

Impact by numbers

64 PVGs processed

Volunteers recruited for members

63

47 Free training sessions offered

Represents the third sector in

9

strategic committees within Scottish Borders Council

Organisations who do what we do in the Borders

1

“ Our over-arching aim is to support alternative environments where young people come first and thrive here in the Scottish Borders. ”

Find out more

www.youthborders.org.uk

Scottish Charity No SC037680

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THE IMPACT OF YOUTHBORDERS

2016 / 2017

LEADERSHIP

EMPOWERING

VISION

PARTNERSHIP

SUPPORT

YouthBorders' Impact

We continue to develop our practices, refresh our policies and strengthen our strategic representation to ensure our 34 members and 3500 young people feel supported, are safe and have a voice in the Scottish Borders. Building on last year's recognition in the joint services' inspection, we have continued to strive to be unique in Scotland and best practice, developing new partnerships, creating a strong youth work partnership with joint outcomes and promoting the need for sustainable funding for our sector. Youth work is an essential part in addressing attainment, employability, participation, emotional health and wellbeing - in fact, most aspects of young people's lives - providing them with skills, confidence and fun to meet the challenges they face. A strong supported YouthBorders is fundamental in ensuring youth work is recognised but also to give a coherent and definitive voice to the needs and issues facing the sector and young people in our region. Working together we can ensure our impact, and the impact of youth work, remains strong and clear in the year ahead.

LEADERSHIP

The **strategic role** of YouthBorders is of key importance to our members and has grown significantly in the past 12 months. By adding value and ensuring that we are **speaking as one voice** on behalf of our members and young people, we have consolidated our role on many public and third sector bodies, locally and nationally including; Scottish Borders **Joint Services Children and Young People's Leadership Group**, **Youth Scotland Area Association network**, and the **Children Engagement and Participation Group**.

We have also played an **active role** in consultations and policy development at a local, regional and national level as well as built many new links and discussions with funders, not only for ourselves but for our members too.

YouthBorders aims to be as **best practice and leaders** in our field as possible and to this end will work in the coming year towards the Investors in Young People award, LGBT Foundation Charter and setting up of a Youth Board, empowering young people to have a voice and be **drivers of change**.

PARTNERSHIP

Working with others from all sectors is at the core of what YouthBorders does best as a **networking body**. Built on a strong locality model of 7 areas within the Scottish Borders forming a **unique youth work partnership**, we believe in **collaboration** and communication, sharing good practice and providing greater opportunities for young people across the region.

YouthBorders facilitates the views of all the member organisations through its own forums such as the **chairs of chairs** and the **specialist network**, as well to external partners presenting a joint vision, joint outcomes and joint funding bids.

We work closely with **Community Learning and Development** in particular and are an integral part of their **Strategic Partnership**, linking our vision into and across the local authority. Increasingly we are working with **new partners** and linking into **local businesses** to promote recruitment opportunities to our young people in conjunction with the Developing the Young Workforce and other initiatives.

EMPOWERING

Young people are at the core of everything we do and we aim to give them **a voice** at all levels.

YouthBorders **empowers** each and every member ensuring their staff, volunteers and young people have the skills they need to be the best youth organisation possible. To do this over the past year we have been working on several projects both internally within YouthBorders and externally, building capacity and resilience with **training courses**, cross Border **projects** and **networks**.

YouthBorders **sexual health project** launched a new theatre production to up-skill and empower young people in schools as well as practitioners, including our youth workers, enabling all those involved to break down barriers, remove any stigmas and normalise the conversation.

We established a successful **Youth Music Forum** giving young people **new opportunities** and confidence to develop themselves through the whole music journey from song writing, performing, production and marketing.

SUPPORT

For many members, the **support** that YouthBorders provides is the fundamental reason they join.

They know that by being a member of YouthBorders they get to be part of an incredible **community**, one which YouthBorders helps facilitate with the **sharing of best practise** and knowledge, making the **YouthBorders' partnership** not only valuable to our members but valued by external organisations.

With bespoke membership support, YouthBorders gives members invaluable support, based on their individual needs. This might be for **PVGs**, **policies**, **governance support**, **help** with new Government initiatives within the third sector or undertaking free and effective **training**, allowing staff and volunteers to gain accreditation and **confidence** in the process.

YouthBorders has also been facilitating joint training and funding bids with members and partners, helping to **increase the capacity and long term sustainability** of Youth Work in the Scottish Borders.

VISION

Over the last year YouthBorders has delivered on its mission statement; **"Our over-arching aim is to support alternative environments where young people come first and thrive here in the Scottish Borders."**

By working collaboratively and in striving to be best practice, YouthBorders aims to continue to;

- Support the work of our members to **enable young people** to thrive.
- Promote and **represent the youth work sector** and be the voice of young people in the Scottish Borders and beyond.
- **Develop stronger youth work organisations** and build capacity through best practice governance, policies, procedures and training.
- To **support the youth work sector** to deliver more choices and chances for more young people, building confidence and self esteem.
- To **develop new and effective partnerships** to meet these aims and deliver joint outcomes.

Our Funders

