

Report To:	Education and Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	25 January 2011
Report By:	Corporate Director Education and Communities	Report No:	EDUC/12/11/MP
Contact Officer:	Maggie Paterson	Contact No:	01475 715450
Subject:	Scottish Youth Parliament Sitting in Inverclyde 12 – 13 March 2011		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Advise Committee of the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) Sitting in Inverclyde in March 2011
- Seek the support and participation of elected members
- Establish a process to review the impact of the event and related activities to involve young people in decision making processes.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The SYP vision is of a stronger, more inclusive Scotland that empowers young people by truly involving them in the decision making process.

Every year three national meetings (Sittings) are held where issues which affect young people are discussed and solutions to these issues are sought.

2.2 SYP provides a national platform, working towards its aims by promoting the values of democracy, inclusion, political independence and passion.

2.3 The hosting of the SYP Sitting in March will promote partnership working with up to 28 other Scottish Local Authorities. It will highlight Inverclyde's position in creating a positive environment for young people to be involved in decision making processes and will raise awareness in the locality of the excellent work taking place by 'our young people'.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Committee approve and support the hosting of the Scottish Youth Parliament Sitting in Inverclyde in March 2011.

3.2 Committee note that an evaluation of the event will be submitted to a future meeting.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director Education and Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The SYP began in 1999. It aims to listen to young people and understand what issues are important to them and then campaign to try to make Scotland a better place for young people. This is done through the Members (MSYPs) who are elected young people aged between 14- 25 representing different areas and voluntary organisations from across the whole of Scotland.

SYP is a young people's parliament, designed by young people, led by young people for the benefit of young people. The SYP is totally youth-led, all Trustees are under 25 years old.

- 4.2 SYP is made up of 10 Convener Groups:
1. Education and Lifelong Learning
 2. Enterprise, Employment and Training
 3. Health and Well-being
 4. Culture and Media
 5. Equalities
 6. External Affairs
 7. Justice
 8. Social Justice
 9. Sports and Leisure
 10. Transport, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Up to 3 SYP Sitings are hosted by Local Authorities per year and Inverclyde Council has indicated an interest in hosting the next Sitting in March 2011. The daytime activities will be held in Inverclyde Academy and Greenock Town Hall will be the venue of an evening Civic Reception and Award Ceremony, hosted by The Provost, Councillor McCormick.

- 4.3 The Scottish Parliament sits well within the framework for the Curriculum for Excellence, enabling and empowering young people to develop their capacities as:
- Successful learners
 - Confident individuals
 - Responsible citizens
 - Effective contributors.

SYP offers young people the opportunity to participate in experiences which will help them achieve the outcomes identified in a range of curriculum areas and in particular:

- Literacy and numeracy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Social Studies
- Religious and Moral Education.

- 4.4 Activities associated with the SYP support the achievement of the outcomes for young people identified in Inverclyde's Strategy for Community Learning and Development 2008 – 2011, specifically
- improved employability
 - improved confidence, health and well-being
 - young people contribute to changes for the better in their own communities.

Completing Youth Achievement Awards as part of the SYP programme is a pro-active method of enhancing young people's skills, knowledge and understanding improving and their chances in life.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that Inverclyde Council hosts the March 2011 Sitting of The Scottish Youth Parliament. The impact of this event will be evaluated in the context of a range of programmes designed to create a positive environment for young people to be involved in decision making processes. These include Pupil Councils, the Pupil Forum, Inverclyde

Youth Council and Inverclyde elections to SYP. This will inform proposals for future developments and support for young people to play their part in democratic society.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance: This will be substantially 'in kind' in the form of staff time through the CLD core budget.

Legal: None

Personnel: None

Equalities: None

7.0 CONSULTATION

Not applicable.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.