

Youth work's contribution to closing the poverty-related attainment gap

Amy Calder

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What is youth work?

- Education practice that facilitates the personal, social and educational development of young people
- 80,000 youth work practitioners across Scotland supporting and engaging 400,000 children
- Range of learning environments

3 key principles:

1. young people choose to participate
2. the work builds from where young people are
3. Young person and youth worker are partners in the learning process



Youth work offer

- Youth work works collaboratively with formal education across Scotland
- Youth work isn't a 'lift off the shelf' programme or intervention
- Informal learning experience through which young people want to learn and develop
- Specific engagement tools are tailored and delivered by experienced and highly skilled workers.





- National agency for youth work
- Membership organisation representing 100 regional and national youth organisations from both voluntary and statutory sectors
- We champion the role and value of youth work
- We represent the interests and aspirations of our sector

1. Increases social and emotional wellbeing

- Youth workers are skilled in engaging and supporting the hardest to reach
- Example - Trinity Academy in Renfrewshire has utilised PEF for a full-time youth worker to work in school with a focus on supporting pupils in SIMD 1 and 2

“She has made an immediate impact with our pupils and taken forward a large number of projects which have improved the resilience and confidence of the young people she has worked with”

Depute Head Teacher



2. Supports targeted approaches to literacy and numeracy

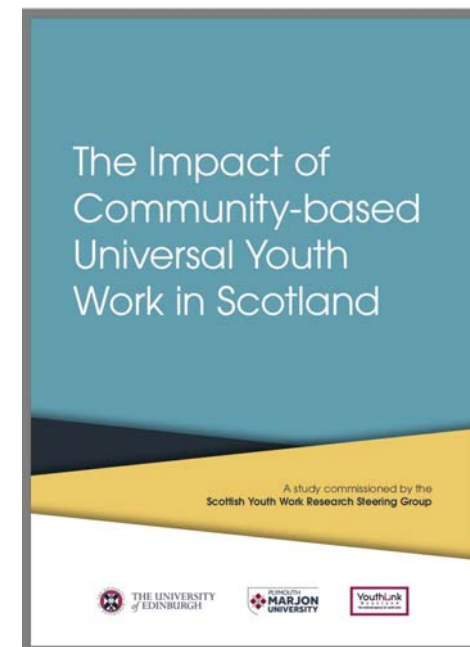
- Youth work offers young people opportunities to develop literacy and numeracy skills
- Example - Bolt FM is a youth led radio station in North East Glasgow
“The radio skills that the children learned in the activities has helped them to become better engaged in their on-going literacy work” (Head Teacher)
- Youth work also supports children, young people and families during school holiday periods and at breakfast clubs



3. Gain qualifications and skills for employability

- Young people develop key employability skills through engagement with youth work
- Youth work also offers young people volunteering opportunities
- Example - Universal Youth Work Study (2018)

“the biggest thing that we done was my bronze youth achievement award...I gained lots of skills from taking part...I learned things about myself that I didn’t know...and gaining skills that I could use further on in life” (Young Person)



4. Wider achievement

- Youth Awards provide opportunities to:
 - recognise the achievements of young people through non-formal learning
 - help schools and young people themselves see how extra-curricular activities complement formal learning, support attainment and achievement
- Wider achievement through youth work helps to increase attainment
- The Awards Network <https://www.awardsnetwork.org/>



Edinburgh example



- Since 2008, The Spartans Community Football Academy (The Academy) has been working with the local community and partners to deliver programmes and initiatives in North Edinburgh.
- Delivering innovative education programmes
- Building a bridge of trust – building relationships’ model
- Alternative school – sport and youth work approach
- Fun Fuelled Club



Youth Work and Schools Partnerships Programme

- National capacity-building programme funded by Scottish Government as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge until 2021.
- Strengthen partnerships between youth work and schools to close the poverty related attainment gap and to provide capacity to measure and communicate impact.

“In Bellshill Academy, we believe that school is for everyone and youth work plays a pivotal role in ensuring this. The young people and community benefit from our strong partnership working which is a key to our success” (Head Teacher)

The logo for YouthLink Scotland is enclosed in a maroon rectangular border. It features the text 'YouthLink' in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, with 'Scotland' in a smaller, red, spaced-out font below it. Underneath that, the tagline 'The national agency for youth work' is written in a small, black, sans-serif font.

YouthLink
Scotland
The national agency for youth work

Marielle Bruce, Youth Work & Schools Partnerships Manager
mbruce@youthlinkscotland.org

For more details please contact:
Amy Calder
acalder@youthlinkscotland.org

YouthLink Scotland, Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5EZ.
T: 0131 313 2488. | E: info@youthlinkscotland.org | W: www.youthlinkscotland.org

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