

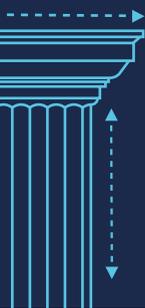
youth

SCOTLAND

Changing Lives Through
Community-Based Youth Work
A Strategy for 2020–2023



The network
of youth groups



Supporting over 66,000 young people, 8,200 youth workers and 1,400 youth groups every year in Community-Based Youth Work

Our Statement of Ambition

Changing Lives Through Community-Based Youth Work is our strategy to support and develop community-based youth work across Scotland.

We are the national charity supporting community-based youth work. We support children and young people aged between 5 and 25 years and those who work with them. To do this, we support a network of over 1,400 youth groups, working with over 8,200 youth workers who deliver services that help over 66,000 young people to learn, succeed and make positive contributions to their communities.

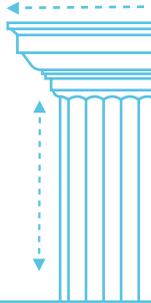
Youth Scotland is ambitious for the impact which community-based youth work has in young people's lives. Over the course of our previous strategy 2016-2019, we successfully renewed our commitment to a simple and unifying core purpose: to grow and develop community-based youth work.

This 2020-2023 strategy builds on our established and ongoing successes. Our strategy to grow and develop community-based youth work is built on four supporting pillars: Supporting Our Member Youth Groups; Training Volunteers and Youth Workers; Youth Leadership and National Programmes; and Accredited Youth Awards.

As noted in the research publication *The Impact of Community-based Universal Youth Work in Scotland*, Scotland's youth work sector is committed, resilient and ambitious; it is also under an increasing focus to demonstrate impact. To that end, this strategy details our four pillars to deliver our commitment to community-based youth work, what we will do to achieve them and how those outcomes will be measured.

“ Youth work definitely gave me a sense of confidence that I didn’t have before, for example applying for college courses, and attending interviews.”

Young person, 21,
The Impact of Community-based Universal Youth Work
in Scotland



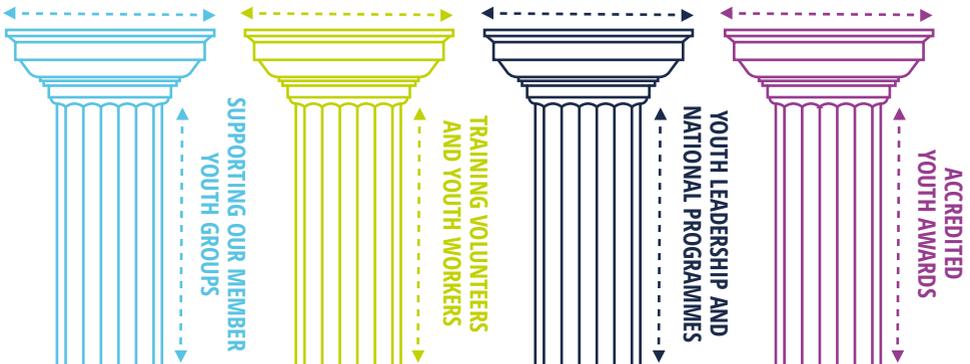
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Currently, over 60% of our member youth groups operate in disadvantaged communities, according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 1-5). 74% of all our awards were delivered within SIMD deciles 1-5. This strategy sets out an ambitious plan to continue to support and offer invaluable opportunities to our most disadvantaged young people.

Over the course of this strategy, Youth Scotland will remain a passionate advocate and contributor to the National Youth Work Outcomes, particularly with the development of the next National Youth Work Strategy.

At the conclusion of this three-year strategy in 2023, the Youth Scotland Network will have been supporting the work of youth groups for nine decades. We have been inspired over the years to see the diverse needs of tens of thousands of young people having been met by a dedicated workforce of volunteers, youth workers and leaders.

Dona Milne, Chair



Supporting Our Member Youth Groups

Our ambition is for all young people, regardless of their circumstances, to benefit from high quality community-based youth work through the Youth Scotland network.



To achieve this we will:

- Increase the number of youth groups in our membership by 20%
- Reach out to all youth groups to promote the benefits of membership of the Youth Scotland network
- Build youth groups' capacity to deliver safe, compliant and high-quality youth work
- Continuously improve our offer of high-quality practical tools, support and resources

What success will look like:

- Youth Scotland member youth groups will increase by 20%
- 100% of our member youth groups will improve their practice and continue to meet minimum standards, complying with all relevant regulations e.g. Child Protection
- 9,000 youth work practitioners will improve their knowledge through use of the Youth Work Essentials portal, accessing a range of high-quality services including Evaluation and Outcomes, Child Protection, Equalities and Employment Law

Our ambition is to establish ourselves as the leading provider of training and capacity-building for the youth work sector in Scotland, improving the skills and confidence of those who are supporting young people.



To achieve this we will:

- Increase and enhance opportunities for accredited learning and development through our Training Pathway for voluntary and paid youth workers, managers and leaders
- Develop our Leaders Forum for voluntary youth work managers and leaders to meet and share learning in youth work practice and policy
- Build on our Trusted Adult and thematic training programmes to ensure that youth workers have the knowledge, skills and confidence to support young people and meet their needs in an ever-changing and complex society
- Build and expand our offering of digital youth work skills and training to meet the needs of the evolving nature of youth work

What success will look like:

- 6,500 youth workers will report increases in the skills and confidence to deliver youth work opportunities for young people and accredit young people's learning
- 3,000 will achieve accredited qualifications or CPD evidencing their training and development

Youth Leadership and National Programmes

Our ambition is for young people across all 32 Local Authorities to have the opportunity to grow and develop their everyday leadership skills through iLead and other youth participation projects.



To achieve this we will:

- Increase the opportunities for young people to participate in iLead, Youth Scotland's youth leadership programme and develop their leadership skills
- Improve young people's participation in national programmes that build resilience and improve health and wellbeing
- Seek funding for new projects and programmes which can be co-designed with young people and address mental health and wellbeing; financial literacy; active citizenship; and community participation

What success will look like:

- 5,000 young people will report they have developed new skills, increased confidence and have accessed new experiences through our national programmes

Our ambition is that we will create more opportunities for young people to achieve and gain accreditation for their learning through Hi5, Dynamic Youth Awards and Youth Achievement Awards at SCQF levels 2-7. This will support national efforts to close the poverty-related attainment gap and increase young people's skills for learning, work and life.



To achieve this we will:

- Develop new partnerships with schools and employers and build capacity within our community-based youth groups to improve young people's access to our Awards
- Encourage more young people to participate in Youth Scotland's Awards while engaged in our national programmes
- Increase the number of young people in our member youth groups achieving Youth Scotland's Awards
- Support wider recognition of the value of youth awards in young people's lives through leading and hosting the Awards Network

What success will look like:

- Youth Scotland will accredit young people's learning and achievements with more than 100,000 awards
- We will increase the number of schools registered and using a youth work approach to deliver awards by 50%
- Young people across all 32 Local Authorities are able to achieve our awards through community-based youth work, school and employer partnerships

Our Mission

is to support young people to achieve their full potential.

Our Vision

is a country which values community-based youth work and its impact on young people's lives.

We are pleased that young people, volunteers, youth workers, Area Associations, Youth Scotland staff and our Board of Trustees have all fed into this strategy. Based on this, we are encouraged and confident of Youth Scotland's role in the sector and the future we have in partnership with our national network of community-based youth work.

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