

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 10 December 2013

Edinburgh Young People's Participation Strategy

Item number	7.1
Report number	
Wards	All

Links

Coalition pledges	P1 , P3 , P7 , P33
Council outcomes	CO1-CO6 , CO23 .
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3

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Executive summary

Edinburgh Young People's Participation Strategy

Summary

After a review and consultation regarding the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum (EYIF) and young people's participation in Edinburgh, a new strategy for young people's participation was created in early 2013.

The aim of young people's participation in Edinburgh is to facilitate young people's meaningful participation in partnership working and decision-making, leading to:

- Improvements in services for young people
- Learning and development for the young people involved

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Supports the Edinburgh Young People's Participation Strategy and the new EYIF structure.
2. Invites young people to report on their work to the Education, Children and Families Committee on a yearly basis.
3. Advocates, when required, on behalf of young people and support them to be heard within the full range of Council committees and structures.
4. Notes that young people's participation in Edinburgh is healthy, diverse and not limited to involvement in forums or other formal groups.
5. Notes that although Council formal structures might be useful for some issues raised by young people, in general formal structures do not always meet the needs of young people and therefore alternatives approaches to young people's participation in decision making are required.
6. Notes the new protocol for consulting with young people which enables young people's effective involvement in decision making whilst avoiding 'consultation overload' and allowing young people themselves to prioritise issues.

Measures of success

Youth participation in Edinburgh will be successful if

- A diverse range of young people from across Edinburgh attend the events organised, including Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, local forums, student councils
- 30 young people trained to become 'Participation Mentors' before April 2014

- These participation mentors (and other keen young people) lead events and discussions both within and outside the structures of the Young People's Participation Team.
- Elected members, partners and key officers attend and participate fully in the variety of activities organised to discuss the issues raised by young people.
- There are increased links between Neighbourhood Partnerships and young people
- An annual young people's participation conference occurs showcasing young people's participation across the city, the first of these will be in March 2014.
- Services (both Council and partners) learn from the young people and develop their practice because of the participation of young people
- Young people's participation in formal democratic processes is increased. Specifically turnout for the 2014 independence referendum in the 16-18 yr old age range in Edinburgh is in the top quarter of local authorities in Scotland
- An increased number of young people feedback that their views are listened to and changes are made as a result of their feedback.

Financial impact

None

Equalities impact

The structure of the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum will support a broad range of young people to get involved in decision making in Edinburgh.

The participation strategy contributes positively to the Council's duty to i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, ii) advance equality of opportunity, and iii) foster good relations.

Sustainability impact

The recommendations are aimed at creating a sustainable, long term young people's participation structure for Edinburgh.

Consultation and engagement

A consultation took place with key stakeholders i.e. youth workers, young people, partner agencies and elected members. The team met with young people on 19th December 2012 and again on 22nd February 2013. Elected members were briefed on 22nd February. Partner agencies were also invited to a meeting on 22nd February 2013 and were sent a working paper outlining suggested changes. In all approximately 50 young people and 35 adults took part in the consultation. This consultation led to a restructuring of the youth participation strategy for the City of Edinburgh Council.

Background reading / external references

Bullying Action Research Group video link http://youtu.be/0O6QH99m_IU

Edinburgh Young People's Participation Strategy

1. Background

- 1.1 Young people's participation takes place in many Council services and also partner agencies across the city. There is a range of options for young people, from dedicated youth forums to joining an open campaign group or political organisation alongside adults.
- 1.2 A major change occurred to the thrust of citywide young people's participation in Edinburgh in Feb 2013 with the development of a new participation structure that emphasises a 'deep' learning and involvement of young people at city wide level.
- 1.3 Whilst recognising the significant contribution young people and partners have made within the work of the previous participation structure, the structure had been criticised for the lack of links and influence at local level decision-making, particularly involvement with Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- 1.4 The recent review of Neighbourhood Partnerships alongside the commitment to being a Cooperative Council reflects the priority of young people's participation in Council decision-making actively strengthening young people's involvement in activities locally, citywide and at national level.
- 1.5 The pilot joint inspection of services for children and young people which took place between November 2012 and January 2013 identified participation as a key strength in Edinburgh. Drawing on a review of documentation and face to face meetings with young people, staff and partner agencies, the inspectors recognised the 'very wide range of measures to consult and seek the views of children, young people, families and stakeholders'. The inspection report identifies the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum as one of a 'range of planned activities to engage with children and young people and seek their views'. The quality indicator on 'participation of children, young people, families and other stakeholders' was evaluated as 'very good'. In line with the position statement, the inspectors agreed that 'partners now need to build on this and establish meaningful involvement of children, young people and families in shaping and designing policy, plans and services'.
- 1.6 Following on from the inspection a multi-agency group developed a Joint Approach to Participation across the Children's Partnership agencies. The Joint Approach sets out a number of commitments and a joint approach to terminology. This strategy is in line with this approach.

- 1.7 This work complements and is one of the key priorities of the National Community Learning and Development strategic guidance for community planning partnerships, which highlights the importance of involving stakeholders (including young people) in community planning. In addition 'The 'Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013' that came into force in September 2013 have strengthened the legislative framework for the delivery of service user involvement in planning.
- 1.8 The roles for young people engaged in this new structure (after training and with support) include: researcher; report writer; facilitator; event organiser; campaigner; and peer educator. These roles aim to broaden and strengthen the impact and voice of young people at local, citywide and national level.
- 1.9 This report and the accompanying input from young people at the committee meeting, highlights the work of the Young People's Participation Team and the achievements of the young people to date within the new participation structure.

2. Main report

- 2.1 Young people's participation supports young people to make changes on local, citywide, national and global issues. This includes, but is not limited to, engaging with Councillors, officers and other decision-makers at a range of levels. The work supports colleagues across Children and Families, other Council departments and partner agencies to hear young people's thoughts and concerns on a wide range of issues
- 2.2 City of Edinburgh Council is a Child Rights Partner and as such is concerned with the human rights of children and young people. This includes asking questions about how children are treated and recognising their right to be involved in decisions that affect them. Children's rights are at the core of the new structure for young people's participation in Edinburgh.
- 2.3 A notable change in the approach is a development from the previous formal committee style structure alternating with young people's themed events to the structure outlined below.
- 2.4 The new Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum structure builds on previous good practice whilst strengthening the links between local, city wide and national levels of young people's participation. Additions to previous activities include: the development of a 'Participation Mentors' programme; biannual Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum Gatherings; Action Research Groups and Conversations for Action meetings. Each component of the new approach is discussed below.
- 2.5 The process is cyclical on an annual timetable. This ensures continuity in the programme and clear understanding of the overall structure but also the flexibility to allow new people to become involved at various stages throughout the year.
- 2.6 A strength of the previous approach was the way in which young people were able to work with elected members, Council officers and partner agency

representatives. The new structure maintains and enhances these important relationships.

- 2.7 Because of their participation young people will:
- Take actions on local issues and make changes in their communities.
 - Have their voices heard by adult decision-makers.
 - Link in with other groups and fora to affect change.
 - Have fun and develop, meeting key experiences and outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence in the process – in particular the health and wellbeing across learning outcomes.
 - Co-create solutions with relevant adults

The new EYIF structure:

Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum Gatherings

- 2.8 Gatherings take place twice a year. The gatherings are fun and informal but with a definite aim and format, defined and facilitated by young people drawn from the participation mentor group. The purpose of the gatherings is to identify issues for young people, which will be taken forward by the action research groups. The first gathering was held in September 2013, with 45 young people participating. It was planned, delivered and reviewed by the first group of participation mentors.

Action Research Groups

- 2.9 Young people volunteer to be involved in the action research groups, the topics of which are defined as a result of conversations between young people and workers, setting a priority for meaningful learning and action. Although young people are encouraged to take the lead in these groups, they are supported by the Young People's Participation Team and other relevant staff and partners. Young people will learn research skills and undertake a 'deep' enquiry about the topic, to understand all sides of an issue before identifying action and feeding back to their peers and adult decision-makers at the conversations for action.

Current action research topics, as decided by young people are: bullying, mental health support in schools, poverty and inequality and the state of our schools.

The bullying action research group has produced a short video of their work with recommendations for change. The link to this on YouTube is:

http://youtu.be/0O6QH99m_IU

Conversations for Action

- 2.10 Chaired by the EYIF convenor but with the agenda set by young people, these conversations are structured and action focused. Young people who were part of the action research group for each topic will present their learning, ideas and actions for meaningful dialogue between young people and relevant policy makers and senior officers. Joint improvement plans, 'we said, we did' are

created as a result of these conversations. These plans are reported back to key stakeholders via the gatherings and the Participation Conference.

- 2.11 The first conversation for action, as a result of the bullying action research project, is scheduled for January 2014, where the young people will meet with elected members and relevant lead officers with the intention of taking further action on the issue.

Participation Mentors

- 2.12 This is an ongoing capacity building and peer education programme for young people across Edinburgh. One group of 18 young people have so far completed the programme and another group of 11 young people is in progress. Feedback from these young people is excellent (see quotes in appendix 1).

This programme creates confident and able young people who can participate effectively and encourage others to get involved in democratic processes in Edinburgh.

Annual Young People's Participation Conference

- 2.13 This one day event (the first will be held in March 2014) will bring together young people, lead officers, partner agencies and elected members to celebrate and hear about young people's participation in Edinburgh. It will highlight the actions taken regarding issues identified throughout the year by young people involved in the projects above, as well as providing an opportunity for external agencies to showcase their own participation practice. As with the gathering events, this event will be facilitated and organised by young people drawn from the participation mentors team.

Consultation protocol

- 2.14 A young people's consultation protocol has been developed to assist the management of the large number of requests for consultation with young people. This protocol enables young people's response and involvement in consultations to be managed and productive. The next stage of the protocol is for young people themselves to manage the whole process. It is envisaged young people will take ownership not only of the expression of their views, but also which consultations they prioritise and how those consultations are run. They will be able to offer advice to agencies on methods as appropriate to ensure that the activities meet the needs of all stakeholders.

2.15 Strengthening Community links

An important element of the participation strategy has been to strengthen young people's links with the Edinburgh Partnership and local level decision-making forums. Increased networking between Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and local forums has assisted this process. Additionally two Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament sit on the Leader's Group for Edinburgh Guarantee. A number of presentations have also been made at a

local and citywide level about the changes to EYIF structure and young people's participation generally.

The Community Learning and Development (CLD) service has identified 6 local participation leads who are actively involving young people in participation activities at a local level. Stronger links with school councils are also being forged.

Democracy on the Move

- 2.16 'Democracy on the Move', a project supported by a CLD student on placement within the Young People's Participation Team, aims to make young people aware of the referendum and their voting rights. The project aims to have peer led presentations and workshops within the 23 local authority high schools in Edinburgh. The participants involved in these workshops and assemblies will collectively explore and articulate their thoughts in relation to the registration process for voting, the voting process and general thoughts around the referendum.

Young people are involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the project. They include Participation Mentors, Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and EYIF members. The process is supported and resourced through the YPPT and school staff.

- 2.17 **Case study:** Heather Smith, Principal Officer for Child Care and Protection Training and Development, Children and Families, writes about her work with the Young People's Participation Team. This culminated in a change in staff training and a jointly facilitated workshop for the COSLA conference "Child Welfare in a Digital Age: evolving technologies, emerging risks and developing responses" at the Conference Centre, Edinburgh on Wednesday 25th Sep 2013,

I would like to highlight some of the inter-agency work that has been carried out over the past 18 months with all the agencies we work with but most of all with some of the young people that worked with us from the Young People's Participation Team.

Our working relationship started in June 2012 when we were invited to do an input into the Safety Event run by the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum at the Risk Factory. We soon found out that some of our Internet safety materials were a little too much from an adult perspective and not quite 'right' on how young people access the internet. We as a team of training professionals took on the feedback of our materials and changed them accordingly.

The action plan raised from the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum event required us to look at what we did in training reporting on what Internet Safety training issues were outstanding for teachers in Edinburgh.

Following on from this, members of the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum attended the Workforce Learning and Development Annual Event in November 2012 and participated in an Appreciative Inquiry in front of 90 professional staff such as Head Teachers and other senior managers and gave an interview that made one

visiting Head Teacher at the end stand up and promise to train all of his teaching staff on Internet Safety!

Given the past working relationship it seemed appropriate that some of the EYIF members co-deliver the national workshop along with a police officer from the E-crime unit and me. Three of the EYIF members Eilidh Mackay, Rebecca Hammond and Ellen Worthington pulled together a presentation to introduce our journey and set this to music to open the workshop. Eilidh, Rebecca and Ellen then facilitated the main section of the workshop; conversation café on Internet Safety, each table addressing different questions. Each table was facilitated by one of the girls. There were 40 people all speaking at once and the room buzzed with conversation for an hour. The feedback was amazing too!

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 3.1 Support the Edinburgh Young People's Participation Strategy and the new EYIF structure.
- 3.2 Invite young people to report on their work to the Education, Children and Families Committee on a yearly basis.
- 3.3 Advocate, when required, on behalf of young people and support them to be heard within the full range of Council committees and structures.
- 3.4 Notes that young people's participation in Edinburgh is healthy, diverse and not limited to involvement in forums or other formal groups.
- 3.5 Notes that although Council formal structures might be useful for some issues raised by young people, in general formal structures do not always meet the needs of young people and therefore alternative approaches to young people's participation in decision-making are required.
- 3.6 Notes the new protocol for consulting with young people which enables young people's effective involvement in decision-making whilst avoiding 'consultation overload' and allowing young people themselves to prioritise issues.

Gillian Tee

Director of Children and Families

Links

Coalition pledges

P1. Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care

P3. Rebuild Portobello High School and continue progress on all other planned school developments, while providing adequate investment in the fabric of all schools

P7. Further develop the Edinburgh Guarantee to improve work prospects for school leavers

P33 Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used

Council outcomes

CO1 Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed

CO2. Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities

CO3. Our children and young people in need, or with a disability, have improved life chances

CO4. Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy

CO5. Our children and young people are safe from harm or fear of harm, and do not harm others within their communities

CO6. Our children and young people's outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality

CO23. Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community

Single Outcome Agreement

SO3. Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential

Appendices

1. Participation Mentors Full Evaluation
2. Consultation protocol
3. Edinburgh's Young People's Participation Strategy

Participation mentors training round one – May to August 2013

Evaluation summary:

1. Why did you do the training:

- Gain Facilitation skills, improve organising skills and communication
- Better organiser and facilitator
- To make changes in my community
- Gain skills to help me be a better MSYP
- Learn more about leading groups
- Thought it would help with SYP
- Another participant suggested i partake. Find out others opinions
- Thought it would be interesting
- Learn more about youth issues
- to improve facilitation and organising skills
- Thought it would be interesting
- Find out more about youth issues and be able to help fix them
- I wanted new skills

2. What did you learn from the training

- How to lead a group effectively
- to count your own vote first
- about facilitation
- how to facilitate better
- How to facilitate effectively and work well in a group
- to listen to others
- how to work with people of younger ages, better organising
- how to organise events
- doing things together is better than yourself
- let people have their opinions
- tips on how to fully organise events
- how to plan events and work with others
- new ways to facilitate and activity and work better as a team
- that i really like debating

3. What was the best part of the training

- working with others and getting experience of facilitation
- getting to know everyone better and the news game
- the news game¹
- The debating and discussing issues
- the news game¹
- the news room game¹
- getting to know everyone
- news game¹
- knowing the people more
- mixing with other groups

- meeting a lot of new different people
- getting to know everyone one and playing games
- everything was equally good
- meeting new people

4. What surprised you during the training:

- My ability to lead a group
- how well everyone got on with each other and the confidence ive gained
- the different amount of people
- How quickly my opinions changed
- nothing
- the evolution of other peoples abilities
- how well we worked out the programme
- how many people i got to know
- more fun than expected
- nothing
- how easy we all worked together
- how well i got on with everyone
- how liberal and democratic a certain participant was during the news game¹
- the activities and games

5. the most useful part of the training was:

- being shown facilitation techniques
- learning the different activities
- facilitation
- was learning new skills
- how to lead a group
- learning how to lead a group
- having the chance to discover what i learnt
- skills I've obtained
- talking about the gathering
- listening to others
- skills i can take into the future
- hearing others opinions
- all the activities and breaks we got (not over worked)
- breaks

6. What would make the training better

- More political teaching
- more philosophy debating²
- Change the days to weekend days?
- more time to plan the gathering better
- longer sessions less regularly
- bit more free time
- wouldn't change anything
- more meetings before residential, felt short and added together
- have more meetings

- make longer (i realise how difficult this would be to arrange)

7. Other comments

- Thank you for the opportunity
- Thoroughly enjoyed the training and recommend it to everyone
- thanks everyone
- I enjoyed it
- Thank you
- very useful
- i have been appreciative of the residential, i really enjoyed it
- really fun
- thank you
- very fun and useful experience
- I really enjoyed my time here

Notes

¹ the news game is a specific half day activity focusing on digesting current news stories and producing a news bulletin as a team

² Philosophical Inquiry is a specific rules based dialogue activity

Average participants self grading in eight areas for development . Participants self graded themselves before the training and at the end, giving a growth figure. All areas were marked out of 10

	Active Listening	Motivated	Open Minded	Hard working	Communication skills	Commitment	Knowledge of political structures and issues	Facilitation skills
Before	6.9	7.8	7.7	8.0	7.3	7.7	5.6	5.9
After	8.4	8.1	8.5	8.4	8.0	8.0	7.2	8.2
Growth	1.5	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.3	1.7	2.4
Percent Growth	21.5%	4.2%	10.6%	5.4%	9.4%	4.3%	29.7%	40.2%

Notes:

As can be seen, the biggest growth was in the area of facilitation skills, which is the primary aim of the training programme.

Knowledge of political structures had also improved dramatically over the course of the programme.

The smallest growth was in the areas of commitment and Motivation. However, the course was self selecting, and as can be seen, participants already rated themselves quite highly in these areas before starting the programme.

Some participants graded themselves lower after the training than before in certain areas, notably 'knowledge of political structures and issues'. When questioned on this, participants acknowledged that before the training they had thought they 'knew it all' but it was only through the training that they had realised that there is always room for more experience and knowledge.

Young People's Participation Team
Request for young people's contribution

Many departments, agencies and projects request that young people contribute to service development or redesign. Although it is extremely positive that organisations want to ensure that their services reflect the needs of young people, the process of consultation must also be a valid experience for those young people involved.

To have representation/participation from young people at events, meetings, groups, conferences, projects etc you must provide us with details of the context in which they will participate and of the process that will follow. This forms part of the protocol in which participation of young people is conducted in Edinburgh, ensuring that it is ethical, and that the young people's participation is valued, acknowledged and best utilised.

Please provide responses to the following questions. These responses will be shared with young people who will potentially participate in the meeting, group, event, conference or project.

Please note that for the young people to meaningfully participate we have to organise/provide support staff, provide consent forms, transport, have briefing meetings etc so whenever possible 4 weeks notice would be preferred.

Please return to Young People's Participation Team, Children and Families, The City of Edinburgh Council, Waverley Court, Business Centre 1:2. Or email to gavin.crosby@edinburgh.gov.uk

1.	Organisation/Department: Contact Details:
2.	Meeting/Group/Event/Conference or Project.
3.	Dates you would like young people involved:
4.	What is the purpose of young people's participation, and what do you hope to achieve.
5.	How will the ideas and information from young people be transferred into policy/service development and/or change/influence the decision making process as a result of their participation. How will you feed information back to young people?

Young People's Participation Team
Request for young people's contribution

6.	<p>What format will the event take?</p> <p>How will the style, method and content engage young people?</p>
7.	<p>The information, materials and content used in some events/meetings are often quite difficult for many young people to engage with. Would you require the assistance of Young People's Participation Team to assist you on the approach and the content to be used? Yes/No</p> <p>If yes in what capacity?</p>
8.	<p>What, if any, learning experience will the young people get from participating in this event/consultation? (for example, could you take time to explain the training that is required to work in your service area? Or could you talk to young people about the role your service plays)</p>
9.	<p>Are you able to offer any rewards or incentives to the young people for their participation? (This is optional!)</p>

Name:

Signed:

Date:

Tel:

Email:

Edinburgh Young People's Participation Strategy

Community Planning Partners are committed to the participation and involvement of children and young people in decision making at all levels, including the development of policy and service plans. This strategy supports this commitment.

The strategy outlines how agencies and young people can engage in the process of participation and adopt the vision, values, principles and standards that will allow for a consistent approach to participative working.

What is participation: It is important that everyone has a clear and shared understanding of what is meant by

Participation is not the same as consultation

Participation is about providing choices and opportunities for children and young people to have an input into decisions that affect their lives. It is about talking, listening to and hearing children and young people and encouraging and supporting them to contribute. Then we have to act on these views and ideas whilst being open, honest and realistic with children and young people on the levels of involvement that they can have.

Consultation is the process by which children and young people are asked their opinions. Consultation requires a commitment to listen, give due weight to the views expressed and feedback outcomes to the children and young people consulted

The aim of young people's participation in Edinburgh is to facilitate young people's meaningful participation in partnership working and decision-making, leading to:

- Improvements in services for young people
- Learning and development for the young people involved

Through participation young people will:

- Take actions on local issues and make changes in their communities.
- Have their voices heard by adult decision-makers.
- Link in with other groups and fora to affect change.
- Have fun and develop, meeting key experiences and outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence in the process – in particular the health and wellbeing across learning outcomes.
- Co-create solutions with relevant adults

Participation structure

The Edinburgh participation structure **builds on previous good-practice** whilst strengthening the links between local, city wide and national levels of young people’s participation. Additions to previous activities include: the development of a ‘Participation Mentors’ program; biannual Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum Gatherings; Action Research Groups; Conversations for Action meetings and an annual Participation Conference; each component of the new approach is discussed below.

The process is cyclical on an annual timetable. This ensures continuity in the programme and clear understanding of the overall structure but also the flexibility to allow new people to become involved at various stages throughout the year.

Structure of Young Peoples Participation



Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum Gatherings

Gatherings take place twice a year. The gatherings are fun and informal but with a definite aim and format, defined and facilitated by young people drawn from the participation mentor group. The purpose of the gatherings is to identify issues for young people, which will be taken forward by the action research groups.

Action Research Groups

Young people volunteer to be involved in the action research groups, the topics of which are defined as a result of conversations between young people and workers, setting a priority for meaningful learning and action. Although young people are encouraged to take the lead in these groups, they are supported by the youth participation team and other relevant staff and partners. Young people will learn research skills and undertake a 'deep' enquiry about the topic, to understand all sides of an issue before identifying action and feeding back to their peers and adult decision makers at the conversations for action.

Conversations for Action – formal Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum

Chaired by EYIF convenor but with the agenda set by young people, these conversations are structured and action focused. Young people who were part of the action research group for each topic will present their learning, ideas and actions for meaningful dialogue between young people and relevant policy makers and senior officers. Joint improvement plans are created as a result of these conversations.

Participation Mentors

This is an ongoing capacity building and peer education programme for young people across Edinburgh. This programme creates confident and able young people who can participate effectively and encourage others to get involved in democratic processes in Edinburgh by participating in a 40 hour training program

Annual Young People's Participation Conference

This one day annual event will bring together young people, lead officers, partner agencies and elected members to celebrate and hear about young people's participation in Edinburgh. It will highlight the actions taken regarding issues identified throughout the year by young people and staff involved in the projects above and in their communities. As with the gathering events, they will be facilitated and organised by young people drawn from the participation mentors team.

Consultation protocol

A young people's consultation protocol has been developed to assist the management of the large number of requests for consultation with young people. This protocol enables young people's response and involvement in consultations to be managed and productive. The next stage of the protocol is for young people themselves to manage the whole process. It is envisaged young people will take ownership not only of the expression their views, but also which consultations they prioritise and how those consultations are run. They will be able to offer advice to agencies on methods as appropriate to ensure that the activities meet the needs of all stakeholders.

Youth Participation in Edinburgh (2014) will be successful if

- A diverse range of young people from across Edinburgh attend the events organised, including members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, local forums, student councils
- 30 young people trained to become 'Participation Mentors' before April 2014
- These participation mentors (and other keen young people) lead events and discussions both within and outside the structures of the Young People's Participation Team.
- Elected members, partners and key officers attend and participate fully in the variety of activities organised to discuss the issues raised by young people.
- There are increased links between Neighbourhood Partnerships and young people
- An annual young people's participation conference occurs showcasing young people's participation across the city, the first of these will be in March 2014.
- Services (both Council and partners) learn from the young people and develop their practice because of the participation of young people
- Young people's participation in formal democratic processes is increased. Specifically turnout for the 2014 independence referendum in the 16-18 yr old age range in Edinburgh is in the top quarter of local authorities in Scotland