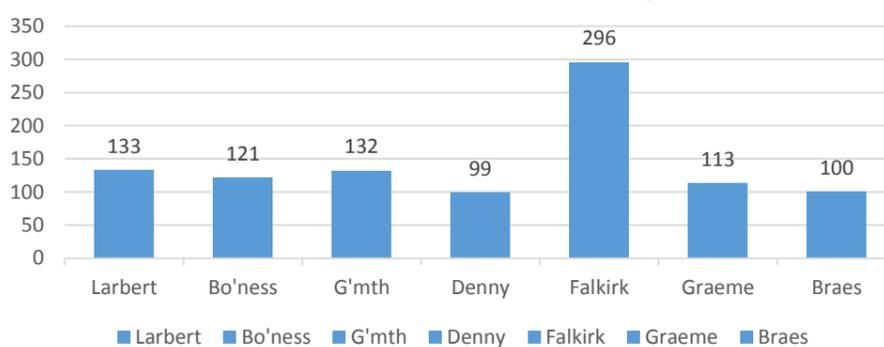
CLDS will:

- Work with targeted young people and families to improve their core skills
- Work with targeted young people and families to improve their health & wellbeing
- Increase the number of volunteers supporting delivery of universal youth work
- Ensure standardised support provided to all youth clubs
- Continue to provide CPD opportunities for paid & voluntary staff

RESULTS

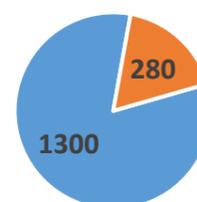
FIG 1

Youth Club Attendance 2017/18



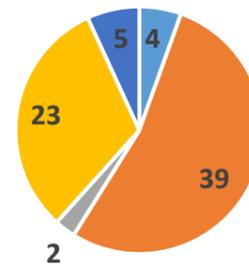
2017/18 Young People Participating in Accreditation

FIG 2

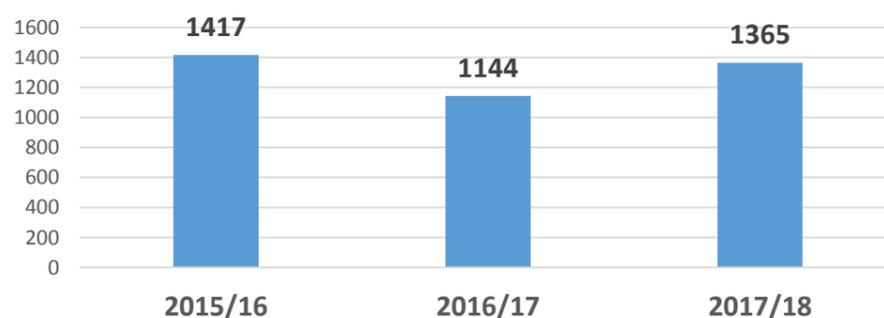


Volunteers 2017/18

FIG 3



Comparison of Number of Children & Young People Attending Youth Clubs



Case Study 1

Name: Nancy Age: 18

Well I was a wee rage. Getting barred and that all the time. One of the seniors asked me to go along to the senior night and I came along and it was better, more freedom. I got involved in D of E. Then I started volunteering on the night I used to get banned from. Then I was volunteering 2 nights a week. I volunteered because I enjoyed being a role model. I didn't like school. It wasn't my cup of coffee. I learned more here than I did at school, just like day to day skills. My attitude and way around things, dealing with things changed for the better. Well I wasn't a rage any more. I started listening to people, youth workers, cos they weren't like teachers. They were easier to have a relationship with, talk to and that.

I kept volunteering and got to know people, higher up people, made contacts. I got kicked out of school and came to a group called Bliss where I did my school work and worked one to one with a youth worker. I learned how to live in the big wide world. How to run a house and that. Well I have a job and am still highly involved in youth work. I am the chair of a youth committee and we are making chances and changes for people like me

Youth Worker Comment

Nancy was given encouragement to participate in training programmes on youth leadership and she took the lead on several community events. The youth workers provided Nancy with opportunities to take the learning she gained from the training experiences and share it with her friends and although she never returned to 'education' she completed some of her National 4's within the youth club setting and has gone on to complete several youth awards.

Nancy had successfully gained full time employment several times over the past 2 years but had not managed to maintain any of the jobs. She is aware of injustices within work environments and finds herself in conflict with management with limited ability to compromise. The youth workers and Nancy are working on looking managing employment and the rights of an employee as well as what type of job role would suit her. Nancy who once was unable to speak up for herself now speaks in front of groups and represents other youth people giving them a voice.

Case Study 3

Name Cozza Age 24

When I was 5 I started going to junior youth, when I started I was very quiet and didn't like to mix with people I didn't know. With help of the youth club worker Louise and volunteers I manage to make new friends and start to mix with people more and make more friends. I would also join in more group activities where as I would just sit around in the corner by myself. This all continued throughout junior youth club by the end of junior youth club I had a bit more confidence in myself for going into high school.

When I started high school my confidence levels dropped again because of all the new faces and there was a lot more people there so I didn't ever bother going back to youth club for a few months. Then I decided to return again with a few of my friends. For a little while I would just sit with my old friends till I found the courage again to start talking to new people. After I built that back up again, Louise the youth worker asked me if I would like to volunteer at junior youth club with her support, that's what I did. When I started volunteering I went on various training courses which I found hard at first because of my dyslexia and because of all the paper work and needing to mix with new faces. Most of the training course Louise accompanies me on which help me because there was someone there that I knew until I started to mix with people. My own youth club asked me if I wanted to try and complete my platinum youth awards at the start I wasn't sure if I could do it but the youth worker had confidence in me which motivated me at the same time. So to complete my platinum award I had to undertake a few training courses, placement, lead my own activities at youth club and learn and plan with others for achive school in Grangemouth high after all of that was complete I had to stand up in front of people and give a presentation about my award. So after walk out of high school with minimum qualifications. Youth club gave me my confidence, an advanced higher in sports leadership, the confidence to mix with people I don't know and the courage to go out and do what I want to do in life because now they can't shut me up.

Case Study 3

Name: Carla Age: 21

I started to attend the youth club at a local Community Centre when I was 14-year-old. I joined with a group of friends to see what it was like and to also have a place outside of school where we could talk and hang out. Since going to the youth club I have found that my confidence has improved and that I have been able to experience new things. The youth club was fun place to go to as they always had something for us to do or if we just wanted to sit and talk with each other or the workers, we could also do that. The youth club would also arrange fun trips for us to go out to, like going through to Edinburgh to watch a musical. The youth club was also a great place for me personal as I could have a fun place to go the a forget some family issues that I had and that I knew there was always someone there that I could talk to and that they would listen to me.

Because I went to the youth club I have gained new friends in the staff who worked there, to which they then encouraged me when I was too old to go to the youth club, to volunteer at the junior youth club and help give back to the centre and the staff that ran the youth clubs. The youth club has changed my life as I have built up skill which I can now transfer into my dream job of teaching. Also, the youth club has allowed me to complete my platinum youth achievement award which will help me get into university to do teaching, as throughout the award I have built up skills to plan and run a successful youth club session with confidence.

Joining the youth club has been the best decision I have made as it has helped me grow as a person and opened a door into a potential career path I never thought existed or that I could even do with being dyslexic. I am happy and grateful that there was someone there to run a youth club for me and my friends and that has now lead me to give back and be there to run a youth club for other kids so that they can experience the same fun things that I did.

Youth Worker Comment

It has been an absolute privilege to provide youth work support to this young female & I know that she is going to continue to thrive - her ambitions are to become a teacher, where I am sure she will be able to use her positive experiences and how she has overcome barriers will be shared with all of her future pupils.

Youth Worker Comment

Cozza volunteered for over 4 years and throughout this time she took part in residentials, which included cycling, canoeing, sailing, team building and off road mountain biking. It has been a pleasure to see her coming out of herself and turning into a confident young lady who is now working in a full time job, something that she never thought she could do.

Throughout her completing her Platinum Youth Award I witnessed a transformation in relation to confidence and self-esteem. Cozzas first words to me were 'I can't do that', however with monthly meetings and a strong support link from her fellow volunteers Cozza did indeed do it. I feel that this really improved her self-belief in herself & gave her the confidence to apply for the full time job out with her local community. Throughout this time Cozza also passed her driver's test & I believe that she realised that there was more to the world than the isolated village that she has lived in all her life.