

REPORT TO: Community Planning Implementation Group

MEETING DATE: 4 September 2008

BY: Executive Director of Community Services, East Lothian Council

SUBJECT: Young People, Youth Vision and Dialogue Youth

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To outline Youth Vision, East Lothian's proposed Youth Strategy.
- 1.2 To seek CPIG's formal endorsement of the content.
- 1.3 To update CPIG on progress on developing the strategic role of Dialogue Youth with Key Partners.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That CPIG notes the successful progress in developing Youth Vision, East Lothian's proposed youth strategy.
- 2.2 That CPIG formally endorses Youth Vision.
- 2.3 That CPIG's Key Partners continue to commit their support to the strategic role of Dialogue Youth in taking forward Youth Vision.
- 2.4 That Partners acknowledge and promote the exciting work that that has been developed under the auspices of Dialogue Youth.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 CPIG at their meeting on 12 June embraced the development of a Youth Strategy for East Lothian.
- 3.2 Much work has taken place over the summer months and 868 young people participated in the largest ever community based youth consultation undertaken across East Lothian. Over 2000 young people participated in a series of high profile 'Rock Stop' music events featuring young local bands. Information gained has been analysed together with Student Evaluation and Learning Systems (SELS) in Schools to inform the strategy.

- 3.3 Young people were actively involved throughout the process of strategy development from design of survey questionnaires, undertaking questionnaire interviews and continue to inform strategy design. The name for the strategy, Youth Vision was agreed by young people at a meeting of East Youth Council attended by Cllr Ruth Currie the Council's appointed Champion for Youth.
- 3.4 Youth Vision provides a framework for identifying and addressing the needs of young people, working in a planned way with and for the benefit of young people, including young people in decision making processes and working in partnership in order to make the best use of our resources and strengthen our activities.
- 3.5 Youth Vision will play a key role in delivering the principles outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly Article 12: "*The right of young people to voice their opinion, have their views listened to and be taken seriously.*"
- 3.6 Youth Vision promotes youth engagement and active citizenship; it builds respect for human rights and mutual responsibility. Youth Vision embraces East Lothian's Integrated Children's Services Framework and seeks to ensure that all partner services are delivered in a well-integrated seamless manner resulting in positive outcomes for all.
- 3.7 Youth Vision is aligned with East Lothian Council's Corporate Plan and Our Contract with the People. Youth Vision will assist in helping to achieve the East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and is encapsulated in Community Planning.
- 3.8 The formal launch of Youth Vision is planned for Thursday 30th October in Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre from 10am to 3pm and a limited supply of Youth Vision documents will be published.
- 3.9 A web-enabled version of Youth vision is currently being developed to afford the strategy ongoing flexibility to respond to young peoples changing needs over time. Hyperlinks will enable access to detailed action plans that link to the SOA and this work is currently being progressed with Young People, the Community Learning and Development Service and Policy and Business Management.
- 3.10 The future success of Youth Vision crucially depends on active engagement with young people from all communities across East Lothian. Key Partners are aware of the strategic role of Dialogue Youth in this respect and work continues to facilitate an appropriate financial strategy to sustain this.
- 3.11 Dialogue Youth is an integral part of the Modernising Government agenda and through Community Planning strategies, explores new ways of working and relationship building between young people and those who provide services for them.

- 3.12 A nine-minute DVD that captures some of the exciting work that that has been developed under the auspices of Dialogue Youth has been produced and is available to Partners.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Youth vision dovetails with a wide range of Partners strategies and plans and promotes the Scottish governments 5 strategic objectives; smarter; wealthier and fairer; healthier, safer and stronger and greener.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Financial – There are no financial implications in the 2008/09 financial year as East Lothian Council has made available an additional sum to develop the strategy. Partners should however be aware of the need to align their future funding arrangements to assist and deliver on the strategic outcomes of Youth Vision.
- 5.2 Personnel - none
- 5.3 Other – none

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Youth Vision, the text for East Lothian's proposed Youth Strategy is attached as an Appendix to this report.
- 6.2 Photographs of the Rock Stop music can be viewed on <http://youthvisionel.net/>
- 6.3 Dialogue Youth website <http://www.dialogueyouth.org/>

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DATE	18 th August 2008



(East Lothian's Youth Strategy)

<http://youthvisionel.net/>

A shared vision

East Lothian Council helped us identify what young people aged 12 to 25 want in the future. Young people from across East Lothian worked with the Council's Community Learning and Development Service to develop the first "Youth Vision" for East Lothian and this is the result.

We recommend that decision makers in services which young people use take account of this document and remember that young people have a voice and will say what they think and believe in.

We would like to continue working with the Council and it's Partners to implement this vision.

We are the present and the future of East Lothian and our wishes deserve serious consideration.

East Lothian Youth Council

Since being appointed Champion for Youth, I have had the pleasure to meet and work with young people from all over our county. Young people have shaped this document through their contributions to a wide-ranging survey carried out over the summer of 2008. Information gained has been analysed together with Student Evaluation of Learning Systems (SELS) in Schools.

East Lothian Council is committed to work with its partners and to engage closely with young people to develop services, which will improve young peoples quality of life. The organisations and services that worked with young people in developing this document have listened carefully and *Youth Vision* is testament to their dedication to working with our young people.

Working with young people within their communities is recognised as a key means of securing a smarter, wealthier and fairer, healthier, greener, safer and stronger Scotland for our young people. I'd like to thank all the young people who took part and I am determined that the findings in this document will be used in future plans. I look forward to East Lothian becoming a place where young people feel valued, are successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

Cllr Ruth Currie
Champion for Youth

Being young in East Lothian

East Lothian covers an area of approximately 270 square miles. Unlike most areas in Scotland, the population in East Lothian is increasing and is expected to grow by 2.2% over the next 5 years.

There is a projected increase in the number of 0-17 year olds living in East Lothian and this places increased pressures and demands on existing schools and other resources for children and young people.

Children and young people 0 -17 years old form 22.1% of East Lothian's population, which stood at 91,280 in 2000.

A total 26.44% of all people living in East Lothian are under the age of 21.

To achieve positive outcomes for all young people in East Lothian, all children and all young people deserve to have accessible and effective Services.

Youth Vision

Youth Vision provides a framework for

- Identifying and addressing the needs of young people
- Working in a planned way with and for the benefit of young people
- Including young people in decision making processes
- Working in partnership in order to make the best use of our resources and strengthen our activities

Youth Vision will play a key role in delivering the principles outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly Article 12:

"The right of young people to voice their opinion, have their views listened to and be taken seriously."

Youth Vision promotes youth engagement and active citizenship, it builds respect for human rights and mutual responsibility

We want to create a more successful East Lothian with opportunities for all to flourish.

(Design note - outcomes in centre, speech bubbles throughout document, 5 themes emerging)

We want

- **strong, resilient, supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions & how they affect others**
- **to tackle the significant inequalities in Scottish Society**
- **to take pride in a strong fair & inclusive national identity**
- **our children to have the best start in life and be ready to succeed**
- **to be better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation**
- **young people to be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors & responsible citizens**
- **to have improved the life chances of children, young people and families at risk or with disability**
- **to live longer, healthier lives**
- **to live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger**
- **to reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production**

Possible speech bubbles

Young people say there are over 1000 'best things' about living in East Lothian

65% of young people enjoy the benefits of having a Young Scot Card

46% of young people living in East Lothian consider housing or accommodation is likely to be an issue for them

Young people say that we need better education, learning, training, leisure and jobs to improve the quality of our lives with equal opportunities for all

63% of young people attend activities outside school. Overall young people are mainly interested in sports, gigs, discos, music lessons, outdoor activities, internet, film making, drama, visual arts and volunteering and creative writing

Organising events for young people, involving them in planning and running consultations and involving them when making important decisions are ways to make sure that young people's views are heard

Schools Councils, Youth Councils, Youth Groups and meetings with local Councillors and other politicians, media and text messaging are also seen by young people as good ways of doing this

Free sports activities, health promotions in schools, health drop-ins with better access to health information are all seen by young people as being important to improve our health.

19% of young people still feel they do not get enough support from services and most young people talk to their friends or parents about sensitive issues

The majority of young people said they feel safe in their neighbourhood and safe and secure in their school

90% of young people said that school helps them keep themselves safe and healthy, teaches them about healthy eating, personal relationships and the dangers of drugs, alcohol and smoking.

There are several things that make young people feel unsafe including drug users, drunks in the street and walking through dark areas or areas that are known for being unsafe

77% of young people said that recycling was the best way to help our environment

Almost half the young people surveyed call for 'greener' public transport and 32% of young people use a bicycle to travel

Nearly 70% of young people use a bus to travel and 82% describe the public transport they use as being good or okay and give 485 reasons why.

A wealthier and fairer East Lothian

A smarter East Lothian

A healthier East Lothian

A safer and stronger East Lothian

A greener East Lothian

Partnership

Youth Vision is aligned with *East Lothian Council's Corporate Plan* and *Our Contract with the People*. Youth Vision assists in helping to achieve the *East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement* and is encapsulated in *Community Planning*.

Youth Vision embraces *East Lothian's Integrated Children's Services Framework* and seeks to ensure that all partner services are delivered in a well-integrated seamless manner resulting in positive outcomes for all.

Youth Vision is all about outcomes. Outcomes are the differences we want to make. Outcomes are not just what we do; but rather what results from what we do that is of value or gives benefit to others.

(Design note - 8 adjectives incorporated into the design works)

SAFE	HEALTHY	ACHIEVING	NURTURED
ACTIVE	RESPECTED	RESPONSIBLE	INCLUDED

East Lothian's Community Planning Partnership has endorsed youth Vision and all agencies working with and for young people in East Lothian are fully in support of Youth Vision.

All our Partners have committed to involve young people more in the planning and delivery of services across East Lothian.

Living the Vision

Youth Vision has been developed and will be implemented in partnership with young people from all across East Lothian. All service providers have committed to a *Living the Vision Action Plan* to deliver the *Outcomes* for Youth Vision.

The plan will be updated and modified on an ongoing basis and East Lothian Youth Council in conjunction with East Lothian Community Planning Partnership will monitor progress on Youth Vision.

Each year an event will be organised that brings all participating partners and young people together to make sure Youth Vision is on track.

At the Annual Event we will:

- ✓ Celebrate our achievements of the past year
- ✓ Learn how we could have done things better
- ✓ Revisit Youth Vision and make any changes we think will improve it
- ✓ Listen to everyone's ideas for living the Vision in the coming year
- ✓ Update our *Action Plan*
- ✓ Get excited about all the positive possibilities and plans for making them a reality

Living the Vision can be viewed on [\(Hyperlink\)](#)

east lothian community planning

Hyperlink to action plans (drawn from Single Outcome Agreement - partners still developing in conjunction with Policy and Business Management)

- ✓ **We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.**
A commitment to:
 - Place sustainable education, enterprise, science, modern languages and technology at the heart of the County's education provision.
 - Improve attainment in examinations for all young people, and in particular the lowest performing 20%.
 - Increase the proportion of school leavers entering further/ higher education/ employment and training.
 - Ensure that all young people have access to quality youth work provision that compliments the Curriculum for Excellence Framework

- ✓ **Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors & responsible citizens.**
A commitment to:
 - Work with schools to deliver 'A Curriculum for Excellence'
 - Improve the quality of youth work across the Partnership
 - Expand schools/ college partnerships and provide opportunities for all young people to experience vocational education
 - Embed Scottish history, culture and heritage throughout school life
 - Increase involvement of children and young people in creative arts, sports, outdoor education and community volunteering
 - Increase access to youth literacy provision

- ✓ **Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.**
A commitment to:
 - Develop integrated practices for child protection and health input in schools
 - Health Respect Drop Ins to improve lifestyles eg. healthy weight initiatives and smoking cessation
 - Ensure that our services take account of the views of children, young people and their families in shaping policies and delivering all services

✓ **We live longer, healthier lives**

A commitment to:

- Promote access to physical activity and sport for all
- Promote healthy eating and sensible drinking
- Promote well being in all its forms
- Support initiatives to reduce abuse of drugs and alcohol.
- Encourage the use and appreciation of the natural assets of East Lothian and the access to these by the socially disadvantaged
- Create a Health Improvement Unit
- Implement a Sexual Health Strategy to continue work developed through the Health Respect model

✓ **We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish Society.**

A commitment to:

- Encourage more staff to become involved in youth engagement training.
- Provide an effective support for people who become homeless and whenever possible, seek to prevent homelessness
- Bring youth work out into communities to engage with the hardest to reach young people
- Increase access to accredited Award Schemes

✓ **We have improved the life chances of children, young people and families at risk or with disability.**

A commitment to:

- Protect children from abuse, neglect and harm by providing further resources for child protection services and making support services available for families affected by drug and alcohol abuse
- Provide the best of care for children who need to be looked after through improvements in foster care and residential care, more responsive support and delivery of corporate parenting
- Improve support to vulnerable children, young people and their families
- Implement "Getting It Right For Every Child" (GIRFEC) -
- Work with partners to create more opportunities for Positive Parenting Groups

✓ **We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.**

A commitment to:

- Establish an operational framework within which to effectively tackle anti-social behaviour
- Work with the police through the Community and Police Partnership (CAPP) to take appropriate action on underage drinking, vandalism, drug taking and antisocial behaviour
- Develop and manage effective services to support the rehabilitation of offenders
- Utilise the role of the outreach neighbourhood workers and community wardens to make sure young people feel safe in their communities

✓ **We have strong, resilient, supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions & how they affect others.**

A commitment to:

- Ensure support for voluntary organisations which promote the Council's aims
- Develop Service Level Agreements with partner agencies to ensure quality youth services
- Encourage uptake of diversionary youth work activities

✓ **We take pride in a strong fair & inclusive national identity.**

A commitment to:

- Support music, drama and dance festivals and promote artistic endeavour
- Promote and develop lifelong learning
- Encourage young people to be actively involved in community life
- Encourage youth workers to undertake training in diversity and equality issues

✓ **We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.**

A commitment to:

- Promote reduction of waste and recycling
- Encourage more use of sustainable resources
- Encourage youth venues to become "greener" venues