

Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date: 8 September 2009
Report By:	Acting Director of Education	Report No:
Contact Officer:	Colin Laird	Contact No: 01475 712824
Subject:	2 National Reports on Young People: Valuing Young People: Principles and connections to support young people to achieve their potential Bridging the Gap: Improving Outcomes for Scotland's young people through school and youth work partnerships	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Advise committee of the publication of 2 national reports on young people.
- Review the implications of these reports for work with young people in Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 'Valuing Young People' outlines a set of common principles which should drive any work or services which support young people to fulfil their potential. These have been agreed by Scottish Government and COSLA. It is intended as a practical resource for those making decisions that affect young people and those delivering services to them.

2.2 The 'Bridging the Gap' report highlights the potential impact of effective school and youth work partnerships. It provides an overview of the current policy context, a guide to building partnerships, and an insight into practice nationally, through a range of case studies.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Committee adopt the principles outlined in the document 'Valuing Young People' and that those making decisions that affect young people and those delivering services to them are guided by these principles.

3.2 It is recommended that Committee approve the further development and formalisation of joint working between Schools and the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Service in line with the guidelines and good practice highlighted in 'Bridging the Gap'.

Albert Henderson
Acting Director of Education

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Valuing Young People: Principles and connections to support young people to achieve their potential was published in April 2009. The document is intended as a practical resource for those making decisions that affect young people and those delivering services to them. It reflects a fresh approach to how young people are viewed and valued. This focuses on:

- ensuring that all young people have the support they need to achieve their potential;
- positive opportunities for, and positive engagement with young people; and
- early intervention to nurture potential and offer support at an earlier stage in a young person's life.

4.2 The report outlines a set of common principles agreed by Scottish Government and COSLA which are commended to local and national partners for adoption. These principles bring together and integrate the principles of existing policies, such as 'Getting it right for every child', within the context of delivering for young people.

Through discussion and feedback from partners, the following collective priority was agreed: to support every young person to achieve the 4 capacities (of the Curriculum for Excellence), recognising that some will need early intervention measures or more intensive support to reach that goal'.

This will be achieved by working together to:

- **deliver services that reflect the reality of young people's lives** – supporting them through key life transitions, ensuring they are informed, and boosting their aspirations;
- **work with local partners to address barriers and gaps** – so that young people are not excluded from opportunities or have their capacity to achieve their potential limited;
- **recognise and promote young people's positive contribution** to their communities, and as national and global citizens; and
- **involve young people at an early stage**, along with the voluntary sector and other relevant partners, in developing services and opportunities in the context of community priorities.

4.3 Launched in May 2009, Bridging the Gap: Improving outcomes for Scotland's young people through School and Youth Work Partnerships provides an overview of the current policy context, a guide to building partnerships, and an insight into practice nationally; it also presents a range of case studies and highlights the potential impact of effective school and youth work partnerships. Produced by Learning and Teaching Scotland and YouthLink Scotland and supported by Scottish Government, it reflects the 4 principles commended in the 'Valuing Young People' document as outlined at 4.2 above.

4.4 Improving Scottish Education: A Report by HMIE on Inspection and Review 2005-2008 (HMIE2009) identified the need for local authorities to formalise partnership arrangements. 'School efforts are extended by activities offered by Community Learning and Development (CLD) providers. If the ambitious aspirations set out for young people in Scotland are to be realised, action is required to formalise such arrangements.'

4.5 The report recommends that in moving this forward, consideration should be given to:

- developing skills in leading partnerships built into initial training and continuing professional development
- establishing formal partnership arrangements between learning providers to improve the co-ordination and delivery of local services and make best use of resources
- developing effective systems within local authorities to further develop, gather, record, celebrate, recognise and accredit young people's achievements
- developing shared understanding of the intended outcomes of learning for all young people, and planning jointly to ensure that young people achieve to the highest possible levels
- providing opportunities for teachers and youth workers to train, share knowledge and expertise, and plan and deliver programmes together
- placing young people at the centre of their learning and promoting their meaningful engagement in decision making
- ensuring that young people experience a curriculum that is coherent, with each contribution reinforcing the others
- ensuring that strategic and operational planning highlights the youth work contribution to achieving national outcomes, with a particular focus on Curriculum for Excellence and More Choices, More Chances.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that Committee formally adopt the principles agreed by the Scottish Government and COSLA as outlined in the document 'Valuing Young People' and that those making decisions that affect young people and those delivering services to them are guided by these principles. This will require corporate working across Directorates.

5.2 Discussions have already taken place at meeting with Head Teachers around joint planning with the CLD Service. It is proposed that these be further developed and formalised in line with the guidelines and good practice highlighted in 'Bridging the Gap'.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

None

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Personnel

None

6.4 Equalities

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

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Valuing Young People: Principles and connections to support young people to achieve their potential Scottish Government, COSLA April 2009, www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/04/21153700
- 8.2 Bridging the Gap: Improving outcomes for Scotland's young people through School and Youth Work Partnerships Learning and Teaching Scotland/YouthLink Scotland May 2009, www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/Bridging_the_Gap-tcm4-552837.pdf