

Youth Services Team Report 2012-13

Impacts for Young People –

Bonhill Youth Action Group—Wilful Fire Raising DVD Project

The Bonhill Youth Action Group currently consists of 14 young people aged between 12-19 years old. The Action Group worked in partnership with Save the Children to develop a DVD project which aimed to address the issue of deliberate fire raising in their community, which had seen over 100 wilful fire raising incidents within a 6 month period.

This issue was highlighted through a community consultation which was completed by 119 young people; the issue had also been highlighted through local media and local elected members.

During the project the young people took part in various activities, such as:

- Team Building Activities
- Group Work Skills
- Drama Based Exercises
- United Nations Rights of the Child Activities
- Understand The Issues
- Scrip Writing Story Boarding Exercises
- Filming

The groups DVD is being used by the local fire and police department and will be used as a resource when delivering inputs relating to wilful fire raising.

**Bonhill Youth Action
Group discuss their DVD
on fire raising.**



Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) Elections

During March 2013, the Youth Services team carried out our first ever elections to the Scottish Youth Parliament! Youth Services staff visited most of our secondary schools to deliver a presentation on what the SYP is all about and recruit for candidates - 3 young people came forward to contest the election:

Katie Young (Clydebank High School), Laura O'Donnell & Dylan Mitchell. (Both Our Lady and St Patrick's High School).

Every young person in all 5 of our secondary schools had the opportunity to vote in the elections with 4,258 votes cast -that was a massive 82.5% turnout. Thanks to all who voted. The winners in these elections were Dylan Mitchell and Laura O'Donnell.

Contact Your MSYPs

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2 newly elected MSYPs with Joyce White, Chief Executive of West Dunbartonshire Council



Young people cast their vote



I'm Laura O'Donnell and I am the Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Clydebank. I was elected in March 2013 and will serve the Clydebank area for 2 years. I look forward to the challenges ahead, meeting up with young people in Clydebank, finding out about their issues, getting their thoughts and ideas and feeding this back to the SYP sittings at a national level.

I am 15 years old and I attend Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School in Dumbarton. My interest in drama has allowed me to perform in the Kings Theatre and produce an anti knife crime campaign to raise awareness of knife crime in Scotland. In my spare time I enjoy reading and creative writing and I like to keep up to date with the issues in my local area.

I'm Dylan Mitchell and I am the Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Dumbarton and Alexandria.

I am immensely proud to have been elected by the young people of West Dunbartonshire and I look forward to meeting my constituents through school visits, surgeries, visits to youth clubs and projects.

I am the youngest trustee of the Bellsmyre Development Trust and volunteer on a weekly basis in my own area, supporting the Trust's Youth Club alongside the Activities Coordinators.



Youth Services Outreach

Our Youth Outreach team work with young people on the streets, engaging with them and offering them the opportunity to work with us through group work activities. We've worked with groups in Castlehill, Bonhill and have secured funding for work in Faifley!

One of our most successful groups this year was with 11 young people in Bonhill who over 26 weeks took part in team-building activities, group work skills, alcohol and tobacco workshops, fire reach programme and an overnight residential to name but a few. 7 of the young people obtained their Youth Achievement Award at Bronze level and 4 of the younger members achieved their Dynamic Youth Award.

Some of the comments from young people included:

"I will use some of the skills I have learned in the future because I now know how to be polite and show respect"

"I learned to listen to others and I will follow this throughout school"

Some of the parents also commented on our programme and said:

"He has learned many things at the group. He learned to have respect for the community and how he can help to improve it".

Well done to everyone involved!



Bonhill Group



Castlehill Girls group



Youth Consultation Survey and Event

During February and March 2013, the Youth Consultation and Representation team, in partnership with colleagues from the Youth Alliance, carried out a consultation with young people. The consultation sought the views of young people on:

- Community Safety
- Health and Wellbeing
- Housing and Homelessness
- Education, Employment & Training
- Youth Consultation & Representation
- Leisure & Facilities



Over 350 young people completed the survey and over 120 young people attend our Youth Consultation Event on 28th March 2013 at Dumbarton Football Club.

The information gathered from both of these events will be used by the Youth Alliance partners to shape services for young people and ensure that we are doing as much as we can to address the issues raised by young people.

We will be publishing the results of the event and survey as well as the outcome of the staff network event soon!



Young people taking part in the workshops at the Youth Consultation Event.



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