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| Report To: | Education & Communities Committee | Date: | 01 November 2016 |
| Report By: | Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development | Report No: | EDUCOM/69/16/MP |
| Contact Officer: | Maggie Paterson CLD Service Manager | Contact No: | 01475 715450 |
| Subject: | Inverclyde Youth Participation Strategy 2016-2019 | | |

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek:
- endorsement for the Inverclyde Youth Participation Strategy 2016-2019; and
 - commitment in principle to support the establishment of a Joint Summit for Youth Participation.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Good practice in youth participation already exists within Inverclyde: in our schools and educational establishments, in our libraries as well as in CLD Youth Work and Active Schools programmes. The Youth Participation Strategy will build on this strong foundation to ensure that participation is effective and consistent across all services within the Directorate.
- 2.2 The Strategy adopts the literal definition of participation – the action of taking part - and is configured around 3 components:
- (a) We will ensure that children and young people are afforded the opportunities and given the choices to actively take part in decisions that affect their lives;
 - (b) We will talk with, listen to and actively hear and value children and young people;
 - (c) We will ensure that young people have the skills, ability and confidence to speak out, to take part and to make a difference.
- 2.3 The Strategy also seeks to ensure that structures are in place which bring children and young people together to take part in shared decision-making opportunities with the ultimate aim of young people initiating and leading on decisions themselves.
- 2.4 Following on from discussion with Inverclyde Council's Young People's Champion, the Youth Council has developed proposals for a Joint Youth Summit to create opportunities for young people to initiate and lead on the discussion of decisions that affect their lives.
- 2.5 The Strategy describes the first steps that will be taken to scope out the current position prior to the creation of a detailed action plan using the logic model adopted by Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Alliance.
- 2.6 Inverclyde Youth Council has also worked alongside the CLD Youth Work Sub-Group to create a more 'young person friendly' version of the Strategy as attached.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee :

- 3.1 Endorse the Inverclyde Youth Participation Strategy 2016-2019; and
- 3.2 Make a commitment in principle to support the establishment of a Joint Summit for Youth Participation.

Wilma Bain
Corporate Director
Education Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Youth Participation Strategy has been developed under the auspices of the Best Start in Life Outcome Delivery Group. Latterly, this has been led by members of the Youth Work Sub-Group, who produced the Strategy as attached.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Youth Council has actively participated in the development of the Strategy and in the production of proposals for a Joint Youth Summit. They have also been instrumental in the development of a 'youth friendly' version of the Strategy.
- 4.3 The Youth Participation Strategy was endorsed by Inverclyde Alliance on 03 October 2016.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Inverclyde Youth Participation Strategy be adopted as the agreed vehicle for taking forward Inverclyde Council's vision for promoting the effective participation of children and young people in decisions which affect their lives.
- 5.2 Proposals from young people for the creation of a Joint Youth Summit are still in the early stages of development and a commitment in principle is required from the Committee to work with young people in the production of a workable and effective model.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 6.1 None

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 | | | | | |

Legal

- 6.2 None

Human Resources

- 6.3 None

Equalities

- 6.4 This Strategy will assist the Council to fulfil legislative requirements in this area.

Repopulation

- 6.5 This Strategy will encourage young people to feel they belong and are important contributors to the future of Inverclyde.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 A number of young people have been consulted in the development of this Strategy, primarily through Inverclyde Youth Council. Officers from a range of Partners have also been consulted including the Best Start in Life SOA Delivery Group, the Youth Work Sub-Group and the Children's Rights Oversight Group among others.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None

INVERCLYDE YOUTH PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

2016 – 2019



Inverclyde
council


Inverclyde Alliance

1 INTRODUCTION

Inverclyde's Vision for Children and Young People

The Community Planning Partnership's vision for Inverclyde is:
'Getting it Right for Every Child, Citizen and Community'.

Through nurturing our children and young people we will ensure that they have the best possible start in life.

This vision is underpinned by the principle that: 'All children and young people have a right to be listened to and to be involved in the planning, provision and evaluation of the services they need.'

The benefits of having a participation strategy for children and young people

There are multiple benefits associated with the active participation of children and young people. Service provision has the potential to be more effective, responsive and better value for money as well as achieving positive, long term outcomes for children and young people.

These recognised benefits are reflected in the expectations placed on service providers by a range of legislation and associated policies. The Inverclyde Youth Participation Strategy will assist Inverclyde Alliance to implement and demonstrate compliance with a number of legislative and policy imperatives including:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Education Scotland Acts 1980 and 2016.

In addition to the creation of more effective and responsive services, the process of participation brings its own benefits for the children and young people involved. Individual participants develop their skills and confidence and become information literate and able to make informed judgements about information presented to them. Collective approaches to affecting change afford children and young people the opportunity to develop shared understanding, team-work skills and a sense of belonging.

2 OUR DEFINITION

It is important that we have a shared and common understanding of what we mean by participation. Participation literally means 'the action of taking part'.

In the context of this Strategy:

- Participation is concerned with ensuring that children and young people are afforded the opportunities, and given the choices to actively take part in decisions that affect their lives.
- Participation is about talking with, listening to and actively hearing and valuing children and young people.
- Participation requires support to be put in place to ensure young people have the skills, ability and confidence to speak out, to take part and to make a difference.

Participation is not consultation. Whilst we acknowledge consultation to be part of our approach, it is the intention of Inverclyde Alliance to move beyond the process of consulting children and young people, by adopting a more systematic, planned, ongoing and structured model for the active engagement and involvement of children, where young people are seen as part of the solution, not part of the problem.

We want to ensure that across Inverclyde we have in place structures that bring children and young people together to take part in shared decision-making opportunities, to raise issues that affect them and represent the voice of their peers, and to enable active involvement within their local community.

The ultimate aim is for young people to be initiating and leading on decisions themselves.

3 DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

Building on a strong foundation of good practice

Much good practice in participation already exists within Inverclyde and has been used to inform the development of the Strategy. This Strategy builds on this strong foundation to ensure that participation is effective and consistent across all services.

Involving children and young people in the development and implementation of the Strategy

As indicated above children and young people are already participating in the design and delivery of services within Inverclyde. There have also been opportunities such as the #Clyde Conversation conference where young people have set the agenda for discussion with service providers. This good practice in participation will be strengthened as actions to implement the Strategy come into place.

Young people from Inverclyde Youth Council have been directly involved in the development of the Strategy, feeding in their ideas and comments to the Youth Work Sub-group. Their campaign 'Penny for Youth Thoughts' promoted participation to young people and provided valuable information to support the implementation of the Strategy. They contributed to the development of a booklet which will be used to promote the Strategy to colleagues and young people.

We want to ensure that across Inverclyde we have in place structures that bring children and young people together to take part in shared decision-making opportunities, to raise issues that affect them and represent the voice of their peers, and to enable active involvement within their local community.

The Youth Council have also been influential in the development of proposals for a Joint Youth Summit which will provide further opportunities for young people to take part in decisions that affect their lives.

Young people will continue to be involved in the ongoing development and implementation of the Strategy.

4 PUTTING THE STRATEGY INTO ACTION – SOME FIRST STEPS

When planning for development and improvement Inverclyde Alliance uses the following logic model:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Where are we now? | Where do we want to be? | How will we get there ? | How will we know we are getting there? | Who is responsible? | Progress |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------|

Where we want to be is to have the effective participation of all our children and young people. The first steps outlined below are designed to help us identify in detail where we are now, how best to continue our journey towards getting there and to establish how we will evidence our progress on this journey. Once these first steps are taken, a more detailed action plan to progress our improvement actions will be developed.

First steps in implementing component 1

Ensuring that children and young people are afforded the opportunities, and given the choices to actively take part in decisions that affect their lives

All Services have been asked to provide information about the opportunities they provide for participation and their existing processes and practices. Specifically to:

- Identify opportunities (and requirements) within each service
- Identify existing processes and practices through which these opportunities are afforded
- Consider how these can be improved.

See Annexe 1 for a completed example. The returns will then be reviewed to identify individual and collective improvement actions.

First steps in implementing component 2

Talking with, listening to and actively hearing and valuing children and young people

The Youth Work Sub-group has identified a number of models and methodologies which are currently being used or could be used to enhance participation practice across services. These include Lundy's model of participation which was endorsed by the young people in the Youth Council and the 7 golden rules for participation which is supported by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and young people.

The Youth Work Sub-group will review partners' responses to Annexe 1 with a view to:

- Providing advice and guidance to staff and volunteers with regards to children and young people's participation approaches and methodologies, drawing on good practice at a local and national level
- Creating opportunities for sharing resources and joint working
- Identifying and addressing training needs in relation to children and young people's participation and the production of a guidance manual as appropriate.

First steps in implementing component 3

Ensuring young people have the skills, ability and confidence to speak out to take part and to make a difference

The processes already in place across a number of services help build skills and confidence in participation. When completing their response to Annexe 1, Services will be asked to assess the extent to which opportunities for participation are young people led. Progressing the improvement actions identified for component 1 and the provision of guidance and training in support of component 2 will assist significantly with the fulfilment of this component.

However, if we are to achieve our ultimate aim '**for young people to be initiating and leading on decisions themselves**', it will be important to review and develop structures for children and young people to take part and make a difference on their own terms. These structures already exist to in various forms but are not joined up nor co-ordinated in a way that puts young people in the driving seat.

Following on from discussion with Inverclyde's Young People's Champion, the Youth Council have proposed the creation of a Joint Youth Summit which would facilitate the creation of opportunities for young people to initiate and lead on the discussion of decisions that affect their lives. It will be key to the effective implementation of the Strategy that young people are supported to take the lead in developing this proposal.

Annexe 1 Where are we now?
Service area: Children & Families (Residential)

Organisation: HSCP
Lead/contact: Shirley Cairney

| Activity | Opportunities to participate | Hearing and valuing | YP skilled and confident |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Recruitment of staff at all levels. | All young people across the three units have opportunities to interview staff. | Young people influence decisions and their views are listened to. We have on the basis of their thoughts and recruitment scoring not employed candidates. | Young people are trained on interviewing; they have a score sheet, choices to ask their questions from a list of 30 that were made up by the moving4ward group. |
| Moving4ward | Three Key staff across our three units meet with young people in our units and ask for their views on policy and developments within the service. This group also hold fundraising events for a chosen charity. | <p>The following policies/service developments have been influenced this year with their views incorporated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Usage for young people • Consultation and endorsement of and the Child Protection information card for all young people in Inverclyde. • They are currently looking at our service comments cards in draft. • They are going to be consulted by our quality assurance team about what works well and what could we do better or differently. | <p>Young people are used to being consulted about policy and service direction and they are able to use their voices as a direct result.</p> <p>Our young people have a stamp to endorse agreement to our developments and policies.</p> <p>The young people who have agreed to take part in this have had experience of both foster care and in a unit.</p> |
| Rights respecting units | Our young people across all three units have been working with staff and the CRO on creating rights respecting units. They have all worked on a range of different projects within their units to gather evidence of being rights respecting. | As a direct result all young people have completed the base line assessment for the UNICEF Recognition of Commitment Award. | Young people have also held a fundraising event to support the work of UNICEF blue day. |
| Corporate Parenting | Young people contributed by giving their views about what would be helpful as support for a secure future for accommodated young people. | Those who took part did this in the form of a letter to a corporate parent. | Young people are aware that their views will shape service delivery and expect to contribute. |

YOUTH PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

2019



Inverclyde
council



CLD
Youth Work
Services

7 Golden Rules of Participation



7 Golden Rules of Participation

KEEP IN TOUCH

REMEMBER IT'S MY CHOICE

UNDERSTAND MY RIGHTS

SUPPORT ME

WORK TOGETHER

A CHANCE TO BE INVOLVED

VALUE ME

Inverclyde's Young Person Youth Participation Strategy was developed in partnership with Inverclyde Youth Council and Inverclyde Council's Community Learning and Development Youth Work Services Team.

Inverclyde Youth Council aims to give young people in Inverclyde aged 12-25 a voice. We came together with CLD Youth Services to share our experiences and opinions about being involved and how best to involve young people our age. We hope this strategy will provide young people and those providing services for young people with a solid foundation and knowledge for encouraging and promoting youth participation within Inverclyde.



DON'T FORGET



Article 12 UNCRC

'You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.'

Inverclyde
council



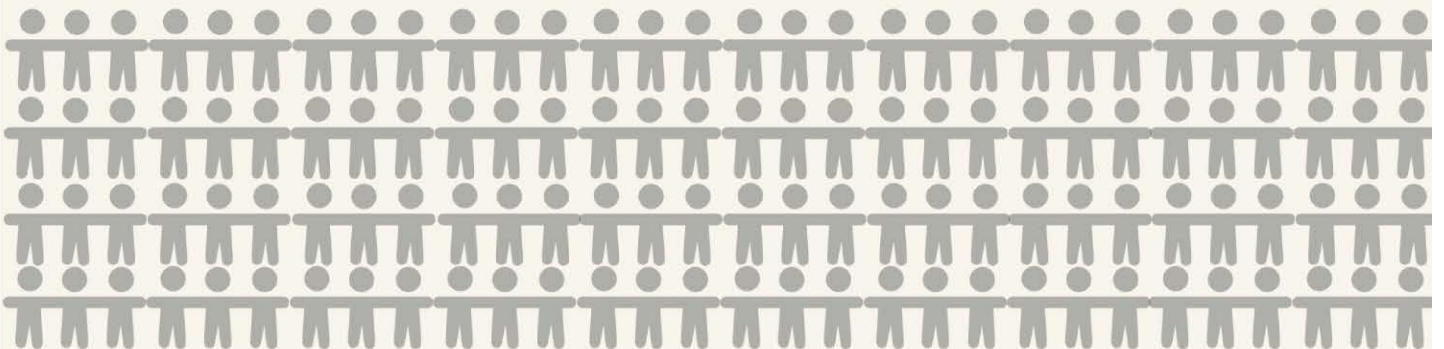
CLD
Youth Work
Services

Almost half the world is under 25 years old



■ Over 25 (57%) ■ Under 25 (43%)

**THAT'S 3.5 BILLION
YOUNG PEOPLE!!!**





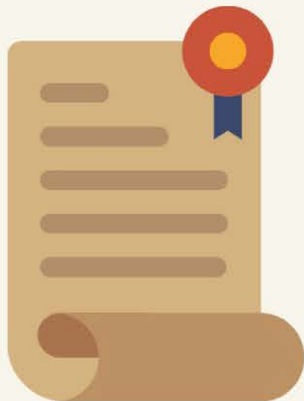
Youth participation is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** for young people to feel they have **A VOICE** and are **INCLUDED** and **EMPOWERED** to make **CHANGES** to their own lives.



What is Participation?

Participation literally means 'the action of taking part'

Article 12 UNCRC



(Respect for the views of the child):
When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.

How will we go about this?



1

We will ensure that children and young people are afforded the opportunities, and given the choices, to actively take part in decisions that affect their lives.

We will talk with, listen to and actively hear and value children and young people.

2

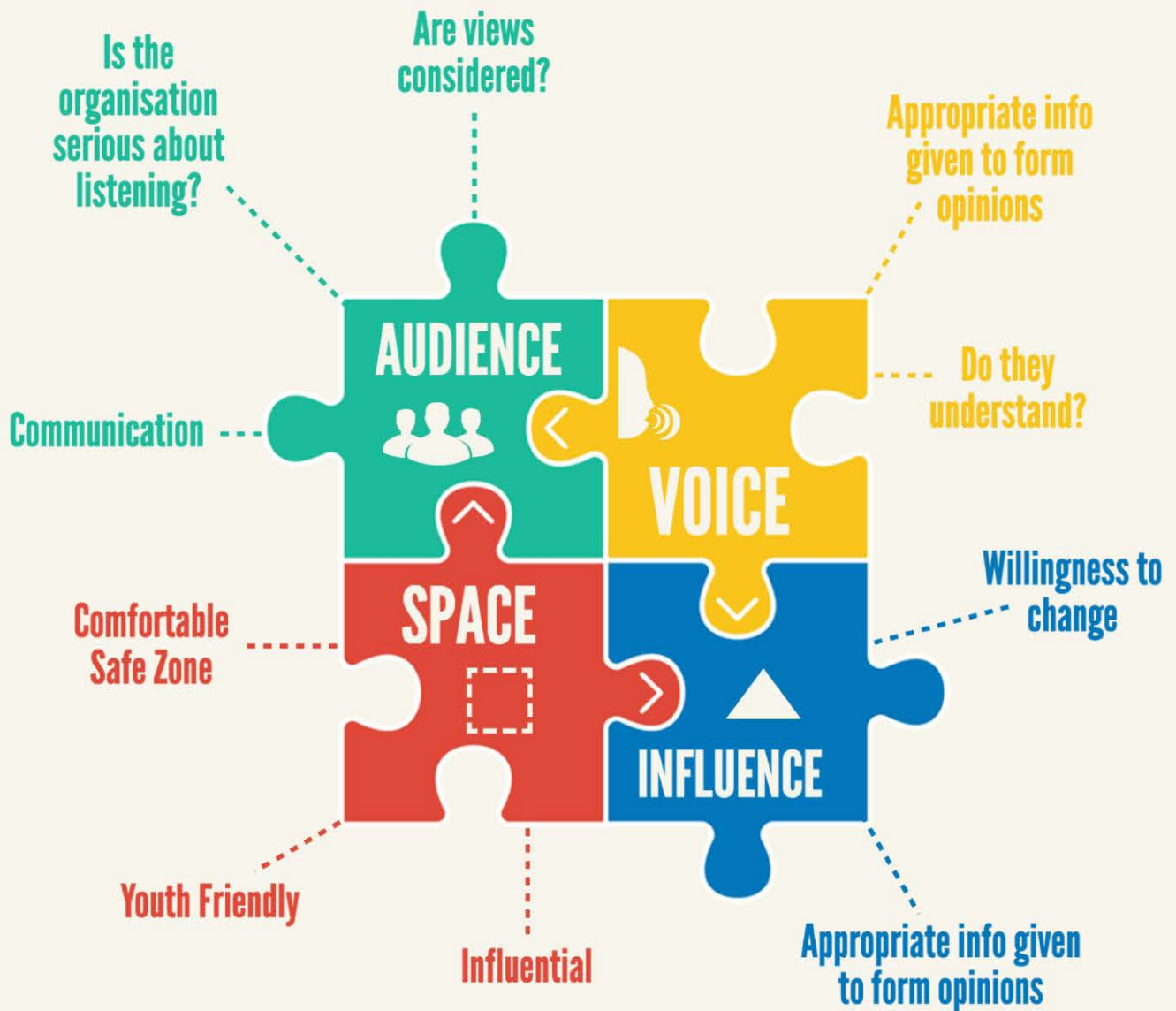


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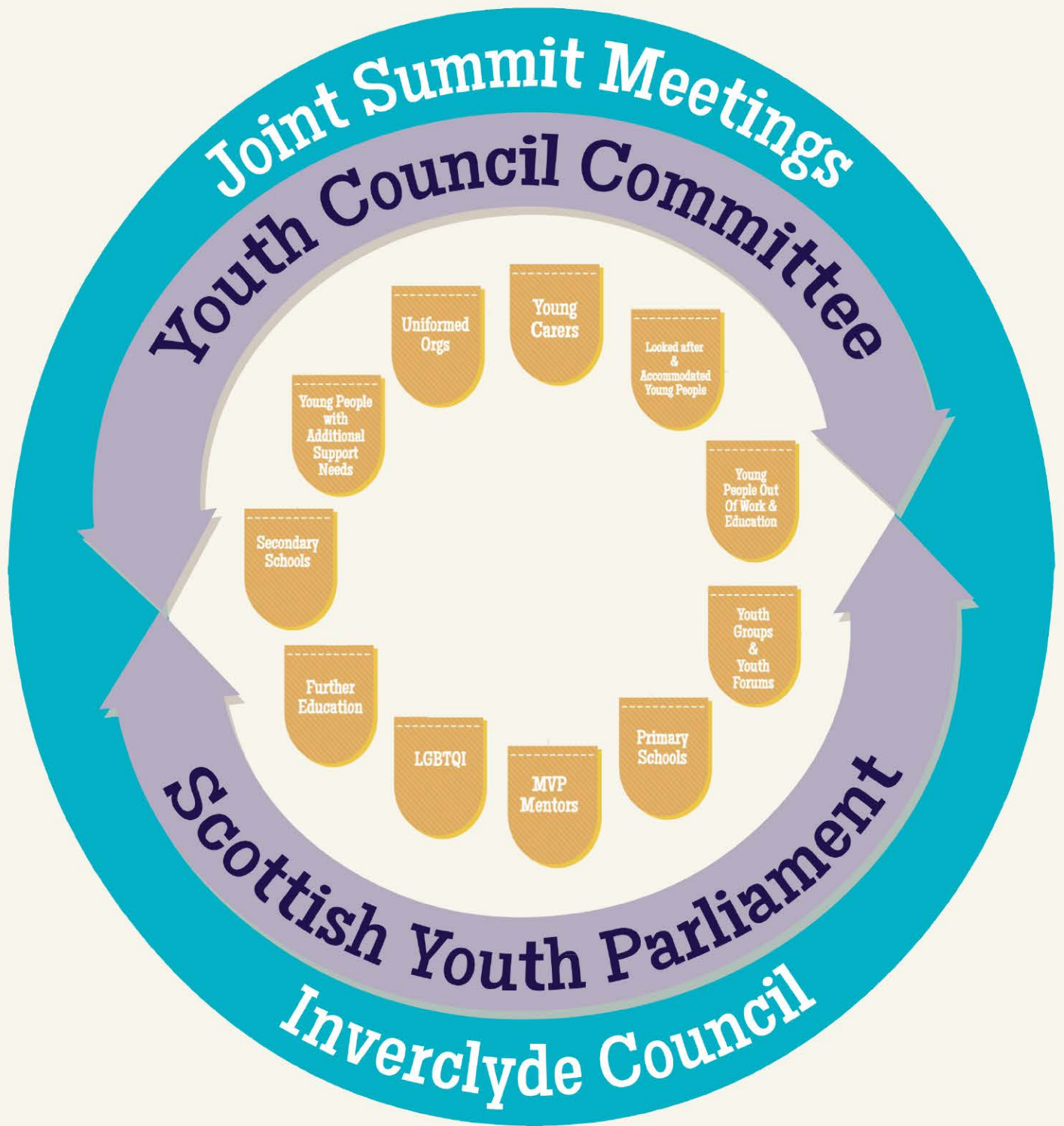
We will ensure that young people have the skills, ability and confidence to speak out, to take part and to make a difference.



Lundys Model of Participation



Our Youth Citizenship & Participation Structure



INCLUSIVE OF ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Representation



Providing a supportive and non-judgemental environment for local LGBT young people, helping them to feel comfortable with their sexuality and gender identity.

Talking with, listening to and actively hearing and valuing children and young people.



I think it is **VERY** important for all young people to be involved in some way in politics, since we are the generation that will be taking over the work the politicians leave behind. It should be *sooner* rather than later, for the good of everyone.



Corey M Beaton, MSYP

Participating in youth activities has given me the confidence to do things I never thought I would do. For example become MSYP for Inverclyde.



Stephanie Hurrell, MSYP

Children & Young People's views

Youth participation in my opinion is building relationships with different young people and adults within my community. It has helped me build my confidence and encouraged me to get involved in different programmes and activities within Inverclyde. It has also given me great opportunities to be involved in decisions that have and will impact myself and other young people's futures. It has given me great pleasure to be part of something I am so passionate about .

Caitlyn Stewart

I have made new friends, gained new skills and became the chair of I.Y.C.

Dale McGonigle

I think it's very important that adults throughout the older generation should include and treat young people as if it was a peer their own age .

Brendan Gallagher

Youth participation is a very important thing as many young people do not feel they are listened to and their opinions are taken into account. Youth participation allows young people to express their views and have their voices heard. It means that they feel included and just as important as adults, which they should as they are just as important .

Kirsty McKenzie

For anyone to know that they have been heard is a major boost in confidence. For anyone to know that their goals have been accomplished, they can know that they have made a difference in the world. All it takes is to get involved.

Corey M Beaton

Other people need to see a wider view on the thoughts of other people and people who don't include themselves need to express their views too .

Fionn McCole

Children & Young People's views

I feel like young people that don't participate, will get left behind. By participating I have made friends, gained confidence and also learned a lot about myself.

Jaymie Leigh Eardley

It is very important for all youths to participate at all times, as it's a good confidence boost and it also makes them feel as equal as possible.

Shannon Carter

It is important for youths to participate because as a youth it makes me feel empowered to have my views and ideas listened to and be considered .

Jill Carson

By participating, I have gained confidence, made new friends and had the opportunity to take part in new activities that have helped me develop new skills .

Casey Mulholland

Youth participation is essential because a house divided cannot stand and lets be honest, there's more kids in this house!

Lian Hare

To me, youth participation has given me experience and confidence .

Brogan Keeney