

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	2 May 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Youth Strategy 2022 - 2025
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Committee with an update on the South Lanarkshire Youth Strategy 2022 - 2025

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation:-

- (1) that the overarching ambitions of the Youth Strategy 2022 – 2025 be noted and supported;
- (2) that the key issues set out to secure improvement in the quality of life for the people of South Lanarkshire be noted;
- (3) that the governance arrangements for annual planning and reporting be noted;
- (4) that the alignment of the strategy with the planned developments to increase and widen engagement and strengthen the voice of all young people be noted; and
- (5) the continued commitment to communities by South Lanarkshire and its partners through the work of the Youth Partnership be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Youth Strategy 2022 - 2025 for South Lanarkshire is developed through extensive consultation with young people across South Lanarkshire, and directly positions the key issue areas that young people have identified, to support partners better develop and deliver services.
- 3.2. The Strategy provides the direction and priorities to the work of the Youth Partnership, previously reporting to the Community Planning Partnership and now reporting to the Community Learning and Development Partnership as part of the restructure of Community Planning, and is underpinned by the Council's objectives and the Community Plan's strategic priorities.
- 3.3. Ongoing engagement with young people ensures that the Strategy continues to address the changing needs of young people. Systems of engagement include bespoke events such as youth summits, Youth Council and Scottish Youth Parliament campaigns and themed engagement, and partner surveys.

Taking this engagement forward, members of South Lanarkshire Youth Council have ensured that peer support and examination of the data has been from young people's perspectives, maintaining the integrity of both the process and the strategy itself.

- 3.4. The Youth Strategy 2022 – 2025 is the conclusion of engagement with over 1,000 young people since 2019 and ensures that the established bottom-up approach to identifying and articulating the needs of young people, continues in South Lanarkshire.
- 3.5. The Youth Strategy was launched on 20 February 2023 by members of South Lanarkshire Youth Council and Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament for South Lanarkshire and is attached as Appendix 1.

4. Existing Youth Strategy Priorities

- 4.1. The previous Youth Strategy set out 5 Key Priorities identified by the processes outlined in 3.3. above. These priorities were:-
 - ◆ Health and wellbeing
 - ◆ Youth friendly services
 - ◆ Learning and working
 - ◆ Youth rights and responsibilities
 - ◆ Included in decision making
- 4.2. In delivering these 5 priorities, partners have worked with members of South Lanarkshire Youth Council to plan and monitor activity which has resulted in several key achievements that have included:
 - ◆ Review and implementation of 'Treat Me Well' guidance on developing anti bullying strategies within schools
 - ◆ Development of community based Mental Health Service GoTo for young people aged 14 - 18
 - ◆ Piloting of Pathfinder programme to support young people and families on the edge of the Care System
 - ◆ Development and expansion of Summer lunch clubs to support children and families during summer periods
 - ◆ Successful Year of Young People 2018
 - ◆ Increased voting in national Scottish Youth Parliament elections
 - ◆ Views of young people represented at national and local forums including:
 - ◆ West Partnership (Regional Improvement Collaborative) PSHE review
 - ◆ Scottish Youth Parliament Working Groups and Committees including race, equality and children and young people's rights
 - ◆ Curriculum for Excellence review Boards
 - ◆ Young People's Sports Panel
 - ◆ Housing tenants' forums
 - ◆ Locality Health forums
 - ◆ Nationally recognised and celebrated Youth Work approaches to support young people recover from the impact of COVID-19, delivering learning in the wider community and remotely, and providing sustained links with crucial services
 - ◆ Development of co-located Youth Work and School staff across SEBN school provision to offer tailored access to youth work as an integrated part of the school timetable

5. New Priorities

- 5.1. During 2020 and 2021, South Lanarkshire Youth Council members convened a number of sessions to discuss and review both the information gained through engagement and the emerging priorities that were gaining importance with young people through campaigns such as the Scottish Youth Parliament 'Right Here, Right Now' youth rights campaign and the 'Pack It Up, Pack It In' environmental issues campaign.
- 5.2. Discussion led to a realignment of priorities and the creation of a new priority to properly reflect the challenges young people in South Lanarkshire see as important. Presenting back to the Corporate Connections Board Youth Partnership, these changes were agreed by the membership, resulting in the new priorities of:-
- ◆ Health and wellbeing
 - ◆ Youth friendly services
 - ◆ Learning and working
 - ◆ Rights
 - ◆ Environment

Previously, 'Included in Decision Making' was seen as a separate priority but is now seen to be part of all priorities but central to the 4th Priority, 'Rights'.

The 5th Priority, 'Environment' has elevated this area to a standalone priority rather than as part of 'Youth Rights and Responsibilities' where it sat previously.

The first 3 priorities 'Health and wellbeing', 'Youth friendly services' and 'Learning and working' have remained as priorities as young people agreed that these represented the key issues and did not require to be changed.

- 5.3. Under each priority are a number of key issues. Table 1 below provides each priority and associated key issues.

Table 1 – list of priorities and associated key issues

Priority	Key issue
Health and wellbeing	Good mental health Feeling safe / living safely Positive relationships LGBTQI+ Anti-social behaviour Sport and Leisure Positive images Bullying / cyber bullying Territorialism – breaking down barriers
Youth friendly services	Cost and accessibility Transport Opening times Getting a good service Information on services and activities Housing and homelessness

Priority	Key issue
Learning and working	Training opportunities Employment and apprenticeship opportunities Volunteering opportunities Community based learning Further education
Rights	Rights and responsibilities Having a say and being listened to Equity and human rights
Environment	Single-use plastics Cleaner communities Recycling Eco-friendly communities Carbon emissions

6. Governance Arrangements

6.1. The South Lanarkshire Youth Strategy is successful because robust measures for monitoring and evaluating progress are used. These measures reflect the impact measures agreed by the Community Learning and Development Partnership, and, in addition to measuring impact, success will also be recorded in relation to the numbers of young people:-

- ◆ accessing health and wellbeing support
- ◆ able to access services
- ◆ better informed about services available to them
- ◆ accessing training/learning opportunities, apprenticeships and qualifications to support their journey into the world of work
- ◆ involved in the life of their community
- ◆ contributing to planning locally and nationally
- ◆ engaged in environment issues locally and nationally

6.2. Reporting progress will follow the process of:-

- ◆ Regular meetings involving service providers and the Council Spokesperson for Youth regarding targets
- ◆ Two meetings per year involving young people and service providers to discuss priorities and progress
- ◆ Regular update reports to the Youth Partnership
- ◆ Publication of annual reports based on annual action plans
- ◆ The monitoring of uptake in priority development areas
- ◆ Regular e-updates through digital media

7. Enabling Youth Voice

7.1. Utilising networks of young people across Education, wider Council Services and partners agencies, a clear opportunity exists to increase and widen engagement and strengthen the voice of all young people.

7.2. The updated Young Scot South Lanarkshire page will serve as a focus of promoting services, information and updates, with the full assistance of young people as

journalists, as well as providing opportunities to make suggestions, provide feedback and participate in timely engagement around the 5 Key Priorities.

8. Employee Implications

8.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

9. Financial Implications

9.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

10.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained within this report.

11. Other Implications

11.1. There are no issues in terms of risk associated with this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

12.1. This report recommends a change to an existing strategy and, therefore, an impact assessment has been carried out with no negative impacts recorded.

12.2. Consultation continues to be carried out with appropriate stakeholders including learners, communities and partners.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (EducationError! Reference source not found. Resources)

11 April 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ♦ Education and learning: inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships.

Previous References

- ♦ Education Resources Committee 15 November 2022

List of Background Papers

- ♦ Youth Strategy 2018-2021

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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