

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY YOUTH COUNCIL

UPDATE REPORT
APRIL 2019 - DECEMBER 2020



SUPPORTED BY:



STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP

Dumfries and Galloway's Youth Council (DGYC) is an elected body consisting of up-to 35 young people aged 12-25 across the region. There are 3 types of representative; Ward and Nominated Youth Councillors, and Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs). DGYC consists of:

- 24 Ward Youth Councillors (2 per Ward area) who have been elected to represent young people who live and study within their area
- 7 Nominated Youth Councillors who have been elected to represent 'nominated' or marginalised groups: Young Parents, LGBT Youth, Young People with Additional Support Needs and Disabilities, Care Experienced Young People, Young Carers, Ethnic Minority Youth, and Gypsy / Traveller Young People.
- 4 Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament elected to represent the 2 Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies at a local and national level.

Elected on April 1st 2019, Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council Members went through an orientation period and became active in their roles after the school, college and university exams had concluded in July 2019.

Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council is governed by a Leadership Group that includes representation for every locality, and every type of role.

Murrie Thomson, Ward Youth Councillor for Mid & Upper Nithsdale, representing Nithsdale Members

Natasha O'Neill, Ward Youth Councillor for Annandale South, representing Annandale and Eskdale Members

Lindsay Thomson, Ward Youth Councillor for Castle Douglas & Crocketford, representing Stewartry Members

Elli Wadsworth, Ward Youth Councillor for Mid Galloway & Wigtown West, representing Wigtownshire Members

Will Wallace, LGBT Nominated Youth Councillor, representing Nominated Members

Hannah Birse, MSYP for Galloway & West Dumfries, representing MSYP Members

ELECTIONS

The regional elections for DGYC were due to take place in March 2021 with the candidate recruitment phase of the elections process beginning in September 2020 as part of a uniformed approach aligned to the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) elections. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and limitations on facilitating in-person voting, DGYC have passed a motion to postpone with the elections until November 2021 in line with the Scottish Youth Parliament Elections.

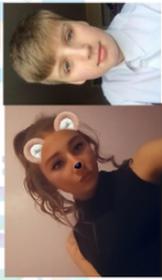
Due to the change in date we anticipate that a small number of Members will resign from post before the end of their extended term due to them making the transition into higher or further education, or full-time employment.

THE FOLLOWING 2 PAGES DETAIL OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY'S WARD YOUTH COUNCILLORS



1. STRANRAER & THE RHINS



CLOE ALLISON & ROXY WILSON

2. MID GALLOWAY & WIGTOWN WEST



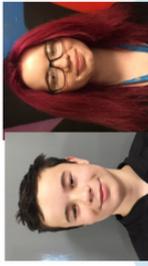
DANIEL HOOPER-JONES & ELLI WADSWORTH

3. DEE & GLENKENS



JOSEPHINE PALLINDER & LEWIS YOUNG

4. CASTLE DOUGLAS & CROCKETFORD



MACKINLEY BROWN & LINDSAY THOMSON

5. ABBEY

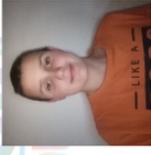


MAIRI HERRICK & VACANCY

THERE'S 12 WARD AREAS IN D&G - 2 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM EACH WARD HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO REPRESENT THEIR AREA!



12. ANNANDALE EAST & ESKDALE



DARRIE FOSTER & CONNOR TAYLOR

11. ANNANDALE NORTH



MIA BEATTIE & JOSH CARTWRIGHT

10. ANNANDALE SOUTH



SOPHIE BLAIR & NATASHA ONEILL

9. LOCHAR



HANNAH-KATE FISHER & BRIONY THOMSON

8. NITH



THOMAS PAINE & MHRIBAN LUCY JIN NALCI

7. MID & UPPER NITHSDALE



MURRIE THOMSON & BAILEY WRIGHT

6. NORTH WEST DUMFRIES



BLAKE DEAN & LUCY FORREATH

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY'S NOMINATED YOUTH COUNCILLORS &



MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

THERE'S 7 NOMINATED YOUTH COUNCILLORS* - THEIR JOB IS TO REPRESENT YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE REGION WHO ARE FROM GROUPS WHO AREN'T ALWAYS HEARD IN DECISION MAKING!

LGBT YOUTH



WILL WALLACE

YOUNG CARERS



ORLA KENNEDY MOFFAT

CARE EXPERIENCED YOUTH



CHUT TURNER

YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS & DISABILITIES



CONNOR JOHNSTON

THERE'S 4 MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT - THEIR JOB IS TO REPRESENT THEIR CONSTITUENCY IN THE SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT!

DUMFRIESSHIRE



HALIME YILDIZ & CAMERON GREER

GALLOWAY & WEST DUMFRIES



HANNAH BIRSE & VACANCY

CURRENT VACANCIES

GYPSY / TRAVELLER YOUTH
YOUNG PARENT

ABBEY WARD

MSYP GALLOWAY & WEST DUMFRIES

ETHNIC MINORITY YOUTH



DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Dumfries & Galloway



YOUTH COUNCIL PROGRESS UPDATE

APRIL - DECEMBER 2019

April - June 2019

- DGYC participated in induction training to develop their skills, build relationships, and create youth-led operating procedures for the organisation.
- MSYPs went to South Ayrshire to meet with the MSYPs from North, South and East Ayrshire in a South West Scotland partnership.
- Had a stall at Youth Beatz within the Youth Work Tent to promote the newly elected organisation to young people.

July - September 2019

- Members attended the South of Scotland Enterprise Partnership Planning day with a focus on how the organisation can better engage young people.
- Musicares workshop organised by the Care Experienced Youth Councillor was delivered in Castle Douglas with 10 young people.
- All Members participated in 2-day skills building workshop themed around 10,000 Voices, and planning the annual Young Volunteer & Activist conference ROOTS.
- 5 Ward meetings between Elected Members and Ward Youth Councillors in Dee & Glenkens, Annandale North, Annandale East & Eskdale, Annandale South, Castle Douglas & Crocketford took place.

October - December 2019

- Members participated in the scoring panel for the Holiday Food Fund applications.
- Members participated in 4 transformation events focussed on;
 - Partnership Approaches to Earlier Intervention for Vulnerable Families
 - Fees and Charges
 - Transport
 - Education
- DGYC delivered their 1st regional gathering for 92 young people across the region. The event was held at Easterbrook Hall and included workshops on LGBT Awareness, Leadership and Environmental Activism.
- 6 Ward meetings between Elected Members and Ward Youth Councillors in Lochar, Nith, Abbey, Stranraer & the Rhins and Mid Galloway & Wigtown West took place.
- 5 Members of DGYC worked in partnership with Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway to deliver the Children, Young People and Power conference.
- A training pack developed by DGYC focussed on advocacy and campaigning was delivered in New Galloway to a group of young activists.



YOUTH COUNCIL PROGRESS UPDATE

JANUARY - JUNE 2020

January - March 2020

- DGYC carried out postcard consultations within every Ward area to find out from young people what changes they wanted to see in their local areas. In total, over 500 consultations were returned across the region and the findings of these were used to inform Youth Councillors local ward action plans.
- The 1st Joint Full and Youth Council meeting took place to discuss the issues affecting young people in across the region. Elected Members and Youth Council Members collaboratively developed actions that could be taken forward over the coming year.
- Members participated in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service' Stakeholder Workshop that helped determine the new Local Plan for the service moving forward.
- MSYP Hannah Birse met with DGC's Climate and Environmental Champion, Councillor Dougie Campbell and MSPs Finlay Carson and Oliver Mundell to speak with them about the Scottish Youth Parliaments Environmental Campaign, 'Pack It Up, Pack It In'. Hannah represented MSYPs in the South of Scotland on the SYPs National Campaign Delivery Group.
- DGYC met in the Council Chambers at English Street to discuss issues including Mental Health, D&G Schools Model and Participatory Budgeting through the 10,000 Voices in Action Project. The Schools Model aspect of the agenda was delivered by colleagues within education and mirrored the seminar previously facilitated with Elected Members.

April - June 2020

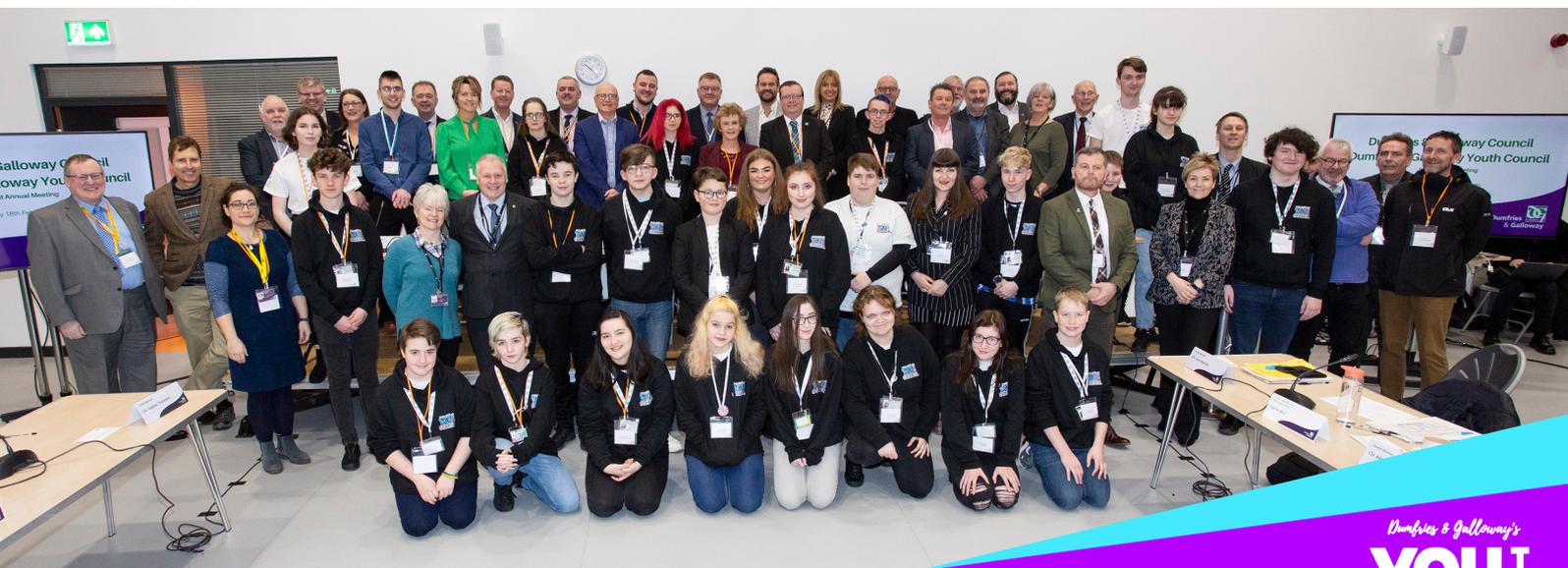
- Members assessed, scored and awarded funding as part of the CashBack for Communities: Youth Work Fund panel for Dumfries and Galloway. CashBack reinvests proceeds of crime back into the community to benefit young people across Scotland.
- DGYC put forward questions for the Children and Young People Cross-Party Group which saw Ministers and Members discuss the issues facing children and young people nationally.
- Work began for the consultation that aimed to capture the impact COVID-19 had, and was continuing to have, on young people in Dumfries and Galloway. Nationally, the Lockdown Lowdown consultation had been carried out in April however there was a need locally to sense check whether young people in D&G were experiencing the same worries as those from more populated cities. Four Youth Council Members were involved in the development, delivery and analysis of the consultation and findings. Over 500 young people aged 11-25 participated over 3 weeks from July - August and the Youth Council played a key role in promoting the opportunity for young people to have their voices heard during this time.
- DGYC passed a Motion in support of the Black Lives Matter movement which had gained widespread coverage through media outlets and on social media after the death of George Floyd. The motion passed unanimously, and the Youth Council wrote to all local and national decision makers to better understand the anti-racism work that was being undertaken at both a local and national level. Members have also participated in sessions focussed on how they can effectively challenge racist attitudes, behaviours and language within their own communities as a result.
- 12 Members participated in digital Suicide Prevention Training

YOUTH COUNCIL PROGRESS UPDATE

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020

July - September 2020

- DGYC facilitated a series of by-elections which seen 7 Youth Councillors elected to the organisation. Existing Members took the lead in the training of candidates and delivery of information sessions. Over 300 young people voted online and new Ward Youth Councillors were elected in Annandale East & Eskdale, Mid Galloway & Wigtown West, Lochar and Dee & Glenkens.
- Stranraer and the Rhins Ward Youth Councillors started a partnership with the local Community Assets Team to carry out a consultation with young people on how they could utilise their remaining budget to upgrade the skate park. The Youth Councillors developed the consultation, including questions and collection method and then gathered young peoples views to present back for discussion and approval. Ideas included new shelters and equipment to make the skate park more accessible and inviting for teenagers.
- Mid Galloway and Wigtown West Ward Youth Councillors and MSYP took part in a consultation with Cree Valley Community Council in order to aid in the development of their Community Action Plan in September. There was an initial focus group, then two additional meetings to follow up and write the plan and as a result of this engagement there is a now a stronger partnership between the Youth Council and the Community Council.
- MSYPs met with MSP Emma Harper to discuss the findings of the COVID-19 Impact Report and broader issues affecting young people in D&G. MSYPs carried out a consultation on the MSPs behalf and received 270 responses.
- Youth Councillors presented the findings of the Impact Report online to Dumfries and Galloway Council.
- Members participated in the Kerbside Recycling Member Session
- Members participated in the 1st consultation session for the Anti-Poverty Strategy that is currently being developed.
- DGYC delivered 3 community led beach clean in Annan, Garlieston and Stranraer as part of their commitment to tackling environmental issues.



KEY MILESTONES

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2020

October - November 2020

- Members participated in a series of review and brainstorming sessions for the Instrumental Music Service
- Members developed ideas for the new Youth Council Enquiry Service (YCES) being developed.
- Members met with the Community Asset team to discuss how parks in the region could become more teenage friendly.
- MSYPs participated in a National focus groups facilitated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) on the challenges facing students.
- DGYC submitted a formal response to Transport Scotland and Scottish Governments proposed plans to make bus travel free for under 19's.
- DGYC's Rights, Inequalities and Discrimination group ran a mini-information series over 5 days in October to raise awareness of Invisible Disabilities Awareness Week.
- 5 Youth Council Members participated in the Community Planning Partnership meeting at the Easterbrook Hall. The Members presented the findings of the COVID report and also stayed on to participate in the meeting.
- A proposal developed alongside DGYC was presented to the South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) Regional Economic Partnership (REP) proposing the employment of 2 Modern Apprenticeships This proposal was approved with the positions starting in the New Year.
- 2 Members participated in the Saltire Panel reviewing nominations for the Summit Award. Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway approached DGYC about this opportunity.
- The Rights, Inequalities and Discrimination group launched a local campaign called #KnowYourRights that aims to get children and young people speaking about rights in their communities. The campaign was launched on World Children's Day and will run through until Human Rights Day on December 10th. The campaign included the delivery of Active Bystander Training which was delivered online on November 23rd by the Active Bystander Training Company



KEY MILESTONES

DECEMBER 2020

December 2020

- Annandale South Ward Youth Councillors are working in partnership with Annan Athletic to encourage young people to complete a survey to find out the community's views on refurbishing the MUGA.
- Annandale North Ward Youth Councillors & MSYP have contacted Lockerbie and Moffat Academy with information about how to assess their Carbon Footprint with the aim for the school communities to reduce their carbon emissions by December 2022. This work is ongoing.
- Annandale East & Eskdale Ward Youth Councillor & MSYP are working with Langholm Academy through the Eco Group to do a Carbon Footprint assessment and set their own targets to reduce this by December 2022.
- Members were involved in a series of interview panels to recruit new Youth Development Workers, Community Mental Health Youth Information Workers and Online and Digital Youth Information Workers for the Youth Work Service.
- DGYC passed a motion to become a Zero Waste organisation by 2023.
- Nith, Lochar, and North West Dumfries Ward Youth Councillors are actively promoting and gathering views towards the Dumfries Town Centre priorities consultation that is underway. PAS have been working with the Youth Council to establish mechanisms to gather the views, experiences and aspirations of young people.
- In December, a Climate For Beginners Session was delivered online by the Environment and Climate Change group and aims to engage with young people who care about environmental issues but don't know how to start or what they can do to be kinder to the planet.



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General information and requests for consultation, training and events should
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Dumfries & Galloway's

YOUTH COUNCIL

#YouthVoice

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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