

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY IN SCOTTISH EDUCATION

PROPOSAL

SEPTEMBER 2016



CONTEXT

Young Scot, Children in Scotland and the Scottish Youth Parliament are delighted to present the following proposal focussing on delivering excellence and equity in Scottish Education. This addresses the defining mission of the Scottish Government to raise attainment and make demonstrable progress in closing the gap in attainment and achievement between those children and young people who are least and most disadvantaged.

The lessons from the first year of the Scottish Attainment Challenge recognised that more data is needed on children's progress in primary school and early secondary to 'know the gap in order to close the gap' and target where the most significant improvement is necessary. The Scottish Government has recognised a broader approach is required and direct engagement with children and young people is essential to understand their perspective, as experts of their own experience, and of the changes needed if our ambitions for Scottish Education, are to be achieved. We propose a 12-week process (commencing in late September 2016), which will involve collaboration by the three partners to engage with children and young people who can contribute greatly to such discussions.

We [our partnership] are delighted that Scottish Government are committed to co-design as a model for including the views and perspectives of children and young people in shaping the implementation process for the delivery, supporting UNCRC Article 12.

The co-design programme will involve some of the following core areas:

- **Governance** – How to enable more decisions about the things that happen in school to be decided by schools themselves. Therefore, what things do children and young people think teachers/ head teachers should be able to do? How can this extend to local government and Scottish government?
- **Equity** – Do children and young people think school is fair and the same for everyone? Why do they think this and what could help affect change?
- **Empowering Children & Young People** - How involved are children and young people currently in the things that happen in the school / classroom and are there issues they would like more say in? What are their priorities?
- **Community Involvement** – What is meant by the term 'community'? What are children and young people's views on how we can encourage more community involvement? Could this be a good thing or not and why?
- **Wider Support** – What are the transitions points? How do children and young people feel about these? How better could they have been supported both in and out-with the classroom (after school learning, out of school clubs etc.)? How does this currently link back to the school/classroom? How should it link back up, why and how?
- **Joining up / Clusters** - Do children and young people think schools can help other schools to do better? How do they think that process could work and what value could be added?

The partnership between Young Scot, Children in Scotland and Scottish Youth Parliament builds upon recent work through the Leaders of Learning project. This utilised a model of collaboration

whereby the partners worked initially with nine schools to identify salient topics that were then explored through deeper investigation and close working with specific schools on the topics which emerged. This project would seek to continue this model of collaboration and would seek out wide demographics through approaches including co-production workshops and online surveys. Digital tools will be used at all stages where appropriate to help support the collaborative process, gathering of material and sharing of findings between partners and externally via social channels.

Whilst we [our partnership] are aware of the challenges in terms of timing, we believe it is important to ensure a diverse range of views are included in this consultation, if it is to be a genuinely whole school and system approach. We are committed to ensuring diverse ages, geographies, and broad range of support needs are supported to contribute.

Our partnership has considerable experience in working together and drawing on the strengths of our respective organisations. We have a wealth of connections and relationships to draw on to deliver the outcomes required for this project on budget, within timescale, with quality outcomes that recognise the value of children and young people's contributions.

The partnership would involve three phases of activity:

1. *Inception*
2. *Insight journey*
3. *Insight day*

To avoid assumption wherever possible, all activity will be considered and adapted based on the outcomes of each phase.

ACTIVITY PHASE ONE: INCEPTION

This first phase would meet with key members of staff from the partnership and Scottish Government in order to explore the context of the project and to agree terms of reference, a draft work programme and timetable. The inception meeting would also:

- Respond to any issues arising from the proposal.
- Agree the process for involving the children and young people, including ensuring informed consent is received.
- Discuss any literacy issues and how young people can be supported to participate fully.
- Discuss accreditation for the young people taking part.
- Discuss potential incentives for the young people, including vouchers and rewards.
- Clarify lines of communication and reporting.

ACTIVITY PHASE TWO: INSIGHT JOURNEY

The next phase of the partnership will involve the individual members of the programme drawing on their respective strengths. This will allow for the partners' work on their own specific elements of the programme delivery to compliment and feed into each other where appropriate. These will run concurrently with the desk-research being undertaken by Scottish Government and the more distributed activities through the survey and classroom materials.

Young Scot

Young Scot will lead for the partnership on engagement with young people from a variety of different backgrounds recruited through their digital platform and existing relationships with other public and third sector organisations. Specifically:

- Using Young Scot's Co-design Model (see Appendix) we will develop and deliver three half-day exploration events to enable young people and key stakeholders to work in collaboration. This will involve up to 20 young people per event, aged 11-26 (core age likely 14-21) from diverse, groups across all demographics with mixed life experiences, for example those with experience in the care system, living rurally, caring for a family member, at key points of transition (school, further education, living independently), disability, religion and culture.
- We will provide mechanisms for young people to share individually, collectively in groups and collaborate with key stakeholders where appropriate to develop an in-depth and meaningful dialogue.
- Between each event we will undertake Insight Synthesis of the data captured and adapt the delivery model where appropriate. This will be communicated in a hot report that will be shared with the project partners so that emerging insights can be shared across the partners.

Children in Scotland

Children in Scotland will lead for the partnership on the specific needs of younger children in consultation and engagement, using whole school approaches and children and young people with additional support needs. Specifically:

- Working with primary aged children, probably P4 – P7 at Dunoon Primary School
- Children and young people with additional support needs – propose working with small group within Linlithgow Academy, where our established relationships will allow us to hit the ground running within the short timescales available.
- Rural and remote communities - supporting engagement of more remote communities, possibly using GLOW infrastructure.
- Working within the schools on the SG's 6 priority themes identified by Scottish Government, to develop a nuanced understanding of children and young people's perspectives.

Scottish Youth Parliament

The Scottish Youth Parliament will lead for the partnership on the specific rights based approach with our democratically elected members, reach influencing decision makers and linking with youth forums and other democratic participation structures both locally and nationally. Specifically:

- Using the Scottish Youth Parliaments youth-led and rights based methods, we would hold two half-day discussion events with MSYPs as well as other young people involved with Youth Forums/Councils etc. to gather the insights and opinions of Scotland's young people on themes agreed with Scottish Government officials. Prior to the half-day events, MSYPs

and other young delegates would be tasked with seeking the views of a wider group of young people they represent specifically on the issues contained within the proposal.

- MSYPs from SYPs Education and Life Long Learning Committee would play an active role in ensuring that the project is representative of young people living in Scotland. At the SYP Sitting in Inverclyde in October 2016, the committee would lead a mass activity involving a wider group of MSYPs attending the Sitting to give their views on the Governance Review and the themes outlines above linking to the national survey.
- At the SYP Sitting in October, we would facilitate MSYPs creating digital content to be used to further express the views of young people in relation to the Governance Review.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Alongside the above contributions, a survey and classroom facilitation pack will also be developed in partnership between the three organisations to help to engage with as wide demographic as possible across the country.

National Survey

- Developed with volunteers from all three organisations, a national survey for all young people aged 11-25, hosted on Young Scot Rewards, to generate a wider understanding of young people's perspectives on education.
- Offline paper copies will be available on request by local partners to ensure accessibility.

Classroom Materials

- A facilitation pack will be developed in partnership between the three organisations which will include a set of tools to help teachers and youth group leaders to facilitate a short activity exploring issues related to the core programme questions. This will help extend the types of conversations being held through the workshops and discursive activities into other types of contexts.
- This facilitation pack will be distributed and collated digitally to lessen the time required to process any gathered responses from the facilitators' perspective.
- The activities will help provide a framework to allow the facilitators to collect further stories and valuable data which can be reflected upon and pooled across the partners to inform further enquiry.

We [our partnership] believe that it is important that Scottish Government make a compact with children and young people to ensure that this is a meaningful and on-going relationship, and therefore we recommend that Scottish Government continue to engage children and young people, gathering their views and using these to shape implementation and feeding back to them in accessible ways.

It will be important for Scottish Government to consider how to demonstrate to children and young people that their views have been considered, and therefore Phase 2 should include appropriate feedback to those who have been consulted, as well as engaging new CYP voices. We would expect the first phase of this work to support SG with a detailed and meaningful implementation plan, based on the engagement findings.

ACTIVITY PHASE THREE: INSIGHT DAY

An insight day will also be held in partnership between the three organisations to bring together the insights and materials they have gathered through their parallel strands of activity. The children and young people who have been involved throughout the insight journey will be the ones who are best placed to deliver these findings. At this event, it will be important to have key decision-makers in the room and participating in the discussions with the children and young people involved throughout the process. With this ethos, the insight day would be a vibrant, engaging and fun event for all participants, with facilitators on hand to help mould and shape the ideas. We will photograph and digitally record the session and produce a short video to capture the event. Sharing the learning with other children and young people and between relevant organisations/individuals across Scotland will also be key strand of activity. It is essential that very senior decision-makers attend this event.

Reporting

To ensure all the young people's experiences and ideas are captured, we will develop a final Insights and Impact Report with input from the young people involved. With the partnership and full agreement of Scottish Government, we will disseminate the findings to explore common learning and raise further awareness of the issue of attainment in education and how these should be tackled at national, local and school levels.

BUDGET

An estimated budget for the above programme of work would be £60,000 plus VAT which would be split evenly across the partnership organisations. This starting figure is open for further discussion so partners are prepared to negotiate on the scale of activity to reflect the budget available.

CONTACT

Young Scot

Partner Lead: [redacted], Co-design Manager
T: 0131 313 2488 | **E:** [redacted]@young.scot

Children in Scotland

Partner Lead: [redacted], Head of Policy
T: 0131 313 8810 | **E:** [redacted]@childreninscotland.org.uk

Scottish Youth Parliament

Partner Lead: [redacted], Deputy Chief Executive
T: 0131 557 0452 | **E:** [redacted]@syp.org.uk

APPENDIX

YOUNG SCOT'S CO-DESIGN EXPERIENCE & APPROACH

Young Scot has extensive experience in engaging with Scotland's young people to seek their views and input in the development of the services they use. Young people have a significant role to play in encouraging organisations and communities to adopt a more collaborative culture, focusing resources to effectively meet the needs of individuals and communities.

Our co-design service involves young people systematically creating, designing and delivering solutions in collaboration with organisations. Young people are involved much earlier in decision making process through a highly participative approach developing informed insights, ideas, recommendations and solutions for policy and practice.

Supporting people to co-design ideas has been shown to have a radical impact on service innovation. We know using a co-design approach enables a more distributed, decentralised approach to innovation that supports Scotland's ambitions to cede power and responsibility directly to young people.

This approach ties into key policy areas including:

- United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child
- Public Service Reform/Christie Commission
- Community Empowerment Act
- Getting It Right for Every Child



SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The Scottish Youth Parliament is the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people. Elections are held every two years, in which young people from all across Scotland stand as candidates to become Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs).

MSYPs range in age from 14 to 25 and represent constituencies in all 32 local authorities throughout the country, and several national voluntary organisations. SYP was established on 30 June 1999, making us one day older than the Scottish Parliament.

Our democratically elected members listen to and recognise the issues that are most important to young people, ensuring that their voices are heard by decision-makers. We exist to provide a national platform for young people to discuss the issues that are important to them, and campaign to effect the change they wish to see.

Aye Naw Mibbe

Over 2,900 young people registered to vote in 2014 as a result of the Scottish Youth Parliament's Aye Naw Mibbe project.

Having taken the decision to remain neutral on the outcome of the independence referendum, the membership of the Scottish Youth Parliament decided to focus on ensuring young people had the chance to voice their views in this historic poll. The Aye Naw Mibbe initiative sought to ensure as many young people as possible were registered to vote ahead of the 18th September 2014.

A group of members of the Scottish Youth Parliament were selected to be Participation Champions, ambassadors for the project within the membership and advocates of democracy to the young people of Scotland. At an initial residential workshop, the Participation Champions designed promotional materials and educational resources which could be used to promote electoral registration, as well as helping to train a group of peer educators to support their work. They also helped design an online platform, the Aye Naw Mibbe hub, where young people could access impartial information on elections, the referendum and electoral registration.



The Aye Naw Mibbe project also brought together a group of key stakeholders to share ideas, resources and contacts to increase voter registration among young people. The Young Voter Engagement Group included a Participation Champion and was convened by the former Chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament, Kyle Thornton. Together the group pioneered successful initiatives such as Ready Steady Vote Week, a themed week of focussed registration activity, and online promotional events such as Aye Naw Mibbe Tweet ups. Overall, the project engaged with 17,000 young people and

almost 3000 registered to vote.

For further details, please visit: www.ayenawmibbe.org/resources

We-CTV

The Scottish Youth Parliament has run the We-CTV competition for the last four years. In 2014, we built on the success of previous competitions to expand the film making competition about knife crime to cover other areas of interpersonal violence, to be explored through a variety of media.

In order to ensure our competition was youth-led and delivered solutions from young people, we recruited 15 We-CTV Champions. The Champions were selected by a group of Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament from among the membership to engage young people in their area and promote anti-violence messages.

Leaders of Learning

In 2013/14, the Scottish Youth Parliament worked with a coalition of partner organisations (Young Scot, Children in Scotland and Children's Parliament) to deliver the Leaders of Learning project. This pioneering consultation programme set out to discover how children and young people felt about the Curriculum for Excellence and their place within that structure. We created the space for children and young people to meaningfully contribute their ideas and suggestions for how they should lead in their education.

SYP Discussion Days

New Psychoactive Substances

In September 2015, SYP jointly facilitated a discussion day event with Scottish Government and 40 young people, to gain a better understanding of the degree to which young people are aware of New Psychoactive Substances and their dangers, and to provide an opportunity for them to shape the Scottish Government's approach to increasing engagement, awareness and education with young people.

The Scottish Youth Parliament staff team facilitated the table discussions and scribed the feedback, based on an agreed feedback process.

The table discussions centred around a number of areas, namely:

- What participants already know about NPS;
- What are young people's perceptions of the dangers of NPS;
- How information could be best targeted at young people; and,
- How young people should receive advice about NPS.

In addition, to try to understand of the impact of the event itself on the knowledge and perceptions of the participants, they were asked to answer a number of questions before and after the event using the Scottish Youth Parliament's interactive voting system.

Mental Health Strategy

In March 2016, 51 young people attended a Mental Health Discussion event, the purpose of which was to gather young people's views and experiences of mental health services and information, in order for young people's views to be considered in the development of Scotland's Mental Health Strategy for 2016-2019.

“When working in partnership with the Scottish Youth Parliament on their mental health discussion day, I found them to be enthusiastic, committed and professional throughout. The SYP clearly have considerable experience in facilitating events that are designed to enable young people to share their views, and that was certainly the case for this engagement event. The output from the discussion day has allowed the Scottish Government to take into account the views of a cross-section of young people in Scotland when preparing the first draft of the next Mental Health Strategy, which is an invaluable perspective.”

Civil Servant, Mental Health Unit, Scottish Government

CHILDREN IN SCOTLAND PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

CiS has a well-established work programme supporting the participation and engagement of children and young people, as well as their families, in shaping policy and services. Over the past 15 years we have developed innovative approaches to supporting the participation of children and young people in education settings (primary, secondary, early years and other learning settings); undertaken research to better understand the needs of disadvantaged groups of young people; and produced accessible information, reports and videos to share our findings with younger audiences.

In addition to our work directly with children and young people, CiS has extensive experience of developing and delivering training to teaching staff on participation of children and young people within learning settings; as well as working with children, young people and staff to develop resources to support schools in embedding participatory approaches.

Participation and engagement with children and young people underpins everything we do, and supports our legitimacy to speak on behalf of the children’s sector.

In line with the participation guidelines of UNCRC, Children in Scotland’s approach is to engage children and young people in meaningful, ongoing dialogue and to enable them to have effective and fulfilling participation in all areas of our work, ensuring that their voices influence the decisions and practices of policy makers and practitioners.

Children in Scotland experience in learning settings

Access All Areas

This longstanding project, funded since 2003 by Scottish Borders Council, began as a consultative approach with children and young people on issues around accessibility in their schools. It has developed into a pupil voice and pupil participation project in response to Curriculum for Excellence, GIRFEC, UNCRC and the Additional Support for Learning Act. Its’ fundamental aim is to empower all pupils to have a say on what happens in their schools and in their classrooms and to support teachers and senior managers in developing participatory practice.

Leaders of Learning

A national project delivered in partnership with Young Scot, the Scottish Youth Parliament and the Children’s Parliament, Leaders of Learning engages and consults with children and young people

(CYP) to identify how well they understand their entitlement to a broad general education under Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). Following a wide-ranging scoping exercise in Phase One, a thematic approach was developed to address the key messages that arose from the children and young people. In Phase Two the themes that were focused on were digital literacy, the impact of emotional wellbeing on learning and involving pupils in planning their learning. Each school explored one of the themes and the outputs from this work influenced a more robust approach within the same schools in the current Phase Three, which will lead to the children and young people making recommendations on how schools can best support each of the themes.

Pupil Audit

Developed from the Access All Areas programme, the pupil audit resource is a tool for children and young people to become engaged in how their school is run. Children in Scotland has developed training for practitioners around pupil audit to create enabling participative environments within learning settings which support children and young people to lead pupil audits.

Enquire and Resolve Services

Children in Scotland provides the national service for additional support needs: Enquire and the education mediation service: Resolve: ASL, which offer advice, information and mediation services for additional support for learning for young people, parents, carers and practitioners.

SKILLS & EXPERTISE

The following individuals represent the breadth / depth of expertise which each partner organisation brings to the initiative.

Children in Scotland

[redacted], Head of Policy, Children in Scotland

[redacted] is responsible for leading and supporting the Policy Team in their work across a range of projects and policy activities. [redacted] has been Head of Policy for Children in Scotland since May 2015, and is currently leads on a number of projects within CiS, including the evaluation of the Diana Children's Nurses service, children and young people's consultation on the future role of school nurses, the development of a GIRFECT Teachers Toolkit and our SDS project working with schools and local authorities.

Prior to working at Children in Scotland, [redacted] had 16 years' experience of working in the mental health sector having previously been employed by the Mental Health Foundation, Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health and Mind in a range of information, research and development roles, most recently as Senior Researcher. During this time she was responsible for leading work exploring the mental health needs of children and young people with long term conditions¹. She also wrote a series of guides with the Paul Hamlin Foundation on supporting the mental health needs of 16-25 year olds, based on the findings from the Right Here programme².

¹ <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/projects/young-people-long-term-conditions>

² <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/projects/right-here/resources>

In addition to management expertise to this project, Amy brings considerable research knowledge and expertise, experience of working with children and young people, knowledge of children and young people's mental health and an understanding of how research can be used to shape and influence national policy and practice.

[redacted], Participation and Engagement Manager, Children in Scotland

[redacted] was previously Principle Teacher for Pupil Support at Linlithgow Academy. [redacted] comes with a wealth of experience, particularly with regards to health and wellbeing and young people's rights and participation - this includes everything from managing a caseload of 400 pupils, teaching PSE, setting up the school buddying system and delivering staff CPD on GIRFEC. She has also recently finished a secondment in Education Scotland, where she was responsible for developing national guidelines and practitioner resources relating to health and wellbeing.

Scottish Youth Parliament

[redacted], Deputy Chief Executive, Scottish Youth Parliament

[redacted] has over 10 years' experience in Youth Work, in the Scottish Voluntary Sector, and within Scottish Local Authorities. [redacted] was previously involved with SYP years before he worked for the organisation.

He started his career working for Fife Council, as a Detached Youth Worker, and then Young Scot, where he held various roles, latterly coordinating the organisation's youth work and youth projects. [redacted] then came to work for SYP to manage the work of the Youth Engagement Team.

[redacted] has a proven track record with creating strong and robust partnerships, along with maintaining connections that SYP has spent years building.

[redacted] has been with SYP since July 2013 and his role includes:

- Responsibility for overall youth engagement, projects and operations.
- Child Protection and Safeguarding.
- Staff lead for UK and International.
- Managing relationships with local authorities and other partners.
- Staff lead on National Voluntary Organisation Memberships Partnerships.
- Working to implement the organisations vision, strategy and mission.
- Working with the CEO to develop SYP and lead our core values.

[redacted], Youth Engagement Officer, Scottish Youth Parliament

[redacted] joined SYP in October 2015 and her role includes:

- Working on the design and delivery of youth engagement sessions for young people across Scotland.
- Supporting MSYPs in their roles.
- Training and supporting the young people involved in the SYPeers project.

- Working with the Public Affairs team to develop resources and engagement for our national campaigns.

[redacted], Public Affairs Officer, Scottish Youth Parliament [redacted]

has been with SYP since September 2015 and her role includes:

- Monitoring parliamentary, government and policy developments.
- Engaging with elected representatives at a Scottish and UK level.
- Writing consultation responses to Scottish Parliament, Scottish Government.
- Supporting the policy work of relevant SYP groups, the Convenors Group and the Board of Trustees.

Young Scot

[redacted], Co-design Manager, Young Scot

[redacted] is co-design manager at Young Scot. He completed his PhD (a partnership with industry sponsor NCR) in Design Ethnography from University of Dundee in 2014. He is a designer focused on digital interaction and his practice involves integrating design-led workshops with multiple prototyping iterations to deliver highly resolved solutions. He was a co-organizer of the workshop Pivot Points: Preparing for Urban Change held in at III-T Bangalore in June 2015, which brought Indian and UK academics and professionals together to discuss smart community development.

The key role of Young Scot's co-design team is to empower young people to work together with organisations from across Scotland to influence the design and delivery of policy, strategy and services. This involves young people being involved in sustainable, systemic change much earlier in development processes through to implementation of ideas. The team are currently delivering projects including re-designing a 'Heritage Blueprint' for young people's engagement with the National Trust for Scotland, creating a healthier Scotland with Scottish Government and developing a 'Digital Ignition' training package for young people with the Princes Trust.

[redacted], Co-design Officer, Young Scot

[redacted] has been a Co-design Officer at Young Scot since 2014 and is responsible for the successful delivery of the co-design function within Young Scot and supporting the Co-design team. Before joining Young Scot, [redacted] was based in the Children and Families directorate at the Scottish Government, worked in a youth centre in East Ayrshire, and attained a degree in service and product design at the Glasgow School of Art.