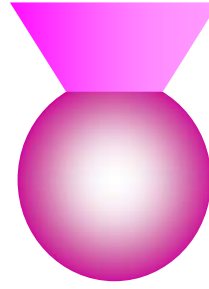




The
Debate
Project



**Scottish
Throughcare
& Aftercare
Forum**

Debate Project Newsletter

Welcome to our new look newsletter

Well everybody what do you think of the new look newsletter? Funky or what ?!!

This edition is letting everybody know what we have been getting up to and also to let you know what's coming up in the near future.



The team outside the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh



Damion, Robert, Steven, and of course Hayley, in Millport



James, Hayley and Steven at the Best Practice Publication

Autumn 2006

Inside this issue:

Intro to the newsletter	1
Millport Training	1
Manifesto Launch	2
Best Practice Launch	2
Time to Care Conference	3
Young Scot Awards	3
Care Action Group	3
Annual Conference 2006	4

Millport Training: 18th - 20th August 2006

We organised a training weekend in Millport. The aim of the weekend was to brush up on our facilitator skills and also to train some of the new team members for up and coming events.

The weather wasn't too good, and even though we were on the ferry for a few minutes, it was cold wet and windy, nothing unusual for down the Ayrshire coast. We asked the Taylor Clark Partnership to do our weekend and Wendy the trainer was brilliant.

Some of the training was to show us how to plan and run a workshop by getting everybody involved and getting their views and opinions heard. We held the training in the Smiley Centre with thanks to Bill and Meg who run this shop/training room. We ended the weekend by going out on a speed boat and got a tour of Little Cumbrae, the history and wildlife (we got to see baby seals). Again, a great weekend for the team.





Manifesto Launch at the Scottish Parliament: 27th September 2006

The team was invited by SIRCC to the launch of the Manifesto "No Time to Lose". Again, Steven and Hayley were nominated to do a presentation to MSPs, the media and representatives of other organisations. Not only did we have a great chance to network, but we also got to meet up with Robin Harper, MSP for the Green Party, who has been a great supporter of the Debate Project from the beginning.

It was great to see Robin Harper still carrying something from the Debate Project's September 2005 conference, even if it was his delegate folder! It was great to see him remember who we were and to speak out in recognition of our work and achievements in his speech.

74 organisations have signed up to the Manifesto, of which the Debate Project is one of them, and the list is still rising.



See if you can spot Will, one of the Debate Project members, in the photos within the Manifesto.

Best Practice Publication Launch: 6th October 2006

The Best Practice Publication Launch on 6th of October at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh turned out to be a great success. Nearly 150 delegates turned up to give their support for this publication, including a wide range of Local Authorities and other organisations.



Kathleen Marshall, the Commissioner for Children & Young People had the pleasure of giving the opening speech to show her support for these guidelines to be put into practice.

Throughout the morning, all delegates were happy to participate by asking questions, giving their views and positive feedback.

Local Authorities were also showing their support to other Local Authorities on any issues that might arise in the future, by showing positive networking between each other.

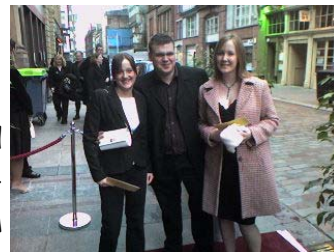
As usual, the Debate Project were on hand to help on the day, with registration, showing where people were to go, and also ending the day with a closing speech. This included quotes from young people in the publication, to show that we are empowering young people to be heard.

If you want to receive a free copy of this new book, please contact the Forum's office or download it from the website.



Young Scot Awards: 31st March 2006

On the 31st of March, Robert, Hayley and Gemma from SCCYP were invited along to the Young Scot Awards, a national award recognising the achievements of young people in Scotland. It was a great night with live music from young bands as well as a host of guests including celebrities and politicians.



The Young Scot awards were a chance for everyone to get dressed up and meet other people who were interested in making positive changes in their community. The Debate Project were lucky enough to have been invited along by the Justice Minister Cathy Jamieson and we had a good night discussing all sorts of issues. Robert and Hayley had a good time catching up with friends from different groups and meeting new people. We left with loads of new opportunities and a list of auto-graphs thanks to Hayley. There were many awards given out over the course of the evening from artistic achievement to community involvement. The overall Young Scot award was given to Nifraz Raheem, 18, in recognition of his outstanding work with asylum seekers in his area.

" It was great to see so many celebrities and politicians giving up their time to actively recognize the achievements of young people"

Care Action Group

Hayley and Damion have been working in close partnership with SCCYP to start up a young persons group for those in and leaving care. We ran a course of interviews, selecting the 8 best candidates for the group. We are really pleased to see that the group has representatives from ages between 14-21 from all over Scotland.



The care action group has now had a meal and a residential weekend together in October. On the residential weekend the group took part in abseiling and kayaking and some team building activities to get the team working together. Our future hopes for the group is that they will start taking action on the issues that the 8 young people feel passionate about. The care action group will be meeting over the next 2 years and the young people will be meeting up around 6 times a year, receiving recognition for their input in many ways.

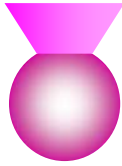
Time to Care Conference: 14th September 2006

Hayley, Damion and Steven were invited to go along to a conference at the University of Strathclyde in Jordanhill, Glasgow. They had the chance to meet Robert Brown the Deputy Minister and people from the Scottish Executive and SWIA. The conference was talking about how there needs to be more support and better working together to make sure young people in care can do the best they can in education.. We had our photos taken by the press but were disappointed when they never got printed. Look out, as we still want to get some positive stuff in the papers!





The
Debate
Project



**Scottish
Throughcare
& Aftercare
Forum**

2nd Floor
37 Otago Street
Glasgow
G12 8JJ

Phone: 0141 357 4124
Fax: 0141 357 4614

E-mail:
youth@scottishthroughcare.org.uk

www.scottishthroughcare.org.uk

The Debate Project was set up in October 2002 by four young people who had decided that they wanted to stand up and fight for a better service for young people leaving care in the future. Their aims were to empower young people who are currently leaving care or have already left, by letting them know that they have a voice. This would be by giving young people the opportunity to share their experiences with a view to improving the leaving care system for other young people in the future.

This is done by doing consultation, visiting young people in their local areas and letting them know about the Debate Project. Our conferences allow young people themselves to raise any issues that they feel relevant and discuss them with the MSPs, Scottish Executive, local councillors and directors of organisations involved with young people leaving care. Through these discussions, the young people and decisions-makers can come up with possible ways to change and improve the leaving care system for all young people in the future.

As quoted by a young person :

" The system sucks and needs to change full stop."

Fundraising Update

STOP PRESS— At the moment, we are putting in funding applications to try and get more funding to take forward the work of the Debate Project during the next 3 years. If we are successful, we then hope to be able to do more work to get more young people involved in the future.

At the moment, we are all volunteers, so we do as much as we can. We will let you know once we have staff to support us and are able to get more people involved, so we can do more things across Scotland.

Annual Conference & AGM at Crieff Hydro, Perthshire

The Forum will be going back to Crieff Hydro Hotel for the 3rd year running for this year's conference on 5th, 6th & 7th December 2006. Just like previous years, the Debate Project will be helping out at the event as part of the conference staff team.

We are looking forward to another great event, with lots of opportunity for networking, sharing information and discussing lots of things about supporting young people leaving care.

There will be lots of workshops and a market place full of information stands. We will also be welcoming many young people and support workers from all over Scotland.

