

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

3 December 2015

Report by Deputy Chief Executive

YOUNG PERSONS SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the performance of Young Person Services during the 2014-15 school year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Cabinet is asked to note the performance of Young Persons Services and agree the areas for improvement that will be worked on over the coming year.

BACKGROUND

3. Young Persons Services is the core service for youth work in East Renfrewshire and is part of the Corporate and Community Services Department. Youth work is one of the three core elements of Community Learning & Development (along with adult learning and community capacity building) and is subject to inspection by Education Scotland.

4. Following a March 2011 Learning Community Inspection a small number of improvement actions were identified, one of which was that Young Persons Service should produce an annual report for elected members and other stakeholders. This year's annual report is attached at Annex 1.

5. The report outlines how Young Persons Services has continued to see significant growth in participation and achievement levels. In some areas there has been nine consecutive years of continuous improvement. YPS programmes across the board have positive impacts on young people helping them into employment, further education or improving their health and wellbeing.

FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no financial and efficiency implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. The Cabinet is asked to note the performance of Young Persons Services and agree the areas for improvement that will be worked on over the coming year.

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Young Persons Services Annual Report 2015



Introduction

Youth Work in East Renfrewshire

Youth work involves working with young people, aged 12-25 in the community and in school, on a consensual basis on issues and subjects that matter to them. The goal of youth work is to ensure all young people are safe, confident, responsible and have the skills for life, learning and work.

There are over 16,000 young people aged between 12-24 in East Renfrewshire.

Young Persons Services is the core youth work service in East Renfrewshire. There is one youth worker for every 2000 young people and a small pool of casual staff. Our two youth facilities; The Edge in Newton Mearns and The Museum in Barrhead are used to deliver a wide range of programmes from the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Hairdressing Skills, Parenting Groups, Youth Clubs and drop-in sessions.

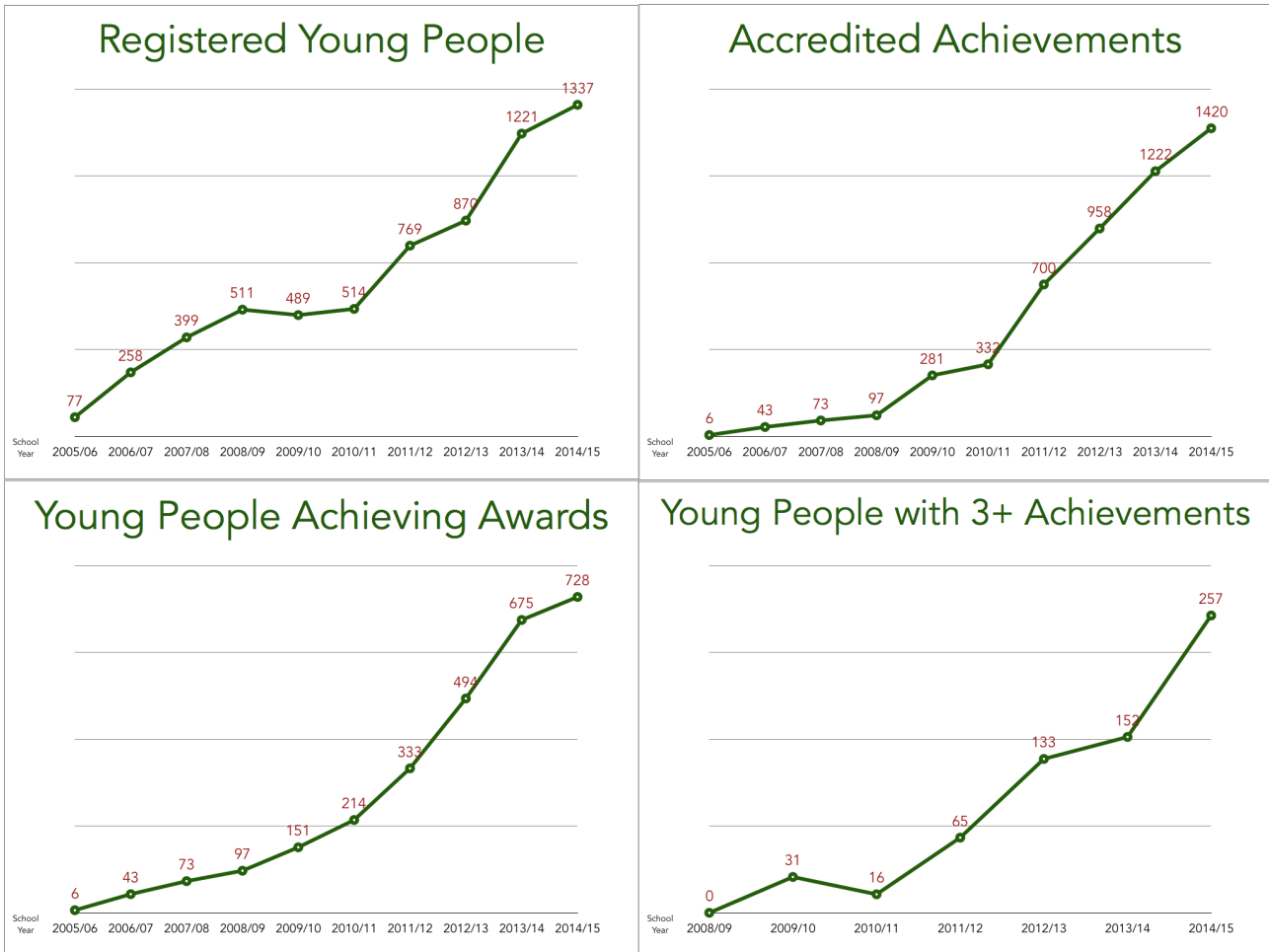
Young Persons Services contributes toward the achievement of 4 of the 5 SOA outcomes:

Number	Outcome
1	All children experience a stable and secure start to their lives and are supported to succeed.
2	Residents are fit and active and have skills for learning, life and work.
3	East Renfrewshire is a thriving, attractive and sustainable place for residents and businesses to grow.
4	Residents are safe and supported in their communities and homes.

East Renfrewshire's new CLD Strategy is aligned to the five SOA outcomes and this drives the strategic focus of the team. YPS target its efforts towards young people most in need: those in need of more choices, more chances; those with additional support needs; those engaging in high risk behaviour such as early sexual activity and smoking; young parents and those at risk of engaging in criminal or anti-social behaviour.

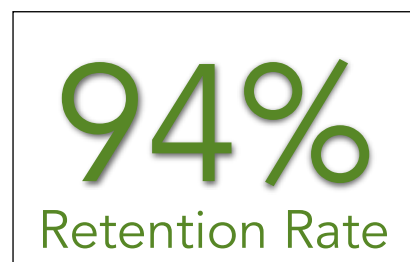
Young Persons Services works closely with a range of key partners to deliver its programmes including ERC Schools; the East Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership & the NHS; Community Wardens and Police; Strathclyde Fire & Rescue; Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire and the third sector.

How well does Young Persons Services engage young people and support them to achieve?



Including street-work, YPS works with between 15-17% of all school-aged young people who live, work or study in East Renfrewshire.

Around 7.3% of the young people we work with are from a minority ethnic background and around 94% of of young people who started a YPS programme stayed engaged until the end or they made a positive progression.



For the 9th consecutive year YPS has increased the number of young people achieving accredited awards as well as the overall number of awards achieved.

Both of these measures have more than doubled over the past three years since 2011/12 while the number of young people achieving 3 or more awards has almost quadrupled over the same period.

How challenging are the awards young people achieve and how much commitment do they require?

Young Persons Services' programmes offer a wide range of opportunities for achievement and, while CLD programmes are voluntary, increasing levels of challenge. Awards fall into two categories - those which are rated under the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and those which are unrated. The tables below and overleaf show the range of awards, time commitment required to achieve the award and numbers of young people who have achieved over the last three years.

Unrated awards can be very challenging, require significant time commitment and perseverance from the young people involved and can be very useful for building resilience or softer skills that will support future employment or study. The shorter, less challenging, awards are very useful helping hard-to-reach or disengaged young people gain a recognised

SCQF Unrated Awards	Number Achieved	0-15 Hours	16-50 Hours	51-100 Hours	101-200 Hours	201-500+ Hours
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award (18 Months+)	Underway					●
Saltire 500 Hours	3					●
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award (12 Months+)	105				●	
Saltire 200 Hours	23				●	
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award (6 Months+)	386			●		
Nat Navigation Silver	52			●		
Saltire 100 Hours	25			●		
Nat Navigation Bronze	305		●			
Mountain Training (Lowland)	2		●			
Saltire 25 & 50 Hrs	245		●			
John Muir Discovery	25		●			
Competent Crew	19		●			
Employability Skills	69		●			
Intro to Duke of Edinburgh Award	36	●				
Heartstart	410	●				
Heartstart (Training for Trainers)	3	●				
Saltire 10 hours	534	●				
Saltire Challenge	95	●				
REHIS Food Hygiene	22	●				
Diana Anti-Bullying Champion	19	●				
Emergency 1st Aid	13	●				
Baby 1st Aid	7	●				
Paediatric 1st Aid	6	●				
Mental Health 1st Aid	9	●				
Angling Development	24	●				
Paddlesport ★	10	●				
Bookbug (Trainer)	3	●				

achievement. In some instances this can be the first time a young persons has secured a recongised achievement of any sort. YPS then work with those young people to build towards more challenging achievements.

Rated Awards

SCQF rated achievements are included in a young person’s qualifications certificate. These awards vary significantly in their duration and the degree of challenge they offer.

These types of achievements, by their nature, tend to be more formal in nature. They range from modules below Intermediate 1 level to modules at Advanced Higher level. This year for the first time, in partnership with St Luke’s High School, YPS is supporting 4 young people through their Platinum Youth Achievement Award.

SCQF Level or Equivalent Rating	Number Achieved	0-15 Hours	16-50 Hours	51-100 Hours	101-200 Hours	201-500+ Hours
Level 7						
Platinum Youth Achievement Award	Underway				●	
Level 5						
Silver Youth Achievement Award	3				●	
InspireER (4 Modules) 24 weeks+	3			●		
SQA Self & Society (Intermediate 2)	2			●		
SQA Self & Work (Intermediate 2)	8			●		
SQA Self Awareness (Intermediate 2)	4			●		
PX2/Breakthrough	44		●			
SQA Practical Leadership	14		●			
SQA Intro to Leadership	58		●			
Level 4						
Silver ASDAN	108				●	
SQA Personal Effectiveness (1)	Underway				●	
SQA Self & Society (Intermediate 1)	115			●		
SQA Self & Work (Intermediate 1)	56			●		
SQA Self Awareness (Intermediate 1)	106			●		
SQA Practical Abilities (Intermediate 1)	45			●		
SQA Self & Work (Intermediate 1)	8			●		
Bronze Youth Achievement Award	75			●		
Level 3						
Silver Challenge	23				●	
Bronze ASDAN	113			●		
Dynamic Youth ★★★	2		●			
Dynamic Youth ★★	18	●				
Dynamic Youth ★	250	●				

Youth Engagement:

Scottish Youth Parliament & East Renfrewshire Youth Forum

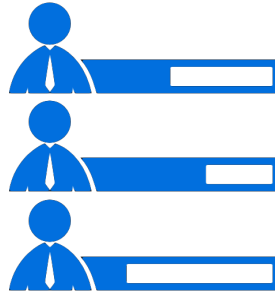
The Scottish Youth Parliament has elections every 2 years.

The 2015 elections were East Renfrewshire's most successful to date.



3 Seats for East Renfrewshire

2 Seats for Eastwood
1 Seat for Levern Valley



13 Candidates Stood for Election

10 in Eastwood
3 in Levern Valley



1466 Votes Were Cast

14% of all eligible school age
young people voted

MSYP of the Year 2015

East Renfrewshire's outgoing MSYP Nicole Dempster was awarded MSYP of the Year. Nicole also nominated YPS' Emma Ball as Support Worker of the Year. Emma won that award and below is an extract of Nicole's submission.

Nearly five years ago I first met Emma Ball from Young Persons Services at a youth forum meeting. At this point I had no confidence and was so nervous all the time, dealing with some really personal issues. However, Emma has completely changed me and inspired me to have confidence in myself and my abilities. We have seen so much of each other over my time as an MSYP, last year we met together at least once a week (sometimes every day of the week... even a Saturday and Sunday).

Before every sitting we make sure that young people have been consulted, by going out to local schools and youth groups. Emma has always made sure at sittings I don't vote on behalf of what I think, but rather the feedback I've got from constituents. This takes place in assemblies, focus groups, surveys - you name, we've tried it. We also pay close attention to ensure that it's not just young people in schools we chat to because too often they are the easy ones. Emma has helped me engage young people with disabilities, illnesses and sometimes just young people who have dropped out of school.



Nicole & Emma

Locally we have seen a huge increase in interested young people. Three years ago one seat ended up not being filled. A year later I stood uncontested as 1 of 3 candidates. However, we now have thirteen young people standing to be MSYPs.

I have marched on parliament, I've spoke in the House of Commons, I've lobbied MPs, MSPs, local elected officials, I've gone to Shetland and Ireland, I've spoke at more events than I've had a hot dinners and I've faced my anxiety. I wouldn't have done any of that if Emma didn't believe in me, encourage me and give me that push.



Youth Engagement: Becoming a MSYP



Amy Perry, one of East Renfrewshire's new MSYPs explains how she became involved.

1. Why did you put yourself forward for nomination as an MSYP?

I had recently developed a keen interest in politics following the Scottish Independence Referendum, and so when I heard about the Scottish Youth Parliament I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to get involved in the world of politics and see what it would be like to run a campaign and hopefully represent young people in my constituency at a national level if I were elected. I also received a lot of support and encouragement from my friends and family to put myself up for election which made me decide it was the right thing to do.

2. What were you hoping to get out of it?

I was hoping to be able to get to know more young people in my constituency and represent their views and concerns, as I feel it is very important for young people to have a voice. I was also hoping to perhaps be able to make a significant change in the lives of young people across the country by helping to implement policy that would benefit them.

3. How did you feel attending the training sessions for SYP Nominees?

I was quite nervous attending these sessions as it was rather daunting seeing how engaged all the other candidates were with politics, so I had some very tough competition. The sessions were helpful as they assisted in building my confidence around my peers, and also made me think about certain issues during group tasks that were related to young people. I felt these sessions were quite good in supporting me for my role as a nominee.

4. What was it like for you?

I felt very supported in my campaign. My family had been encouraging from the beginning, as it was actually my mum who had told me about elections in the first place and encouraged me to run. My friends were also extremely supportive as they helped in making my posters as well as hanging them up around the school and distributing fliers to other pupils. They also assisted in promoting my campaign on social media very effectively. My teachers were also a huge support, as although I felt I could do things by myself, I knew that they were there if I ever

needed an assistance, and they were also very encouraging during the election period.

5. How did you feel when the results of the election were announced?

I was very shocked when the results were announced. I was the last MSYP to be announced, so I wasn't really thinking about it much as I was concentrating on showing my support for the other two MSYPs who had already been called to the front. I did not expect to win at all, so it came as a real surprise. I was just in a state of shock and didn't really know how to react to the news, but it felt good knowing that I had succeeded in my campaign and could now look forward to working with my fellow MSYPs for the young people in our constituency.

6. Now that you are an MSYP can you describe what it's been like?

So far I have really enjoyed being an MSYP. I look forward to the fortnightly youth group meetings that are held as I enjoy being able to speak to young people in the area whom I wouldn't have spoken to before about their views and concerns. I enjoy attending the sittings, as it's extremely interesting to hear the debates held on a wide range of issues, and to be able to understand the views of other MSYPs and their constituents, as not all young people in Scotland have the same issues they need addressing. It has also been nice to meet other MSYPs and find out what sort of work they've been doing in their constituencies, and it's also interesting to hear from MSYPs who have been in the organisation for a long time and can see how it's developed.

7. Can you comment on the support you received from your support workers?

My support workers have been amazing in helping myself and the other MSYPs, right from the beginning. They're extremely helpful and hard-working and are always willing to lend a hand. They are also very supportive when things don't tend to go to plan, such as when I missed the first day of the June sitting, or when we can't make the youth forum meetings due to other commitments. They're very encouraging and I thoroughly enjoy working with them.

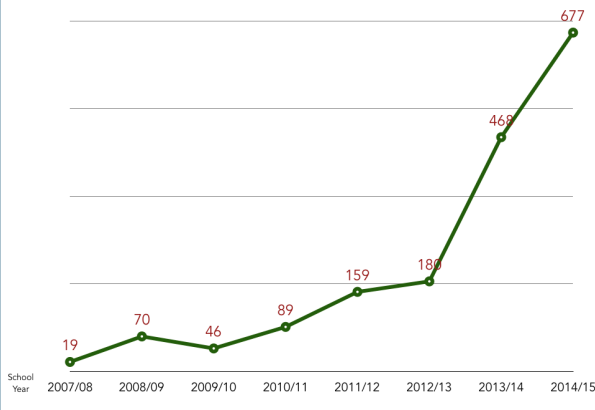
How well does YPS support the Duke of Edinburgh Award?

East Renfrewshire has experienced explosive growth in participation and achievement of Duke of Edinburgh awards.

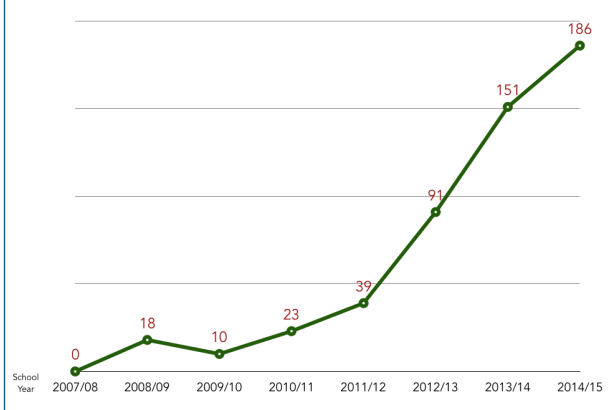
Over the past two years the number of young people in YPS Duke of Edinburgh programmes has trebled and the number gaining Awards has doubled.



Duke of Edinburgh Participants



Duke of Edinburgh Awards



Volunteering Time

14,000+ Hours

£71,000 Equivalent wage bill based on <18 minimum wage.

Expeditions

474 Young People

16 training expeditions plus 16 assessed expeditions.



Participation Rate

Highest in Scotland

5.3% of all 14-24's participate. More than double national ave.



Achievement Rate

2nd Highest in Scotland

2.8% of all 14-24's achieve. More than double national ave.

Two Key Challenges

1. Sustaining the growth in the Award.

We are working to train more partners and piloting a new approach in Eastwood High.

2. Supporting more disadvantaged young people to participate and achieve awards.

Young People from disadvantaged areas are:

- Less likely to participate in an DofE award;
- Less likely to pursue an award while undertaking exams than more affluent young people;
- More likely to take longer to complete an award;
- More likely to drop out of pursuing an award.

How well does YPS support Sexual Health & Wellbeing and Young Parents?

Since 2006 over 200 young women have gone through the RespectER programme. To date there have been no underage or unplanned pregnancies among participants in the programme. Participants are tracked until they are at least 18 years old. Some participants have peers who opted not to take part and fell pregnant.

This year, as part of East Renfrewshire's Parenting Strategy, Young Persons Services worked with schools, the Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP), the NHS and young parents to expand our programmes in order to:

- protect young people from sexual exploitation;
- reduce underage or unplanned pregnancies; and
- develop parenting skills, confidence, nurturing and promote stability.



2015 Key Stats	
Programme	Context/ Impact
RespectER 31 Participants	Underage/Unplanned Pregnancies: 0
S5/6 Parenting Programme 61 Participants	New in 2014/15: Wide ranging 14-week programme developed in part by young mums to teach current S5 & S6 pupils reality of life as young parent. Piloted in St Luke's now rolled out across other schools.
Sexual Health Programme (Additional Support Needs) 7 Participants age 14-17	New in 2014/15: 6-10 week programme to protect ASN Young People with autism and/or learning difficulties from sexual exploitation. Program also addresses appropriate public/private behaviour.
Little Bumps (Prenatal) 17 Mums, 7 Birthing Partners	Breastfeeding: 7 Mums in Little Bumps breast fed for at least 4 weeks. 4 Mums breastfed for at least 3 months. Mental Health: 24 participants across the groups reported mental health issues of varying severity. All report positive progress. At least 2 who were prescribed medication have come off completely, in part due to the programme.
Baby Love (0-12 months) 8 Mums & 7 Partners	Social Work and Child Protection: 10 families had social work involvement, with 6 child protection cases. YPS programmes are a key part of care plans and help reduce the need for more intensive interventions.
ParentingER (20 weeks) <i>Child Development Programme for Parents <25</i> 5 Mums	Domestic Violence: 9 participants of the groups have experienced domestic violence either during or after their pregnancy. 11 attended health relationship workshop with partner. All individuals & their key workers feel they are now in a safer position.

Areas for Improvement

The service has identified two key key areas for improvement over the coming year:

- Further development of shared needs assessment, prioritisation and risk assessments with schools; and
- Supporting more disadvantaged young people to participate in and achieve Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Key Contacts

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