
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	7 May 2019
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/37/19/HS
Contact Officer:	Hugh Scott, Service Manager	Contact No:	01475 715450
Subject:	Scottish Youth Parliament Elections 2019		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee of the success of the recent Scottish Youth Parliament elections and to advise the Committee of our two newly elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament for the constituency of Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Community Learning and Development's Youth Services Team are the lead support to the Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) who are also represented through the Inverclyde Youth Council. This is a requisite to ensure that young people are supported and that they understand they are representing the views of their peers. Inverclyde Youth Council is open to young people aged 12-25 and they ensure that the views of Inverclyde young people are fully represented both locally and nationally. The Youth Council participate in a range of local and national programmes, groups and events.
- 2.2 Throughout Autumn 2018, staff from Youth Work Services recruited young people who were interested in standing as candidates. Posters and on line canvassing were used to engage young people with visits to schools, 1 Youth Zones and other community groups taking place. It is SYP policy that candidates must be aged between 14 and 25 and that they must live in Inverclyde in order to stand for election. The recruitment process concluded with 4 candidates standing for the 2 seats available in Inverclyde.
- 2.3 In January and February 2019, the candidates worked with the CLD Youth Work Services Team to develop manifestos, undertake candidate training and produce a short video which was later used to show pupils across our Secondary Schools. The candidates all completed the compulsory e-learning session, learned about the roles and responsibilities of being an elected member of the SYP, gained a better understanding of the local and national commitments and attendance required and developed knowledge of the election process, timetable and campaigning rules. Following on from their training, the candidates uploaded their manifestos to our social media pages and produced a short video which was shown to pupils in our schools.
- 2.4 The elections began on Friday 15 March and concluded on Friday 29 March 2019. As the election was online, there was no requirement for a "count". Young Scot, the national youth information and citizenship charity, hosted the online elections on our behalf. We worked with colleagues from our education establishments to provide pupils with the opportunity to vote in all of our secondary schools and promoted the elections online and through our colleagues across the 3rd Sector and in further education. Staff from Youth Work Services were always on hand throughout the elections to support the young people through the process.
- 2.5 The results were announced within the Grand Corridor in the Municipal Buildings on Friday 29 March 2019 at 3.30pm. All of the candidates were present along with their families and friends,

colleagues from schools, elected members, Provost Brennan as well as officers from Inverclyde Council. Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, acted as returning officer to announce the results.

2.6 2,724 votes were cast across Inverclyde to elect the following candidates:

Megan Alford
Cameron Noble

This figure represents a 470% increase in the number of young people voting in comparison to the by-election held in March 2018. Across Scotland, over 70,953 votes were cast in these elections with Inverclyde accounting for 3.8% of this vote.

2.7 Each MSYP will serve for 2 years after which they are able to re-stand for election unless barred by age or living location. The next round of elections will take place in March 2021.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- notes the process of identifying and electing candidates to the Scottish Youth Parliament and congratulates the newly elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament;
- notes that the 2 new MSYPs will serve for a period of 2 years and will represent young people locally via the Inverclyde Youth Council and nationally through SYP sittings and committees;
- Otherwise notes the content of this report.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 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 MSYPs.
- 4.2 Fundamentally a rights-based organisation, their mission, vision and values are grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In particular, their purpose embodies Article 12: that young people have the right to express their views freely and have their opinions listened to in all matters affecting them.
- 4.3 Their 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. They 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.
- 4.4 The Scottish Youth Parliament operates under the values of:
- democracy
 - rights
 - inclusion
 - political impartiality
- 4.5 MSYPs range in age from 14 to 25 and represent constituencies in all 32 local authorities throughout the country, and several national voluntary organisations. The Scottish Youth Parliament was established on 30 June 1999, making it one day older than the Scottish Parliament.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The 2 newly elected MSYPs will remain MSYP Elects until they attend their first National Sitting in June 2019. At this sitting, the new membership will elect a new Board and new Subject Committee conveners. Our MSYPs will choose a subject committee to sit on which they will remain members of for the length of their term.
- 5.2 In addition to the above, the first sitting of the new term will also provide the membership with the opportunity to decide a new campaign for the year ahead. Regardless of what issue is selected this year, all MSYPs are responsible for taking the national SYP campaign forward in their constituencies.
- 5.3 The new MSYPs will then attend further sittings of the Scottish Youth Parliament, supported by Youth Work Services staff. These will take place in:
- Clackmannanshire (June 2019)
 - Fife (October 2019)
 - Scottish Parliament (March 2020)
- 5.4 The support staff within CLD Youth Work Services would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognise the outgoing MSYPs for their efforts and dedication to carrying out their duties in representing the views of their constituents. We thank Corey Beaton and Lucy Caldwell for their hard work over the past 2 years.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

6.2 **Legal**

None

6.3 **Human Resources**

N/A.

6.4 **Equalities**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

YES (See attached Appendix)

NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

6.5 **Repopulation**

N/A.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 N/A.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The Scottish Youth Parliament elections have raised the profile of the SYP and the local Inverclyde Youth Council. Young people were enthused and motivated by the elections and the successful candidates have been elected on a strong mandate with a turnout of around 70%. The elections have had a positive impact on the young people in Inverclyde and have allowed the CLD Service reach a wider target audience.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.