

**Vision – We pride ourselves with looking to the future with young people and our communities.**

**Inclusive – the creation of safe, welcoming and supportive services.**

**Brave + Bold – We always rise to challenges, create innovative solutions and push boundaries.**

**Goals – Ambitions and aspirations have been achieved by so many.**

**The Years of experiences shared and skills learned by all.**

**Outcomes – The measure of the differences made to young people and families lives.**

**The long and winding Road of colour – Journeys travelled by young people we have worked with.**

**Annual Report**

**2017/2018**

**Streetwork Statistics**

**Statistics – April 2017 – March 2018**

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* **Increased confidence**
* **Increase in practical skills ability**
* **Improved social skills**
* **Improved attitudes and behaviour**

The most frequently reported outcomes for young people that attended the sessions are:

**School Programmes e.g. Tooled Up and Young Women’s groups etc.**

**YAP Music**

**96%**

of respondents rated YAP Music as excellent or very good.

Rated good.

**14%**

Rated excellent or very good.

**86%**

**Satisfaction Surveys**

**Enjoyment of Activity**

**71.3%** = 10

**14.6%** = 9

**7.7%** = 8

**88.1%**

**New Opportunities/Skills Learned**

**Residential Experiences**

**89%** = 10

**11%** = 9

**Gained Confidence**

**70.8%** = Yes

**29.2%** = No

**Group Activities**

As part of evaluations participants are asked to self-report their levels of enjoyment, new opportunities/skills and confidence.

**A Little** **A Lot**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Males engaged = 2278

Streetwork sessions = 992

Females engaged = 1157

**3435**  
Total  
Engaged

**1343**  
Individual  
Attenders

18+ Years = 72

15 - 17 Years = 314

12 - 14 Years = 612

8 - 11 Years = 335

5 - 7 Years = 1

18+ Years = 496

15 - 17 Years = 2986

12 - 14 Years = 3825

8 - 11 Years = 1343

5 - 7 Years = 2

**8684**  
Total  
Attendances

**INtegr8** - the opportunities and social skills that this service has provided to my son have been invaluable! As a parent, to see a young boy who could barely leave the house at all beyond going to school, eventually taking part in a youth exchange project to another country was amazing. This was due to the confidence building and social skills he has gained from his befriending sessions and the patience, hard work building his trust and signposting from his befriender to events he could try.

I strongly feel this community based youth work resource should be greatly applauded for its real and often hidden achievements. Without its help our family would likely have reached crisis point as prior to referral my son’s mental health was very poor and my ability to support him and maintain my health was at breaking point. Following INtegr8’s support we are both feeling stronger and able to advocate for ourselves and my son’s needs. I have not one single complaint or negative comment about my experience with YAP. Both my son and I wish it didn’t have to end or that we had found them sooner.

**Young People and Parents**

**Evaluation – Feedback**

Counselling has turned my daughter's life around by giving her the skills to deal with the bullies, also how to deal with the anger issues she had been left with. This has turned her life around and now she is far more confident in dealing with issues herself and also when to back off from people resulting in a far happier teenager.

At Tooled Up I can get qualifications, learn new skills and it’s not school. It’s fun and practical and I’m also learning some kick boxing.

It’s good and gets me out of bed in the morning. Don’t feel stressed when I’m here dong practical work.

When I first came to the girl’s club I felt nervous and was really shy and didn’t know that many people but now I have so many new friends.

Callan was, let's say challenging during his first part of becoming a teenager! He attended James Young High for the 1st year and then lost himself from 2nd year onwards. Callan is not a bad boy as society would say, he just could not focus at school and found it difficult to fit in. Callan was offered a place at the Youth Action Group on a Wednesday. At first it was difficult for Callan to come along as his sleeping pattern was all over the place. Once Callan got into the group and the activities he was great, Callan enjoyed the group as he said "they treat me like a normal person mum"

I just want to say thank you as Callan has now used the skills he was taught during the time spent with the group to get himself a full time job with a local ECO company Direct Savings LTD. Callan has a secured apprenticeship starting in Jan 2019. Callan is a totally different 16 year old since he started with the group, he can see he has a future and has become a confident young man who has now found himself.

I go to the Wee Croft in Stoneyburn and have been going to the drop-in on and off since I was ten. My time started in the old Wee Croft under the flats in Bents. My best memory of the Wee Croft is making the comic about ‘An Alien in Stoneyburn’. I took part in the opening of the New Wee Croft when we got our new building. I have attended regularly and have had the opportunity to try various different things with my friends over the years. The Youth Action Project has supported me through some of my stress and anxiety, I have also had problems with school as I am not the most academic and my confidence and self-esteem have been really low on occasions. I am just glad that the Wee Croft and the staff from Youth Action Project have always been there for me.

I first joined YAP when I was 13, from the moment I got there everyone was very welcoming and passionate about helping each and every person. We were all able to learn and enjoy music the way that each unique person wanted. 12 years later and I still try to actively help out in any way that I can. I have gained so many friends and memories from the project, many of the people I’ve met are now important members of my life that I would never have met if it hadn’t been for the atmosphere and drive that the YAP Music project offers.

Counselling has meant I have had help with family issues and now know what I need to do to sort my situations out. I have overcome my anxiety issues and my eating disorder thanks to this process.

Over the last ten years, Community Arts (WLC) have formed an extremely fruitful partnership with YAP and this year we have developed new projects together. We continue to work on the extremely successful ‘Talkin’ Aboot ma Past’ (Heritage Lottery Fund) where groups from Livingston, Broxburn and Armadale explore their heritage through the language and accents they speak. We have also supported YAP in the Grassroots Public Art project in Craigshill helping the community to transform a neglected walk way into a major vibrant thoroughfare. An example of the effective partnership was demonstrated in the successful application to Life Changes Trust for the £150,000 Creative and Active Lives Project that will see major interventions for Looked After and Aftercare young people. These partnerships demonstrate what can be achieved by enhancing each other’s resources and working together for the benefit of the young people.

**Partnerships**



**West Lothian Youth Action Project**

**Website:** [www.wlyap.org.uk](http://www.wlyap.org.uk)

**Telephone:** 01506 431430

**Email:** office@wlyap.org.uk

In addition, the following individuals acted as advisors on the Board and provided support to the organisation.

Cllr. Angela Doran

Cllr. Peter Heggie

Beverley Akinlami

Jock Kerr – Honorary President

Beechbrae have been working closely with YAP over the last couple of years delivering a Branching Out Programme; a project funded by Forestry Commission and NHS Lothian to help improve mental health by various activities in the woods. The programme involves bush craft, outdoor cooking, craft making, mindfulness and various conservation projects at Beechbrae Wood in Blackridge. The participants also achieved their John Muir Bronze award as a part of the programme.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Ryan Addison

Janice Turner

Helen Wilson

Andrée Carruthers

Nichola Clark

Amy Malone

Andy Mount – Retired Oct 2017 (Huge thank you for all his support over the years)

**Board of Directors**

**Chairperson remarks**

It is an honour and a privilege to be the Chair of the Youth Action Project. The organisation has overcome many obstacles in the past year, due to funding cuts and meeting the growing needs of young people in West Lothian. I am proud to be part of a team who have responded with the passion, professionalism and determination to make our organisation a success and deliver a key service to our future generations.

We look forward to exciting new projects in the area; we are the best placed to delivered these key services due to the excellent team and their skills. With this alone I feel that we can look forward to another exciting time ahead for YAP.

The Scottish Women’s Convention (SWC) is delighted to work with Youth Action. The young women who attend our events are so enthusiastic and love to dress as suffragettes! This partnership has developed over a number of years and we congratulate Youth Action on 25 years of success.

