



# Scottish Government debate: Year of Young People 2018: A Celebration, a Chance and a Change

**Barnardo's Scotland briefing - March 2019**

## Introduction

The Year of Young People has undoubtedly been life changing for many of the young people involved in its creation and delivery. Our approach to Year of Young People was to support a range of opportunities for children and young people working with our Services across Scotland as well as collaborating with partner organisations to share practice, plans, and networks to ensure the aims and objectives of the Year were realised.

Co-design was a key focus of this work, allowing children and young people the opportunity to initiate and develop their own ideas.

We welcome this debate and the opportunity to contribute our learning and experiences from throughout the year. We have included some examples of our work below.

## Children and Young People Fund

Children and young people were able to apply for up to £300 from the Barnardo's Scotland YOYP Fund. These small grants were made available to children and young people who co-designed their ideas, taking the lead in shaping, developing and enjoying activities and projects as part of YOYP 2018. To apply, they had to complete an application form with information about their idea, including any planning they had done.

A small group of children and young people met to look at all the applications and make decisions on what was funded. In doing this they considered how applications met the YOYP objectives, which areas were represented overall and how children and young people were involved in the co-design of the activity or project.

Seven projects were successful in receiving this funding (see attached report for details)

## Ocean Youth Trust Voyage

Barnardo's Scotland chartered a boat for 10 young people with the Ocean Youth Trust, a world leading youth work charity, to take part in a five day residential sailing voyage.



The young people increased and developed four capacities: self-confidence, responsibility and respect, the ability to learn from experience and the ability to work with others and be offered the opportunity to work towards a Youth Achievement Award, a nationally recognised qualification.

Supported by staff from our Children's Rights and Advocacy team, the young people came armed with a few changes of clothes, wellies, a sleeping bag and a towel and brought enthusiasm, spirit of adventure and an open mind to become crew members. They quite literally learnt the ropes and had the chance to gain new skills such as team work, negotiation, hoisting sails, steering, keeping lookout, plotting a course, and much more. This resulted in them achieving their RYA 'Start Yachting' Certificate.

Each day there were challenges to overcome and achievements to be proud of. Some highlights included hoisting the main sail, surviving a force 5 wind, cooking meals for the crew, night sailing to Holy Loch, visiting The Isle of Bute and individually taking full control of steering the boat.

## Universal Children's Day Celebrations

Barnardo's Scotland celebrated Universal Children's Day and YOYP 2018 on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. This was co-ordinated by the Policy, Children's Rights & Advocacy and Media teams. All services across the organisation were invited to get involved in the day by decorating cakes under the theme of 'celebrating children and young people'.

MSPs were invited to attend their local Barnardo's Scotland service and participate in the celebration, giving them an opportunity to learn more about the service and show their support for our young people and the work of our staff in their area. Our retail stores across the country also got involved by hosting an MSP as a volunteer for a few hours as we have done in previous years.

## Banquet of Youth

Barnardo's Scotland Fostering celebrated Year of Young People with the 'Banquet of Youth' on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Hibs Football Stadium.

The idea came from a 13 year old girl who liked the idea of everyone within the fostering service thinking about recipes/dishes that they enjoy. As food can evoke many memories, young people loved the suggestion and decided that they would like to think about recipes that are held within their cultures or bring back memories of family and use these to share with others.

The young people felt that using cooking to teach others about different cultures is a fun way to share knowledge as it uses all of your senses in creating the dish. Barnardo's partnered with Cyrenians who ran cooking sessions with a group of



young people aged 8 to 18 years. They chose the menu and practised cooking for over 100 people. On the night they prepared, cooked and served a two course meal from scratch.

The event was a huge success and children, young people and foster carers enjoyed a red carpet, mocktails on arrival, wonderful entertainment from talented young people, a delicious two course meal and some inspirational speeches. Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd, Director of Barnardo's Scotland Martin Crewe and Ewan Aitken, CEO of Cyrenians supported the event and were all impressed by the hard work and dedication of the children, young people and staff who made it happen.

## Legacy

Throughout the celebratory activities across Barnardo's Scotland, children, young people and their workers repeatedly raised the question: 'What next?'

Barnardo's Scotland's Children's Rights & Advocacy team fed this question back through a number of channels, including the Co-Design Champions Group and contact with Scottish Government staff; which resulted in some children and young people from Barnardo's Scotland services being invited to attend a 'Legacy' event in December 2018, alongside local authority partners

The fact that children and young people are asking 'What next?' is testament to the unique momentum they have built in partnership with our services during 2018, and it is crucial that this is not lost.

The following commitments will be taken forward nationally in 2019 to ensure that Year of Young People has a legacy within Barnardo's Scotland that is felt directly by children and young people:

- Further develop partnership with Ocean Youth Trust to give young people the opportunity to discover their potential through the adventure of sail training
- Continue to support children and young people to develop their own ideas and make decisions about how funding is allocated using a Participatory Budgeting approach
- Continue to celebrate the successes of children, young people, families and services
- Ensure that co-design principles are embedded throughout Barnardo's Scotland as a whole, particularly in relation to corporate governance

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