

**Report To:** Education & Lifelong Learning  
Committee

**Date:** 8 September 2009

**Report By:** Acting Director of Education

**Report No:** EDUC/78/09/CL

**Contact Officer:** Colin Laird

**Contact No:** 01475 712824

**Subject:** Young Scot Active

---

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of national and local developments in relation to the above.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Young Scot is the national youth information and citizenship agency for Scotland working with young people aged 11 - 26.
- 2.2 The local infrastructure for Young Scot is led by the Youth Work Team of the Community Learning and Development Service, taking forward the National Rewards Programme through the National Entitlement Card Scheme, local youth information services and the promotion of opportunities for young people to have a voice and be heard.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- Note the developments taking place locally and nationally in relation to Young Scot

**Albert Henderson**  
**Acting Director of Education**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 Young Scot Active was endorsed by COSLA Convention in June 2008.**

There are 6 key outcomes associated with Young Scot Active. These are summarised below:

**Outcome 1: A nation of informed young people**

Using the latest technology young people will access quality youth-friendly information on the issues and interests that impact on their lives empowering them to make informed decisions and choices.

**Outcome 2: Increased opportunities for young people to access and influence relevant services and facilities** Through harnessing, accessing and sensitising existing services young people will be able to turn information into positive opportunities and actions.

**Outcome 3: Increased youth participation levels in projects, activities and decision-making processes** Through rewards, incentives and campaigns to stimulate greater participation as individuals and as members of families and communities.

**Outcome 4: Young people as capacity builders and activists**

Confidence and competent active citizens contributing towards economic growth, community cohesion and increasing social capital and civic engagement.

**Outcome 5: A step-change in the public, media perception and image of young people**

Challenging, through high profile events and balanced media representation, the negative portrayal of young people with a focus on their positive contributions to society.

**Outcome 6: Scotland as leaders in Europe**

At the cutting edge of European developments in youth information and engagement through its investment in building the capacity of young Scots to be confident, valued and active contributors in creating a stronger and sustainable future locally, nationally and globally.

## **5.0 DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE**

5.1 Their activities include the Young Scot smart card; information handbooks; online information portals; magazine; eRoadshow, extensive consultations and freephone information service. Young Scot received over 10 million hits on its website in 2008.

5.2 The CLD Service participates in national meetings as appropriate and is a member of the National Entitlement Card Development Group. National events are supported whenever possible and recently local young people participated in the 'Conversation' about maximising the benefits of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The Service also facilitates young people going forward to the Young Scot of the Year Awards and this year one young person made it through to the final stage of the Heritage Award.

5.3 The CLD Service supports a 'hack pack' of young people to contribute to the Inverclyde Young Scot Webpage, ensuring that the page contains the kind of information that young people want. The Young Scot magazine is distributed through magazine racks located in each secondary school.

5.4 The CLD Service manages the National Entitlement Cards (NEC) for all young people aged 12 – 26. This card is also accredited through the Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS). The cards are issued in partnership with schools, libraries and the voluntary sector. The cards are also used for 'cashless catering' in schools and a new system called Freezeframe has recently been purchased to facilitate bulk applications within schools. The roll out of this new system is dependent on resources being identified

within each school to collate and input information on each young person.

Discussions are underway with Inverclyde Libraries and Inverclyde Leisure to extend the use of the card to access their services. Discussions are also taking place with the Scottish Government and the local Licensing Board to pilot the use of hand held readers in off license premises with a view to enhancing the security of the card.

5.5 The active citizenship strand of Young Scot is taken forward locally via the Speak Up Initiative and the Speak Up Group. The latter are supported to bring forward the views and issues that young people raise with them. They have been consulted by a range of Partners on initiatives and services, including the 'No knives, better lives' campaign and the Community Plan. Great effort has been made to ensure that this is a young people led initiative.

## **6.0 PROPOSALS**

6.1 The proposal is that Committee notes the update on developments.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Finance

None

7.2 Legal

None

7.3 Personnel

None

## **8.0 CONSULTATION**

8.1 Young people are consulted both nationally and locally in the ongoing development and delivery of Young Scot and CLD programmes.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES ISSUES**

9.1 Equalities

Promoting equality and challenging discrimination is mainstreamed into all Young Scot and CLD activity.

## **10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Not applicable.