

# THE LINK

## Youth Work and Sport

**YouthLink**  
Scotland  
The national agency for youth work



# Youth Work Changes Lives

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S INTRODUCTION

What an appropriate time to be publishing this special edition of The Link with the warm afterglow of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow still at the front of our minds. The Games showed us many things not least the attraction of friendly competition, the immense power and resilience of individual and team efforts and the love for sports of all kinds by large sections of the community. The Clydesiders, those 15,000 volunteers, showed that people are not as selfish as sometimes is made out to be the case. If the cause is right the people respond. The Games also saw commercial interests contributing in a major way to the furtherance of the Games and we all hope that the monies and ideas being put into the Games legacy will bear fruit

both in Glasgow and throughout Scotland in the coming years.

Until the onset of District and Regional Councils in the mid 70's there was a much closer linkage and a clear understanding of how sport, in all its guises, was one of the many tools used by youth workers as part of a mixed programme. Youth 'leader' training included myriad sessions on wet games, dry games, outdoor pursuits, water based activities, coaching and the rules and regulations. It was about participation, on occasion competition and links to other groups and clubs. It was also a window into individual sports which those wishing to take a more serious interest in could then pursue.

What made it and makes it youth work is the relationship between worker and young people – the



social group work process and the youth work ethos.

Sport and Youth Work need to begin to rearticulate our mutual relationships and we hope that these fabulous examples created as part of the Commonwealth Games legacy will begin that renewal and expansion of work involving sport and youth work.

*Jim Sweeney*



# Gearing up for the Games with a Young Scot Youth Legacy Ambassador

Young Scot, 32 local authorities, and the Scottish Government have been working together over the past four years to support over 130 Youth Legacy Ambassadors to make a real impact in engaging their local communities around the lasting benefits and opportunities of the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Amiee Alexander, 20 years old, North Ayrshire Young Scot Youth Legacy Ambassador shares her experiences of being involved in the project.

## **Q: What is your main role as a Youth Legacy Ambassador?**

**A:** I have been a Young Scot Youth Legacy Ambassador since 2011 and I have had one of the most amazing and rewarding experiences. I have had the chance to promote the Commonwealth Games around the whole of my local authority, inspiring the young people while encouraging them to take up an active and healthy lifestyle.

## **Q: What has been your key highlight so far?**

**A:** I have run many events in my local area for young people. To name one of my favourite highlights... along with my fellow ambassadors I organised the 'North Ayrshire Torch Relay', which saw 52 primary schools and every school pupil learn more about different sports and cultures, and create their own Olympic Torch and pass it on to another school. I have also had the chance to present at my local council and national conferences. One of my favourite experiences was being asked by the First Minister to be part of the Official launch of the Queen's Baton Relay



at Buckingham Palace. It was great to be a part of the whole day, meeting athletes and delegates while representing the youth legacy programme. My experience has led me to become a mentor to the younger Ambassadors, and I recently carried the Queen's Baton Relay for all my volunteering work in my local community.

## **Q: What have you personally gained from being a Youth Legacy Ambassador?**

**A:** Young Scot have provided me with some amazing opportunities to grow as a person, I have been able to develop confidence, people skills and organisational skills. As an ambassador, I have worked with a number of partners across North Ayrshire and Scotland, allowing me to gain vital work experience which has helped me gain a part-time job and secure a place at university. Overall my whole Youth Legacy

Ambassador experience has been one that will stay with me forever and given me the skills and experiences to be able to contribute to the community.

## **Q: What is your legacy wish for the Games 2014?**

**A:** My legacy wish of the Games will hopefully be leaving a lasting and positive memory for the young people in my local community that I am trying to inspire. I would love to see them getting the chance to try and take up a new sport during and after Games time, which I hope would encourage more active and healthier lifestyles amongst young people.

For more information on the Young Scot Youth Legacy Ambassador programme and to take your legacy wish for the Games 2104, visit: [www.youngscot.net](http://www.youngscot.net)



# Delivering beyond Sport



## The Scottish Sports Association reflect on the vital role sport plays in benefiting the health, education and employment prospects of young people

The publication of the Scottish Government's Youth Sport Strategy 'Giving Children and Young People a Sporting Chance' is an important opportunity to take sport in Scotland to a new level. As is the case for many strategies, the biggest challenge is in translating the words on paper into actions that produce results, particularly in reaching those young people hardest to reach with the most limited resources at their disposal.

Along with various partners, Scottish Governing Bodies of sport (SGBs) have played and continue to play a vital role in the active delivery of sport on the ground.

Sport initiatives through the 'CashBack for Communities' scheme are showing great promise in tackling issues of social exclusion and re-engaging disaffected youth in education and promoting health. For example Lothian and Borders Police produced an analysis of the impact of a Street Rugby programme and found that the number of calls received on Friday nights fell to levels similar to those received midweek.

The CashBack School of Rugby at Glenwood High School, Fife:

- 66% improvement in attitude.
- 46% improvement in behaviour.
- 61% improvement in homework.

The CashBack School of Rugby at Carrick Academy:

- 51% decrease in the number of referrals to Guidance/Senior Management.
- 94% of pupils have dramatically increased the amount of merits they were awarded.

Basketball Scotland has used CashBack funding to create 45,000 diversionary activities for young people – an announcement of further funding this year will allow them to create another 24,000 opportunities over the next three years.

As well as its positive diversionary effects, youth-focused sports



programmes continue to show the correlation between participation and improved educational attainment and employment prospects. Research reported recently in the Journal of Paediatrics advised that 'Efforts should be made to promote physical activities for children and adolescents that involve aerobic exercises and motor tasks to enhance cardiorespiratory capacity and motor ability, thereby improving academic development'. <http://www.jpeds.com/content/JPEDSEstebanCornejo>

Above all, much of sport's positive work with young people comes from successful partnerships, whether through local authorities, Governing Bodies of Sport, sportscotland or charities such as SAMH and many more. The case studies referenced in this article are a true testimony to the importance of sport and its wide reaching effects – continued investment in achieving its various positive outcomes will serve societies well.

**For further information:**  
<http://thessa.org.uk/>

## Scottish Swimming

Scottish Swimming's Swim4Change Programme is a leadership programme for young people aged 16-24 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or are in danger of falling into this category. Young people taking part gain nationally recognised qualifications with mentoring support providing entry level qualifications into the leisure industry. The vision is to educate and encourage young people (from disadvantaged communities) to become swimming/aquatic instructors and help them to gain volunteer experience, paid employment or entry into further education.

Since it began, nearly 200 young people have gone through the programme, resulting in 133 new swimming teachers. About 70 have

achieved their NPLQ, while 15 secured jobs and 70 have become volunteers.

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## Scottish Disability Sport (SDS)

Through their current strategic plan "Inspiring through Inclusion", SDS develops opportunities and improves performance in sport for child athletes and players through a Regional Manager Structure. The work ensures an inclusive approach to the development of sporting pathways.

Some of the key achievements for SDS Regional Managers in the last year have been:

- 1020 young disabled people have attended para sport development days in five regions across Scotland.
- 228 new athletes and players have progressed into regional squads or individual support programmes in the sports of Athletics, Archery, Boccia, Cycling, Judo, Football, Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball.
- 140 athletes have progressed to represent Scotland.
- 30 athletes have been selected for UK programmes.

## Case Study

Martin Perry is a triple amputee who was fully included in his mainstream PE sessions. He was identified by his Active School Co-ordinator and encouraged to attend a Paralympic Pathway Festival organised by the



Regional Managers for the West of Scotland – he was supported by a Regional Manager to attend Drumchapel Table Tennis Club. As Martin had no hands the Regional Manager supported him to access support from the Southern General Hospital Prosthetics Department to develop a specially designed bat to fit on his arm. Martin very quickly progressed to be selected for the National Table Tennis Squad in 2010 and the SDS Academy.

His hard work and determination paid off by being selected for the GB Pathways Squad in 2013 – his dream being to represent GB in the Rio 2016 Olympics and Paralympics. On top of this he has gained qualifications to coach the younger members of the club and is pursuing a career in sport by going to University to do a degree in Sports Coaching. Watch this space for an incredibly inspiring young man in Rio 2016.

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# An adventure under sail for the Commonwealth Games

Clyde – what does that word mean to you? To most in Scotland, it's a river; to a few, it's a canal. However, this year, Clyde was the face of the Commonwealth Games when it came to Glasgow, and everyone knew the character and his name. Nevertheless, there is an irony in the use of Clyde – the irony being that there are no official Commonwealth Games sporting events taking place on the Clyde, and the boating legacy of the Commonwealth itself is not represented. Ocean Youth Trust Scotland is helping to change that, in partnership with the Royal Yachting Association Scotland.

OYT Scotland is a world leading youth work charity based in Greenock, delivering an annual programme of residential youth work voyages, taking 650 young people a year to sea, aboard its fleet of sail training vessels. They sail with young people from a wide range of backgrounds and experience throughout Scotland and beyond from 12 to 25 years of age. RYA Scotland is the governing body of sailing in Scotland.

Together these two organisations worked to deliver two events showcasing the diversity of sailing

within one of the most renowned sailing grounds in the world – the West Coast of Scotland.

The Small Ships Race and the Commonwealth Flotilla took place at the end of July, 100 young people from all over the UK raced against each other on sail training vessels, exemplifying the sail training ethos of diversity, friendship and celebration. The crews raced around the lower Clyde – an estimated 50 nautical miles – and then came together for a party in Portavadie to watch the opening ceremony of the Games on giant screen TVs. The Commonwealth Flotilla took place on 25-27 July and was quite some spectacle with 250 vessels travelling up the Clyde.

OYT Scotland entered two boats into the Small Ships Race, Alba Endeavour and Alba Volunteer. Alba Endeavour was crewed by the Scotland and Northern Ireland Air Training Corps and they helped to organise a mini-Commonwealth Games on the first night of the event to allow all of the crews to mingle and relax. The Alba Volunteer was sailed by four young people from the Robertson Scholarship Trust which supports approximately 200 young people in

Commonwealth Flotilla  
Glasgow 25-27 July 2014

Small Ships Race  
20-25 July 2014



the Glasgow area who are currently completing undergraduate degrees.

OYT Scotland Chief Executive Nick Fleming commented: "To have the chance to showcase one of Scotland's finest sports to the nation is an extraordinary opportunity. So many people believe that sailing is for the rich and famous, but we're here to show that it isn't. Anyone can come sailing, all you need is determination – we can teach you the rest".

For further information visit:  
[www.oystScotland.org.uk](http://www.oystScotland.org.uk)





SOUTH  
LANARKSHIRE

# Coaching for life

South Lanarkshire prove peer education benefits the community as a whole.

Sportworx and Danceworx is a 13 week Big Lottery funded programme which provides young people aged 15-19 from across South Lanarkshire with opportunities and skills to become sport/dance coaches. Participants gain nationally recognised qualifications and real life practical experience whilst being mentored by experienced youth workers and sport/dance coaches. It is a unique opportunity for young people to develop their coaching skills, confidence and experience while progressing towards further education, employment and sustained volunteering in their community.

**Aims:**

- Help unemployed young people into work.
- Give school leavers a realistic learning alternative to school.
- Persuade non-attenders to stay in school and work on this programme as part of their timetable.
- Encourage young people to develop and nurture new skills and build community capacity.

- Promote community involvement through volunteering.
- Assist young people reach their potential through certificated sports/dance qualifications.

Sportworx Entertainment is a young person led organisation. The group is run by past and present Sportworx/ Danceworx trainees. This project develops skilled peer leaders who can deliver and evaluate free, fun, educational and healthy activities to youth/community groups who need support across South Lanarkshire.

The educational activities include team building, communication games, fun activities, sports specific workshops, birthday parties, holiday programmes and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. In the current climate of cutting costs, these opportunities have been invaluable in helping youth clubs and community groups entertain and educate their young people.

The initial focus of these programmes is to support local youth groups/clubs and assist them with issues such as inter area youth



work, relationship development within new groups and diversionary engagement.

The group have been recognised with a number of prestigious awards such as the Diana Award, YAFTA Award and Phillip Lawrence Awards. These awards were given to the group for their outstanding work in the community.

The Entertainment peer educators are a great example of what young people can achieve and they are a credit to youth learning services. Their actions enhance the sporting and wellbeing capacity within communities which in turn increases the opportunities for excluded young people to engage.

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# Mind, body and soul

At Polmont Young Offenders Institution you might expect to see young people active in the gym, lifting weights and jogging treadmills, but that is just the starting point for the fully integrated programme of physical activity, volunteering and community engagement that doing a Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award opens up to them.

The DofE at Polmont Young Offenders Institution (YOI) is run in partnership with Barnardos Scotland and the PE department. The Physical Section is run by the PE team and it ties into the Volunteering and Skills sections run by Barnardos.

This partnership is important because for many of the young offenders, doing their Physical section is the hook into doing the DofE. Many of them are keen to stay active and many were not necessarily involved in sport before coming to Polmont. The DofE team uses their interest in sport to get them thinking about volunteering and developing their skills.

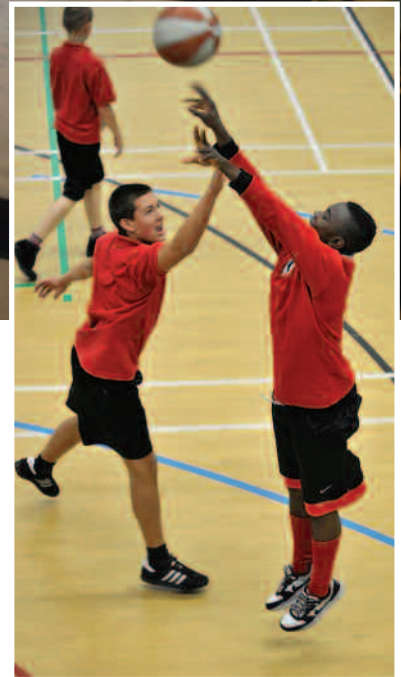
Most recently, the DofE group ran a tennis tournament to fundraise in

support of testicular cancer charity Grab Life by the Balls. The group raised over £300 for the charity with the tournament, which is just one example of the many ways they use their interest in sport for social good.

They are also able to use their DofE to broaden their skills and try new activities. One young person took part in the contemporary dance project in Polmont as part of his Physical Section. He had no previous experience with dance, but fell in love with it. Now that he's left the YOI he's still involved with dance and has taken it so far as to join a college course in dance and performing arts.

Speaking about his experience he said: "DofE has given me the confidence and belief in myself that I can achieve. It was a fantastic experience and has helped me enrol in a college as well as helping me gain employment when I was released."

The DofE helps young offenders to develop their leadership and interpersonal skills as well. Again, this is often done through their involvement with sport. Many of



them develop leadership skills through the Sports Leader Awards and instructor courses, which they use for their DofE Skills Section.

Lisa Hogg, DofE Coordinator at Polmont YOI sees the difference the DofE makes to the participants: "After taking part they are able to take their experience back into the community when they are released and continue that positive involvement, as did the young person involved in the dance project. Doing their DofE opens them up to different forms of sport, but also different ways of developing themselves".

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 sustainable thriving achieving  
**East Dunbartonshire Council**  
[www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

## Sport in partnership

The KLC 629 Project is based at Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre and is a partnership initiative between CLD Young People's Services, East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Trust, Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and Police Scotland. The project offers young people aged 8-17 alternative things to do on a Saturday evening.

Badminton; Basketball; Dance; Fitness Suite; Football; Swimming; Tennis; Youth Achievement Award; Youth based workshops.

The KLC 629 project for young people was praised in a recent report from The Care Inspectorate for helping to improve community safety and significantly reduce anti-social behaviour in the area. Since the project began in November 2009, local incidents of anti-social behaviour, which includes underage drinking, violence, disorder and associated vandalism, have dropped by 34.4%.

The success of the project has resulted in additional funding from the CSP to pilot a similar project in Bishopbriggs.

### Key features:

- Young people supported and taking part in a range of sporting activities.
- Qualified staff delivering activities with Continual Professional Development built in.
- Sustaining levels of participation (number average 130 every Saturday).
- Links with local clubs and youth groups supported.
- Pathways into sports and talent recognition.
- Reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- Partnership with Police and young people leading to improved relationships.
- Introduction of Youth Achievement and Dynamic Youth Awards.
- Building relationships with staff, young people and their parents.
- Partnership approach project has gained a positive reputation.

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## Stepping to a rural beat

In conjunction with Glasgow based youth dance project, Y-Dance, the Highland Active Schools Team organised a series of one day workshops for teenage girls, designed to boost self-confidence and teach leadership skills through the medium of dance. Over 500 girls, from 13-18 years of age, took part in these workshops which were delivered in every high school in the Highland area.

The girls were then invited to apply for a week long Level 1 Dance Leadership course. These were held in Fort William and Inverness in the February holiday, with a further three courses in Wick, Dingwall and Nairn in the Easter holidays. Project results:

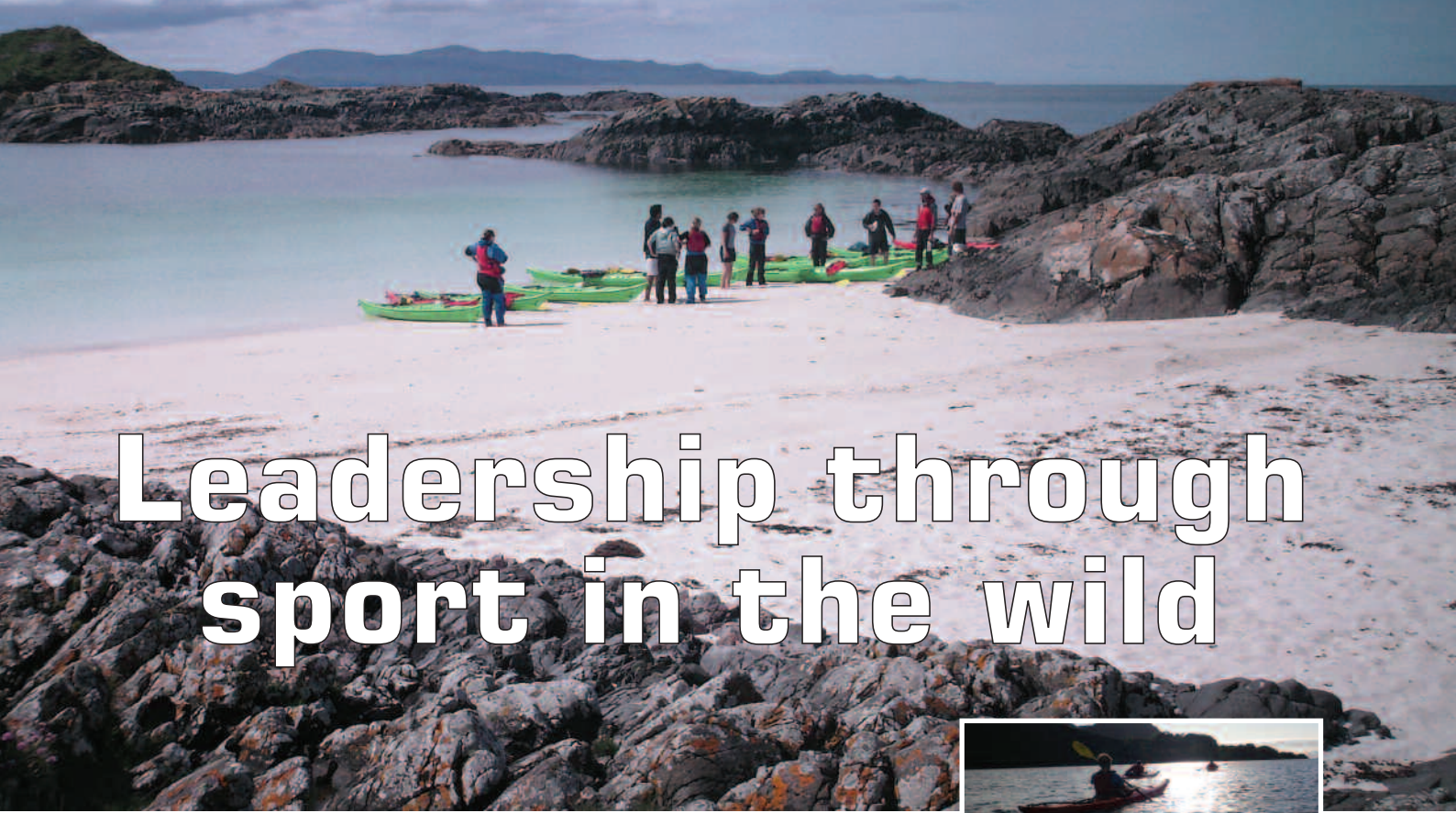
- Over 500 girls undertook a one day course in dance leadership, with a focus on fun, personal development and learning peer coaching techniques in a supportive environment.
- 45 girls from S3-6 went on to successfully complete a nationally recognised qualification course, the Level 1 Dance Leadership Award.
- Feedback from the courses delivered indicates that participants increased in confidence whilst learning to deliver fun, well-structured and safe sessions.
- Participants developed their choreography skills and learnt new dance moves to incorporate into their own routines.
- The courses were also an opportunity for girls from different high schools to mix, particularly significant for girls who attended from rural areas.
- The dance leaders will now be supported by their Active Schools Co-ordinators, to deliver sessions in their local primary schools, where they will be positive role models and increase levels of fitness and activity.

This project demonstrates the potential of effective partnership working between external agencies and active schools. This creates more opportunities for both secondary and primary age pupils. A positive environment for young people to grow and develop is achieved.

### For further information:

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# Leadership through sport in the wild



The Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award is a unique project for The Outward Bound Trust in Scotland which tackles sectarianism and encourages acceptance of diversity within Scotland's younger generation, through a combination of outdoor and community based learning. This award programme started in 1997 following the death of Mark Scott, a 16-year-old Glasgow schoolboy, who was murdered in an unprovoked sectarian attack the previous year.

April this year saw 179 young people from 57 schools across Central Scotland receiving The Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award which was presented by Louise Martin, Chair of sportscotland and Vice Chair of the Organising Committee of the 2014 Commonwealth Games and Lesley Thomson, Solicitor General.

The Mark Scott Foundation and The Outward Bound Trust developed the 10-month long programme with clear aims and objectives of breaking down young people's prejudices about religion and race and to work effectively together. Now entering into its sixteenth year, a total of 2,118 young people will

have participated in the award since its inauguration.

The programme begins with sixth-year pupils from partner schools across Central Scotland attending a presentation given by Outward Bound staff. Successful applicants from three or four schools in the same area are put into clusters of 12-14 young people to work in project teams. The teams complete a one-week residential course at one of The Outward Bound Trust's residential centres at Loch Eil in Scotland or Howtown in the Lake District.

The residential is made up of dynamic outdoor activities, which can include rock climbing, abseiling, raft building and an expedition which give the participants an experience of team work and personal challenge. Classroom sessions also provide teaching transferable business skills such as presentations, finance, project management and planning.

Once home, each project team continues to meet with its Outward Bound instructor over six months to plan and deliver projects which have a practical and positive impact

within their neighbourhoods. Recent examples include an intergenerational project in St. Joseph's elderly care home in Glasgow and a painting and renovation project at St. Margaret's Hospice in Clydebank.

The Trust's evaluation of the programme in its most recent Social Impact Report found that three key qualities were developed by participants: their capacity for building relationships; a solid foundation of personal and emotional skills and a lasting enthusiasm for challenge and achievement.

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**THE  
OUTWARD  
BOUND TRUST**





# Drop-in for change

The Kick Bop One Shop Drop-in Pilot was initially developed with young people in mind with a focus on improving life chances, empowering young people, individually and collectively, to make changes in their lives and in their communities. Through learning, personal development, active participation and citizenship. This pilot has been running for 16 weeks now, attendance on average each evening is between 40- 50 young people aged between 11 and 17. There are now 145 young people accessing the Drop-in from all backgrounds.

The Drop-in is based around Healthy Living and Well-being where young people can take part in a number of sporting activities such as dance tasters, football with SFA coaching, hockey, karate, badminton etc. They can access 1-1 support, advice and guidance through our highly skilled youth workers and partner agencies on a weekly basis.

By providing a safe environment

with positive adult role models to encourage peer support we have been able to build relationships with the young people which has allowed us to come together collectively. We have been able to plan together a programme of activities/group-work for the young people to take part in which contributes to their fitness, physical and mental well-being as well as building and developing this project.

We have an area in the project resourced to provide access to signposting to other agencies and organisations, provide issue based booklets and we are now delivering themed workshops based around healthy living on a weekly basis. This has included healthy living based around a healthy diet, Eat Well Plate, and promoting a varied diet including fruit and vegetables.

A big part of our focus is to deliver group-work on positive relationships, communication skills, exploring thoughts and feelings, values and beliefs through



exploring issues like body image, obesity, emotional and mental health issues such as depression. In these sessions we have touched on risk taking behaviours, sexual health/substance misuse with an emphasis on keeping yourself safe and building young people's resilience. We now have three young volunteers, one of whom came through the family resilience project, who are helping develop this pilot on a weekly basis, gaining many valuable skills which paves the way towards more positive destinations. We, including the young people, are now looking to expand this pilot project by consulting with the young people to offer a summer programme.

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# A diet of football

Footy Tea with Aberdeen FC Community Trust are combining healthy eating with the beautiful game, what's not to love!

Since August 2013, 20 young people from Seaton Primary School have been participating in the Footy Tea programme, which is funded by the Tartan Army Children's Charity (TACC). Over the past 10 months the young people have taken part in over 40 hours of football coaching, delivered by Aberdeen FC Community Trust Coaches,

immediately followed by a 'home cooked' healthy meal every Tuesday at Pittodrie Stadium. In addition the young people have learned how to set the table, how to behave at the dinner table, and how to wash and tidy up after their meal.

The programme has not only helped the youngsters become more active and improve their football skills, but they have been encouraged to work as a team throughout the coaching sessions and at the dinner. By participating in the programme

the youngsters have learned new skills, enhanced their confidence, tasted new foods, and significantly widened their experiences.

The opportunities given to the Footy Tea participants range from a trip to Hampden for 'My First Scotland Game', visits from 1st team Aberdeen Players and the Aberdeen manager as well as getting the chance to play on the Pittodrie pitch at half time at an SPFL match.



The Headmistress at Seaton Primary, Agnes Ross, has been very supportive of the programme and she regularly attends sessions. She has seen the whole programme delivered and believes the project really does inject confidence in young people:

“One child in particular was very isolated and had great difficulty in being friends with other children. Through the perseverance and dedication of the coaches that young person has now begun to mix more freely, show far greater participation and will strive to achieve in a way which before they would have rejected. They have finally begun to achieve success and their continuing development in this area is great to see each week”.

And the programme is not only having an impact on the young

people involved, but the families are enjoying seeing their children gain new life experiences and skills from the programme.

One parent said:

“A few years ago my child would not have walked into a room of strangers, over the past few months their confidence and self-belief has skyrocketed and everyone comments... they now believe in their ability and words will never express my thanks for that... A special thanks to all at AFC Community Trust”.

*Pupils Mother.*

The staff at Aberdeen FC Community Trust have also noticed a difference in some of the young people throughout the programme:

“The transformation is immeasurable. I am so proud to

have been a part in supporting this young person through a difficult time in their life, on and off the pitch development has been visible for all to see. They scored a great goal last week too, watching Adam Rooney at the League Cup Final must have rubbed off on them!”

*Dean McBain, Apprentice  
Aberdeen FC Community  
Trust Coach*

Overall, the programme has been a huge success and it is great to see these young people flourish. Everyone at AFC is looking forward to continuing the programme next year and making a difference to these people’s lives.

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# Taking pride in the games



July and August were an action packed couple of months for LGBT Youth Scotland as we plunged head first into celebrating the Commonwealth Games and the legacy they promise to leave for Scotland's young people. In partnership with LEAP Sports, we offered a whole programme of events young people took part in around the Commonwealth Games in connection with Pride House Glasgow.

Based on our work with young people and our 2013 Game Changers consultation into young people's attitudes towards the Commonwealth Games and sport, we know that LGBT people do not always feel as confident as their peers to participate in sports, often as a result of either real or perceived prejudice. We believe that participation in sports can play an important role in improving health and wellbeing, both physically and mentally, which is why we are working to promote equal access to sports by providing opportunities to LGBT young people to engage in sporting activities.

The Commonwealth Games Youth Programme was a vital and exciting part of this work. The activities on offer included a Hip Hop dance class, boating, ice skating, and trampolining, which took place across Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dumfries, Inverness and Perth. This work also tied in with our Game Changers project, which aims to get young LGBT people involved in some of the many LGBT friendly sports teams across Scotland. At Pride Glasgow, the Game Changers offered a sports taster obstacle course and at the closing weekend of Pride House they hosted indoor games and competitions, as well as a Q&A with LGBT athletes.

For the final fun-filled weekend of the Youth Programme at the end of August, the Game Changers put on a Legacy Sports Challenge Fair where young people had the opportunity to try out different sports and sign up for future events. The TRANSport residential took place the same weekend, providing transgender young people with the chance to take part



in outdoor activities and socialise in a safe environment.

All in all, we were kept on our toes here at LGBT Youth Scotland this summer and we hope that as many young people as possible were too! For updates over the coming months, follow us @LGBTYS and like us on [facebook.com/LGBTYS](https://www.facebook.com/LGBTYS).

See all the events offered in the Youth Programme:

[https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/files/documents/Youth\\_programme.pdf](https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/files/documents/Youth_programme.pdf)

Find our Game Changer consultation report here: <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/news/gamechanger>





# A Commonwealth of equals?

**Joshua McCormick MSYP. Justice Convener of the Scottish Youth Parliament discusses what Scotland's 2014 message to the International Community should be**

Humanity, Equality and Destiny is the motto of the Commonwealth games.

In 1891 Reverend Astley Cooper suggested a pan-Britannic/ pan-Anglican contest and festival every four years with the aim of increasing goodwill and understanding in the British Empire: the spark of life given to the newly born idea of the Commonwealth Games. However, the Reverend would not find his idea truly implemented until 1930 when eleven nations took part in the British Empire Games in Hamilton, Canada. The Commonwealth Games have changed and evolved over the decades, becoming inclusive to women in 1950 and people with disabilities in 1962.

Glasgow was very much in the spotlight as the Commonwealth Games arrived in the city. The eyes of the world fixed on Scotland watching, waiting, and anticipating greatness. With expectations becoming greater and greater as the opening ceremony approached, questions were being asked, will Glasgow deliver not only a great games but a better future for the country, and what will Scotland's message to the international community be?

The Scottish Youth Parliament's Justice Committee recognise the changing landscape of the country with the construction of new sporting facilities, more affordable sporting activities for young people, and a greater equality and inclusiveness being shown to disadvantaged groups in respect to sporting opportunities.



However, in recent years, disadvantaged groups across the Commonwealth have seen an exponential increase in violations towards their human rights and a complete disregard to recognise those rights by many of the member nations. Furthermore, many minority groups within Commonwealth countries have continually seen freedom of speech and expression repealed, in many cases promoting further discrimination, greater violence, and in extreme cases, the death of vulnerable individuals.

It is important to recognise the Commonwealth is not the only place where human rights violations occur, and it is a misconception to believe all human rights violations within the Commonwealth occur in African nations; many violations come from outdated and highly discriminative

colonial British Laws. These laws may not still exist within our legal framework, but still remain within our society and passively perpetuate human rights violations.

With the eyes of the world fixed on Glasgow, the Games must be used to begin a constructive dialogue between nations, a dialogue which aims to fundamentally recognise and promote comprehensive protection for all individuals' and their human rights.

The Commonwealth Games has given Glasgow the opportunity to create a legacy wider reaching and with a greater impact than anyone could imagine. It's time for Glasgow and Scotland to take the first step and begin a dialogue of fundamental recognition and protection of human rights.

**Joshua McCormick MSYP  
Justice Convener**



DofE Scotland Commonwealth Youth Summit



Georgie Williams carries the baton for Perth & Kinross Guides



Tanya Chapman, Girls' Brigade Scotland



The Boys' Brigade are piping hot for the Games



Onthank young boxers host Team Canada Boxing Squad



Young Scot Legacy Wishes on Glasgow Green

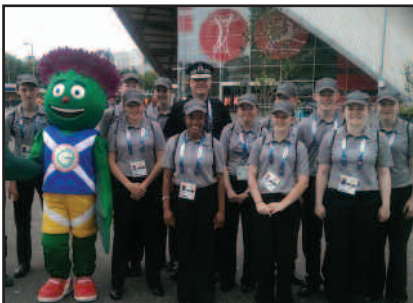




In the swim for the Games with East Ayrshire



Youth Worker, Emma Laverie is swept off her feet by Clyde



Police Scotland volunteers with Clyde



Midlothian's Bi Ski Downhill with the baton



Ocean Youth Trust on the Commonwealth Flotilla



Youth Legacy Ambassadors from the Highlands & Islands



LGBT young people enjoy the Games





# Spreading the sporting message

The North Lanarkshire Youth Legacy Ambassadors (YLAs) are a group of young people who have been working together in their own communities to promote the legacy of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, under the four legacy themes: Active, Sustainable, Flourishing and Connected.

The YLAs are supported by a staff member from North Lanarkshire Community Learning and Development youth work team, and receive support nationally from Young Scot.

The YLAs have taken a peer education approach to getting their 'Active' message out. They have delivered Commonwealth Games themed workshops in schools across North Lanarkshire with the aim of enthusing children and young people about the games in addition to encouraging an active, healthy lifestyle. They have linked with local sports clubs to promote activities to local communities and consulted with local young people on the new national draft sports strategy.

Most recently, the group secured 'Celebrate It' Lottery funding to involve young people in making a film about Lanarkshire's links to the Commonwealth Games. This involved researching and interviewing local Commonwealth athletes (past and present) in addition to featuring up and coming young stars who currently train in the area, across a number of disciplines. The film was premiered at a community event recently, and the young people involved were proud to showcase their achievements and acknowledge the additional benefits they gained from being involved in the project, such as improving their ability to work in a team.

The YLAs are now busy planning their next project, a football tournament, where local youth teams can compete for the 'Commonwealth Cup'. Tony, one of the organisers hopes that through this project the participants will have a really enjoyable experience and feel motivated to continue playing team sports.



As recognition of their achievements and commitment to the role, four YLAs were honoured to carry the Queen's Baton when it visited North Lanarkshire in June, and the whole group received tickets to attend Commonwealth Games events. They are in the process of accrediting their experiences via Saltire and Youth Achievement Awards. It just goes to prove that using sport as a vehicle within youth work really does pay off.

**For further information:**  
E: [Thomsonki@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:Thomsonki@northlan.gov.uk)  
T: 01236 812636.





# Teen spirit

Sports Camps are great opportunities for clubs and teams to make use of Scotland's fantastic residential facilities. Your teams and members will reach new levels of performance by participating in multi-day camps and injecting fun activities into your sport experiences.

At our three Scottish Outdoor Education Centres (SOEC): Belmont, Broomlee and Dounans, we work with many teams, clubs and sports organisations covering everything from football to orienteering, rugby to archery, and hockey, martial arts and rowing. Whether you're looking for a venue for 20 or 200, SOEC can provide for you.

Many people enjoy the opportunities afforded by a residential camp to combine use of innovative outdoor spaces, accommodation, good food and the close proximity of pitches and classrooms.

SOEC can also support your aims with added-value activities. Some clubs work with our tutors for team building and to strengthen group cohesion. Others use our challenge events to invigorate competitive spirit. In either case, clubs can make use of the wide range of on-site activities such as rope courses, problem solving challenges and zip wires.

We can provide experiences to complement skills development for your sport when the weather is against you. For example, when snow conditions let you down, ski clubs might undertake a course in our grounds interspersed with archery, simulating the challenges of the biathlon.

Here are some examples of how groups use our Centres:

- Mountain biking groups use Dounans for an annual competition going straight from the centre into trails in the National Park while others use Broomlee when en route to Glentress.
- Over 150 international competitors used Belmont for an international orienteering event accessing several good local courses.
- Hill walking groups and Nordic walkers make our centres their base for more leisurely sporting activity while others, such as residential fitness boot camps, can be more frenetic.
- Clubs and schools stay with us to attend major events such as the rugby internationals at Murrayfield. They like the opportunity to stretch their legs on our pitches after travelling and put into practice what they've seen in the game.

The residential sports camp offers fantastic creative opportunities, limited only by our imagination. SOEC has a wealth of experience so why not talk to us about your ideas.

You'll be amazed at what you can do.

**For further information:**  
**W: [www.soec.org.uk](http://www.soec.org.uk)**

Scottish  
Outdoor  
Education  
Centres



# Get a move on



Youth Scotland's Youth Active Programme provides opportunities for young people to be active in all senses of the word in their community and encourages them to motivate their peers to take an active approach to life. It provides young people with the opportunity to gain experiences, qualifications and develop personally and professionally.

Youth Scotland strives for young people to reach their potential through these opportunities and reaches across Scotland making access inclusive and for all.

## Breaking through

Youth Scotland works with young people from all backgrounds and recently launched the 'Breaking

Barriers' Project in Cornton Vale Prison in January 2014 in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service. 'Breaking Barriers' is a pioneering project allowing female prisoners to become more involved in the gym environment, using it as a place to develop life skills, build confidence, self-esteem and take on leadership roles. The project has worked with over 200 young women and works towards achieving more positive life outcomes. A current programme being delivered is 'Positive Me' which is an eight week programme encouraging the women to have a positive view of their bodies and become more physically active in their daily lives. The programme provides them with positive opportunities and hopefully

provides a new approach to certain aspects of their lives. 'Breaking Barriers' also allows the women to access and gain accreditation through Youth Scotland's Youth Achievement awards which is part of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework.

## Step to the beat

Youth Scotland through their flagship 'Girls on the Move' programme contributes towards the Scottish Government's Active Girls Strategy. 'Girls on the Move' delivers leadership programmes across the length and breadth of Scotland



providing girls and young women with qualifications in sport and dance leadership and youth achievement awards, all of which are nationally recognised. The programme also provides young women and girls with opportunities to develop life skills contributing towards their employability. 'Girls on the Move' is delivered with a range of partners including local authorities, active schools, youth groups and leisure trusts. In September the leaders of the project will take part in a national conference which will be a great opportunity to learn new skills and share ideas, which in turn will engage more young people to get moving.

### Training the future

The Youth Active Programme provides training and courses for those who work with young people to ensure there is sustainability and quality and equality of opportunity. Youth Scotland through partnership with Scottish Sports Futures and CashBack for Communities have developed 'Education through CashBack' which has been rolled out to governing bodies, youth workers and sport coaches. The training explores the relationship between sport and the youth work approach. Youth Scotland has also developed a sport based resource for delivering dynamic youth achievement to make it easier for sport coaches to accredit the work of the young people who take part.

### On yer bike

Bike Club is a partnership with CTC, the national cycling charity. The club works to enthuse young people about getting out and about on bikes. Since 2010 it has worked with over 90 organisations and 6,500 young people across Edinburgh, the Lothians, Falkirk, Fife and Glasgow. The focus of Bike Club is on working with those from backgrounds and communities that

wouldn't normally see cycling as part of their lives – Minority Ethnic communities, young people with disabilities, as well as young women and men from disadvantaged areas.

Thanks to funding from the Scottish Government's Legacy 2014 and Glasgow City Council, Bike Club is about to launch a new phase in Glasgow. Bike Club will be working intensively with 15 young people

on a development and leadership course so they can become Bike Club leaders in their own communities. Our Bike Club Development Officer will act as a mentor, supporting the young leaders as they develop and supporting them to set up Bike Clubs.

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**[youthscotland.org](http://youthscotland.org)**

**T: 0131 554 2561.**



# Another string to the bow



In May, over 1,500 Guides and Senior Section members got the chance to experience a day of fun and exciting outdoors activities through Adventure 2014. With the help of Strategic Partnership Funding, Girlguiding Scotland were able to deliver affordable adventure events to girls and young women who may not otherwise have had this opportunity.

Events like Adventure 2014 are hugely popular amongst Girlguiding members, proving the demand for exciting outdoor activities from young people. By providing opportunities like Adventure 2014, Girlguiding Scotland enable girls and young women to challenge themselves, build confidence, learn new skills

and try out new adventurous activities in a safe environment.

Members aged 10-19 had an amazing time trying out a wide range of activities including abseiling, kayaking, mountain biking, sailing, windsurfing, archery, climbing, raft building, caving, paddle boarding, orienteering, zip line and leap of faith. In true Guiding spirit even the occasional rain showers and thunderstorms didn't dampen the girls' enthusiasm while trying out the activities.

Adventure 2014 took place at four centres spread across Scotland:

- Netherurd Training and Activity Centre (The Scottish Borders),
- Fordell Firs (Fife), Galloway Activity Centre (Kirkcubrightshire)
- Fairburn Activity Centre (Ross-shire).

**For further information:**

**W:** [www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk](http://www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk)

#### **Feedback received included:**

*"Adventure 2014 has made my daughter realise she can achieve things she didn't know she could do".*

*"Adventure 2014 gave my daughter the opportunity to camp for the first time, and try sailing and archery, as well as meeting a wealth of girls from all over Scotland".*

*"Guides is the best thing that has happened to my daughter who lacks confidence. These adventure days are wonderful for encouraging her to mix and try new things".*

*"Adventure 2014 gave my daughter a great opportunity to get active, meet other Guides and develop practical skills".*





# A TANGIBLE LEGACY

A case study in partnership working from Active East



Active East is a Scottish Sports Futures managed programme designed to increase levels of physical activity, enable young people to develop personally and address health inequalities within the East of Glasgow. The aim is to build a genuine legacy for the community, using the 2014 Commonwealth Games as a catalyst, leaving behind skilled young people, organisations and active communities.

To achieve this on a local level Active East works with existing sport and youth organisations, providing a platform for them to come together, supporting them through small grants and placing young volunteers within their clubs and groups. There are currently 54 Active Champions, aged 14-25 volunteering across 32 partner organisations in the North East of Glasgow. These young volunteers have an interest in sport and physical activity in its widest sense from leading delivery and coaching to organising, evaluating, officiating as well as just ensuring other young people have access to positive activity.

Active East does not reinvent the wheel but instead links with local organisations and works strategically with national organisations to maximise impact. Scotland wide Active East works closely with Youth Scotland, StreetGames, Sports Leaders and Sported to name but a few.

Partnerships have led to co-hosted events, including two residentials with Youth Scotland: Youth Active team resulting in referrals from the 'Girls on the Move' programme to Active East, where youngsters have been mentored to stay involved and will soon be

completing a Level 2 in sports leadership. The second 'Young People Taking the Lead', which is a new programme, has six Active Champions as peer mentors. All Active Champions are working towards a Youth Achievement Award at either Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum level.

Working with Street Games has allowed Active Champions to access national residential training events with young people from across the UK. At the most recent StreetGames Youth Conference and Awards night Active East swept the board with four awards going to Active Champions which included a Personal Development Award and UK volunteer of the year.

Sports Leaders have provided tutor training for the Active East community and is the qualification of choice in the form of Sports Leaders Level 1 and Level 2 which like the Youth Achievement Awards, sits on the SCQF framework. Most recently this partnership has enabled the opportunity for Active Champions and organisations to plan and deliver their own community games event on the 25 July just one mile from the Emirates Arena with supermarket giant ASDA.

Active East has many more partners and is a true collaboration from start to finish including funding and support from joint investment between The Robertson Trust, Sport Relief and The Big Lottery. With young people at its heart Active East aims to prove that Legacy is a real and tangible thing and not just a word.

**For further information: Scottish Sports Futures  
E: [info@ssf.org.uk](mailto:info@ssf.org.uk). T: 0141 218 4640.**



Georgi Black, Weightlifter

# Lifting the bar for sporting success

East Ayrshire Council are on a mission to support our athletic champions of the future

The Young People, Sports and Diversion Team in partnership with East Ayrshire Sports Council offer athletes with recognised sporting potential within East Ayrshire both financial and practical support through our Talented Athlete Support Programme. Through our programme we have helped many young athletes to represent in their chosen sporting disciplines for Scotland and Great Britain. Peter Kirkbride, Georgi Black, Sophie Smyth (Weightlifting), Mark Bennett (Rugby 7's) and Claire Johnston (Lawn Bowls) have all been selected to represent Scotland at this year's Commonwealth Games, with Peter previously representing GB at London 2012 Olympics. Over the last five years the Talented Athlete Support Programme has supported over 100 local athletes who are National and GB athletes or National and GB Champions.

Athletes can apply for one of two funding strands available through this programme. Developing Potential offers an award of £200 plus a free annual gym pass to local

partner's leisure facilities. To be eligible for this strand of support, athletes must be a National representative in their chosen sport or be a Junior/Senior National Champion.

Podium Potential offers athletes a £1000 award with the free year long gym pass to local partner's leisure facilities. To be eligible for this strand of support, athletes must be part of the GB Squad or National Squad for events such as the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Paralympics or Winter Paralympics.

Support is also offered through our Special Olympic Talented Athlete Support Programme, specifically for athletes with a learning disability who have been selected to compete at regional, national or world games. The next Special Olympics will take place in Los Angeles 2015.

**For further information:**  
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**T: 01563 57 6314.**



## Passing the ball

Within East Ayrshire we work very closely with local sports clubs, helping to up skill the young participants within their clubs through Community Sports Leader Awards and financial support towards National Governing Body Qualifications. The young people from the club are then in return able to lead sessions of their own



to other children, young people and adults with disabilities from their own community. A great example of this is Bonnyton Thistle Football Club who, with the aid of East Ayrshire Council & East Ayrshire Sports Council, put their younger players through coaching qualifications and in return the young people from the club now coach Bonnyton Thistle Disability Football.

## In the midnight hour

East Ayrshire Council Vibrant Communities section introduced a programme called 'Youth Action Team' (YAT) in 2014. The YAT strategically targets an area with high incidences of anti-social behaviour and puts in place positive, youth focused activities which young people wouldn't normally get the chance to partake in.

The YAT is a holistic approach to addressing the problem of anti-social behaviour within particular communities which involves using both the 'Displacement' and 'Therapeutic Prevention' models of Diversionary Sport Intervention. The programme incorporates sport, sports leadership, youth work and youth training to provide a long term, sustainable solution to the perceived problem of youth disorder. Utilising positive sporting activities such as the Scottish Football Association's nationally run Bank of Scotland Midnight Leagues (BOS ML) and East Ayrshire Council's own mobile skate park, as well as a wide range of arts, media and dance programmes. The YAT staff actively engage young people in these activities at the times when local communities are at most risk of anti-social behaviour. This method of displacement alleviates the initial problem, however it is the development of the activities and training that is the most empowering.



After the initial engagement, young people with inherent skill sets, including leadership, charisma and enthusiasm, are offered the opportunity to gain qualifications, training and volunteer opportunities which allow them to actively contribute to the way these activities are run. This provides an increased focus on the young people during activities, increasing the relevance of YAT and also engages the target audience with role models from their own community which is effective in promoting opportunities and broadening life goals.

From this point the young people are supported to progress the

project in any way they see fit. Whether that is through constituting the group to apply for funding in order to maintain sessions or support and advice to widen their impact.

The YAT have completed three interventions within the East Ayrshire area, all with different outcomes, which the young people showcased in front of local guests and released virally through social media sites. The outcomes ranged from gaining casual Skate Park volunteers and seeing a 100% increase at the local BOS ML, to the formation of a band who performed at the showcase event and recorded a music video.



*Peter Kirkbride National and GB Champion*

# Commonwealth on the Isles



Youth legacy Ambassadors: Holly King, Luke Smith, Vicky Anderson (Support Worker), Charlie Unsworth, Morag Maver (Support Worker), Stewart Hornal.

Shetland's Youth Legacy Ambassadors planned a two day sports conference for children aged 12+ with support from Youth Services and Active Schools. The conference aimed to promote the Commonwealth Games, an active lifestyle, highlight the variety of different sports people can be involved in and to increase the participation of young people involved in sport in Shetland.

This was achieved through developing a programme of activities that included a variety of sports that are available in the Commonwealth Games and sports that are available in Shetland. With around 25 different activities that young people could participate in over the two days such as; Hockey, Badminton, Boccia (a Paralympic

sport), Compose an Anthem, Jazzercise and Coaching Opportunities to name a few – young people had a vast choice of accredited courses, information and active sessions. These sessions were run by a variety of different people: coaches; local sports athletes; YLAs and Sports Panel members. We had five British Commonwealth Athletes who came up from the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust to run sessions in Fencing, Gymnastics, Athletics, Squash as well as team building sessions.

sportscotland and Young Scot Sport Panel member Chris Sellar from Edinburgh said:

*"It was a great experience to travel to Shetland and contribute to the Young People's Sports Conference. The event went really well and seemed to engage and inspire a number of young people."*

*"It was important for the Young People's Sport Panel to experience sport in a rural community, appreciating both the benefits and challenges this brings."*

*"It was also very rewarding sharing with the Shetland community our journey as young leaders and the activity the panel have been involved with over the last two years".*

The variety of different leaders and events allowed the conference to be a roaring success as it meant young people of all interests were involved and able to try new things whilst celebrating the Commonwealth Games. Shetland's Youth Legacy Ambassadors really benefited from having the opportunity to organise such an event and their confidence has increased, they have discovered more of their strengths and have identified areas for improvement. Massive congratulations must be given for their efforts in allowing such a large event to be so successful.

**For further information:**  
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# Where two strategies meet

sportscotland

Mary Allison, Head of Strategic Planning for sportscotland looks at how the new youth sport strategy and the national youth work strategy will complement each other.

In June 2014 the Scottish Government published Scotland's youth sport strategy for children and young people 'Our Sporting Future'. This strategy has a clear aspiration to ensure that "*Scotland is a great environment for children and young people to embark on lifelong participation in sport*".

sportscotland recognise this vision for sport in schools, communities, youth work, clubs and on the world stage is and will continue to be delivered by people and organisations working together. We see these ambitions echoed in the ambitions of the National Youth Work Strategy for Scotland 2014-19.

sportscotland believes that sport is an important context for the delivery of this strategy and one which has the power to reach and engage a wide range of young people.

sportscotland has been working hard over the past four years to put young people at the heart of decision-making in sport, giving support and opportunities to

influence what happens and to take up positions of leadership in school and community sport. We have also worked to ensure that young people's contribution to the development of Scottish sport is recognised and rewarded. Over the last four years we have developed a range of opportunities for young people to influence and lead in sport:

- **Young Ambassadors** – over 600 young people each year have the opportunity to take on this role, the key purpose of which is to motivate and inspire their peers to participate in sport.
- **Lead 2014** – over 900 young people each year receive training designed to equip them to plan, organise and deliver sports events/festivals.
- **Young Hub Leaders** – this has been emerging work over the last year which seeks to embed young people's involvement in the decision making of Community Sports Hubs.
- **Active Girls** – through a range of activities this project aims to increase girls and young women's participation in PE, physical activity and sport.

Young people's sport panel – the sport panel has two roles; to

influence and shape the future of sport in Scotland and to raise the profile of sport to young people. One of the key principles in establishing the sport panel is that they will inform sportscotland's work and that we will embed the practice of involving, listening to and taking on board the views of young people as a way of working as an organisation.

We recognise the significant amount of work undertaken by national and local partners, who week-in and week-out deliver significant sports opportunities for young people throughout Scotland. Along with a wide range of youth work across Scotland, sportscotland wants to continue its investment in young people; providing a lasting legacy of confident, well trained, knowledgeable and experienced young people.

We are currently reviewing our corporate plan for the period 2015-19 and if you have thoughts about the role of sport in youth work, we'd love to hear from you!

**For further information:**  
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# WILD in the PARK

get active, get learning, get OUTDOORS

Holyrood experienced a very different kind of parliamentary gathering in June as MSPs and young people pitted their wits against each other to celebrate learning in the great outdoors.

'Wild in the Park' was all about raising the awareness and profile for the outdoor learning section of the youth work sector, which makes a significant contribution to a raft of educational outcomes. The entire sector has much to offer from residential centres to camps and water based activities through to

hill walking, climbing, environmental projects and of course a myriad of sports related activities.

The event on Wednesday 18 June kicked off with the SNP and Scotland's opposition party leaders racing against the clock and against a team of young people from Scouts Scotland, to see who can pitch a tent in record time.

Scottish Labour Leader, Johann Lamont MSP; Scottish Conservative Leader, Ruth Davidson MSP; Scottish Lib Dem Leader, Willie

Rennie MSP and the SNP's Bruce Crawford MSP set aside their political differences as they form 'Team Holyrood' to celebrate youth work at this unique festival.

The afternoon, which was the hottest of the year so far, saw MSPs from across Scotland taking part in a host of challenges including: mountain biking; raft building; fire lighting; wild cooking and survival techniques. The event culminated in the UK's first ever outdoor parliamentary reception.

Jim Sweeney, CEO of YouthLink Scotland, who hosted 'Wild in the Park', said wild learning and sport was a rite of passage for the younger generation:

"Outdoor learning has something for everyone so let's encourage our young people to GO WILD and get involved in the great outdoors."

Over 40 MSPs turned out to give their support to youth work in the great outdoors with the official parliamentary reception being opened formally by the Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell MSP.

## Organisations involved were:

Service Cadet Organisations; DofE Scotland; Scouts Scotland; Historic Scotland; Education Scotland; The Boys' Brigade; Scottish Outdoor Education Centres; Ocean Youth Trust; The Outward Bound Trust; Venture Scotland; Iona Community; The Conservation Volunteers; Keep Scotland Beautiful; The John Muir Award; The National Trust for Scotland; South Ayrshire Council; Perth and Kinross Council; The Yard; Scottish Youth Hostelling Association; Scripture Union Scotland; Woodcraft Folk; Callander Youth Project; The Green Team; Youth Scotland; Stramash; Pict by Nature; St Andrew's First Aid; The Prince's Trust; Girlguiding Scotland and Scottish Youth Parliament.





*"I was delighted to attend 'Wild in the Park'. It was a great opportunity to catch up with Stamash and the Iona Community. Both do an outstanding job in the constituency and their presence undoubtedly brought experience and knowledge to the wider network of outdoor learning organisations in attendance".*  
**Mike Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education**



*"The YouthLink conference was a real success and helped highlight the great work youth organisations are doing throughout Scotland. Unfortunately there were no world records to be had at the omelette challenge but it was good to come along and support the event. I was slightly disappointed that my camping stove went out halfway through the challenge but even so I don't think James Martin needs to worry about his job just yet".*

**Murdo Fraser Conservative MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife**



*"The 'Wild in the Park' event brought together some brilliant organisations from the youth work sector in the first outdoor reception of its kind. The success of the event showed strong support for outdoor learning in Scotland, but we need further investment in*

*outdoor learning to bring together more young people in healthy, educational activities which benefit our communities. I hope this is the first of many outdoor receptions at Holyrood".*

**Alison Johnstone Green MSP for the Lothians**



*"Everyone's fondest memories of their childhood involve running around outside with pals, climbing things, and getting muddy. It's an important part of learning and development, so I'm delighted to see YouthLink Scotland and partners involved in 'Wild in the Park' encourage and support outdoor learning for young people".*

**Kezia Dugdale Labour MSP for the Lothians**



*"I had a fantastic time at Wild in the Park. As well as being really enjoyable for everyone involved, the event provided a great platform to generate awareness of the commendable activities of the youth work sector as a whole. I am personally a big fan of the outdoors and I am keen to promote the opportunities that outdoor activities can present for enhanced learning for Scotland's youngsters".*

**David Torrance SNP MSP for Kirkcaldy**



# WILD in the PARK

get active, get learning, get OUTDOORS







1 Young People's Minister, **Aileen Campbell** MSP shows her support for the sector.

2 YouthLink Scotland CEO, **Jim Sweeney** indulges in a spot of wild cooking.

3 Our compere, actor **Andy Paterson** announces the Tent Challenge.

4 **DofE Scotland** show us how to solve a problem!

5 **Historic Scotland** get to grips with medieval building techniques.

6 Yes it's a **Scouts Scotland** selfie!

7 Nationalist MSP, **Gordon MacDonald** gets his kit on with Ocean Youth Trust.

8 **Woodcraft Folk** demonstrate what you can do with one parachute.

9 **Clare Adamson** SNP MSP looks for minibeasts with National Trust for Scotland.

10 Lib Dem MSP, **Jim Hume** hanging by a thread on the Air Cadets climbing wall.

11 Scottish Green leader, **Patrick Harvie** MSP on his bike with The Outward Bound Trust.

12 Glasgow Kelvin SNP MSP, **Sandra White** tries her hand at stone-masonry with the Prince's Trust.

13 The SNP's **Angus MacDonald** MSP communes with Marc Forrester from Pict by Nature.





**If you have great examples of activities or projects which use sport to deliver youth work outcomes, please let us know or send us a short case study for our website to [info@youthlinkscotland.org](mailto:info@youthlinkscotland.org)**



YouthLink Scotland's editor of THE Link is very keen to receive your comments, ideas and suggestions on the magazine.

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