

Agenda Item	17.
Report No	PEO 13/18

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: People

Date: 25 January 2018

Report Title: Year of Young People 2018

Report By: Director of Care and Learning

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the aspirations for The Year of Young People 2018 (YoYP 2018).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Note the information provided on the Year of Young People 2018.
 - ii. Give full support to the stated aim, “to 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 globally”.

3. National background

- 3.1 The aim of Year of Young People 2018 is to 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 globally.
- 3.2 In 2013, Scotland's First Minister announced that 2018 would be the Year of Young People.
- 3.3 In 2015, the Scottish Government commissioned three youth organisations (Children in Scotland, Scottish Youth Parliament and Young Scot) to directly engage young people to co-design what shape the Year of Young People 2018 should take, anticipating that it should be an opportunity for generations to come together and celebrate the nation's young people.
- 3.4 An Interim Planning Group of 18 young people (aged 8 to 22) worked with their peers and stakeholders through online and offline events to find out what mattered to them.
- 3.5 Over 600 young people and 200 stakeholders took part in this process and it led to recommendations to Scottish Government Ministers of what the aim, objectives and themes of the year should be.
- 3.6 The Planning Group set out themes for the Year of Young People 2018 (YoYP2018):

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

- 3.9 YoYP2018 is intended to be a platform for young people (8 to 26), giving them a stronger voice on issues which affect their lives, showcasing their ideas and talents, and ultimately, aiming to challenge the status quo and create a more positive perception of them in society
- 3.10 To take forward these ideas, a group of 35 young people, Communic18, was created. Their role is to influence how the Year will be run, while ensuring young people's voices are heard and acted upon. In addition, there are more than 500 Ambassadors, who are promoting local activities and creating opportunities in

their communities to challenge negative stereotypes of young people.

3.11 The objectives for the year are to;

- Provide a platform for young people to have their views heard and acted upon.
- Showcase the amazing talents of young people through events and media.
- Develop better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations.
- Recognise the impact of teachers, youth workers and other supporting adults on young people's lives.
- Provide opportunities for young people to express themselves through culture, sport and other activities.

3.12 Children in Scotland, Scottish Youth Parliament, and Young Scot have recruited committed and passionate young people from across Scotland to become the Year of Young People 2018 Ambassadors. Their role is to represent the YoYP2018 in their local community.

3.13 YoYP2018 Ambassadors are involved in making sure that young people and organisations in local communities know about YoYP 2018 activities, and will support projects and activity with local authorities, third sector partners and other organisations to showcase opportunities for young people to shine locally, nationally and globally.

3.14 The details of the Ambassadors in each local authority area will be announced this month.

4 Year of Young People 2018 in Highland

4.1 In November 2017, a group of officers from Highland Council and High Life Highland alongside the Youth Convenor and a number of members of the Youth Work Improvement Group (including young people) got together to plan a coordinated approach to working with Highland's Ambassadors to achieve some of the aspirations of the year, with a specific focus on the Highlands.

4.2 It was agreed that YoYP Highland would prioritise the themes of Rights and Participation and Equalities and Discrimination.

4.3 The group agreed that these were pertinent issues, and that the year provided a useful opportunity to develop work in these areas and leave a legacy of improved participation of children and young people in shaping effective services into the future. The four remaining thematic strands (Culture, Education, Health and Wellbeing and Economy and Regeneration) will be included in YoYP Highland but within the overarching context of the 2 priority themes agreed.

4.4 A Highland YoYP calendar is being developed, and the next meeting of the group on 27 January will bring all the Highland Ambassadors for the first time, providing an effective platform to share aspirations for the year and co-design a plan of events and activities. Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early Years has agreed to attend this meeting.

- 4.5 It is intended that the launch event will raise awareness of the Highland YoYP with the ambassadors working with officers to develop a communications hub, using social Media to highlight both this event and others throughout the year.
- 4.6 A group of young people and the communications team at Highlife Highland have been working to produce both a closed and open Facebook page for the year. The closed page will be open exclusively to the YoYP Ambassadors and group members. The open page will enable engagement and interaction with young people across Highland. A Twitter presence is also being planned.
- 4.7 The People Committee will be kept updated about events throughout the year.

5 Implications

- 5.1 All activities involving Highland Council will be taken forward within current resources.
- 5.2 There are no legal, equality, risk, climate change/carbon clever, rural or Gaelic implications arising from this report.

Designation: Director of Care and Learning

Date: 1th January 2018

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