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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>10 March 2020</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/25/20/HS</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Hugh Scott, Service Manager Community Learning Development, Community Safety &amp; Resilience and Sport</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715450</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>2019 Clyde Conversations</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Education and Communities Committee on the outcome of the most recent Clyde Conversations Event which was held in September 2019.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following on from previous Clyde Conversation events, Community Learning and Development Youth Work Services supported young people to plan and deliver the 2019 Clyde Conversations event.
- 2.2 A pre-event consultation was carried out with over 200 young people responding that they believed the top issues affecting them were mental health, bullying and abuse and hate crime (homophobia/racism/sectarianism).
- 2.3 The event programme was developed based on the consultation. 92 young people from across the Inverclyde area took part in 3 thematic workshops with input from several speakers.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:
- notes the success of the 2019 Clyde Conversations event and acknowledges the participation of young people in the service planning process;
  - notes the key issues highlighted by young people attending the event; and
  - agrees that actions to address the issues be included in the Children's Services Planning process

**Ruth Binks**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Education, Communities and Organisational Development**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In March 2015, the first Clyde Conversations event took place in Inverclyde in March 2015. Since then a further two events have taken place with around 100 young people participating in each event.
- 4.2 A steering group was formed to organise Clyde Conversations 2 involving professionals from Inverclyde HSCP, Safer Communities, Sandyford and Community Learning and Development. The group was also made up of young people from each local secondary school.
- 4.3 Based on positive feedback from the first 2 events it was agreed to continue using this model as a means of engaging young people on relevant issues. The CLD youth services team are lead on this area of work and work with young people to plan the events.
- 4.4 Feedback from young people, staff and partners indicates that the 2019 Clyde Conversations was successful with young people reporting that they feel listened to and valued. Young people are keen for feedback actions to be progressed with the relevant services and/or organisations.
- 4.5 This year, a professional illustrator was used to collate the key themes from the workshops. This was well-received by young people and formed a key part of the evaluation report (attached as appendix 1).
- 4.6 The issues raised at the event will now form part of the Children's Services Planning process with actions developed and included in the Children's Services Plan. These include:
- improving mental health;
  - reducing incidences of bullying / hate crime; and
  - promoting equality and eradicating stigma.
- 4.5 Clyde Conversations will continue to be the foundation for developing stronger youth participation in Inverclyde and the Youth Services team will continue to facilitate this as part of the Year of Young People Legacy.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Finance

#### Financial Implications:

##### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A		2020/21	3000.00	N/A	Transport, Hospitality & Resources. YOYP Legacy Fund.

##### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

## 5.2 Legal

None.

## 5.3 Human Resources

None.

## 5.4 Equalities

### Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

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

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

## 5.5 Repopulation

Clyde Conversations as a meaningful means of engaging young people will demonstrate that their views are valued and relevant. This will support and enable young people to be confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to the future of Inverclyde.

## 6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 Clyde Conversations is planned and delivered based on the views of young people gathered through consultative approaches.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.



# Clyde Conversations



Inverclyde  
council



**CONTENTS**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Workshop summaries</b>	
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Bullying and abuse</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Hate crime</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Drugs</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Event evaluation</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Summary of key actions and next steps</b>	<b>16</b>

## INTRODUCTION



@paulamusttryharder

Clyde Conversations took place this year on 6th September in Port Glasgow Town Hall. Community Learning and Development Youth Work Services had the responsibility to develop and deliver Clyde Conversations in partnership with the young person's steering group. Following a similar model as previous years, a working group made up of 2 young people from each secondary school was established. The group of 12 met on a regular basis within Greenock 1 Youth Zone to plan and prepare for the 2019 Clyde Conversations event. This report details the planning process, workshop feedback from the conversations which took place and actions to be taken forward.

The Young Person's Steering Group would like to thank youth work staff for their continued support throughout the planning process and also workshop facilitators from Community Safety, Police Scotland, Your Voice, and the Young Person's Alcohol Team. Thanks are extended to our keynote speakers and to school staff who co-ordinated pupils' attendance and Port Glasgow Town Hall who provided practical support in hosting the event. Finally the steering group would like to thank the 92 young people who attended this year's Clyde Conversations, as without their voices and opinions, it simply wouldn't work.



## **CONSULTATION**

Throughout the planning process the steering group decided to carry out a consultation to identify the top issues young people would like to discuss at this year's Clyde Conversations. They designed a short, quick questionnaire as seen below asking young people to choose the five most important issues to them as a young person in Inverclyde.

### **Workshop ideas for Clyde Conversations**

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year Group:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is important to you as a young person of Inverclyde? Please tick your 3 choices:**

**Mental Health**

**Your School Issues/Pupil Council**

**Drugs & Alcohol**

**Career/Job Prospects & Help**

**Sexual Health & Sex Education**

**LGBTQI Education**

**Bullying**

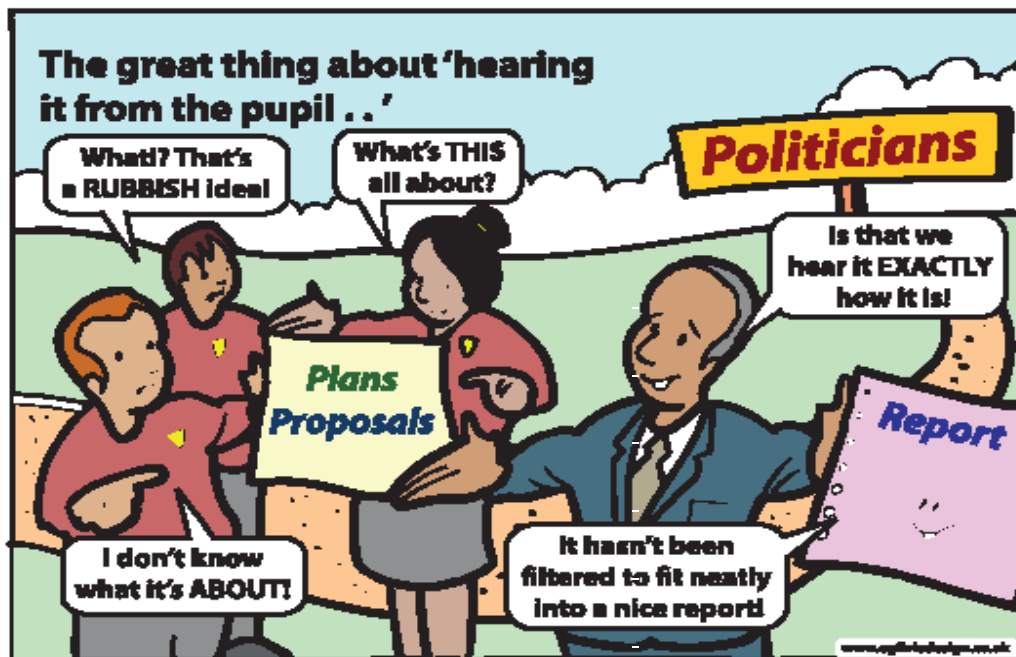
**Hate Crime**

**Other please specify:**

**Is there any question that you would like answered about your school/community/other?**

## CONSULTATION RESULTS

Over 200 young people were consulted and the overwhelming responses showed that Mental Health was the top concern, bullying and abuse was second top and Hate crime was third.



## **PROGRAMME – 6 September 2019**

Young people and teachers arrived via buses at Port Glasgow Town Hall and were seated by 9.45am.

9.30am	Arrival, registration and welcome breakfast
9.45am	Welcome and Opening remarks
9.55am	Mental Health Key Note Speaker
10.20am	Workshop 1 Mental Health Awareness Workshop
11.35am	Workshop 2 – Bullying and Abuse
12.20pm	Brief feedback from morning session
12.30pm	Lunch
1.10pm	Relaxation Sessions: Pilates/Breathing Exercises, Zumba, Hand Massages
1.30pm	Workshop 3 – Hate Crime (Homophobic/racism/sectarianism)
2.05pm	Brief feedback from Hate Crime Workshop
2.10pm	Closing remarks
2.20pm	Return to buses, back to school.

### **Workshop format:**

Each young person took part in the same 3 workshop workshops looking at Mental Health, Bullying and abuse and Hate Crime.

### **Aims:**

To facilitate a discussion with young people to establish what changes or improvements they believe could be put in place around the given topics and allow them the opportunity to discuss with other young people any concerns or positive information they have around this topic area. The workshops will allow practitioners to gain the views from young people on the services that they provide and to help them assess if they are meeting the needs of the young people in Inverclyde.

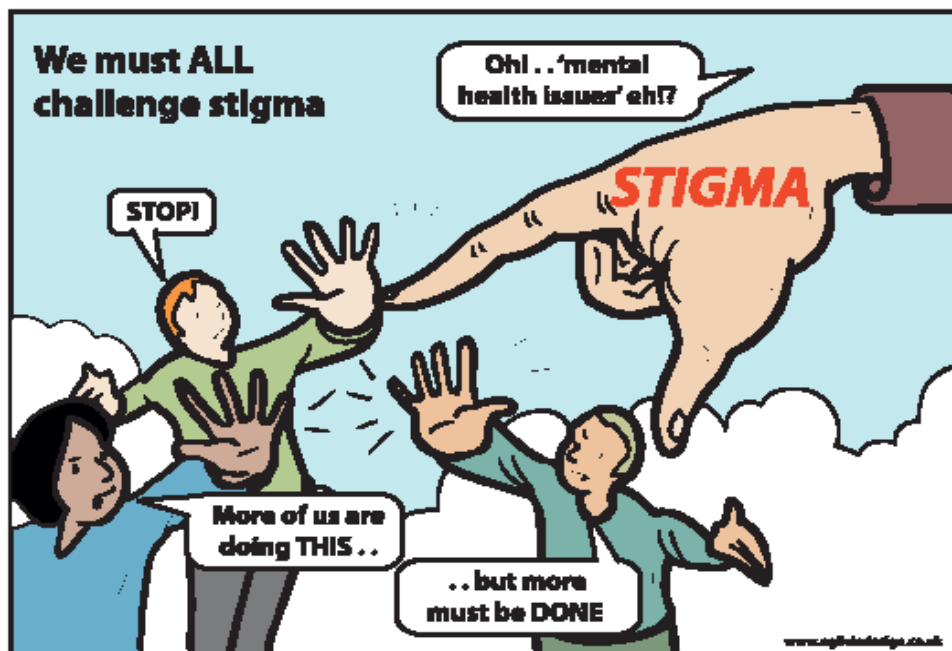
### **How feedback was gathered:**

We employed an artist who captured the feedback from young people from each of the workshops and then put that into cartoon-style pictures, this is a very visual way to capture the day and some of these are used in this report.

## Workshop 1 - Mental Health

Young people looked at:

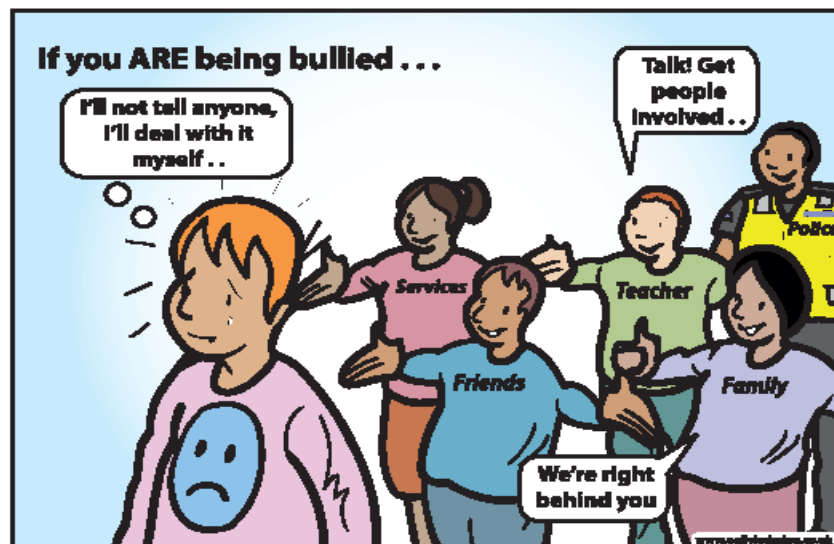
- What is mental health?
- What are the main issues?
- What can schools staff/services/Young people do to help young people's mental health?



## Workshop 2 – Bullying and Abuse

Young people looked at:

- Why do you think people bully others? How can victims be supported?
- How can schools improve how they deal with issues around bullying?
- How did you find the cyber bullying sessions in school?



Some of the key issues raised:

- Pupils didn't always feel schools took bullying allegations seriously enough;
- Victim blaming, "you must have done something to them for them to react this way";
- Pupils did not feel enough was done to people who bullied to prevent this happening again; and
- Why are people bullying, who then looks at their needs?



Key Points:

- Young people felt services are not equipped to support them;
- Schools should teach dealing with stress at key stages, such as P7 transitions or exams;
- If more support earlier young people could be prevented from going to CALMS/ Mind mosaic;
- Pupils felt schools did not always know how to support them, who to refer to for support; and
- We need to reduce the stigma and get people talking about their mental health/ sharing experiences positive or negative.

## Abuse

Key questions for discussion:

- What does abuse mean to you?
- Is anyone at school or in the community teaching you about healthy relationships?
- Do you think there is a problem in Inverclyde?
- Where can you get support?



Key issues:

- More needs to be done and spoken about around healthy relationships; and
- Ensure both males and females are aware of exactly what a healthy relationship is.

## Workshop 3 – Hate Crime

In this workshop, young people looked at:

- What are the main issues in Inverclyde?
- Why is there homophobia/racism/sectarianism?
- How do we combat these issues?
- Do all schools need LGBT education? If so what should it look like?



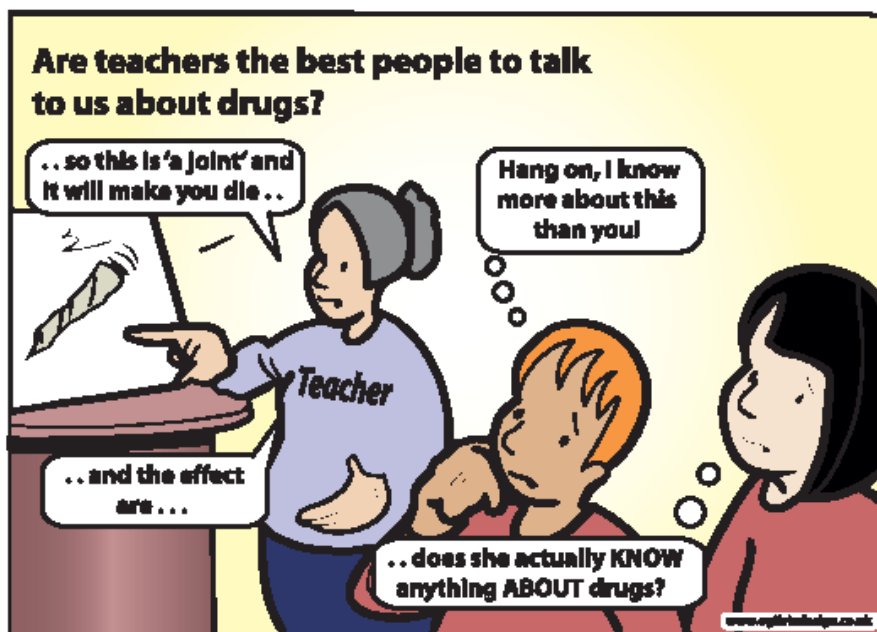
Key issues raised:

- Better education around LGBT, more open and this would stop some of the negative views/opinions;
- Sectarianism is getting worse, especially around football; and
- Stigma is a huge issue, young people worried to speak about things due to what people will think of them.



## DRUGS

Given the recent findings around the levels of drug deaths in Inverclyde, an additional discussion took place around drugs and whether young people's needs were being met





Key points:

- Young people discussed that they felt drugs were very accessible, more so than gaining access to alcohol;
- Young people also spoke about drugs education in school and said although it is good for teachers to be educated that it would be better bringing in external speakers such as youth workers so young people can be honest and open up, without fear of their parents finding out;
- They wanted input from trained professionals who knew more than them; and
- Consider ex-addicts coming to speak to them and giving their lived experience.

## **Event Evaluation**

Reflecting on the event, the Clyde Conversations Steering Group undertook their own evaluation gathering information from participants attending workshops, workshop facilitators and their own experiences. The evaluation focused on the positives from the day, challenges they faced and changes they felt were necessary for future Clyde Conversations events.

### **Positives**

- Good food**
- Workshops were relevant to young people**
- Good to see the feedback in picture form**
- Steering group helping to co facilitate**
- The lunch time activities**
- Councillors taking part in workshops**

### **Challenges**

- Workshop layout as some were noisy**
- Schools not having all pupils in attendance**
- Some young people take over the workshop**
- What changes will be made?**

The steering group discussed a variety of changes that were made from the previous year's 2018 Clyde Conversation such as:

- Smaller numbers of young people attending each workshop;
- Young people stay in the same group for each workshop allowing a better opportunity to get to know each other;
- Workshops tailored more to age;
- Feedback actions to be taken forward; and
- Request a nominated teacher from each school to work with a member of the steering group to coordinate pupils attending the event.

In response to last year's feedback:

- Workshops had no more than 12 people attending each, which meant young people were more confident to speak out;
- young people stayed in the same groups for all the workshops. This was highlighted as good by young people who then felt comfortable to speak, the negative to this was that if one person was dominating, young people had to fight in the remaining workshops to get their voice heard; and
- We didn't tailor the workshops more to age as we felt if they were in smaller groups we could include the younger pupils better.

## **Summary of key actions and next steps**

The 2019 Clyde Conversations Event was a great success with lots of discussion around the issues that impact young people in Inverclyde.

The key actions as determined by young people who attended the 2019 Clyde Conversations event are as follows:

- ❖ Bullying policy and practice in schools needs to be reviewed and implemented consistently with support for victims and perpetrators;
- ❖ Earlier intervention for young people struggling with mental health at key stages including P7/S1 transition and exam times;
- ❖ Upskilling for school staff in terms of mental health and how to support young people with mental health issues;
- ❖ Increased focus on healthy relationships;
- ❖ Better education around LGBTQI issues in schools;
- ❖ Strategies to combat stigma and encourage young people to talk about issues affecting their lives;
- ❖ External agencies to input on topics such as drugs and alcohol in schools; and
- ❖ Opportunity to learn from individuals with lived experience.

Young people were told that feedback from the event would be passed to the head of education and it will also be given to health and wellbeing group leads and head teachers.

Overall, the event feedback this year was that it was very beneficial and young people enjoyed not having to move from workshop to workshop. Keeping the same facilitator and scribe also helped us to identify who was the quieter member of groups to support them to get their views across.