

Year of Young People 2018

Co-designing a national events programme





“The hero image of #BRAW, lit up in torchlight on a huge scale against the backdrop of the Edinburgh skyline, was the culmination of several months of listening to thousands of young people around Scotland as they discussed what Scotland means to them, what makes them proud of their country, and their hopes for Scotland’s future.”

Event organiser, Edinburgh’s Hogmanay 18 #ScotWord



Introduction



2018 was designated the Year of Young People (YoYP 2018), a year that aimed to inspire Scotland through its young people by

celebrating their achievements, valuing their contributions to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and on the international stage.

In line with previous Themed Years, YoYP 2018 sought to drive genuine collaboration across a range of sectors and interests with the aim of celebrating one of Scotland's greatest assets – this time, our young people. For the purpose of delivering YoYP 2018, 'young people' were principally defined as 8 – 26 year olds and, in advance of 2018, a core group of young people set overarching objectives, desired outcomes and priority themes for their Year.

The Year of Young People 2018 was a Scottish Government initiative delivered with a wide range of partners including VisitScotland,

Young Scot, Children in Scotland, the Scottish Youth Parliament, YouthLink Scotland, the Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland, Creative Scotland and sportscotland. VisitScotland, through its Events Directorate, led the development and delivery of the events programme for the year. This report details the learnings from the delivery of what was a global first.

This report captures the energy and freshness that was so evident throughout the Year. I had the pleasure of meeting many of the young people and organisers who worked to design and deliver the events programme in 2018. I also attended several of the events highlighted in this report and, without exception, they were a tribute to the benefits that co-design brings. I am grateful to everyone who helped to make YoYP 2018 the success that it was.

Maree Todd MSP
Minister for Children and Young People

Objectives

- Provide a platform for young people to have their views heard and acted upon.
- Showcase the amazing talents of young people through events and media.
- Develop better understanding, cooperation and respect between generations.
- Recognise the impact of teachers, youth workers and other supporting adults on young people's lives.
- Provide opportunities for young people to express themselves through culture, sport and other activities.

Outcomes

- Young people have a greater say in decisions that affect their lives.
- Public perception of young people is improved.
- There are more opportunities for intergenerational work and conversations.
- Young people have more opportunities to take part in positive activities and experiences.

Themes

Participation – looking at how young people can influence public services and decisions which affect their lives.

Education – creating a stronger role for young people in shaping their learning.

Health and Wellbeing – supporting young people to lead healthier, active lives and have opportunities to learn about and improve their mental health and resilience.

Equality and Discrimination – broadcasting the value of young Scots, challenging negative perceptions of young people, and supporting young people to take leading roles in challenging discrimination in all its forms.

Enterprise and Regeneration – celebrating young people's role in innovation, entrepreneurship and the Scottish economy as well as making Scotland a greener and more pleasant place to live.

Culture – celebrating young people's talent and contribution to Scottish culture and arts.

Delivering a global first

YoYP 2018 provided a nationwide opportunity to celebrate the amazing talents and achievements of young people in Scotland through the creation of a high-impact events programme that put young people at the centre of its development and delivery, creating new and valuable experiences for young Scots, their families and visitors alike.

VisitScotland, through its Events Directorate, developed a year-long, public-facing celebratory events programme, designed to support both new, cultural and sporting events and festivals, and also enhancements to existing events that would generate significant attendance and/or participation as well as high levels of media interest. As 'co-design' was central to the design and development of all activity, the YoYP 2018 events programme represents a genuine global first - the first national events programme ever fully co-designed by young people.

In total, 110 events were supported across three funding programmes. These included 49 events delivered through core 'Signature' and 'Open' funds (which form the focus of this report) as well as 61 events delivered through the Create18 events fund, developed and delivered by Young Scot with funding from VisitScotland's Events Directorate (which enabled young people to access smaller grants to design and deliver their own events in their own communities). In addition, our tourism-focused Partner Events Programme also supported an even wider range of organisations to promote a further 232 public-facing events as part of the YoYP 2018 celebrations.

Events were hosted in 31 local authorities with young people from all 32 engaged in activity. Events ranged in scale from small and intimate performances to 20,000 capacity festival sites and all event organisers worked with

a diverse range of young people the length and breadth of Scotland.

The variety of events and activities on offer was extremely impressive - from sport, science and technology to art, music, writing and theatre - and provided excellent opportunities for year-long engagement. From the opening of V&A Dundee and the launch of Edinburgh's Hogmanay festival to the creation of a new urban sports event in Glasgow and the delivery of the first ever 'Youth Takeover' across Lerwick's main venues in Shetland, the events programme provided key highlights and learnings for YoYP 2018 and beyond.

An experience with lasting benefits

Feedback from event organisers has provided clear evidence that the co-design process has been a hugely beneficial experience for the young people involved, whether through work shadowing or temporary paid positions in event delivery or through performances and outreach work.

YoYP 2018 has provided a fantastic opportunity for young people to work with professional event organisers and the overarching story is hugely positive.

As a global first, there are lessons still to be learned, but we believe the significant benefits of co-designing - for young people and event organisers alike - are clear. From a growth in confidence and skills development for young people to an increased awareness of emerging trends and ways to engage younger audiences for organisers, YoYP 2018 has delivered mutual benefits and clearly answered the overarching objectives for the Year. I believe the experience has opened the door to new opportunities and increased potential for intergenerational collaboration in the events and festivals sector.

Marie Christie

Head of Development - Events Industry
VisitScotland

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An overview of YoYP 2018 funded events

This report focuses on the 'Signature' and 'Open' events programmes created for YoYP 2018. These programmes brought together professional event organisers with young people the length and breadth of Scotland. 49 'Signature' and 'Open' programme events were co-designed, planned, curated, delivered, participated in, and performed by young people. This overview provides an at-a-glance summary of the excitingly diverse range of events delivered through these two programmes.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay 18 #ScotWord

Underbelly | Edinburgh | 30 December 2017

Young people across the country took part in a national engagement campaign, which asked them to sum up, in just one word, what made them proud to live in Scotland. Their choice was #BRAW, which was spectacularly created by thousands of torchbearers in Holyrood Park.

Glasgow International Comedy Festival's School of Stand-Up

Scottish Comedy Agency/The Stand Comedy Club | Glasgow | 11 March 2018

A bunch of bold and aspiring young comics, trained through the School of Stand-Up, were given the opportunity to take to the stage for the first time, performing their own comedy material to a live audience.

Existence: Life and Beyond

Edinburgh Science Festival | Edinburgh | 31 March - 15 April 2018

As part of Edinburgh Science Festival's 2018 celebration of the wonder and diversity of life on Earth, young artist's assistants were recruited to work with artist Jack Hackenwerth to create the world's biggest balloon sculpture 'Event Horizon' in the National Museum of Scotland's Grand Gallery. Their Youth Consultation Group also hosted pop-up activity during the second week of the Festival.

Melrose University Sevens

Melrose RFC | Melrose | 1 April 2018

Following in the footsteps of the Melrose Sevens, the oldest rugby sevens competition which dates back to 1883, men's and women's university teams were invited to showcase their sporting talent in a day that also featured a junior coaching clinic and live music.

The Regenerators

Glasgow International Festival of Contemporary Visual Art (GI) | Glasgow | 20 April - 7 May 2018

The largest festival for contemporary art in Scotland created an 80m long billboard across the façade of the historic Dalnarnock Gas Purifier Shed, in a project called The Regenerators. This saw artist Mick Peter and a team of young people cover the empty façade with depictions of buildings from different eras, inviting contemplation of the city's architectural and built heritage.

The Glasgow Trophy ATP Challenger

Lawn Tennis Association/Tennis Scotland | Glasgow | 28 April - 6 May 2018

Over 1,000 young people participated in the highest-level tennis tournament ever to be held in Scotland. It featured an interactive roadshow, coaching and workforce sessions by Judy Murray and matches played by some of the best tennis talent in the world.

Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival

Mental Health Foundation | Various locations across Scotland | 7 - 27 May 2018

Under the theme of Beginnings, one of Scotland's most diverse and inclusive festivals delivered a youth-focused programme for YoYP 2018, exploring the idea that the road to both positive mental health and mental health problems begins very early in life.

Dundee Design Festival Presents...

Leisure and Culture Dundee | Dundee | 17 - 28 May 2018

A riot of colour, music and design, Dundee's first Design Parade snaked its way through the city as hundreds of young people displayed their creations, inspired by design objects and stories from Dundee's sister UNESCO Cities of Design.

STEM at The Helix

Falkirk Community Trust Ltd | Falkirk | 19 May 2018

All things Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths came to Falkirk's Helix Park for a one-day event filled with interactive workshops, experiments and insights including LEGO construction challenges, virtual reality kits, an electronics workshop by Glasgow Science Centre and even a scientific food fight.

Generation Z

East Ayrshire Leisure Trust | Kilmarnock | 19 May - 30 November 2018

Ayrshire's free festival for all age groups featured Tom Foster of Judge Dredd fame, Virtual Reality experiences, an interactive gaming tournament and a host of drop-in activities as well as competitions run by The Dick Institute for the Young Artist, Young Writer and Young Filmmaker of the Year Awards.

STAGE IT

Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival | Dumfries | 26 May - 30 November 2018

This new Young Promoters Group based in south west Scotland delivered a programme of innovative music and dance, cutting-edge comedy, thought-provoking theatre and a 'High Street Takeover' day in Dumfries's historic town centre that featured both world-class performers and up-and-coming talent.

TEDxYouth@Glasgow

TEDxGlasgow | Glasgow | 31 May 2018

The first TEDxGlasgow event designed specifically by and for young people aged between 12 and 26 years, enabled Scotland's youth to showcase their ideas, energy and innovative thinking. Over 2,200 young attendees were invited to arrive at the SEC Clyde Auditorium with an open mind and leave with new perspectives on their futures.



Codename F Photo: Edinburgh International Book Festival

Taste of Grampian

Prime Event Management | Inverurie | 2 June 2018

The largest food and drink showcase in Scotland's North East included a YoYP 2018 stage, programmed entirely by young people to celebrate and showcase youth talent throughout the day.

Evolve Fest

RIG Arts Ltd | Greenock | 3 June 2018

This vibrant, interactive summer festival of live music, visual arts, film, dance and theatre celebrated the young people of Inverclyde and provided a showcase for their creative contributions to the region's past, present and future.

The Young and the Wild

Edinburgh International Film Festival | Edinburgh | 20 June - 1 July 2018

As part of the Edinburgh International Film Festival, The Young and the Wild offered a packed programme of events for young people ranging from film screenings and 'in person' events to hands-on filmmaking workshops and masterclasses for 15-25 year olds.

Diverse CiTay Festival

Perth & Kinross Council | Perth | 23 June 2018

Taking place across city centre venues, this exciting carnival-style festival positioned Perthshire as a diverse and vibrant place in which young people from all backgrounds can develop and thrive. The packed programme included a parade, the first ever Perth youth market, a health and wellbeing village, musical performances and much more.

Mining the Past, Facing the Future

National Mining Museum Scotland Trust | Midlothian | 30 June - 29 September 2018

The Museum hosted three YoYP 2018 events during 2018, all created and organised by their youth panel. This included the 'Coal Generation: Queens, Teens and Life Outside the Mines' exhibition unveiling rarely seen photography from their collection, curated by young people.

An overview of YoYP 2018 funded events



IRONKIDS Scotland Photo: Huw Fairclough

IRONKIDS Scotland

IRONMAN | Edinburgh, East Lothian & Midlothian | 29 – 30 June 2018

Taking place at three venues in the lead up to the endurance triathlon, IRONMAN 70.3 Edinburgh, IRONKIDS provided mass participation running events for young people aged between 3 and 14 years as well as entertainment, sports taster sessions for young and old, and performances by young people.

Glasgow Comic Con

BHP Comics | Glasgow | 30 June 2018

For YoYP 2018, Scotland's longest-running comic book convention launched *Full Colour* – a graphic novel anthology showcasing work by aspiring young artists of colour as well as a dedicated Kids Comic Zone and a variety of workshops, talks and events.

Youth Beatz

Dumfries & Galloway Council | Dumfries | 30 June – 1 July 2018

Significantly upscaled for YoYP 2018, Scotland's largest free youth music event moved to a new 20,000 capacity site for two days of enhanced entertainment including a wealth of new, interactive activities, headline acts Sigala and Rudimental, two new stages showcasing Scotland and Dumfries & Galloway's up-and-coming young performers, and the hard-hitting interactive theatre production, *The Toon*.

Celebrate ART

Engage Scotland | Edinburgh, Glasgow & Tarbert | 7 July – 9 December 2018

This new and collaborative visual arts programme saw young people take on roles as artists, curators, educators, creative participants and evaluators. Through inclusive projects at partner galleries in three locations, young people confidently expressed their views and showcased their skills and creativity.

Tiree Music Festival

Tiree Music Festival CIC | Tiree | 13 – 15 July 2018

Each year, Tiree Music Festival welcomes world-class musicians from Scotland and beyond. For YoYP 2018, the ELEVATE stage was programmed and presented entirely by young people to showcase fresh talent and deliver a creative programme focusing on the four core elements of life on the island – sun, sand, wind and water.

Write Here Write Now

PACE Theatre Company & Create Paisley | Renfrewshire | 27 July 2018

Featuring plays, monologues, songs and poetry developed by young and aspiring talent from right across the country, this exciting new young writers festival made its 2018 debut in Renfrewshire. From the creation of new writing to the running of the festival, young people were involved at every stage.

OTHERLAND

Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival | Beaulieu | 2 – 4 August 2018

Young people created a festival within a festival for YoYP 2018 – an alternative world where imagination was indulged and nothing was impossible. Featuring music, dance, theatre, comedy and poetry, OTHERLAND was designed, built, directed and performed by Scotland's young people.

Aberdeen Standard Investments Opening Event: Five Telegrams

Edinburgh International Festival | Edinburgh | 3 August 2018

A collaboration between contemporary composer Anna Meredith and 59 Productions, this 14-18 NOW production delivered a new youth project that made connections between generations past and present in the WW1 centenary year. New, spectacular youth-led creative elements included a 100-strong chorus in bespoke costumes designed by students from Edinburgh College of Art.

Codename F

Edinburgh International Book Festival | Edinburgh | 11 – 28 August 2018

Co-curated by a group of 8-14 year old pupils from Craigmillar schools and the Edinburgh International Book Festival team, this youth-focused event programme delivered Q&As with popular authors, topical debates and more, around the theme of 'freedom'.

LIVE!/BEØ!

Highland Youth Arts Hub | Highlands | 13 – 18 August 2018

The Highland Youth Arts Hub handed over control of their annual youth arts festival to six young curators who created LIVE!/BEØ!. This brand new multi-arts festival was staged at six National Trust for Scotland sites across the Highlands and saw everything from grime artists at Brodie Castle to sound installations at Glencoe and ceilidh dancing at Culloden, take place across the week-long festival.

Youth Urban Games

Scottish Canals | Glasgow | 25 August 2018

Crowds were dazzled by high intensity parkour, skateboard and BMX displays in a new, site-specific, urban arena in North Glasgow. From street food and art installations to performances from young musicians and the opportunity to try a range of sports, the entire event was designed by a team made up of Glasgow's young people.

Orkney International Science Festival

Orkney International Science Festival Ltd | Orkney | 6 – 12 September 2018

With topics ranging from supermassive black holes to hydrogen for transport and from making rockets to building the Tay Road Bridge, the annual Festival offered something for everyone. For YoYP 2018, young people took centre stage at the festival, hosting events and Q&A sessions across the programme. Special YoYP 2018 performances included a Viking-themed performance by Orkney Children's Theatre Club and a talk by students from the Spacelink Institute in Slovenia, who had recently become the first European amateur team to reach space.

Skyrunning World Championships

Skyline Scotland | Kinlochleven | 13 – 16 September 2018

Four skyrunning races in four days across the most challenging Scottish mountain terrain with precipitous ridgelines and spectacular drops. To mark YoYP 2018, seven talented young Scottish runners took part and pupils from local high schools played a key role in the creation and delivery of the event's opening ceremony; they were also mentored by the event's media team to help cover the event.

Òran Mòr @ Blas

Féisean nan Gàidheal | Strathpeffer & Inverness | 14 – 15 September 2018

Òran Mòr, a new strand of the Blas Festival, was created especially for YoYP 2018 bringing hundreds of young performers together in a large-scale, outdoor celebration of Highland culture at the Northern Meeting Park. Young musicians also showcased their talents on the eve of the concert, during Ceòl nam Fèis at Strathpeffer Pavilion.

V&A Dundee's 3D Festival

V&A Dundee | Dundee | 14 – 15 September 2018

To celebrate the opening of the only V&A Museum outside London, a young people's collective co-designed, planned and delivered the entire two-day, 3D Festival. The event featured musical performances from Primal Scream and Sistema Scotland, a mass dance piece created in collaboration with Shaper/Caper and Scottish Ballet, art and design workshops and a successful Beano Studios world record attempt.

Glasgow Youth Film Festival

The Glasgow Film Theatre | Glasgow | 14 – 16 September 2018

An outstanding range of international films and creative workshops designed by, for and with young people interested in learning about film. In 2018, Young Programmers designed and delivered pop-up events, accessible screenings, intergenerational family events and the Youth Shorts Showcase.

The Big Takeover – Shetland

Shetland Islands Council | Lerwick | 14 – 16 September 2018

In a three-day programme of arts, culture and sports – on a scale never before seen in Shetland – seven venues were taken over by young people who curated all of the content including music and drama performances, sporting events, film, arts, writing, crafts and much more.



The Big Takeover Photo: The Big Takeover

An overview of YoYP 2018 funded events

The Buke of Howlat at Findhorn Bay Festival

Findhorn Bay Arts | Moray |
26 September – 1 October 2018

A spectacular celebration of arts and culture in the heart of Moray, the Festival delivers a vibrant mix of theatre, performance, music, dance, visual arts, exhibitions and tours. For YoYP 2018, Moray's young people co-created *The Buke of Howlat*, a new and unique theatre piece based on the Scottish literary work.

Scottish Youth Poetry Slam

ConFAB | Stirling, Inverness & Greenock |
27 September – 25 October 2018

Young people from across Scotland were invited to take part in music, poetry and performance workshops leading up to the Scottish Youth Poetry Slam 2018, where they had the opportunity to compete for the title of Scottish Youth Poetry Slam Master 2018.

Futureproof

National Theatre of Scotland | Various locations across Scotland | 28 September – 28 October 2018

Ten leading UK and international artists embedded themselves in communities across Scotland to adapt and create performances with young people. This new, major and radical festival of theatre saw young theatre-makers design, develop and stage 11 events across 12 traditional and site-specific venues from Edinburgh to Unst.

Young & Powerful

Graphic Design Festival Scotland | Glasgow | 1 October – 23 November 2018

The Festival introduced a brand new Young and Powerful Poster Competition to give young people the tools to explore topics important to them through visual communication. The final exhibition at The Lighthouse in Glasgow provided space for thought-provoking new perspectives.



Graphic Design Festival Scotland Photo: Erika Stevenson

Knight at the Castle

Historic Environment Scotland | Edinburgh | 5 October 2018

Co-curated with Young Scot, Edinburgh Napier University, Impact Arts and Scotland's Urban Past, this unique after-hours event at Edinburgh Castle featured a top line-up of music acts and showcased some of Scotland's brightest young creative talent through themed bars, fun activities and one or two surprises.

The Royal National Mòd

An Comunn Gaidhealach | Dunoon | 12 – 20 October 2018

In celebration of YoYP 2018, young people played a central role in planning and promoting Scotland's premier Gaelic festival in Dunoon. New events included the Junior Shinty Cup; drama, language and music workshops delivered in advance of the festival; and a brand new app developed by young people.

Las! Ignite!

An Lanntair | Stornoway | 20 – 25 October 2015

This exciting new arts festival at An Lanntair was run by young people for young people. As well as curating exhibition spaces, programming the cinema and delivering workshops, open mic nights and comedy, young people invited creative industry professionals to a symposium to talk about career paths and take part in important discussions around mental health.

Paisley Halloween Festival

Renfrewshire Council | Paisley | 26 – 27 October 2018

For 2018, this annual 'spooktacular' event was significantly enhanced with new creative elements co-designed by a youth panel. It included large-scale parade artworks, a theatrical performance featuring a 50-strong cast of young people and aerial performers, All or Nothing, as well as a creative learning programme designed to develop skills in everything from marketing to drama.

Offski

Electric Theatre Workshop | Dumfries & Galloway | 26 – 28 October 2018

This site-specific theatre performance, staged in an historic crypt, was created and performed by the Dumfries & Galloway Ensemble, the region's first youth performance company. The young people were mentored in a range of disciplines and producing skills, including play-writing, choreography and technical management.

At Your Leisure

Ed Littlewood Productions/Room 2 Manoeuvre | Edinburgh & East Lothian | 29 October – 3 November 2018

At Your Leisure delivered live productions and workshops from international professional dance companies that were created for young people to celebrate the relationship between sport and dance. At Your Leisure's Youth Panel took the lead on the creation and delivery of the event and undertook various roles including photographers, designers, composers, producers and social media managers.

Social Bite's Wee Sleep Out

Social Bite | Various locations across Scotland | 9 November 2018

Social Bite, inspired by the success of Sleep in the Park 2017 and the enthusiasm of under-16s to get involved, put young people in the driving seat by inviting them to take the lead on developing and delivering their own sleep outs. From living rooms to community halls, bedroom floors to sports centres, young people across Scotland raised awareness of homelessness in their communities.

Dreams for the Future

Peter Pan Moat Brae Society | Dumfries | 24 November – 2 December 2018

In a three-day festival for the whole community, running over two weekends, the young people of Dumfries & Galloway took over the running of Moat Brae, where JM Barrie drew inspiration for his writing. Music, theatre, guided tours and a special CrocRock! Carnival lit up Dumfries at the end of 2018.

Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards

Young Scot Enterprise/Media Scotland Events | Glasgow | 30 November 2018

Scotland's biggest celebration of young people and their achievements included live entertainment, celebrities and the inspirational stories of young nominees. In 2018, Glasgow's Clyde Auditorium showcased more young people than ever during a glittering evening that was also broadcast on television.

Stepping In

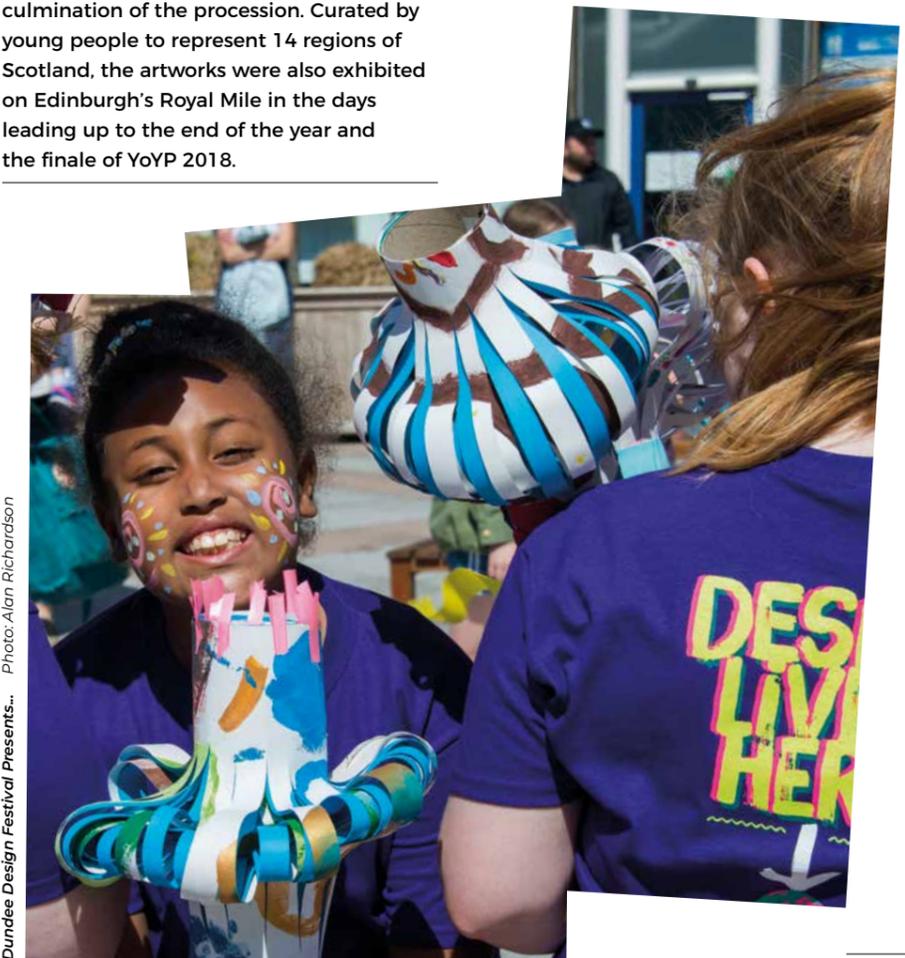
Aberdeen Performing Arts | Aberdeen | 8 December 2018

Co-designed by Aberdeen's young people, Stepping In marked the re-opening of the city's redeveloped Music Hall and filled the A-listed building with performances, participatory opportunities and activities involving over 1,000 local young people in a fantastic celebration.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 #ScotArt

Underbelly | Edinburgh | 30 December 2018

The city's annual Torchlight Procession was enhanced through the delivery of a Scotland-wide engagement project, to bookend #ScotWord, that saw 14 large scale bespoke artworks created and then set alight as the fiery centerpiece for the culmination of the procession. Curated by young people to represent 14 regions of Scotland, the artworks were also exhibited on Edinburgh's Royal Mile in the days leading up to the end of the year and the finale of YoYP 2018.



Dundee Design Festival Presents... Photo: Alan Richardson



Executive summary

The organisers of each of the 49 funded events that took place across Scotland as part of the YoYP 2018 Signature and Open event programmes submitted detailed event outcome reports, addressing various aspects of event planning, programming and delivery. Key to each outcome report was the opportunity it afforded event organisers to highlight ways in which they had approached co-designing with young people, ways in which they had reached out to communities and embraced diversity, and ways in which they expected the experience of delivering their co-designed events to leave a lasting impact.

In addition to the 49 outcome reports, many event organisers and their partners, as well as young people themselves, submitted supplementary information and insight in the form of media reports, summaries, case studies, volunteer profiles, visual imagery, photographs and video footage. These were delivered to the EventScotland team and closely analysed from both a quantitative and qualitative perspective.

Although the detail provided varies from report to report, taken together the material provides a substantial body of evidence that clearly reflects not only the huge successes of YoYP 2018, but also the challenges addressed along the way – by event organisers and young people alike – and the opportunities that the learnings from the 2018 events programme will provide for the future.

This report reflects those successes, challenges and opportunities by addressing key thematic strands that emerged from the evidence provided and which, in turn, reflect the six themes and five key objectives (detailed in this report's introduction) of YoYP 2018. The report is structured into four sections, following the events programme journey from the start of the co-design process to the lasting impacts that it leaves.

THE CO-DESIGN JOURNEY provides insight into working with young people through a collaborative design process and explores issues around accommodating the needs of different age groups, providing supported autonomy and building both skills and confidence in a younger workforce. It also addresses opportunities to make participation in co-design more accessible and looks at the different ways in which the co-design process allowed young people to have their views heard and acted upon. Finally, this section highlights how working with young

people often opened the eyes of an older and more established workforce to new ways of seeing the world, of communicating, and of thinking from a younger perspective.

BUILDING KINDER COMMUNITIES takes a closer look at the ways in which young people approached the idea of reaching out to their communities, locally, regionally and nationally, and the imaginative and empathetic ways in which many young people who experience exclusion and isolation – due to disability, mental health, chaotic lifestyle, rural location or deprived circumstances – were supported to take part in YoYP 2018 as participants and performers.

FROM PARTICIPATION TO PERFORMANCE showcases the outstanding skills and talents of the many thousands of Scotland's young people who volunteered to deliver events and took part as performers in events the length and breadth of Scotland.

Finally, **LEAVING A LASTING IMPACT** explores how the YoYP 2018 events programme has made a positive and lasting impact on the lives of so many young people and also on the ways in which event organisers and their partners in industry plan to work collaboratively with young people in the future.

The overarching success of YoYP 2018 is clearly evidenced within this report. Yes, there are challenges to be addressed but there are also opportunities to be embraced and great outcomes already being delivered.





STATISTICAL

Highlights



£2.1M
events fund

110
events

supported by the Year of Young People 2018 Funded Events Programmes ('Signature', 'Open' and 'Create18')



Events hosted in **31** local authorities with all **32** engaged in activity.



979M
PR reach

A further **232** events signed up to be promoted through the YoYP 2018 partner programme

4,400+ young people involved in the co-design of funded events



756,000+
attendees to funded events

264,000+ young attendees to funded events



37,000+ young performers/ participants



8,700+ additional young delivery participants

The co-design journey

Co-design is a collaborative and participatory design process. In line with the given criteria for the events programme, event organisers and their partners provided young people with important planning roles with the aim of ensuring that, from the outset, their views were heard and acted upon – a fundamental and overarching objective for YoYP 2018.

For young people and event organisers alike, this was often the first time they'd worked in such a collaborative way and while learning to co-design effectively presented some challenges, it also delivered important success stories and revealed significant opportunities for the involvement of young people in all kinds of planning, decision-making and delivery, both for the events programme itself and in the future.

Organisers were provided with guidance on how to create meaningful opportunities for young people through the Co-design Blueprint, and some general top tips on how to engage with young people in event delivery. Led by Young Scot, the Blueprint was co-designed especially for YoYP 2018 in partnership with Children in Scotland and the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Thousands of young people, aged between 8 and 26 years, worked as co-designers across the 49

events that were supported through the Signature and Open funded programmes with thousands more involved in the delivery of events. This section of the report highlights key learnings from the co-design process across the following themes:

- 1.1 The journey from recruitment to retention
- 1.2 Breaking down barriers to participation
- 1.3 Thinking outside the room
- 1.4 Preparing the ground for growth
- 1.5 Age is more than a number
- 1.6 A free rein and a safety net
- 1.7 When enthusiasm meets experience
- 1.8 Collaboration breeds confidence
- 1.9 Digital fluency and the virtual handshake
- 1.10 Our choice, our voice
- 1.11 Seeing the world through younger eyes

At Your Leisure Photo: Eloi Teixido



The journey from recruitment to retention

Young people embraced the opportunity to engage in YoYP 2018 despite the many existing demands on their time. For the younger cohort in particular, finding time to take on a volunteer role, attend meetings and carry out additional tasks on top of lessons and lectures, homework and assignments, exams, family commitments and extra-curricular activities, was often challenging. For event organisers, the challenges lay not just in setting up a co-design team but in keeping their young co-designers engaged and motivated from planning to delivery.

Existence: Life and Beyond Photo: Edinburgh Science Festival



“It was far more challenging engaging with young people than we had thought it would be... those who initially showed interest in being part of a Steering Group didn’t always attend. On reflection, young people were interested in what we had to offer but they couldn’t always commit to the preparation work needed to deliver specific parts of Youth Urban Games even if they had agreed to do so.”

Event organiser, Youth Urban Games

Peer to peer

In common with other events such as Paisley Halloween Festival, and Electric Theatre Workshop’s Offski, young people being recruited by other young people (or, in the case of Youth Beatz by youth workers) was a successful approach that reflected the importance of being able to access youth networks to create interest and invite engagement, and also that young people are often more receptive to invitations to participate from their own peer groups.

Getting started...

A number of event organisers were fortunate in having a pre-engaged group of young people in place. The Glasgow Youth Film Festival, for example, is programmed by young people who are mentored on a year-round basis, so organisers had a ready-made ‘youth resource’ which they tapped into and then boosted by reaching out to the young audiences who attend their monthly screenings at the Glasgow Film Theatre. Similarly, the co-design team for Dreams for the Future was made up primarily of existing members of the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust’s Youth Forum. This young group rebranded themselves ‘The JMB Creatives’ for their three-day festival in Dumfries and took on responsibility for recruiting new members including at Youth Beatz, where they manned a ‘Welcome to Neverland’ stall.

For event organisers who didn’t have an existing involvement with young people, or those who were delivering a new event, recruitment required more planning and effort. An Lanntair, the organisers of Las!/Ignite!, consulted with young people across Lewis and Harris, approached local youth drop-in centres and also the area’s five art labs. At Your Leisure, produced by Ed Littlewood Productions and Room 2 Manoeuvre, adopted a broad-brush approach and made an open call for co-design volunteers via social media platforms, flyers distributed in local schools and community hubs, and through personal connections, recommendations and word of mouth. Perth & Kinross Council were engaging with young people in the co-design of major event delivery for the first time. Without a network in place, the team experienced some challenges in establishing and retaining a young cohort for the Diverse CiTay Festival.

“As a young person, I found committing to this challenging, as I also had to balance school and my life with working on the event.”

Young co-designer, Diverse CiTay Festival



Edinburgh’s Hogmanay 19 #ScotArt Photo: Ian Georgeson

... and keeping going!

Once co-design groups were established, the next challenge was keeping young people engaged and motivated. Event organisers addressed this in varying ways... and with varying degrees of success. Often the young people had their own ideas about how to keep motivated – Edinburgh International Film Festival’s The Young and the Wild team suggested providing drinks and snacks for their Production Essentials Now training scheme to make it more appealing. Edinburgh Science Festival adopted the same approach for Existence: Life and Beyond and also covered young co-designers’ travelling costs. Although the organisers of Youth Urban Games discovered that free pizza wasn’t enough to attract and retain volunteers, by moving from face-to-face meetings to online networking they increased engagement by adopting young people’s preferred methods of communication. For most co-design groups the experience was one that they not only committed to, but wanted to repeat, with many of the young co-designers of Edinburgh’s Hogmanay 18 #ScotWord returning to the team to co-design the Edinburgh’s Hogmanay 19 #ScotArt project a year later.

Incentives with added impact

Addressing practical issues like travel costs and refreshments was helpful, but adopting a strategic approach to incentivising was often more beneficial. Young Scot Reward Points, accreditations and awards that lasted beyond the event provided young people with additional motivation and focus to not only get involved but stay involved. The young co-designers of V&A Dundee’s 3D Festival, for example, were supported to work towards Saltire Awards accreditation and YouthLink Scotland’s Participative Democracy Certificate as part of their co-design experience while the co-designers of TEDxYouth@Glasgow benefitted by their involvement contributing towards their event management course at college.



Glasgow Trophy ATP Challenger Photo: Tennis Scotland

Breaking down barriers to participation

Finding ways to improve access and increase participation for all young people is key to creating an equal platform and giving everyone a voice through the co-design process.

Safety in (smaller) numbers

While the majority of event organisers considered various options to support the widest possible involvement of young co-designers, inevitably many experienced drop offs as the co-design process got underway. Often this was down to practical issues around availability, transport and other commitments and may reflect, to a certain extent, the challenges of working with any volunteer group whether they are young people or not. While losing members of their co-design team presented challenges to event organisers, it also raised valuable insights into the factors that need to be taken into account when working with young people as volunteers. A number of event organisers reported that they would, in the future, choose to work with smaller groups – often finding that once the initial drop off had taken place, they were left with a more focused and motivated group.

“This experience has made us focus on trying to make the activity that we deliver as inclusive and as accessible as possible. This has included working with youth workers and youth organisations to identify barriers to participation and working together to reduce those.”

Event organiser, Dundee Design Festival Presents...



Dundee Design Festival Presents... Photo: Erika Stevenson

Genuine inclusivity

In line with YoYP 2018 themes of equality and discrimination, health and wellbeing, and participation, a critical consideration for event organisers and young co-designers alike, was how to involve and engage the widest possible representation of young people in co-design teams. This meant making the co-design process as accessible as possible for young people living with disabilities, mental health issues or other barriers to participation – as well as reaching out to young people from minority or hard-to-reach groups and disadvantaged backgrounds.

For Existence: Life and Beyond

Edinburgh Science Festival created protected seats on their Youth Consultation Group for candidates from areas identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and also included a representative from Deaf Action on their advisory committee. Edinburgh International Festival provided support for people with autism, dyslexia and dyspraxia in the co-design group of their event, **Five Telegrams**, while the event organisers of the **Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival** were clear from the outset that they needed partners on board with a strong track record of working with young people experiencing mental health issues. Involving a Children, Families and Young People Manager from the Mental Health Foundation put them in a good position to co-design with as wide a community of young people as possible.

“Being involved in Paisley Halloween allowed me to have a completely new experience. I’ve made new friends and been able to socialise, which has increased my confidence. My biggest challenge was getting to the Youth Events Panel meetings but the staff from Disability Resource Centre supported me to attend.”

Young co-designer, Paisley Halloween Festival



Futureproof Photo: Pete Dibdin

Thinking outside the room

Undoubtedly, one of the biggest challenges facing event organisers was finding both the time and the place to assemble their young co-designers to plan and exchange ideas. Many discovered that traditional 'meetings' needed to be supplemented or even replaced with virtual solutions.



At Your Leisure Photo: Elói Teixido

“The first order of business was for youth panel members to decide upon the programme of dance companies that would perform as part of At Your Leisure. Initially, physical meetings were held but due to distances and various commitments, it was deemed that a private Facebook group would facilitate this task and further deliberations in an easier manner.”

Event organiser, At Your Leisure

Meeting in person

Across the events programme, the regularity and style of co-design meetings and workshops varied widely and this was due to a number of factors including the nature of the event, the size of the co-design group, the scope of ages involved, the distance that young people needed to travel and other demands on their time. For some events, the opportunity to meet in person on a regular basis simply wasn't an option, while for others it was a critical element of the co-design process and experience.

Scottish Youth Poetry Slam, for example, required only three face-to-face meetings before their event whereas the six young co-designers for **Generation Z** met regularly over a 19-month period. The co-design team for **V&A Dundee's 3D Festival** met every Thursday for a 14-month period and this resulted in such a coordinated strength of input that the event organisers extended the young people's role from co-curating the Saturday programme to co-curating the entire weekend programme.

Communicating virtually

Event outcome reports consistently reflect the value of holding traditional person-to-person meetings and workshops to create bonds of trust between all members of the co-design team and allow ideas to be worked through. However, for most events, using virtual channels to keep in touch, and sometimes to replace meetings where availability was at a premium, played a significant role and also reflected the preferences of the young people themselves.

The co-designers of **Generation Z**, in common with most of the co-design groups, made good use of digital and social media platforms to maintain communication, agree and assign tasks, check progress and sometimes replace face-to-face meetings. **IRONKIDS Scotland** and **Youth Urban Games** quickly established that their young co-designers were more comfortable meeting online than in person, while **Evolve Fest** and a number of other

events created closed Facebook groups to maintain contact. The organisers of **Öran Mòr @ Blas**, whose four young co-designers were divided by geography rather than commitment, timed their meetings carefully to maximise involvement and also made extensive use of Skype and phone conferencing to keep the group in touch.

Lucy's story

"I began working for the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust as an Administrative Assistant and being the only official 'young' employee, it was in the spirit of the 'Themed Year' to let my voice be heard right from the beginning. Overall, it was a hugely positive experience for me. I learned so much and really felt I developed professionally as I was constantly tackling new challenges and using the combined experiences of the team to come up with solutions. The JMB Creatives were a wonderful young group to work with, their enthusiasm was always infectious and our Thursday afternoon sessions were often the highlight of my week!"

Over the course of 2018 my confidence in my work grew hugely and by the end of the year I was much more comfortable holding meetings with partner organisations or artists, often taking the lead in these meetings. The skills I developed over the course of the year will be valuable in whichever field I work in in the future. I'm certain that the legacy from YoYP 2018 will continue for years to come at Moat Brae and I hope future generations will realise they're 'not young enough to know everything!'"

Lucy (26), YoYP 2018 Coordinator, Dreams for the Future

Preparing the ground for growth

Before co-design could begin, the process had to be understood, agreed and embedded. Setting ground rules and creating safe environments in which co-designers and event organisers could get to know each other, try out ideas and build confidence, helped to create a level playing field where everyone was seen as an equal partner.

Using tools to unlock creativity

Young people, at the start of the co-design process, often lacked both the confidence to speak out and the resources to work through ideas. To address this, organisers used the Young Scot Co-design Blueprint as well as bringing in tools of their own. **V&A Dundee's 3D Festival** used a range of visual tools and methodologies, including post-it notes and magazine cut outs, to allow young co-designers to share their ideas visually rather than verbally while they gained confidence and found their voice. The organisers of Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival's **OTHERLAND** – a festival within a festival – used LEGO Serious Play Methodology to arrive at a shared vision by giving every young person an equal opportunity to share and discuss their ideas.

“Make sure that realistic expectations are set out for young people at the start of projects to ensure that they can successfully achieve the desired outcomes expected of them. This should take account of their skills, experience, time available and other demands placed on them as volunteers.”

Event organiser, The Big Takeover - Shetland



TEDxYouth@Glasgow Photo: Ian Watson

Creating a safe and structured environment

For many of the younger people in co-design groups – and particularly more vulnerable young people – being allowed to voice opinions, make suggestions and come up with creative – even crazy – ideas was very different to their experiences at school or at home and a new concept to grasp. Additionally, organisers had to take into account that becoming part of a co-design team could be daunting to begin with. As a young co-designer for Aberdeen's **Stepping In** reflected: “Back in May, we had our first workshop introducing the project and there were a lot of people in attendance which made me quite nervous as I can be quite a shy person.”

Creating a safe environment – both physical and emotional – in which there were no rights and wrongs, just ideas to be discussed, was a fundamental starting point. **Scottish Youth Poetry Slam** organised workshops for their young co-designers, which ‘provided a safe environment for them to explore their creative potential and develop the skills they needed to enable self expression’. Similarly, the organisers of **Five Telegrams** ran rehearsals to allow confidence and skills to grow, providing a ‘safe pair of hands’ through a staff member as their co-designers found their feet, while **Evolve Fest** began with the clear premise of allowing their young co-designers ‘to have their voices heard in a safe and receptive environment’.

Highland Youth Arts Hub (HYAH), the event organisers of **LIVE!/BEØ!**, put a four-stage co-design process in place – co-designing, envisioning, testing and delivery – with their six co-designers, a



Evolve Fest Photo: RIC Arts

slightly older cohort ranging in age from 20 to 26. Although HYAH had previous experience of developing activities in consultation with young people, they recognised that co-design had to extend beyond consultation and focus on building and deepening an equal collaboration.



Dundee Design Festival Presents... Photo: Alan Richardson

Ground rules from the word go

From the outset, **V&A Dundee's 3D Festival** established clear ground rules for all co-designers:

- when developing an event concept, all ideas are valuable and worth exploring
- there are no ‘stupid’ questions
- everyone is entitled to express their opinion and be listened to
- if it isn't possible to deliver on a specific element, the event team will always give an honest answer as to why that decision had to be taken – no sugar-coating
- the co-design team needs to be open to a range of potential opportunities and solutions to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all

Age is more than a number

Working with 'young people' whose ages ranged from 8 to 26 years – basically, from children to adults – revealed widely varying levels of capability, experience and maturity. While many organisers chose to work with a narrower age group within the target 8 to 26 year old age bracket, others were more ambitious and found ways to work around the age gaps.

“Working with wider age groups and backgrounds allowed for a more diverse range of opinions to be shared.”

Event organiser, Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 #ScotArt



Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 #ScotArt Photo: Ian Georgeson



Evolve Fest 2018 Photo: RIG ARTS

Finding common ground

For many of the event organisers, working with young people as co-designers was a new and challenging prospect. In fact, according to one of the organisers of **Celebrate ART**, a visual arts programme in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Argyll & Bute: "It was absolutely terrifying!". While the older end of the 'young people' age spectrum may have had experience of working or taking responsibility to carry out tasks, this simply wasn't true for those at the younger end of the spectrum. Many of the participants and performers at the events represented the youngest people in the YoYP 2018 cohort – for example, **Social Bite's Wee Sleep Out** event was specifically aimed at 8-16 year olds – but co-designers were predominantly made up of the middle and older bands.

Many organisers felt that putting together such a wide age range into one group would be challenging for

everyone and addressed this in different ways. The Edinburgh Science Festival split their young co-designers for **Existence: Life and Beyond** into two separate age groups right at the beginning of the process, allowing them to freely express their views and build their confidence with other people of a similar age, before merging the older and younger groups together as one. Edinburgh's Hogmanay developed resource kits for different age groups for both **#ScotWord** and **#ScotArt**, while the event organisers of Aberdeen's **Stepping In** worked from the outset with a restricted middle age band of 13-18 year olds – a more naturally aligned age grouping. **Knight at the Castle**, on the other hand, for their 'after hours' event, focused on over 18s only.

“We present ourselves as a young organisation and we think of ourselves, as a staff body, as young. However, we realised that we are old! Of our 57 staff members, only 11 are under the age of 30 and only four are 25 years old or younger.”

Event organiser, Futureproof

Challenging perceptions around age

For some of the young co-designers, their own perceptions of age threw up challenges for the event organisers in the context of meeting YoYP 2018 objectives. The organisers of **Dundee Design Festival Presents...** for example, faced a tricky challenge as their young co-designers emphatically 'didn't want any special treatment' while National Theatre of Scotland (NTS) reported that their Youth Project Team for **Futureproof** felt that the word 'Youth' undermined their authority and position and wasn't a badge they felt comfortable with.

A free rein and a safety net

Involving young people in co-design and allowing them to take the lead in staging an event has to be managed in a sensitive and age-appropriate way. Organisers quickly realised that they needed to address the very different needs and expectations of the younger and older age bands and take into account their experience when assigning tasks and responsibilities.

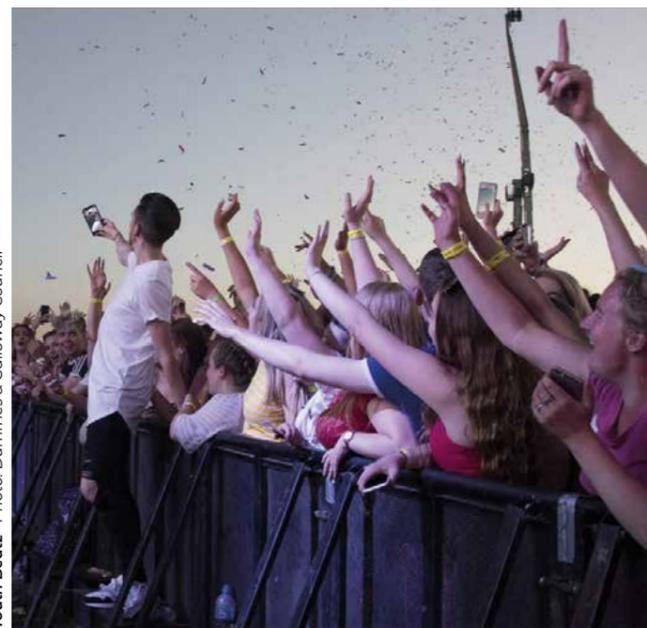


Photo: Youth Beatz Dumfries & Galloway Council

“We faced a few challenges throughout the year while working with young people – these really stem down to time management by the young people and we will be working to remain youth-led but offer firmer deadlines and more support going forward.”

Event organiser, Mining the Past, Facing the Future

“The experience of the Young People Project Team was, in equal parts, challenging and enlightening. The biggest learning we took from this inaugural group was the tension we discovered between giving people autonomy and supporting them with structure and facilitation.”

Event organiser, Futureproof

Graeme's story

“Joining the Junior Events Team was my first experience of youth work, having never attended a group previously. I had a lot of fun designing certain aspects of the event, and it was great to be involved in both days and also as part of the build week at Park Farm. Joining the team has really increased my confidence and shown me that this is something I would like to do as my career.”

Graeme (13), Young Co-designer, Youth Beatz

Providing supported autonomy

Allowing young people to ‘take the lead’ in project planning and delivery was a key objective of co-design but could be problematic in practice, particularly with those at the younger end of the age scale. The extent to which young people wanted to be given this kind of autonomy – or knew how to handle it – varied hugely. The YoYP 2018 coordinator for **Dreams for the Future** commented on the difficulty of getting young co-designers, primarily those under the age of 14, to take ownership of the Dumfries-based festival and turn their ideas into reality while the event organisers for **The Big Takeover - Shetland** highlighted the need to temper their expectations of young people to avoid placing them in situations that would overstretch them. The organisers of **TEDxYouth@Glasgow** too noted that getting some members of their co-design team to undertake actions at the start of the process was challenging and this was down to inexperience and a lack of confidence.

Assigning leadership roles

Many co-design groups either appointed their own young leaders from within the co-design team or event organisers, in line with their YoYP 2018 event proposals, recruited young leaders into paid roles. **Dreams for the Future**, for example, put in place a part-time, year-round, paid role for a YoYP 2018 Project Coordinator. **Las!/ignite!** appointed a Festival Coordinator who took over the chairing of the young co-designers’ meetings and assigned their members into sub-groups, based on existing skills and interests, allowing them to focus on specific aspects of event delivery rather than getting overwhelmed by how much there was to do. Both solutions worked well as they gave the rest of the young co-design group the opportunity



Photo: TEDxYouth@Glasgow Photo: Ian Watson

to be led by someone close enough to their own age to be considered a peer; gave the appointed leader the opportunity to gain valuable skills which they could take forward into their future career; and gave the event organisers the security of knowing that there was a responsible young person in charge.

How long have we got to decide?

A common thread revealed through the events programme reports was that working with young people – and again, particularly those at the younger end of the YoYP 2018 age range – significantly slowed down progress. This was revealed in the context of getting tasks accomplished on time and in making (and then sticking to) decisions. In common with many event organisers, the teams supporting **Generation Z. Mining the Past. Facing the Future** and **The Big Takeover - Shetland** all discovered that leaving the young people to make decisions by

themselves often didn’t work. Decision-making was hampered by a number of factors including practical issues such as communication being made by email rather than through meetings and not applying strict enough deadlines, to more emotional issues, such as lack of confidence. The resulting delays then impacted on the time left available to source and secure outside services, performers and contributors.

“Always build in more time and flexibility than you think for developing and running partnership projects, particularly where there are new partners, a range of organisations and geographical distance.”

Event organiser, Celebrate ART

When enthusiasm meets experience

Young co-designers consistently impressed event organisers and partners with their creativity. There was certainly no shortage of original thinking, but there was often a need for it to be harnessed and nurtured by experts with direct experience of working with young people.



Stepping In Photo: Richard Frew

“... although they were fantastic at coming up with lots of weird and wonderful ideas, they then needed a lot of support from the staff team to follow these through...”

YoYP 2018 Coordinator, Dreams for the Future



Mining the Past, Facing the Future Photo: Rob McDougall

Becky's story

“I had the amazing opportunity of working with Aberdeen Performing Arts and their Young Ambassadors course. The course offered a broad range of activities and different skills to learn and I also got to meet some very successful people working in the industry and bond with my fellow Young Ambassadors.”

The Young Ambassador course was a very valuable experience because it taught me some very useful skills such as advertising, photography and promotion. I also got to know this industry better as I got to experience the job myself by helping during the Music Hall's grand re-opening. This was such a fantastic day for me and my peers. The Music Hall looked so beautiful after its massive renovation and I loved helping out with different jobs as well. I'm very proud to say that I'm a Young Ambassador.”

Becky (14), Young Ambassador, Stepping In

Calling in the youth experts

While the event organisers of **Youth Beatz** were youth workers themselves, equipped with the expertise and experience to turn young people's ideas into focused activity, this simply wasn't the case for the majority of organisers. Many quickly spotted this gap during the co-design process and partnered with Young Scot to provide support through the Communic18 and YoYP 2018 Ambassadors network recruited by Young Scot for 2018 activity, while others closed the gap by bringing in additional expertise.

The initial co-design workshop in Glasgow for **Edinburgh's Hogmanay 18 #ScotWord**, for example, was facilitated by an education consultant with many years' experience in working with young people while the lead organisers of **TEDxYouth@Glasgow** also acted as mentors, providing support through practical skills and event planning training and also by nurturing ideas and encouraging creative thinking. By giving managed and appropriately supported responsibility to their young co-designers, the 'experts' successfully built self-confidence and trust within the groups.



STEM@TheHelix Photo: Falkirk Community Trust

Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and Youth Work Support Staff provided a critical link between the planning team for **The Big Takeover - Shetland** and their group of fifty YoYP 2018 ambassadors while the organisers of **Knight at the Castle** tapped into the skills of a number of youth-led organisations, working with Young Scot, Napier University and Impact Arts among others. In some cases, the experts were relatively close in age to the oldest cohort of 'young people' but the organisation of **Tiree Music Festival**, was supported by an individual who brought along 40 years' experience in teaching young people, as well as a huge commitment to promoting island culture and community.

Building capacity - and capability - through training

For many event organisers, there was not only a need to harness and direct young people's creative ideas but to build on their capabilities with specific training, ensuring there was capacity in place to deliver events successfully.



Codename F Photo: Edinburgh International Book Festival

The organisers of Findhorn Bay Festival engaged their young co-designers in a six-month programme of activities, mentoring and training to develop and enhance the range of skills required to stage their ambitious world premiere theatre production **The Buke of the Howlat**. Aberdeen Performing Art's **Stepping In** ran workshops on blogging, vlogging and social media engagement; on customer services, marketing and fundraising; and on programming and technical skills. As a result of this new skills set, their young co-designers were fully equipped to share their thoughts and views confidently with the relevant event partners who would be able to act upon them. In a similar vein, the organisers of **Orkney International Science Festival** delivered vocal coaching and training to instill confidence in public speaking and presenting ideas.

Sometimes it was the young people themselves who recognised the need for expert guidance. The young co-design team for **LIVE!/BEÓ!** asked to be given youth work training and then brought the principles they'd absorbed into their team management while National Mining Museum Scotland, who co-designed **Mining the Past, Facing the Future**, put their youth team through a focused Skills Development Programme, delivered by their own staff.

Collaboration breeds confidence

Co-design is, by its very nature, a collaborative process. Event organisers who adopted a genuinely collaborative approach, working with young people from the outset and involving them in all stages of planning, saw young people grow in confidence, move out of their comfort zones and achieve things that they wouldn't previously have thought possible.

“ *Becoming involved in a co-design team can give young people a sense of purpose and belonging, in turn increasing their confidence and self-esteem as a result of feeling a sense of ownership and responsibility.* **”**

Event organiser, Youth Beatz

Collective ownership

Largely as a result of working collaboratively, young co-design groups developed a clear sense of ownership of their event, shouldering responsibility and showing unwavering commitment to carrying out tasks above and beyond their remit. Many also assumed a more literal sense of ownership early on by changing their name from a generic 'youth panel' title to something more considered and personal with the youth team for **Las! Ignite!** becoming 'Board not Bored'.

Working as one team

In common with the majority of events, **Edinburgh's Hogmanay 18 #ScotWord** and **19 #ScotArt. Futureproof. Glasgow Youth Film Festival** and **Five Telegrams**, put collaboration at the heart of their co-design process, building it with and around the young people. This was not simply about ensuring that their young co-designers were listened to and respected, but about validating their ideas, introducing them to the concept of teamwork with their co-design peers and allowing them to work as equals with event organisers and partners. Event outcome reports consistently reveal that young people who were supported to work as a team benefitted by:

- learning how to listen to, and respect, other people's views
- understanding how their actions impacted on other people
- putting ideas forward in a safe environment
- sharing a common goal
- gaining a sense of ownership of their event.

For many of the young people, this collaborative approach was not only central to their enjoyment of the experience, but will impact on their future lives. As one **TEDxYouth@Glasgow** co-designer commented: "... this has made me more aware of how I interact with other people, how I treat them, the impact that I can have on both other people and the world in general..." – a sentiment echoed by one of the young co-designers for **Stepping In**: "My confidence has increased greatly from being part of the Music Hall Ambassadors, this will now help me throughout life."

Look what we can do!

The creativity that emerged through collaboration was astounding and event organisers who had initially approached co-design with some degree of trepidation found themselves

“Through working with young people from all corners of Scotland on the delivery of the #ScotWord project, we have developed a greater understanding of, and respect for, Scotland's young people. The articulacy, skills, confidence and commitment shown by the #ScotWord champions have been hugely impressive.”

Event organisers, Edinburgh's Hogmanay 18 #ScotWord

continually impressed as the confidence and creativity of their young co-designers grew before their eyes. National Mining Museum Scotland commented that the **Mining the Past, Facing the Future** event was so creative in its execution, they would never have managed to host an exhibition like it without the input of their youth panel. This view was echoed by many in the event outcome reports.



Paisley Halloween Festival Photo: Elaine Livingstone

Lauren's story

“It was hugely rewarding for myself and the YPG [Young Promoters Group] to see the event come together. This was months of hard work to create an amazing event that people talked about with great fondness.

In addition to my work on the High Street Takeover I was also responsible for giving the opening address at the Launch of the Festival. For me, this was a massive deal, because I am not fond of speaking in front of others. All of the YPG know that I am nervous about public speaking, so it was rewarding for me to be able to show them that anything is possible by giving the opening address.

The Festival as a whole was incredible for the YPG with a lot of them getting out to see things that they had never thought of seeing before. This was rewarding for me to be able to see them grow and I felt privileged to have been able to work on the events.”

Lauren (19), Chair of the Young Promoters Group, STAGE IT for Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival



STAGE IT Photo: CT Productions

Digital fluency and the virtual handshake

One of the key contributions that young people made to the co-design process was their confident approach to embracing and embedding digital communications and social media in their working and delivery models to increase reach and connect events to new audiences. Often the young co-designers opened event organisers' eyes to new ways of communicating with audiences of the future by adapting and evolving marketing and PR strategies to reach a younger demographic.

“Social media sites were buzzing with posts from DGYPG [Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival’s Young Promoters Group] and YoYP 2018 as a small army of young people added photographs, commentary and videos from the day on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.”

D&G Life Magazine, July 2018 on STAGE IT for Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival



STEM at the Helix

Creating virtual communities

On a daily basis, young people make confident use of digital platforms to manage friends and followers. Most have their own extensive virtual networks on Instagram, Twitter, SnapChat, Whatsapp, Messenger and Facebook and are quick to try out and adopt new media solutions. Perhaps unsurprisingly, throughout the co-design process for the events programme, young teams made significant use of their digital fluency. The young co-designers of **Edinburgh’s Hogmanay 18 #ScotWord** used their own social networks to encourage participation from other young people, reaching the length and breadth of Scotland, while **Social Bite’s Wee Sleep Out** extended the event’s reach through use of the young co-designers’ social media channels as well as those of partner organisations.



Generation Z Photo: Mike Scott Photography

Staging a digital takeover

As planning progressed into performance, many of the young co-design teams – including those for **The Glasgow Trophy ATP Challenger**, **Five Telegrams** and **Stepping In** – staged a ‘takeover’ of the event organisers’ Instagram channels to promote or report on their event. **Existence: Life and Beyond** staged two social media takeover days to promote their Escape the Fake event while one of the young co-designers for **Scottish Youth Poetry Slam** led on using

Julie’s story

“TEDxYouth@Glasgow has had a great impact on me. I feel a lot more knowledgeable about conference events and understand the hard work involved. Being part of the youth team has had a positive impact on my confidence and has motivated me to plan and organise more events in the future, to always say ‘yes’ and to get involved in any event opportunities that come my way. It has inspired me to work harder and showed me that I am capable of achieving more if I put my mind to it.

My confidence has improved greatly. I have been on the radio, spoken on stage to over 2,000 people, led a team of volunteers and carried out a number of presentations. All of these aspects of organising an event have encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone.

I definitely think that volunteering at TEDxYouth@Glasgow has made me more employable. I can now list the skills and knowledge I have gained from the event and you wouldn’t necessarily gain those through theory work.”

Julie (24), Young Co-designer, TEDxYouth@Glasgow

social media platforms to share stories, poems and music and to live-stream videos. Edinburgh International Festival reported a 47% increase in followers aged between 13 and 17 years during the build up to and performance of **Five Telegrams**, thanks to the digital diligence of their co-design team, and specifically their young Marketing Intern.

Although some event organisers were unsure of youth takeovers of main channels – particularly where youth-led pages or channels were created but failed to gain traction from existing followers – in the main, event organisers found the confident approach of young people beneficial as it helped them to branch out from more traditional methods of engagement.

“The youth events panel also generated engaging content for our online channels, including blogs, posts and videos, having the opportunity to speak out on things that mattered to them. They performed on camera and behind the scenes at our photo and video calls and recorded the advert that went out on Capital FM, shaping how the event was promoted. They featured heavily on our ‘Paisley.is’ channels, generating significant reach and engagement.”

Event organiser, Paisley Halloween Festival

Our choice, our voice

Allowing young people to take the lead in co-designing meant that their choices were reflected through programmed content across the widest possible range of arts, culture, science and sporting events. This helped to ensure that young people's choices and voices were heard by key influencers in Scotland's industries as well as by government and council representatives.

“Young people have evidenced that they know best exactly what young people would like from a festival. How best to make it inclusive as well as fun. It was a huge success because of the involvement of young people at every stage – from co-design to delivery.”

Event organiser, OTHERLAND



The Buke of Howlat at Findhorn Bay Festival. Photo: Paul Campbell

This is what matters to us

How young people exercised their freedom of choice was revealed in different ways and reflected in the vast scope of activities and presentations, performers and performances, topics and issues covered through the events programme over the course of 2018.

For **Dundee Design Festival Presents...** it meant a free reign for young people to choose their own topics for the 'Pecha Kucha' night while for the co-designers of **IRONKIDS Scotland**, it meant curating an event that young people could participate in, with cultural activities introduced to draw in a wider group of participants. However, perhaps even more importantly, being given a choice around programming also provided an opportunity to raise and tackle issues of critical importance to young people. **TEDxYouth@Glasgow** focused their entire day's programme around mental and physical health and wellbeing and **Las!/gnite!** too developed a Creative Symposium and a day programmed around mental health.

For **STAGE IT**, the elements of the main Dumfries & Galloway Art Festival programmed by the young co-designers included theatre work that explored the effects of pornography on young people. **KIN: Branching Out** – an element of the **Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival** – allowed young people to explore and share the impact of members of their family being imprisoned while **PACE Theatre & Create Paisley's Write Here Write Now**, a new Young Writers Festival, allowed aspiring young writers from across Scotland to share their thoughts on what it was like to be a young person in 2018 through plays, monologues, songs and poetry. **Freedom to be Heard**, a drop-in event for **Codename F** at the Edinburgh International Book Festival,



Codename F. Photo: Edinburgh International Book Festival

specifically looked at challenging the preconceptions that older people have about younger people. The eloquence and confidence of the young participants at this event caused one school librarian to comment that the project gave her 'a new insight into pupils I thought I knew'.

Influencing the influencers

Giving young people a platform to have their views heard and acted upon was a central objective of YoYP 2018 and, over the course of the year, thousands of young people had the opportunity to publicly share their views and add their voice to conversations with key influencers.

The young co-designers of **Glasgow Youth Film Festival** took part in an event organised by Film Hub Scotland where they addressed an audience of key film industry representatives on how best to engage young people in cinema and also took part in interviews for local and national press as well as radio. The organisers of **Codename F** gave their co-design group a creative voice in one of the world's largest and most renowned book festivals – the Edinburgh International Book Festival – while the co-design team for **Diverse CiTay** had the opportunity to raise local issues with the Provost of Perth & Kinross. Meeting key industry figures encouraged the co-designers of Edinburgh International Film Festival's **The Young & the Wild** to feel that they had 'a place at the table' while

young co-designers for **Youth Beatz** had the opportunity to meet and share their views with Maree Todd, Scottish Government Minister for Children and Young People and Richard Leonard, Scottish Labour Leader.

Three young members of the **Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards**, as part of the judging panel, met and discussed their YoYP 2018 experiences with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Elma Murray OBE (Chair of the Young Scot board) and Jamie Hepburn, MSP. The young co-designers for **The Regenerators** project, working with Glasgow International Festival of Contemporary Visual Art, attended several events where they discussed their involvement in the project and met many key figures in the city including Glasgow's Lord Provost; the Director of Glasgow International; Fiona Hyslop, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; and a leader from Glasgow City Council. Four of the young people also presented a photo exhibition of the project and gave a talk on their experiences as part of YoYP 2018 at Citizen M in Glasgow.

Through this experience of being exposed to key industry leaders, many young people made important connections with influential organisations such as DF Concerts & Events, Underbelly, Edinburgh International Festival and the National Theatre of Scotland. In turn, those organisations displayed an admirable willingness to open their doors and their minds to a younger generation of influencers.

Seeing the world through younger eyes

Promoting better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations was a key objective of YoYP 2018. While young co-designers benefited hugely from working as equals with the older generation, the impact on the 'grown ups' was just as significant; the majority gained a new-found understanding of the issues which affect young people, as well as respect for their views, capabilities and sheer professionalism.

“ *The importance of hearing a young voice was reinforced by our YoYP 2018 involvement this year. The young people helped to plan, shape and deliver the event. They brought new ideas and vibrancy to the event. They interacted with kindness and patience with an older generation and both sides of the generation divide benefited from the interaction. The entire event was a two-way process.* **”**

Event organiser, The Royal National Mòd



The Buke of Howlat at Findhorn Bay Festival Photo: Graeme Roger

Ruth's story

“Coming from Forres and having just finished my degree in set construction, it was brilliant to come back home and use my skills to help put on a show that is very important to me and my hometown.

During this production I gained new skills as well as developing existing ones. I found a new level of respect for the amount of work that goes into the scheduling for a community cast and I learned a lot about outdoor events. I gained confidence in my knowledge of building and was able to give some good ideas and solutions. Being involved in this production has definitely given me so many benefits. I've met wonderful people, worked on a fantastic show, learned how to deal with certain situations and worked in a team to bring something that people love together. It reminded me why I started theatre in the first place – it was pretty special.”

**Ruth (23), Carpenter and Assistant Stage Manager,
The Buke of Howlat at Findhorn Bay Festival**



Glasgow Youth Film Festival Photo: Stuart Crawford

Room for new views

While event organisers had to maintain a balance between progressing ideas proposed by young people and maintaining a realistic grip on budgets and professional experience, the majority acknowledged that young co-designers brought issues and ideas to light that they may not have considered themselves. The organisers of **The Royal National Mòd** reported positively on their co-designers both 'challenging and invigorating' the established organisers who had been involved with the event for a number of years. The organisers of **Diverse CiTay Festival**, in common with many others, appreciated not only the fresh ideas that younger people brought to the table but the fact that they could tell the organisers what mattered most to their generation and, as such, how to engage better with younger audiences. For **Knight at the Castle**, the idea of creating the very popular 'escape room'

event was one that may not have come to light without younger input, while a member of the **Futureproof** young co-design team made a fascinating presentation on how marketing could be made more appealing to people who don't think theatre is for them; this included presenting more matinee performances to appeal to people like his nana and her friends who don't like being out late at night!

A community of trust and respect

Working across the generations, older and younger people alike discovered how to develop trust and respect for each others' views and experiences. **LIVE!BE0!** events took place in venues not normally used for youth events and opened the young co-designers' eyes to the fact that respected cultural organisations are ready and willing to support young people with an interest

“The result is a truly co-operative and intergenerational experience that brings about better understanding between and across the age groups involved.”

Event organiser, The Buke of Howlat

in arts and culture. Findhorn Bay Arts, the organisers of **The Buke of Howlat**, reported that through the co-design process 'a deeper intergenerational understanding was formulated', allowing young people to make new connections at the same time as being heard and respected by the older generation – the organisers believe this will encourage future youth engagement in community activities. Similarly, **Tiree Music Festival** commented on the trust that was shown by the longer-term members of the festival in committing an entire stage and community programme to the YoYP 2018 project and acknowledged that this was crucial to creating a sense of responsibility in their young co-design team. On a very practical level, the organisers of **V&A Dundee's 3D Festival** showed respect for their co-design team's integrity by sharing highly confidential information and were consequently impressed that not one word was leaked out.



Dreams for the Future Photo: Colin Hattersley

“The experience of working with young people through this project has highlighted the concerns, worries, perspectives and preferences of young people. If we want to be a go-to organisation for young people, we must create opportunities for them to be involved at every level of our business.”

Event organiser, Futureproof

Building kinder communities

Addressing equality and discrimination was one of the key themes of YoYP 2018 and event organisers were encouraged to support young people to play a lead role in challenging discrimination in all its forms. As part of the event outcome reporting, organisers were asked to demonstrate where and how their events had both engaged with and encouraged participation from local communities and diverse and excluded groups.

Although the community and diversity story starts with the co-design process and is addressed in 1.2 *Breaking down barriers to participation*, this section sheds light on the specific ways in which events reached out to their own and wider communities and sought to be as inclusive as possible for young people from deprived, disruptive and disadvantaged backgrounds; young people facing isolation or exclusion; young people dealing with physical or mental health challenges; young people who are homeless or have refugee status; and young people experiencing barriers or perceived barriers to participation due to issues around their sexuality, gender or ethnicity.

- 2.1 Reaching out to communities
- 2.2 Participation through accessibility
- 2.3 Engaging with the disengaged
- 2.4 No room for discrimination



Social Bite's Wee Sleep Out Photo: Stewart Attwood

Reaching out to communities

Community engagement was a key factor for the YoYP 2018 events programme and encouraged young people to participate in activities that allowed them to mix with other groups in their own communities who they may not have come into contact with before. It also encouraged an understanding of the wider sense of community and a removal of both geographical and social barriers for younger and older generations alike.

“Early research into the festival showed that we reach a high number of people in lower income areas. This is largely due to our community-led programming approach – we engage with communities all over Scotland, ensuring that work is led by the communities that it takes place in, wherever possible.”

Event organiser, Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival



Dundee Design Festival Presents... Photo: Erika Steverson

Thinking beyond geography

Some events focused on reaching out to their own, immediate communities. At **Your Leisure** concentrated on engaging with young people in the City of Edinburgh and East Lothian while **LIVE!/BEÒ!**, holding pre-event workshops in various venues across the Highlands, sought to create a sense of unity in a region with a scattered population. With a third of attendees reporting that they'd heard about the festival because they knew young people involved, this approach helped to both engender close community ties and unite different age groups in the area.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay 18 #ScotWord, on the other hand, reached out to a much wider community of young people, inviting participation right across the nation. Workshops held with youth groups in schools and universities, libraries and community centres, the length and breadth of Scotland as well as extensive use of digital and social media platforms, resulted in the successful engagement of over 2,600 young people in 28 of Scotland's 32 local authority areas before the event itself. For **#ScotArt**, Edinburgh's Hogmanay sought to artistically represent all of Scotland's young people through the creation of the artworks and fiery map at the Torchlight Procession – a symbol of a collective national youth voice and a united youth community.

At **OTHERLAND**, Rockskool – a youth group put together to reduce isolation in rural Lochaber – ran an empowerment workshop where the young people leading the sessions related directly to young people attending, making it feel much more inclusive. ConFAB, the organisers of

OTHERLAND Photo: Dylan Morrison Photography



“The fact that it was free, as well as in my local area, was a massive help and I felt I could be part of something I loved without the usual worry of costs and how much my parents would have to spend.”

Participant, Offski

Scottish Youth Poetry Slam also aimed to build closer community ties in rural locations, engaging with young people living in rural poverty in Moffat and the Highlands and Islands while the organisers of **Futureproof** began with the aim of 'reaching communities rural, remote, neglected by cultural provision and non-traditional', taking one of their productions to Unst, one of Scotland's most remote rural communities.

Addressing rural restrictions

The **Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 #ScotArt** project revealed that young people were clearly aware of the need to spread activity widely and although it wasn't always the easiest option, they

chose to take workshops to more rural areas. A creative project at Templar Arts & Leisure Centre in Tarbert, delivered through **Celebrate ART**, provided a rural area with a high quality visual arts experience, otherwise unavailable to aspiring young artists. Similarly, HYAH co-designers delivered **LIVE!/BEÒ!** events in their own towns and communities across the Highlands, resulting in a real sense of regional 'coming together'. Because rural areas, in particular, can be poorly served by public transport, removing barriers to participation due to transport issues was key for many organisers. **LIVE!/BEÒ!** in common with **Òran Mòr @ Blas** and **The Big Takeover – Shetland**, allocated budget to cover transport and access costs.

Ella's story

“As a proud islander who bucked the trend by moving back to the island after graduating, I was excited to represent my generation and our island's talents. In keeping with the motivations behind Scotland's Year of Young People, Las!/Ignite! provided a platform to showcase the amazing talents of young people while challenging stereotypes about the younger generation. The theme of our festival was 'Change' and we wanted to celebrate how innovation and technology are changing our world for the better, and connecting rural communities like ours with the rest of the world.”

Ella (23), Festival Coordinator, Las!/Ignite!

Participation through accessibility

Adopting a community-led approach to event programming and participation is not only about breaking down geographical barriers, but about recognising the many other barriers to participation that young people in our communities face, and then addressing these to ensure that groups facing different challenges are supported to participate.



Edinburgh's Hogmanay 18 #ScotWord
Photo: Ian Georgeson

“The project deliberately targeted educational and social disadvantage, crossing traditional barriers by using fun, youth culture elements to nurture language and literacy and to engage young people in literature and culture and upskill them with creative ways to manage mental health. We particularly targeted young people who were struggling to engage due to a range of barriers including disability, deprived economic and social backgrounds and poor literacy skills as well as LGBTQI and BAME young people and young people with attitudinal barriers.”

Event organiser, Scottish Youth Poetry Slam

A positive mental health attitude

From co-design through to participation and performance, event organisers addressed the needs of young people dealing with mental health issues that could compromise participation – these ranged from anxiety, depression and low self-esteem to conditions such as ADHD and ASD – and also young people with complex additional support needs. Adopting an inclusive approach ensured that as many young people as possible were given the opportunity to take part, share their experiences and have their voices heard.

Access all areas

Young people living with physical disabilities often face challenges in participation that can be down to simple practical issues. **Paisley Halloween Festival** had two young people from the Disability Resource Centre in their co-design group who were able to share what their experience of an event is like, addressing everything from specially equipped toilet facilities to event timings. Organisers of **The Glasgow Trophy ATP Challenger** made physical accessibility a key consideration throughout their five-day event and also celebrated the achievements of young people living with a disability through a demonstration by a young wheelchair tennis player. **Knight at the Castle** similarly demonstrated that perceived disability need not be a barrier to participation with a stunning performance by a young musician with Down's Syndrome and event programming for **Dreams for the Future** included a performance of *Staged!* by young people with additional learning needs. This not only

gave them a platform but also supported them to complete the Dumfries Arts Award, which in turn contributed towards future UCAS applications. Many events also live-streamed performances to ensure that they reached young people for whom access was a barrier.

Closing the deprivation gap

Most events, including **Existence: Life and Beyond**, **Dundee Design Festival Presents...** and **Glasgow Comic Con** as well as **Futureproof**, **Findhorn Bay Festival** and **D&G Arts Festival** made participation as accessible as possible through practical means such as discounted (often 50% off for under 26 year olds) or free tickets and assistance with transport. However, addressing barriers to participation caused by deprivation perhaps needs to begin earlier in the engagement process by finding ways to reach young people challenged by their background and circumstances. **The Glasgow Trophy ATP Challenger** engaged with 13 local primary schools (seven of which fell into the 20% bracket of the most deprived areas in Scotland) to address preconceptions of tennis being an elite sport. Edinburgh International Festival's **Five Telegrams** made contact with a total of 74 groups in five broad target areas identified through the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and held meet-up sessions at nine community groups to encourage participation and an interest in culture.

Financial incentives alone were often not enough to encourage participation and **The Big Takeover - Shetland** reported that while 230 young people took up the offer of free membership to attend all events (an offer based on being in receipt of Clothing Grants or an Education Maintenance Allowance)

Dreams for the Future Photo: Colin Hattersley



this still only represented 50% of the free memberships available. Similarly, **Paisley Halloween Festival** experienced a small drop off in attendance from young people in areas of multiple deprivation who they had thought were engaged and committed. For young people in more deprived areas, with differing needs and priorities, financial support on its own was simply not enough to drive engagement.

“... the planning group reached out to organisations such as *Disability Shetland* to consult on our programme and ensure our offer was inclusive... an example of the outcome of these discussions was the inclusion of a dedicated *Additional Support Needs (ASN)* session at the *Inflatable Extravaganza* and relaxed film screening at *Mareel*. These changes allowed participants to take part in activity within environments that were customised for their needs.”

Event organiser, The Big Takeover - Shetland

Seven steps to accessibility

Glasgow International Comedy Festival's School of Stand-Up encouraged participation by ensuring:

- their venue was well serviced by bus and subway with ample free parking
- their venue was fully accessible with gender neutral toilet facilities
- the festival offered travel reimbursement of up to £5 per event
- workshops were free to participate in
- complimentary tickets and discount codes were provided for the showcase event
- participants could choose the workshop tutor whose approach suited them best
- workshops were promoted via digital campaigns to reach a wider audience

Engaging with the disengaged

Young people can become disengaged from society for various reasons with both physical and emotional issues making it hard for them to participate. Addressing the complex and often multi-layered issues around disengagement meant that event organisers had to develop solutions that addressed a number of different factors, often at the same time.

“All three of our projects welcomed a range of participants, some of whom came from challenging or chaotic backgrounds or had mental health problems. Participants required (and were provided with) a lot of support to enable them to attend and maintain attendance at the sessions.”

Event organiser, Celebrate ART



Futureproof Photo: Tim Morozzo



IRONKIDS Scotland Photo: Huw Fairclough

Adopting an inclusive approach

Across the events programme, organisers and young co-designers alike showed insight and empathy in recognising and reaching out to as many groups as possible. Co-designers for **Òran Mòr @ Blas** networked with a number of charities as well as the Highland Council Social Care Team and Highland Migrant & Refugee Advocacy (HiMRA) to distribute a total of 211 free tickets to young people from hard to reach and socially disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition, they provided work experience for young people faced with exclusion due to disruptive home lives. Within its co-design group of 28 young people, **Paisley Halloween Festival** had representation from key high deprivation data zone areas, as well as Renfrewshire Young Carers, to introduce new perspectives on supporting young people with different needs. **Knight at the Castle** worked with a group of 'referred young people' through their Impact Arts Project while **Scottish Youth Poetry Slam**

engaged with groups of young people excluded from the school environment as well as groups of young accommodated people.

Dundee Design Festival Presents... took forward a variety of initiatives focused on inclusivity, equality and access as one of their main aims was to proactively target communities in Dundee who would not normally engage with the city's UNESCO City of Design designation. From the earliest stages of the project, a team member invested time in researching hard to reach groups and visiting them in their communities to talk about the project and excite their interest in taking part. As a result, the event's participating groups included:

- groups from areas of multiple deprivation
- city-wide organisations working with hard to reach young people
- groups representing diversity.

“I think the biggest challenge is the belief in people that they can do it. With ‘Motion’, the challenge was getting these young men to believe that they could make a show from scratch and that people would want to hear what they’ve got to say. It’s also about getting them to see that theatre is the start of a longer journey for them and that their voices are there to be used.”

Co-artistic director of Glas(s) Performance who created *Motion* with young men from HMYOI, Polmont

“Being involved in the project, and performing, it’s taken away the boredom that gets you into trouble here and on the outside. I never saw myself doing anything like this. It’s right out of my comfort zone but then that’s helped me to be more confident. I’m more wacky too. It’s just really helped me come out my shell and I don’t feel as angry anymore.”

Young participant from HMYOI Polmont, Futureproof

Changing lives through positive engagement

The event organisers of Futureproof worked with a group of young men detained at Her Majesty's Young Offenders Institution (HMYOI) Polmont, using theatre as a way of encouraging them to believe in themselves, work with each other through trying new things and opening up new opportunities for a more positive future. Their production of *Motion* was transformative for many of the young men who took part and reflected the positive outcome of many of them engaging, for the first time, in a new and collaborative experience.

No room for discrimination

Discrimination comes in many guises and was explored through initiatives that addressed the many issues that young people in Scotland often deal with on a daily basis. For young co-designers, participants and performers – as well as event organisers – it was an opportunity to find commonalities within perceived differences and build pathways to kinder, more tolerant communities.



Write Here Write Now Photo: Write Here Write Now

Thinking beyond the comfort zone

For almost 5,000 young participants in Social Bite's Wee Sleep Out, sacrificing a night away from the comfort of their own beds not only helped to raise awareness of homelessness in Scotland, but encouraged them to think about the causes and effects of homelessness and communicate their feelings to their communities and audiences at the four mass Sleep in the Park events delivered across Scotland, with great vision and passion.



Paisley Halloween Festival Photo: Elaine Livingstone

“I feel that my participation in Wee Sleep Out has made a positive impact on the future of our society and the way that young people will think about themselves and others.”

Young co-designer, Social Bite's Wee Sleep Out

“At the Tayside workshop, #ScotArt brought together a local LGBT Youth Group, two groups of local High School pupils, and HOPE – a group of 12 young Syrian refugees. The group from HOPE had a fantastic time and ended up taking a day trip to Edinburgh to see the sculptures displayed on the Royal Mile.”

Event organiser, Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 #ScotArt



Stepping In Photo: Alastair Robb

Embedding acceptance and understanding

The majority of events aimed to positively include and support young people who could be at risk of discrimination due to their sexuality, gender or ethnicity. **Dundee Design Festival Presents...** specifically moved the focus of their parade away from the 'typical UNESCO audience' and reached out early to young people from LGBTQI and BAME groups while **Diverse CiTay** had representation from Pink Saltire and Show Racism the Red Card at their wellbeing village. **Youth Beatz** not only used their event to explore issues around sexuality and gender, but provided advice and support during the planning stages for volunteers, and at the event for participants, performers and attendees.

Young people identifying as LGBTQI were well represented through **Write Here Write Now**, as were those from different ethnic backgrounds, all of whom were given a platform to have their voices and views heard. The *Full Colour* project, delivered as part of **Glasgow Comic Con**, supported a group of young people of colour to create their first comic. This was launched at an exhibition in Glasgow's The Lighthouse where key industry guests were, themselves, all people of colour – this encouraged the young participants, particularly those from more challenging socio-economic backgrounds, to see a future for themselves in the creative and comic industries, regardless of their ethnicity or social circumstances.

In Glasgow, Graphic Design Festival Scotland specifically targeted organisations involved with diverse and excluded groups for their **Young & Powerful** Poster Competition. In addition to reaching out to schools and organisations for young people with complex additional support needs and challenging behaviours, they invited participation from a number of groups specifically working with refugee families living in Scotland. With 'Celebrate Equality' as one of the six topics suggested for poster themes, this provided an ideal platform for young people arriving in Scotland under traumatic circumstances to share their experiences.

From participation to performance

Two of the key objectives of YoYP 2018 focused on showcasing the amazing talents of young people and providing opportunities for young people to express themselves through culture, sport and other activities.

While over 4,400 young people participated in co-design and over 8,700 took on additional delivery roles for funded events, over 37,000 young people also took part as performers and in parades and sporting events, with in excess of 264,000 young people attending as spectators or visitors. This represented a substantial involvement of Scotland's young people across YoYP 2018 events.

In this section, we explore the positive impact of taking part in YoYP 2018 for the many young volunteers who worked on event planning and delivery and on the young people who took

part in events as performers and participants. With roles ranging from branding and marketing to technical support, and from performing on stage to aerial gymnastics, the world was truly a stage for the young people who played their part in the events programme.

3.1 Going above and beyond

3.2 Playing our part



Aberdeen Standard Investments Opening Event: Five Telegrams Photo: Ryan Buchanan

Going above and beyond

The volunteering opportunities available for young people as part of the YoYP 2018 events programme were staggering in their breadth and depth. What was equally staggering was the appetite displayed by young people to not only embrace the tasks assigned to them, but to extend their roles and responsibilities, consistently impressing event organisers and partners with their enthusiasm, commitment, skills and professionalism.

“A total of 54 young people were involved in shadowing roles connected with advertising, sound and light production, event management, security, technical production, video screen management, presentation, photography, videography and post-gig clear up.”

Event organiser, Òran Mòr @ Blas



Photo: Brian Sweeney, Sweeneypix

Bruce's story

“Returning to the Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 team after last year's experience on #ScotWord allowed me to further develop various skills, taking on a role of greater responsibility and independence.

I've highly enjoyed being part of YoYP 2018, being at the centre of the opening and closing projects, and the opportunity has been incredible for personal development and career advancement. I believe that young people were given a truly unique opportunity through #ScotArt to both express their voice on a huge scale and to engage creatively with art and their region. I witnessed young people grow in confidence and be inspired throughout the workshops”.

Bruce (24), YoYP 2018 Coordinator,
Edinburgh's Hogmanay 18 #ScotWord and 19 #ScotArt

What's my role?

Although participating in YoYP 2018 as a co-designer, participating as a volunteer, and participating as a performer were viewed as separate opportunities, they were certainly not mutually exclusive and a common thread running through event reports reveals that many young people extended their co-design role into delivery and performance too. One young co-designer for **Paisley Halloween Festival**, for example, recorded a radio advert, took part in a photo call, created a hash tag for the event and then went on to design props, help with face-painting and perform in the parade. This willingness to take part not only reflects the deep sense of ownership and commitment that young people felt towards the event they were involved in as co-designers, but displays an admirably flexible and ‘can do’ attitude.

The opportunities for participation as a volunteer were not limited to the co-design group and varied widely according to the nature of the event itself. Roles ranged from technical support for cultural events to stewardship for sporting events.

However, one of the most popular opportunities for young volunteers was in the PR and marketing of events. Here, participation ranged from taking part in radio interviews, writing articles, press releases and blogs, creating event branding and flyers, and producing videos to staging social media takeovers as highlighted in *1.9 Digital fluency and the virtual handshake*.

Standing on the shoulders of giants

Participating in the YoYP 2018 events programme brought many young volunteers into contact with professionals, allowing them to make valuable connections and also benefit from industry experience and expertise. Participants in **Write Here Write Now** had the opportunity to work with playwrights Douglas Maxwell and Alan Bissett; participants of **Stepping In** worked with Scottish songwriter, Findlay Napier; and participants in **Five Telegrams** worked alongside Anna Meredith, one of the country's most exciting contemporary composers. Volunteers at **The Glasgow Trophy ATP Challenger** had the opportunity to attend an exclusive workforce development session led by Judy Murray while the Menu Design team for the **Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards** collaborated with former BBC Masterchef winner, Gary Maclean.

Developing skills for life

By participating in YoYP 2018 and working with fellow volunteers and established event organisers, young people were given the opportunity to develop skills which would equip them well for later life – the confidence to talk to older people as respected equals, run workshops and chair meetings, deal with challenges and resolve issues, negotiate and shoulder responsibility. For some, it also meant discovering that in the adult workplace people don't always respond to emails, turn up on the day or put in equal amounts of effort! In addition to these ‘softer skills’, many young people had the opportunity to be trained in technical skills such as stage management and lighting, health and safety and even, for the **Youth Beatz** volunteers, operating site equipment.

“We cultivated deeper relationships with these young people than we originally anticipated, identifying additional opportunities for them throughout the project.”

Event organiser, Five Telegrams

“The initial plan was for the young people to programme five events, however, we found their ideas and views so refreshing and varied that this was later increased to eight events, giving our co-programmers a greater platform.”

Event organiser, Codename F

Joining the paid workforce

Although the majority of young people volunteered their time for the planning and delivery of events, some event organisers chose to provide opportunities for paid employment. Although this was mainly in co-design leadership roles – in the cases of **Dreams for the Future**, **LIVE!/BEÒ!** and **At Your Leisure** for example – this also extended into other roles too. Edinburgh International Festival gave a young videographer his first paid role as part of the **Five Telegrams** project and the **Òran Mòr @ Blas** event provided a ten-week paid placement for a student to work on social media promotion. Underbelly, the event organisers of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, employed their young Project Leader twice – on **#ScotWord** and **#ScotArt** – and are keen for him to return for a third year as his input has proved so invaluable.

Playing our part

The YoYP 2018 events programme gave young people an unprecedented opportunity to showcase their skills and talents. For many young people who participated as co-designers and volunteers, they were literally 'behind the scenes' but for others, it was their opportunity to shine on stage – whether that stage was in a theatre, a tent or a field.



LIVE/BE01

From rugby to writing

Through the core 49 funded events, young people showcased their skills and talents across a dazzling array of sporting, scientific, cultural and arts events. The runners who ran their hearts out at **IRONKIDS Scotland** were amongst the youngest participants in YoYP 2018, while the men's and women's university teams who took to the field for the **Melrose University Sevens** displayed their prowess through one of Scotland's most established sporting events. With sporting opportunities extending to parkour, skateboarding and BMX at **Youth Urban Games**, seven young Scottish skyrunners taking part in the **Skyrunning World Championships** and aerial gymnastics forming part

of the **Paisley Halloween Festival**, the range of opportunities was impressive and an excellent reflection of the physical activities that excite younger audiences today.

Theatre played a significant role as a vehicle through which young people could perform and the talent they brought to the stage was outstanding. From **Youth Beatz' The Toon** to the National Theatre of Scotland's **Futureproof**, young people had the opportunity to stage their own interpretations of some of the biggest issues facing society today.

Although co-designed drama, visual arts and music productions – perhaps predictably – featured highly in the events programme, YoYP 2018 provided

a stage for scientific exploration too. Through the **Orkney International Science Festival**, **Existence: Life and Beyond** and **STEM at The Helix**, young people were encouraged to showcase talents that are perhaps not celebrated as widely as they could be and these events successfully brought young people at school and in higher education closer to industry. Similarly, with the professional kitchen as their stage, young people taking part in **Taste of Grampian** had the opportunity to perform as commis chefs, working alongside celebrity chefs including James Martin.

A rehearsal for life

For many young performers, the opportunity to take part in rehearsals and to work as part of a team with other young people and event organisers from an older generation, was as important as the performance itself and, in some cases, transformational. **V&A Dundee's 3D Festival** saw young performers with disabilities take part in a mass dance participation piece choreographed by Shaper/Caper while a young performer conquered her fear of heights during aerial rehearsals for **Paisley Halloween Festival**. A number of the young men from HMYOI Polmont who took part in **Futureproof** felt that their views on life had been substantially changed through the process of producing and performing live theatre.

"It came as a genuine surprise to older people that young people could develop, organise and deliver a project of such breadth and quality. They were also delighted by the quality of artwork exhibited in the venue over the day of the festival and beyond."

Event organizer, Las! Ignite!

Ross's story

"Before IRONKIDS Scotland, I had designed posters and graphics for other events and social media pages but this was the first big project I had done outside of school, so I learned a lot from the experience. A big part of my job was creating graphics that would both look good and also meet specifications."

What made me especially proud was seeing the end product of all the time and effort I spent.

Working on this project was a great experience of designing graphics in a real life situation and doing it further increased my desire to pursue this as a career in the future."

Ross (19), Young Co-designer, IRONKIDS Scotland

"Each and every one of the finalists is exceptionally talented and we also had a number of young performers attend the awards, from the GAMTA performance of The Greatest Showman to the pipers and magician, there was a real variety of performances showcasing the talent of young Scots."

Event organiser, Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards



Futureproof Photo: Colin Hattersley

Leaving a lasting impact

There is no doubt that the thousands of young people involved in the planning and delivery of events for YoYP 2018 have had a profound influence on event organisers, established organisations and partners, and 'older' generations across the nation. For this strong and positive influence to continue, and for young people's voices and views to continue to play a part in Scotland's future, it is important that the legacy and learning captured through the events programme for YoYP 2018 are not lost.

Within this report, it is not our intention to provide prescriptive guidelines for co-designing events with young people, but to share the learnings and experiences of YoYP 2018 with event organisers, who we would encourage to make their own interpretations, based on their own events and working practices.

The key outcomes for YoYP 2018 were to give young people a greater say in decisions that affect their lives, to improve public perceptions of young people, to provide more opportunities for intergenerational work and conversations, and to give young people more opportunities to take part in positive activities and experiences. Each of these targets was well and truly met and exceeded through the events supported by the YoYP 2018 Events Fund and is clearly evidenced in the outcome reports compiled by the event organisers.

In this section, we explore the ways in which event organisations plan to build on the experience of working with young people during 2018 and look at the new connections they have made thanks to the involvement and influence of their young co-workers. And we look too at the impact that the various events had on the young people themselves – how they have changed their views of themselves and others, how they plan to pass the baton on to other young people and how they will shape their own futures thanks to their experiences.

4.1 A different perspective

4.2 New networks, new partners, new audiences

4.3 Passing on the baton

4.4 This is our future



Photo: Sean Bell
Mining the Past, Facing the Future

A different perspective

Working with young people through YoYP 2018 had a profound influence on the way that many organisations plan to work in the future, both in terms of involving young people in co-design from the outset and also in terms of programming content to ensure that tomorrow's audiences are engaged today.

“The Chair of the YPG [Young Promoters Group] was invited to open the 2018 Festival, a role which was previously always undertaken by the Chair of our Board. This was a major recognition from our group of the importance of having young people influence and deliver Arts Festival and Arts Live. It has changed our focus forever. Young people will be key to our five-year business plan, currently in development.”

Event organiser, STAGE iT, D&G Arts Festival



LIVE/BE01 Photo: Claire White



TEDxYouth@Glasgow Photo: Ian Watson

“Until this project, the festival had not undertaken a project of this scale with young people. It has been a key element in fundamentally changing our modus operandi and we are absolutely looking to build on this incredible work and its foundations for subsequent iterations of the festival.”

Event organiser, The Regenerators

Embedding young people in planning and delivery

In common with many events, the organisers of **Orkney International Science Festival** reported that they had gained more from working with young people than they ever anticipated at the start of the process, and that this has encouraged them to look at 'new ways of doing things, new venues and new formats'. A common thread running through the outcome reports is that moving forward, event organisers now have a clearer understanding of the role that young people can play and, as the organisers of **Dundee Design Festival Presents...** commented: 'Rather than creating something simply for young people to participate in, we'll look towards delivering activity in which young people have had a hand in developing and planning.'

Las!/Ignite! organisers, An Lanntair, reported that they now plan to put new and long-term structures in place to both engage with young people and allow them to support the governance and programming of the organisation at the highest level. Similarly, Youth Highland, who led three sessions during the **OTHERLAND** weekend to explore how young people see the Highlands and what they would like to change, now plan to build these findings into new policies going forward. The organisers of **TEDxYouth@Glasgow**, thanks to the professional input of their young co-designers, participants and performers, now plan to lower the age range of speakers at their future events while **Glasgow International Comedy Festival** reflected that their involvement in YoYP 2018 allowed them to both reach a larger audience of young people and gain new perspectives from their

New learning = new strategy

Findhorn Bay Arts have a core mission to provide quality creative learning experiences for people and nurture talent in their region through a programme of activity and events. Thanks to their collaboration with young people during 2018 for the production of *The Buke of Howlat* for the Findhorn Bay Festival, their recognition of young people's talents and skills, the experience and knowledge gained and the networks and partnerships developed, the event organisers now plan to put a number of new strategies in place:

- ongoing assessment of opportunities, facilities, incentives and communications to promote accessibility and inclusion
- ongoing review and update of Child Protection Policy
- development of PR, marketing and communications that excite the interests of young people and their families
- an ongoing programme to support the development and training of the Festival Youth Arts Ambassadors
- a programme of activity and events that responds to the expressed needs, wishes and ambitions of young people and their families
- a commitment to identifying work experience opportunities for young people and recent graduates
- programming that celebrates, showcases and nurtures the skills, ideas and talents of young people.

input which will influence the way they market events to younger groups in the future.

Making bigger plans for the future

Dumfries & Galloway Council, the organisers of **Youth Beatz**, has confirmed funding to continue to deliver an enhanced festival for the next three years as a legacy from YoYP 2018. This will allow it to remain a free event with a rich programme of activities for young people following the upscaled 2018 model and to

continue to use a larger venue with a greater capacity. Perth & Kinross Council, the organisers of **Diverse CiTay**, plan to lobby local stakeholders to take the Youth Market concept forward, while a new youth theatre has been established at HMYOI Polmont with funding secured until Summer 2019, as a result of the success of **Futureproof** and the 'transformational impact' it had on the young men who took part. This was substantiated by Barnardo's who reported an improvement in behavioural issues due to involvement in the production, *Motion*.

New networks, new audiences, new partners

Not only did event organisers and industry partners have their eyes opened by the ideas and opinions of the young people they worked with, but co-design, planning and delivery brought them into contact with people and audiences that they either hadn't considered or didn't have connections to access before YoYP 2018.

Jonathan's story

"When The Big Takeover weekend arrived, I was involved, alongside other ambassadors, in lots of different roles ensuring the event was a success. My roles included handing out surveys to participants to gather their views, taking photos to be uploaded on social media, being interviewed for the official #YOYP2018 social media channels and helping at various events – checking tickets, wristbands, selling merchandise etc. From the opening ceremony with Maree Todd MSP and the Nick Sharratt draw-along workshops, to the 100 Fables Gig and Big Circus, all over Lerwick the YoYP 2018 ambassadors hosted over 70 events.

Volunteering at the event was such a great experience and was great fun at the same time. It is very rare that young people get to be at the forefront of running an event so huge as The Big Takeover. After the event it turned out that Shetland Library had its highest numbers of visitors ever during the weekend and I was proud to have been a part of that."

**Jonathan (15), Young Co-designer,
The Big Takeover - Shetland**

“Our visitor demographic has widened and our figures increased significantly on event days. We were able to reach new visitors through working with local business partners as well as a more diverse audience through the content of the launch event and the creative awards. More importantly, we have developed meaningful links with young people in the development of content for our programmes.”

Event organiser, Generation Z

Casting a wider net

Today's young people are tomorrow's leaders and influencers. A challenge facing many organisations today is how to attract and sustain audiences, and this is true for sport and science as it is for arts, culture and heritage. One of the biggest revelations for many of the event organisers and partners involved in YoYP 2018 was the extent to which their engagement with young people will now open up their sphere of influence for attracting and retaining younger audiences in the future.

For **Social Bite's Wee Sleep Out**, taking part in YoYP 2018 ensured that 'the project went from reaching a few hundred young people located around the central belt to reaching a few thousand young people spanning as far north as Stornoway and as far south as the Isle of Mann.' From the network established in 2018 with schools, youth organisations and other supporters, Social Bite hope to double the number

Photo: Dumfries & Galloway Council



of young people involved in 2019 for the benefit of local homelessness projects. **The Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards** similarly highlighted that YoYP 2018 involvement allowed them to connect with more stakeholders than before, which will influence the scope and reach of the event in future years. For East Ayrshire Leisure Trust, who supported **Generation Z**, working with young people not only connected them to new, younger and more diverse audiences but also gave them insight into how to be more engaging and relevant in their marketing in the future.

Building new partnerships

Through their co-designed **The Young and The Wild** event, Edinburgh International Film Festival secured a new sponsor, a relationship which will be sustained for a further two years; they also created valuable new partnerships with Young Scot, Screen Education and Tinderbox Orchestra. Similarly the organisers of **STAGE it, Mining the Past, Facing the Future** and **The Royal National Mòd** all reported that their involvement with young people has led to new partnerships with local organisations in their communities as well as universities, colleges and a wide range of youth organisations who they plan to partner with in the future. For the organisers of **LIVE!/BEÒ!**, YoYP 2018 created new business relations with both the National Trust for Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland.

"This experience allowed us to reach, work with and engage young people who would not otherwise have had access to this type of opportunity. It has enabled us to develop partnerships we would not otherwise have had the opportunity to develop. It has generated a greater profile for the organisation and the project. It has also provided additional opportunities we would not otherwise have had, such as the winning team taking part in the royal visit to Edinburgh and the YoYP 2018 closing event."

Event organiser, Scottish Youth Poetry Slam

"The process of delivering At Your Leisure in East Lothian has allowed us to forge new and stronger relationships within the region. Our close work with young people, and the building up of trust for the company, now means that we have developed a greater audience for future work in the region."

Event organiser, At Your Leisure



Photo: Rob McDougall

Passing on the baton

The experience of YoYP 2018 is sending ripples of influence from the young people who took part to the generations that will follow. Handing down the lessons learned and experiences gained is a responsibility that should be shared by everyone involved and one which many of the young people themselves are already putting in place in different ways, with a number of them keen to maintain their involvement going forward.

Maintaining momentum from year to year

Young Scot has been developing its own co-design model for their standard working practices and will seek to continue working with the Sunday Mail as a result of the success of the 2018 Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards which saw a bespoke delivery panel of young people involved in the planning of the whole event. In addition, all proceeds from the raffle at the event's dinner will go towards the Sandy Watson Fund, which supports projects and opportunities relating to mental health and the arts for young people, delivering direct benefits to 15 young people in the coming year.

Rachel Tidmore, Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards 2018 - Year of Young People Champion of the Year Photo: Sunday Mail



“The experience of working with young people has been a breakthrough for us. This year they came in as a team and came to the fore in a natural way, looking as if they had always been here. This has given us a new dimension and we have been keeping in touch about the plans for next year. All but one of the eight who were trained this year are available.”

Event organiser, Orkney International Science Festival

Handing on the benefit of experience

The YoYP 2018 co-design cohort for **STEM at The Helix** have expressed their desire to the event organisers to personally hand over to the youth team for the 2019 event, sharing learning and advice, while the young co-design teams for **Youth Urban Games** and **V&A Dundee's 3D Festival** have each created a film that captures the legacy of their YoYP 2018 experience to inform young co-designers of the future. The co-design team for the **The Regenerators** wrote a manifesto and have already handed over physical artifacts to a group of young people participating in contemporary performance art. These will be used as provocation for a new piece of devised theatre. One of the young co-designers of **Òran Mòr @ Blas** has been going into

“Pupils from Gore Glen Primary delivered their award-winning tour to other children from across Midlothian and this is now being used as an example of raising the attainment gap in this region.”

Event organiser, Mining the Past, Facing the Future

schools to talk to pupils about event management, sharing the benefits of his own experience during YoYP 2018 while two of the co-designers for **Paisley Halloween Festival**, who joined from the Disability Resource Centre, will continue to be involved in designing training for events, marketing and design, focusing on inclusion.

Capturing insight, harnessing input

The young people involved in **Existence: Life and Beyond** reconvened after the event to contribute their thoughts and suggestions to Edinburgh Science Festival on the look and feel of the programme and ways of improving this to make it more relevant for younger audiences in 2019. The Youth Consultation Group is now a permanent part of the organisation and continues to meet regularly and work with the staff at Edinburgh Science Festival to support programming. Similarly, the Young Ambassadors team for **Stepping In** attended a 'wash-up' meeting with the event organisers and provided insightful feedback on their experiences of intergenerational work, working with supporting adults, and providing a platform for youth voice. Not only are this group keen to remain involved, but they are interested in looking at ways of becoming self-sufficient and raising

their own funds, reflecting a healthy spirit of entrepreneurship. The Board not **Bored** team for An Lanntair's **Las! Ignite!** are now a permanent part of the organisation, providing valuable input to both the Board and the existing creative team, with some of the events from YoYP 2018 now planned as regular fixtures in the venue's programme. Similarly, the youth panel for **V&A Dundee's 3D Festival** have now become an established partner, working with the museum to consult beyond the YoYP 2018 programme and taking part in the UNESCO Creative Cities delegation to Dundee to share their views on the role of young people.



Tiree Music Festival Photo: Alan Peebles

This is our future

Creating pathways to the future for the young people of Scotland is critical to our nation's success and wellbeing. The events programme for YoYP 2018, through co-design, participation and performance, has provided thousands of young people with a clearer and brighter vision of their future. In many cases, this was a transformational change for the young people involved.

IRONKIDS Scotland Photo: Huw Fairclough



“Celebrate ART provided participants with a broad education in visual art techniques and the visual art industry. The participants and trainees benefitted from this realistic introduction to the experience of working as an artist and it is notable that at least 12 of the young people are now either at or applying for art college, and at least one is employed in the visual arts.”

Event organiser, Celebrate ART

Transforming lives through new opportunities

Through YoYP 2018, thousands of young people were given the opportunity to experience working life as part of a team focused on a shared goal. For some, the event they worked on provided them with insight and enthusiasm for a career, industry or activity that they will now actively pursue. For other young people, their role as co-designer, participant or performer opened their eyes to opportunities they had not previously realised might be available to them or didn't believe they had the confidence to grasp. And for some, the experience was, quite simply, transformational. A young person who assisted with lighting design for **Youth Beatz** said that being part of the events team had 'changed his outlook on life'; and an art student who took part in **Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 #ScotArt** realised, through his contribution to the event, that he now had the confidence to go on and teach.

“From meeting the First Minister to gaining new confidence, experiences and skills, this year has left me feeling really positive about my future career in museums. Thank you all!”

Young co-designer, Mining the Past, Facing the Future

The role of paid work placements

As part of the YoYP 2018 events programme, a number of event organisers provided paid work placements which not only helped young people gain industry experience but, importantly, encouraged them to understand the financial value of their input and skills. **Social Bite's Wee Sleep Out** employed two young people who said the experience really helped to build both their skills and their confidence; **LIVE!/BEØ!** provided paid employment for a total of six young people in various capacities while **Five Telegrams** offered a whole range of paid opportunities including placements for twenty technicians, five voice captains and five positions in artistic liaison, wardrobe and event assistance.

Doors wide open to new opportunities and connections

For some people, their experiences in YoYP 2018 opened the door to new opportunities beyond the event. A number of the young musicians and singers who performed at **Óran Mòr @ Blas** were given the opportunity to perform at Celtic Connections 2019 as part of a youth showcase. 20 young people involved in **Paisley Halloween Festival** completed Youth Awards and the young Creative Intern for the event had her post extended to sustain the new Youth Events Panel. 37 of the young people involved in **Social Bite's Wee Sleep Out** were nominated as 'Creative Stars' and attended the Social Bite Gala Dinner with keynote speaker, Malala Yousafzai. All five young co-designers from **TEDxYouth@Glasgow** were invited to assist at the Hunter Foundation Dinner at the EICC later in the year – a prestigious event attended

by Michelle Obama – and this has added yet more experience to their CVs.

Creating stepping stones to bright futures

At the older end of the young people cohort, many of those involved in events were able to use their experience to secure places in further and higher education – two of the young people involved in **Mining the Past, Facing the Future** have been accepted onto university degree courses in heritage and museums while two young people from Templar Arts who were youth trainees on the **Celebrate ART** event have since been selected to take part in the professional development programme for Scotland in Venice, part of the Venice Biennale.

For others, involvement in the event programme provided a clear path to employment. Prime Event Management who supported **Taste of Grampian** plan to employ one of the students who took part and, thanks



Codename F Photo: Edinburgh International Book Festival

to his excellent work backstage for **Youth Beatz**, one young volunteer was offered work experience with the pyrotechnics company involved in the event. Four members of the V&A Young People's Collective have moved into industry roles following the event – two with V&A Dundee itself and one onto the board of Creative Dundee. Two participants in **Diverse CiTay** are now employed by the Academy of Sport and Wellbeing while a number have gone on to become reps in student associations and sporting clubs within Perth College, with two becoming sports ambassadors.

“This project has given us an opportunity to carve a path for ourselves as young artists. It has given us a platform to voice our opinions and to showcase our art in a professional manner.”

Young co-designer, The Regenerators

“The position that I now find myself to be in – which I believe to be of great employability and personal growth – is almost entirely down to what I have been able to achieve this past year.”

Co-designer leader, Social Bite's Wee Sleep Out

The tales of success go on. If evidence is needed of the benefits of involving young people in planning and delivery, providing them with a platform to be heard and a stage to showcase their skills, it is here. It is in the personal journeys they have taken during YoYP 2018, the connections they have made and the self-confidence they have built; it is in the skills they have gained and the opportunities they have grasped; and it is in the bright paths that this experience will allow them to follow in the future.

“It may be impossible to quantify the impact that the Futureproof project will have on its participants - that will be borne out as their lives progress. But for those of us watching, it was a small but welcome example of what young people, given the opportunity, time and belief, can do.”

Kelly Apter, The List

Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 #ScotArt Photo: Ian Georgeson

Thank you to all of the young people and event organisers across Scotland who helped to make **YoYP 2018** such an astounding success.



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