



Youth Work Research - Dona Milne, Chair of Youth Work Research Group,



Youth work in Scotland is going through a challenging time: a time where there is an increasing focus and expectation on demonstrating outcomes whilst at the same time the sector is facing significant reductions in resources. I believe that one of the best ways to demonstrate impact is to generate evidence showing what works and what doesn't. This can help us to do more of what works and less of what doesn't.

The report, [The Impact of Community-based Universal Youth Work in Scotland](#), describes the findings from a piece of qualitative research undertaken with three organisations in Scotland who deliver community-based universal youth work. What did we find?

- Young people developed confidence and skills for life from taking part in youth work, which increased their opportunities and life chances to pursue their interests and shape their futures.
- Participation in youth work enabled young people to develop and grow friendships, and provided them with respite from challenging life circumstances.
- Youth work harnesses the ambition and ability of young people through opportunities for undertaking voluntary work and leadership roles in the youth work setting. The research also captured the "how" of youth work which isn't always the easiest thing to describe:
- Youth Clubs are places which reduce isolation, create a sense of belonging and provide new experiences and opportunities for informal learning

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Scotland's Groundbreaking Domestic Abuse legislation comes into force

Groundbreaking legislation that criminalises psychological domestic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour has come into force on 1 April .

An awareness campaign to increase the public's understanding of the wide-ranging nature of domestic abuse and to encourage victims of abuse to seek help has also been launched.

The Domestic Abuse Act is the only UK legislation with a specific statutory sentencing aggravation to reflect the harm that can be caused to children growing up in an environment where domestic abuse takes place.

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Focus on Rural Affairs:

You said, we did

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We've moved!!

We have now moved to our new offices! We said goodbye to our offices at Thistle Street, North West Lane to our new digs at the SCVO offices at Hayweight House, 23 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DQ. Not sure where that is, check out our website for a map! We retain the same phone numbers so no need to update your speed dial!

This new office move provides SCSN with fantastic office space in Edinburgh as well as allowing us to have office bases in both Glasgow and Inverness - both expanding our reach across the country and continuing to contribute to our flexible working for staff.



Thank you and best wishes to David McGowan!

There has been a change of representation on the BSC Unintentional Harm Executive Group with David McGowan moving on to a new post at the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service having previously served as Director of Prevention and Protection. He will be replaced by ASO Ross Haggart.



SCSN would like to place on record our thanks to David for all of his dedicated work on the Unintentional Harm Executive Group and we look forward to working with his replacement through the next exciting stages of this work.

Question of the Month

Our last Question of the Month was in our February 'Relationships' edition of our newsletter. We interviewed Rose Fitzpatrick, Chair of the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group, and she wanted to know:

'Do you believe that suicide prevention should be everyone's business?'

- 97% of respondents said yes (32 votes)
- 3% said no (1 vote)

Thanks to everyone who took part in our poll!

Question of the Month for April

Our Question of the Month for April comes from Gil Gillies - who guest blogs on page 6. He said, "I'm currently working with Gypsy Traveller Young People in Scotland and am amazed by some shocking statistics that I find. To start a conversation find me on Twitter @Gil_Ian_Gillies"

28.1% of Gypsy Traveller Leavers leave school with no qualifications at SCQF level 3 or higher, compared to 1.9% for all secondary school leavers. Is there anything we can do about this?

Take part in our poll [here](#).

60 seconds with...

Dona Milne, Chair Youth Work Research Group for YouthLink Scotland



This month's newsletter theme is Youth Work, so who better for us to speak to than the Chief Executive of Youth Link Scotland? Here we ask her about the links between youth work and safer communities.



What role do you think youth work plays in creating safer communities?

It is evident from the stories that young people shared with us through the research that they see youth work settings as safe places. They told us about how for some of them it is the only place where they can be themselves, where they know they will be accepted and not judged and where they will find adults that they trust who can provide them with support if they need it. Another theme that came out strongly was that of making friends through youth work, reducing isolation, feeling included and helping them to have positive relationships with other adults in their community. These are all very important in the creation of safer communities.

How has youth work changed since you started?

There are probably two big changes: the overall reduction in youth work provision and a shift away from universal, open youth work to a focus on targeted work. The reduction in youth work generally has placed a greater burden for the delivery of youth work onto the voluntary sector at a time when community based youth work provided by the local

authority has reduced considerably and is almost non-existent in some areas of Scotland.

What are you excited about in relation to youth work in Scotland? Are there any major challenges for the sector?

I am excited to see the sector generating research and evidence to demonstrate its worth. I feel that youth work is under valued as a form of informal education for young people. I am also delighted to see a renewed focus on growing and supporting community based youth work. Young people need this more than ever and youth work really is a great approach to prevention work, bringing together a number of protective factors for our young folk, such as safe places, trusted adults, informal education, community involvement and improved health and wellbeing.

There are continuing challenges for the sector to resource its work in a sustainable way. We don't hear anyone questioning the value of good quality formal education delivered through schools, yet good quality informal education delivered through youth work does not appear to be valued in the same way. There seems to be a lack of understanding that a large number of our youth workers are professionally trained and have undertaken degrees just like their teaching and social work colleagues, yet their contribution isn't always valued. Short term funding has an impact on staffing in the sector, meaning that people regularly change jobs which doesn't help youth work agencies provide what young people value most – long term relationships with youth work.

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Young people recognise and articulate the importance of having a trusted adult and a safe space created by youth workers with whom they often form long term relationships continuing into young adulthood. Youth work was recognised as inclusive, friendly, fun and safe environments that offer young people opportunities to develop through structured educational and leisure activities.



So why is this research important?

It is important because it captures young people's experiences of contemporary youth work in Scotland. In response to just one question, "Looking back, what do you think has been the most significant change that occurred for you as a result of coming here [to youth club]?" 129 young people, independent of one another told us their story. Collectively young people recognised the value of youth

work in their local community. It might be about learning, but it isn't school. It is a partnership between young people and youth workers, an environment where they can take increasing levels of responsibility when it feels right for them. The personal development gains through youth work should not be underestimated.

This research report provides further evidence about the impact of youth work, contributing to a growing body of evidence developing in the UK. We know that youth work makes a significant contribution to the lives of young people. We need to see greater recognition of the benefits of youth work as a form of informal education that should be available to all young people in Scotland.

Dona Milne is the Chair of the Scottish Youth Work Research Steering Group. Dona is the Director of Public Health at NHS Fife and is also the Chair of Youth Scotland.

This research has been conducted in a partnership between YouthLink Scotland, University of Edinburgh and Plymouth MARJON University.

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How do you think youth work organisations can participate in/contribute to community safety?

Youth work organisations should be key partners in both of these. We need to ensure that young people are actively involved in their communities as they have so much to contribute. Youth workers can help with that. There is some great youth work out there just now that contributes to building relationships within communities. A good example is a project called Old's Cool at the Citadel Youth Centre in Edinburgh one of our research sites. This intergenerational work helps to build relationships between young people and older people and ensures that the views and experiences of both groups are shared with local partners. These community led approaches are essential for effective community planning.

You (through Youthlink Scotland) recently published a report on the 'Impact of Community-based Universal Youth Work in Scotland.' What was the most significant finding for you?

Probably the most significant finding was that young people could articulate how much they valued the long term nature of their relationship with youth work. They described taking part in local youth clubs from a young age, then drifting away to do other things and returning again when they were older, either at a point of need or at a point where they felt they could play a greater part in the work themselves. They described their relationship not just with individual youth workers but with youth work projects across the life course and this was something they really valued. At a time when we have an increased awareness of the impact of adverse childhood experiences and poor mental health it would be good to see the role of youth workers in forming these protective relationships given more time, support and resources.

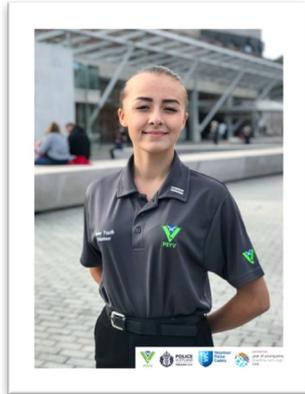
Guest article with Natalie McBride

Her experience of volunteering with the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers

Background – Along with attending school, PSYV and other extracurricular activities, Natalie McBride worked closely with Scottish Government last year during Scotland’s Year of Young People giving up her free time to plan and organise a Parliamentary reception for Scotland’s Justice Secretary. She was a key member of the co-design group which took place in the Scottish Parliament in September 2018. Natalie briefed the Cabinet Secretary prior to the event, was key at networking and engaging with senior partners during the event and spoke wonderfully sharing her experiences of PSYV for the First Minister and Chief Constable of Police Scotland along with over 100 other attendees.

First person piece – Natalie McBride, 17 years old, PSYV Dunfermline

I have been a member of the [Police Scotland Youth Volunteers](#) for over three years now and it has been a personal journey of commitment and one crazy adventure. I have had the utmost privilege of meeting many new and truly fantastic people and been involved in completely new and life-changing experiences. I can say with absolute confidence that I have loved every second of it.



I love volunteering but most importantly, I love how it impacts other people – especially within my community. I love watching how my very own actions can directly affect others and change their lives for the better, and I find that especially at my age of just 17 years old, that it is a great honour to witness. I really enjoy educating others about the police and the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers. In July 2017, I

attended an event at Police Scotland Headquarters teaching young girls about the PSYV and I really enjoyed being in a position where I had the ability to be able to inspire them and share their excitement and answer their questions. It gave me a better sense of perspective, taking on more of a leadership role and it has vastly improved my communication skills as a result. It filled me with an immense amount of pride and has been a source of inspiration for myself also. It is undoubtedly one of my best and favourite memories of being a youth volunteer. As well as this, I have also enjoyed being able to challenge the unfair negative stigmas that surround people my age and try to encourage people from other generations to see young people in a more positive light. I feel that I have more than accomplished this through being a youth volunteer. Whether being at a national or local event, I love working as part of a team to reach a common goal. Every event that I have attended has been a completely new and disparate, and I have enjoyed every single one of them.

The impact that being a youth volunteer has had on me as a person has been phenomenal and there is no other way I can put it. Being a youth volunteer has encouraged me to challenge myself, to overcome obstacles that previously would have left me out of my depth, and my confidence has grown exponentially as result of that. Being exposed to new situations and taking on new roles and responsibilities and then having to be able to adapt accordingly has really helped me to grow and mature into the young adult I am today. The friends and memories I have made through being involved in PSYV will stay with me throughout my life and I know now that I will always reflect back at my time as a youth volunteer with pride and fondness.

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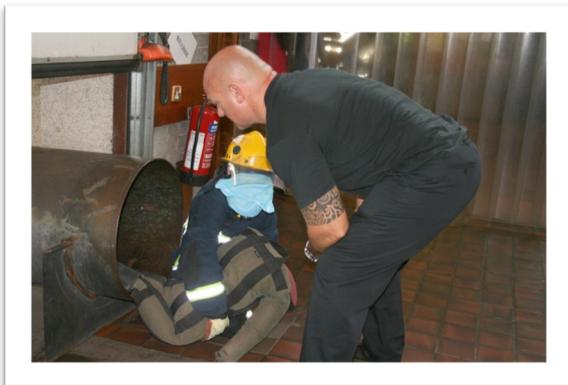
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I am particularly proud of the accomplishments my team PSYV Dunfermline have achieved, winning both the national competition and UK competition the following year. It was a spectacular achievement and it is ineffable how happy and proud it made me feel. Being part of PSYV is an absolute privilege – there is always a cheerful atmosphere within the group and we have a huge amount of respect for each other and I cannot help but

think is the main reason why we have been so successful.

Becoming a youth volunteer has broadened my horizons and fuelled my ambitions in a way that nothing else yet has. I look forward to every event because I get the chance to work alongside an amazing team and make a difference to people's lives. If someone were to ask me to summarise the entirety of what it is like to be a member of PSYV, I would have to say that it is a lot of fun - even when the going gets tough. Especially then because there is always something to smile or laugh about and that is part of what makes PSYV such a huge success. Ultimately and perhaps most importantly, I would have to say that it is the most rewarding thing I have ever done and that I am extremely proud to be a youth volunteer. The last three years have been an utterly amazing experience and I look forward to what the future holds.



Dalkeith Fire Station on Fire! - by Gil Gillies, Youth Worker

I've been working with young people for a long time. During my work over the last 30 or so years, I have come across many varying and different organisations and enjoyed many partnership, stakeholder and agency sharing experiences. Some good and some not so.

Recently I had cause to work with Dalkeith Fire Station as part of a summer programme with one of my projects. The Summer FireCrew project consisted of 6 days of programme over two weeks.

The programme provided breakfast and lunch every day.

Food Poverty tick!

A well explained progressive A-B programme with a

foundation in consistency, clear boundaries, consequences, teamwork and a solid infrastructure.

Youth Work Good Practice tick!

- Building self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Develop an ability to manage personal and social relationships.
- Creating learning opportunities and to develop new skills.
- Encouraging positive group atmospheres.
- Building the capacity of our young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control.
- Developing a 'world view' which widens horizons and invites social commitment.

Youth Work principals tick!

The course was multiagency with first aid, drug and alcohol awareness, road safety and antisocial behaviour.

To top it all, the instructors, in particular Jim Young, were firm but fair and could easily have a career in youth work.

They went out of their way to support and work with our young people that I have only ever seen in youth work.

Focus on Rural Affairs

There has been a lot of news content in relation to rural Scotland in the past month and, along with our own focus on rural and 'remote' areas we thought we'd give a brief summary below. There are some links if you're interested in finding out more!



Rural issues highlighted in Brexit report

A report by the Scottish Rural Action (SRA) formed from a Scotland wide survey of members of rural communities, found widespread concern about austerity, the breakdown of **social cohesion, growth of inequality and marginalisation of rural society** compared to towns.

People vocalised that the uncertainty over Brexit was only compounding feelings about rural inequity and rural demographics. There were concerns about depopulation in the highlands, and a general belief that rural life and society had become peripheral to policy making at different levels of government. In the report, SRA recommend that these wider problems be tackled in order to repair the damage done to rural Scottish communities in recent years, whatever the outcome of the Brexit negotiations. Amanda Burgauer, Chair of Scottish Rural Action, said: "People shared a vision for what rural Scotland could achieve if empowered and resourced." And a need for policy makers to consider and prioritise rural Scotland.

You can read the full report [here](#).

Culture, the arts and health in rural Scotland

On 26th March our development officer Hannah Dickson headed up to Inverness to hear from partners working in culture and the arts for health and wellbeing in rural Scotland. The event was hosted by the Scottish Rural

Health Partnership (SHRP follow them on [Twitter](#) and find out more about the partnership [here](#)) and Voluntary Health Scotland (VHS, the umbrella organisation for 3rd sector health organisations in Scotland. Follow them on [Twitter](#) and find out more about them [here](#)).

The event looked at the role that culture and the arts has to play in health and creating healthy places and examined this in the context of inequality and deprivation. The Scottish Government is currently developing the Culture Strategy for Scotland which aims to position culture as having an intrinsic value that contributes both directly and indirectly to the health, wealth and success of Scotland.

There was a rich variety of inputs on the case for arts and culture being good for our health, health inequalities, arts and culture, film and community, digital and storytelling and social prescribing.

An input from NHS Highland talked about the need for a shift in health from a medical to a social model which will allow for a focus on empowerment, coproduction and wellbeing; and also talked about the hierarchy of data and evidence within this setting.....

Continue reading this article with more rural news in full on our website [here](#).

Islands Consultation

Open until 6th July 2019 the Scottish Government are consulting on the National Islands Plan and Island Community Impact Assessments.

The Plan will set out how the Scottish Government, local authorities and other public agencies might work to improve outcomes for island communities. One of the key measures in the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 is to require everyone who makes or designs new policies, strategies or services to consider how these will impact on islands.

You can read the consultation paper and submit your views [here](#).

Both the National Islands Plan and the Islands Communities Impact assessments will be launched later in 2019.

You said, we did – Rural Community Safety

It's some time now since I visited some of Scotland's most remote and rural Community Safety Partnerships. Being able to see and experience some of your community safety solutions and challenges has helped shape how SCSN engages with all of our members and has helped us review our membership offer.

I've been reflecting on the changes we have made as a result of those visits.

You said – It's difficult to get full value from membership and take advantage of events and meeting mostly held in the central belt.

We have –

- Taken our organisation to you – my staff team have been out and about across Scotland during 18/19 with plans to get even further this year. We have been directly supporting CSPs; providing information and knowledge exchanges and following activity.
- Started to use new technology to film events and post learning on our SCSN [YouTube channel](#).
- Ensured that we produce a [learning note](#) of every masterclass to ensure that you can still access the learning even if you can't come.
- Begun to use SKYPE and conference calling telecoms during meetings wherever possible
- Raised particular remote and rural issues to Cross Party and other strategic groups we attend.

You said – You would like us to help you share some of your solutions and challenges and raise awareness of what remote and rural working on CSPs looks like.

We have –

- Produced and circulated a [Remote and Rural themed newsletter](#) to over 300 recipients across Scotland and beyond –

highlighting some of the issues you told us about.

- Invited Shetland Community and Resilience Board to provide an input to our AGM. Attendees reported that it was really useful presentation and welcomed the focus. My thanks to Rachel McDill for making the journey down.
- Joined The Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and contributed to the development of the Rural Crime Strategy – we would not have been able to do this without the direct experience and knowledge our visits gave us.

You said – You would like some practical support from us to assist with project specific work or strategic development

We have/are –

- Hosted a regional meeting in Aberdeen in 2018 and visited Scottish Borders to talk about analysis, community participation in community safety and observe a meeting of the CJSP.
- Supported some project work in CNE Siar (a conversation and offer of support in relation to a piece of work they're doing on referral and support pathways for children who have been affected by domestic abuse). So far that's been an initial conversation and providing some feedback but we are hoping to use our links with VAW networks to offer further support
- Supporting the Shetland partnership in a self-assessment process and will support them in their strategic planning process. We are looking forward to 2 trips in the summer to support this piece of work.
- We were in Inverness of the month to participate in an event on Health and wellbeing in rural Scotland. Hopefully we will be connecting with a range of partners as part of our link officer visit.



Rural Crime Strategy 2019-2022

SCSN are a partner in the Scottish partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and are delighted to be able to share the first rural strategy for Scotland. Scotland's communities, particularly rural communities, can only flourish when people feel safe. Developing, maintaining and enhancing sustainable partnerships is key to achieving this. The three-year strategy focuses on:

- Develop resilient rural communities through effective partnerships, utilising holistic innovative and special techniques;

- Listen, be visible and understand local and national concerns relating to rural crime;
- Harness the contribution, expertise and knowledge of individuals, communities and relevant partner organisations in public, private and the third sector to reduce vulnerabilities;
- Promote and improve rural community cohesion where people feel safer regardless of location.

And covers poaching; livestock offences; heritage crime; fuel theft; fly tipping; equestrian incidents; and theft of agricultural vehicles, farm machinery and plant equipment. Seven of the major partner organisations has a detailed, published action plan that sets out how its crime area will be tackled and a target success rate.

You can find the full strategy [here](#).

Local Government in Scotland: Challenges and Performance 2019

The recent Accounts Commission report on local authority spend also highlights that councils **now have less flexibility over how they use budgets**, with the proportion of funding from the Scottish Government that is ringfenced for specific purposes increased from 6.6 per cent in 2018/19 to 12.1 per cent in 2019/20.

This has led to **significant budget cuts in areas**

where councils can make savings, with planning and development services suffering a 28 per cent cut in budget, cultural services a 14 per cent cut and roads and transport losing seven per cent of its revenue between 2013/14 and 2017/18. At the same time, direct charges for many services have risen by above inflation, with funeral costs one of the worst affected.

You can read the full report Local Government in Scotland: Challenges and Performance 2019 [here](#).

Continued from front page, domestic abuse

Assistant Chief Constable Gillian MacDonald, Crime and Protection lead for Police Scotland, said:

"Coercive and controlling behaviour can have the most profound, damaging and long lasting effects on individuals and on our society.

This new offence is groundbreaking. For the first time it will allow us to investigate and report the full circumstances of an abusive relationship. We will be able to include evidence of coercive and controlling behaviours where it forms a pattern of abuse,

often carried out alongside other insidious behaviours, including physical and sexual abuse.

"In preparation for the change in law our officers and staff have received further training on the dynamics of power and control in abusive relationships to help recognise the signs, identify investigative opportunities and to tackle the myths and misconceptions of abuse that still exist.

"This new offence is a clear warning to abusers that all forms of domestic abuse are criminal, and that perpetrators should expect to face the full consequences of their abusive behaviour."

In other news...



Summer Programme of Events in Community Safety

CSP Chairs and Leads Event: Making the Case for Community Safety - Late May/early June, Lunch provided. Venue TBC. We will provide further details of the date and venue in due course.

Building Safer Communities Programme, Unintentional Harm Event - Latest BSCP Unintentional Harm Event. Details to be announced in the near future.

SCSN Participation Masterclass: 'Let's talk about participation' - July

More details to follow on this in next Month's newsletter.

Public Health/Place Masterclass - August

Considering public health and the Place Standard as it relates to community safety. More information in next month's newsletter.

SCSN AGM - September

Measuring Outcomes Masterclass: Part 2 - 11 September

Dr. Toby Lowe comes back for part 2 of our hugely well received Measuring Outcomes in Complex Systems Masterclass.

Update to laws on Control of Dangerous Dogs

Holyrood's public audit committee is considering recommending an update to the law in light of an "increasing problem" with the control of dogs (see [here](#) and [here](#) for more reading and some data on dog attacks). The committee is looking back on the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act - backbench legislation brought forward by SNP member Christine Grahame in 2010 - and considering how the law could be updated.

Ash Denham, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs said the government was set to launch a consultation on setting up a national database of dog control notices - something called for in the 2010 legislation - but confirmed that no changes to the law were currently being looked at.

Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2019

The Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival are delighted to announce the full line-up for the 13th Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival, which takes place from 3-26 May 2019. Led by the [Mental Health Foundation](#), SMHAF is one of Scotland's biggest and most diverse festivals, with the 2019 edition set to explore all the ways in which we are Connected. The wide-ranging programme will host events with asylum seekers, travellers, the LGBT community, and families affected by suicide and other traumatic events, focusing on the importance of staying connected to each other, and the impact of isolation on our mental health.



Find out more by visiting their website [here](#).

March in Review

Social Media

59 Tweets
Total Reach of 130,520



Things we tweeted about:

- Gender Based Violence
- Rural Crime Strategy
- Water Safety
- Local Governance Review
- Public Health Reform
- National Performance Framework
- International Women's Day
- Police Scrutiny
- Arson Awareness Week
- Transforming Parole

Partners we Retweeted:

- Equally Safe Scotland
- SPARC
- COSLA
- RoSPA
- RNLI
- Community Justice Scotland
- Carnegie Trust
- Transport Scotland
- Shelter Scotland
- Building Safer Communities
- Corra Foundation

Newsletter

Bulletin Edition

Stories covered:

- Community Planning Network
- Transforming Parole in Scotland
- Stay Mobile Stay Connected Videos
- Health and Housing
- Street Begging in Edinburgh
- 20mph Road Safety Campaign
- Latest Unintentional Harm Figures
- Scottish Crime & Justice Survey



SCSN Publications

PDF

We published the following items in February:

- SCSN Consultation Response on Transforming Parole in Scotland



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The closing date for the May newsletter is 5 May.



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