

# Youth Strategy 2022 – 2025

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## Section 1. Foreword

As Chair of South Lanarkshire Youth Council and Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Rutherglen, I am thrilled to introduce this fifth Youth Strategy for South Lanarkshire.

This strategy renews the commitment of the Council and its partners to work with young people as equal partners to find solutions to the challenges we experience growing up in South Lanarkshire.

Across previous strategies, and central to this strategy, has been the voice of young people speaking out about the issues they experience. This strategy is testament to how important and vital the voices of young people are to the life and community of South Lanarkshire.

This strategy is your strategy. It is for everyone to work together to address the Key Priorities and improve life in South Lanarkshire.

So, I ask you to reflect on the priorities within, get involved and work with the Council and its partners to progress the strategy, for the benefit of South Lanarkshire's Communities.



Crisantos Bonaba Ike  
Chair of South Lanarkshire Youth Council  
Member of Scottish Youth Parliament for Rutherglen constituency

## Section 2. The partnership

The South Lanarkshire Youth Strategy has previously been delivered under the Corporate Connections Board Youth Partnership and was made up of:

- South Lanarkshire Council
- South Lanarkshire Youth Council
- National Health Service (NHS) Lanarkshire
- Skills Development Scotland
- Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire Third Sector Interface
- Regen:FX Youth Trust
- South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Trust
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Moving forward, the Strategy will report to the Community Learning and Development Partnership, with young people continuing to attend as equal partners on a new Youth Partnership, represented by members of South Lanarkshire Youth Council and Scottish Youth Parliament.



As a young person in South Lanarkshire, if you want to raise issues or suggest ideas on areas such as your school, community, housing, education etc., then the diagram above shows the different routes available to you. As the circles move out the levels change from local to national.

### Section 3. Key achievements of the fourth strategy

The previous South Lanarkshire Youth Strategy had the following five overarching priorities:

- Health and wellbeing
- Youth friendly services
- Learning and working
- Youth rights and responsibilities
- Inclusion in decision making

Key achievements 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

## Section 4. Good practice examples

### GoTo project



The GoTo Mental Health Service for 14 – 18yr olds offers young people access to experienced CBT (Cognitive Behaviour Therapy) and Youth Workers, to offer 1 – 1 counselling support by telephone or face to face via online platforms, for young people experiencing difficulties with their mental health, and issues like isolation, anxiety, relationships, family tensions and confidence.

Regen:Fx and Liber8 Lanarkshire teamed up to develop the service which in addition to supporting young people explore their difficulties, offers youth activities to develop hobbies, interests and skills, and peer mentoring training to help young people encourage other young people to engage in the Service and activities.

During the COVID pandemic, the GoTo Service provided 400 Mental Health Toolkits to young people to ensure that they can access services where they are without the challenge of lockdown restrictions.

## Youth Housing Forum



In 2019 the South Lanarkshire Tenants Development Support Project worked in partnership with the Council to develop and deliver a pilot Youth Housing Forum in Larkhall.

The pilot sessions were co-ordinated by Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP), South Lanarkshire Council Housing and Technical Resources and Education Resources, local Elected Members, and the South Lanarkshire Tenants Development Support Project.

The aim of the pilot sessions was to identify aspects of housing and wider community issues that young people are passionate about. It highlighted the potential barriers and concerns about attending established forums however the pilot model itself resulted in very high levels of satisfaction in being involved.

It has received national and international recognition as piloting a new approach to engagement in housing issues and is set to be rolled out across South Lanarkshire moving forward, with other authorities planning to use the same model.

## Right Here, Right Now South Lanarkshire Council endorsement



The Right Here, Right Now campaign saw young people across South Lanarkshire and Scotland lobby to increase understanding and exercising of young people's rights.

A motion that was brought forward to the full council by Spokesperson for Youth, Councillor Julia Marrs, following an approach by MSYP for Clydesdale Reece Harding, and received cross-party support.

Provost Ian McAllan signed a pledge to ratify the commitment after a full council meeting endorsed The Scottish Youth Parliament's campaign, and formally acknowledged the 'Right Here, Right Now' campaign.

The motion stated: "That South Lanarkshire Council recognises the importance of young people's rights, our role in defending those rights, and endorses The Scottish Youth Parliament's Right Here, Right Now campaign which seeks to influence law, policy, and practice to strengthen the protection of young people's rights, and to improve links between the Scottish Youth Parliament and public bodies, locally and nationally.



## Young People's Sport Panel



To progress sports activities in South Lanarkshire and part of the national initiative, the Young Person's Sports Panel was launched in 2017 to grow the voice of young people in South Lanarkshire in decision-making roles in community sport hubs and clubs, establishing the following priorities:

- to give young people a voice and influence decisions around sport and physical activity
- to raise the profile of sport and physical activity

The first in any authority in Scotland, drawing from the experiences and impact of the national SportScotland Young People's Sport Panel and the impact that young people were having in decisions being made, the local model has been developed into a toolkit to support other authorities develop their own local panel.

Passionate about promoting Active Girls Day and Scottish Women and Girls in Sport Week, the panel decided to profile local female role models on social media every day during the week. Because the young people on the panel picked role models, they felt their peers could relate to, the initiative was a great success with some members volunteering their time to help at events throughout the week.

## Pack It Up, Pack It In (Scottish Youth Parliament environment campaign)



Engaging young people across South Lanarkshire and Scotland, the national campaign explored the thoughts and concerns of young people and drew up 3 key areas to lobby for change on. These were:

- Reducing litter
- Reducing single-use packaging
- Improving recycling

The campaign sought to reduce pollution levels and empower young people to speak out and act. Local Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament's activity included exploring people's approach to recycling, identifying, and promoting the views of young people both locally and nationally, speaking with professionals on how to actively improve the environment, and challenging attitudes.

Taking this forward beyond the campaign, South Lanarkshire Youth Council have created a role specific to the Environment and are actively engaged with South Lanarkshire Council's Sustainable Development Team in developing a new Strategy for South Lanarkshire during 2021.

The environment is now a Key Priority of the Youth Strategy.

## KEAR Campus



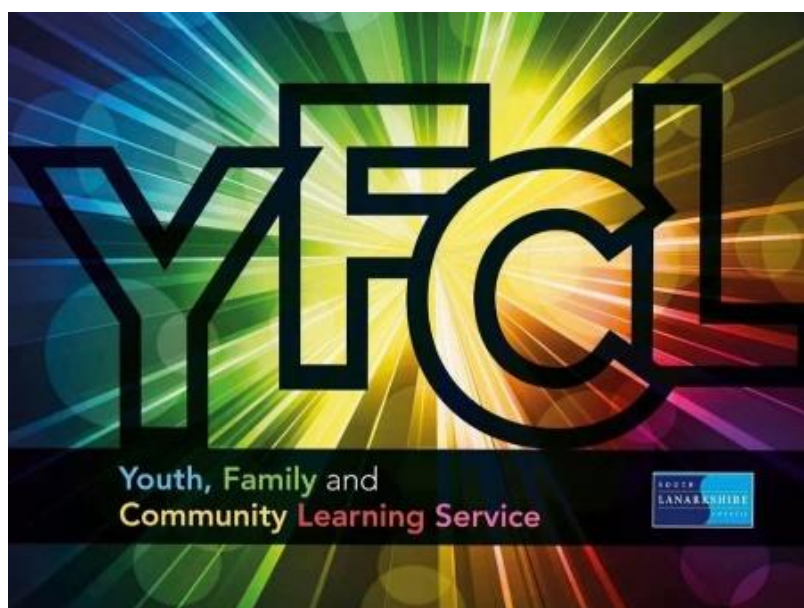
KEAR Campus is an SEBN school provision, educating young people from Primary 1 – S6 across 7 sites in South Lanarkshire. Young people who attend KEAR Campus can have experienced previous barriers to accessing learning and achievement within other educational settings.

Teachers, youth workers and other agencies connected to KEAR work together to build bespoke learning packages for young people when required to meet their individual needs.

The Youth, Family and Community Learning (YFCL) service works across all the KEAR sites to offer tailored access to youth work for young people as an integrated part of the school timetable– ranging from one-to-one weekly – or sometimes daily – nurture sessions to group work focused on raising confidence, developing skills, and raising aspirations. YFCL also provides support throughout school holiday times to young people and their families.

Programmes and groups are designed in partnership with young people & families where possible. A CLD approach is maintained throughout engagement with young people and their families. YFCL staff access funds for programmes through the school's main budget in addition to sourcing external funding for groups and specialised pieces of work. KEAR YFCL have recently established their own base which provides fully bespoke programmes for secondary aged young people to access to enhance their educational offer.

## Pathfinders



The Pathfinders pilot was established in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen locality in April 2019. The initiative was established following a series of meetings with representatives from Education (including Youth, Family and Community Learning Service and senior school staff), Social Work, and Finance and Corporate Resources, who agreed that a distinct piece of work was required to achieve better outcomes for children and their families living in this locality.

To date the Pathfinder Initiative has engaged with 238 young people and their families. Of these engagements, 99 are long term commitments. The referrals that are made through Joint Assessment Team (JAT) meetings (known as House meetings in Cathkin High School) are made for a variety of reasons that include: attendance; peer influence; poverty/financial concerns; offending in the community; anger management; use/impact of drugs and alcohol; and general health and wellbeing concerns.

Successful outcomes are strongly influenced by the positive engagement with parents/carers. By building these strong relationships Pathfinders personnel can identify the hidden issues that have negative impact on young people and stagnate progression. Pathfinders Officers often offer a support/ advocacy role in engagement with housing, social work, benefits agencies etc.

## Section 5. Priorities 2022 – 2025

### What young people said

Young people were engaged in several ways to gain views and ideas. This included

- Review of Youth Partnership surveys
- Review of national youth work research
- National youth engagement
- Community based focus groups
- Desktop research and policy searches
- Consultation through opinion meters and face-to-face questionnaires
- Local and Council wide consultation events
- Social media

The priorities agreed for the Youth Strategy 2022 – 2025 are:

- 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 fourth Priority, 'Rights'

## **Priority 1 - Health and wellbeing**

**Through a partnership approach, we will further support and develop the health and wellbeing of young people, addressing inequalities and improving their confidence and wellbeing, and engage them directly in taking forward the issues.**

Key issues:

### Good Mental Health

Through a partnership approach, we will strengthen the role of young people in all aspects of health and wellbeing services to ensure that they are central to the development and delivery of support that meets the identified needs of young people, making the changes they see as necessary.

We seek to identify what promotes good mental health and provide a guide to support services in South Lanarkshire embed practice.

### Feeling safe/living safely

Through a partnership approach, we will work to address young people's concerns and help identify solutions that support young people to feel safe and live safely. We will support young people to voice their concerns and to help develop actions to address this issue.

### Positive Relationships

Through a partnership approach, we will review information and services available to young people to ensure that they get the right support about developing and maintaining positive relationships, at the right time, as and when they need it.

### LGBTIQ+

Through a partnership approach, we will work with young people to ensure their needs are met, and to develop existing services accessed and available to young people, whilst promoting access to wider services.

### Anti-social behaviour

Through a partnership approach, we will work with young people to review existing activities and provision to address anti-social behaviour and explore new ways to provide new activities and provision. We will strengthen the role of young people in this process.

### Sport and Leisure

Through a partnership approach, recognising the importance of sport and leisure in maintaining good health and wellbeing, we will work with young people to support their access to sport and leisure opportunities, exploring the development of new opportunities.

### Positive images

Through a partnership approach, we will positively promote young people across social media, in their communities, and in the press to celebrate their successes and their key role in the life of our communities.

### Bullying/Cyber bullying

Through a partnership approach, we will work with young people to review and address this negative issue, seeking to improve positive mental health, wellbeing, and resilience.

We will actively identify and signpost young people to organisations, opportunities and training that addresses this issue and supports development of their resilience.

### Territorialism – breaking down barriers

Through a partnership approach, we will work with young people in, and out with their communities to seek positive solutions to safety concerns where they live, work, are educated or spend their spare time.

## **Priority 2 - Youth friendly services**

**Providing services for young people is not enough; environments need to be attractive and welcoming to young people. However, some young people are excluded, isolated or unable to participate in services as they would wish to due to circumstance and situation.**

**Through a partnership approach, we will act to ensure that services reach the young people that need them and at times that they need them.**

Key issues:

### Cost and accessibility

We will work with service providers and young people to minimise cost of access and address accessibility issues.

### Transport

We will continue to support young people to raise concerns about transport issues with partners and explore ways in which services can be delivered to address transport issues.

### Opening times

We will work with service providers to review service times to better reflect the needs of service users.

### Location of facilities and services

We will continue to engage with young people and partners to ensure that young people have a say in the development of new facilities and services, and that partners take account of location when delivering services.

### Getting a good service

With young people, we will identify new ways to monitor customer satisfaction and experiences to ensure quality of service delivery.

### Information on services and activities

We will improve and extend current ways of informing young people of activities and services to take better account of young peoples' engagement routes (social media etc.), needs, barriers and participation concerns.

### Housing and Homelessness

We will support young people and services to explore new ways to provide options and assistance that address young people's needs.



### **Priority 3 - Learning and working**

**Taking account of the growing challenges locally, nationally, and globally, young people are concerned about their future, job security or the ability to access learning beyond school.**

**Through a partnership approach, we will pro-actively explore, develop new, and improve existing training, learning and qualification opportunities.**

**We will work with young people to assist developing aspirations and gaining vital experience to help them into work, to ensure fair treatment, and to achieve their destinations.**

Key issues:

#### Training opportunities

We will work with partners and young people to review existing, and develop new and engaging training opportunities, which reflect the needs and aspirations of young people, and understand those that have not been taken up, to secure the skills and confidence they need for learning, life, and work.

#### Employment and Apprenticeship opportunities

We will work with partners to enable young people access employment and apprenticeships opportunities open to them, addressing issues such as work experience and ensuring their rights are respected.

#### Volunteering opportunities

We will review volunteer policies to ensure that experiences are high quality and volunteers valued. We will identify and promote new volunteering opportunities that support young people's personal and social wellbeing development.

#### Community based learning

We will work with young people to provide and develop community-based learning opportunities that support young people to achieve and grow their skills, confidence aspirations and reach their potential.

#### Further education

We will work with providers and young people to support entry into further education and tackle equality and access issues for young people, raises aspirations, eases transition from secondary to further education.

## **Priority 4 - Rights**

**Young people are a valued and a central strength in the life of our communities. They are respected and valued contributors in decision-making, speaking up to make changes and improvements.**

**Through a partnership approach, we will progress understanding of the rights of young people amongst communities, partners, and services to ensure good practice and better participation in planning and delivery of change.**

Key issues:

### Understanding Rights

We will progress understanding young people's rights and ensure that partners, services, and communities are aware of their duties and responsibilities to engage young people in planning, agreement, and delivery of change at all stages of decision-making.

We will develop the skills of young people, their resilience and confidence to be capable, responsible members, and their ability to exercise their rights.

### Having your say and being listened to

We will review and expand the processes of participation for young people to increase opportunities for young people to raise their issues, supporting a more engaged, and equal society.

### Equity and Human Rights

We will continue to support young people to challenge equity and human rights issues, to live life without judgement, as responsible and equal members of their community.

## **Priority 5 - Environment**

**Young people care about the future of the world that they take forward for future generations. They share the same concerns regarding the environment and actively engage in identifying and progressing solutions.**

**Through a partnership approach, we will support young people to explore, research and make recommendations to protect and improve the environment in South Lanarkshire.**

Key issues:

### Single-Use Plastics

We will work with partners and young people to review and identify areas in which single-use items which contribute to pollution can be replaced with sustainable alternatives.

### Cleaner Communities

We will work with partners and young people to review existing, and develop new, initiatives to promote cleanliness in and around the communities in South Lanarkshire.

### Recycling

We will work with partners and young people to review existing, and develop new, initiatives to promote recycling in South Lanarkshire.

### Eco-Friendly Communities

Working in association with other organisations to improve the environments in communities by promoting an eco-approach that involves all members of our communities, especially young people.

### Carbon Emissions

Engage with young people to support partners continue to research, promote, and invest in clean air initiatives.

## Section 6. Measuring progress

How will you know we have delivered?

The South Lanarkshire Youth Strategy is successful because robust measures for monitoring and evaluating progress are used and new measures developed as required. We will continue to use this approach as well as introduce new approaches, linking directly to the South Lanarkshire Council's Plan and the Community Learning and Development Plan.

You will know how well we are doing because in future:

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

We will report progress through the following processes:

- 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 use of South Lanarkshire Community Learning and Development Partnership Outcome Measures and nationally recognised quality indicators.
- The monitoring of uptake in priority development areas.
- Regular e-updates through digital media

## Section 7. Local and national planning and decision making bodies

### Local and national planning and decision-making bodies

#### South Lanarkshire Youth Council

Consisting of volunteers aged between 12 and 25, the Youth Council seeks to influence decision makers such as South Lanarkshire Council, Strathclyde Police and Lanarkshire Health Board.

There are 4 geographical areas:

- Hamilton
- East Kilbride
- Clydesdale
- Cambuslang, Rutherglen, Uddingston and Bothwell.

If you wish to join your local area Youth Council or raise concerns, please contact the Chairperson through [chair@slycmail.org.uk](mailto:chair@slycmail.org.uk) or phone 01698 552111.

#### Spokesperson for Youth

Councillor Gavin Wylie-Keatt is the Spokesperson for Youth for South Lanarkshire. Meeting and talking with young people, Councillor Keatt raises youth issues with services within South Lanarkshire Council and supports young people locally to take forward their concerns.

Councillor Keatt can be contacted by phone on 07872619539 or via email, [gavin.wyliekeatt@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:gavin.wyliekeatt@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

#### Community Learning and Development Partnership

South Lanarkshire Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership is made up of a range of local public and voluntary sector organisations. The CLD oversees the planning, development, and evaluation of activities across South Lanarkshire such as youth work, community based adult learning, English for speakers of other languages and, adult literacy and numeracy.

For more information, please contact 01698 552111 or email [slcyfclsummerlee@glow.sch.uk](mailto:slcyfclsummerlee@glow.sch.uk)

#### Youth Partnership

This forum brings service providers and young people together to discuss young people's concerns and thoughts about service improvement or developments in the community. It reports to the Community Learning and Development Partnership.

For more information, please contact 01698 552111 or email [slcyfclsummerlee@glow.sch.uk](mailto:slcyfclsummerlee@glow.sch.uk).

#### South Lanarkshire Council Executive Committee

This forum is made up of 24 elected members within South Lanarkshire. Meeting monthly, the agenda and minutes of each meeting can be viewed through the South Lanarkshire Council website, [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

### **Community Planning Partnership**

Community Planning involves the Council working with its main public sector partners to better plan and deliver services that meet the needs and aspirations of communities. This is delivered through the Community Plan

For more information, please contact the community engagement team on 0303 123 1017 or email [communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk).

### **Scottish Youth Parliament**

The Scottish Youth Parliament exists to allow young people the opportunity to discuss and debate issues before taking the outcomes to decision-makers. There are 10 areas covered by subject committees. In South Lanarkshire there are 8 Members, 2 covering each geographical area highlighted with the Youth Council information above.

To find out more about what is happening nationally please visit [www.scottishyouthparliament.org.uk](http://www.scottishyouthparliament.org.uk)

To get more information locally please contact 01698 552111 or email [slcyfclssummerlee@glow.sch.uk](mailto:slcyfclssummerlee@glow.sch.uk).

### **Scottish Government**

The [devolved](#) **Government for Scotland** is responsible for most of the issues of day-to-day concern to the people of Scotland, including health, education, justice, rural affairs, and transport.

To find out what is happening nationally please visit [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

### **United Kingdom Parliament**

Parliament examines and challenges the work of the government through debates in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. For more information about Parliament and how it works please visit [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

### **United Kingdom Youth Parliament**

The Youth Parliament aims to give the young people of the UK, between the age of 11 and 18 a voice, which will be heard and listened to by local and national government, providers of services for young people and other agencies who have an interest in the views and needs of young people. Agreements with Scotland have been made to ensure that the young people in Scotland are represented by the organisation.

For more information, please visit [www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk](http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk)

## **British Youth Council**

As the National Youth Council for the UK, the British Youth Council aims to support all young people in the UK to exercise your right to participate in decisions which affect you and to have a voice on issues about which you have a strong opinion.

For more information, please visit [www.byc.org.uk](http://www.byc.org.uk)

## **YouthLink Scotland**

As the National Youth Work Body in Scotland, YouthLink acts as the collective voice of youth work and to represent the needs and interests of the youth work sector regarding policy and practice, to government and other stakeholders.

For more information on training, events, and youth work practice, please visit [www.youthlinkscotland.org](http://www.youthlinkscotland.org)