



Dumfries and Galloway Council

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Strategy 2021 – 2026



Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Dumfries & Galloway Council's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Strategy 2021-2026. The strategy will provide young people, volunteers, professionals and practitioners with direction as to how the Duke of Edinburgh's Award will operate in Dumfries and Galloway over the coming years, and the crucial and significant impacts it has for young people across our region.

The strategy has incorporated the views of citizens, customers, staff and partners, especially those concerned with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and those who are involved in its delivery, regarding the current and future delivery of the award in our region. We have been committed to ensuring that all stakeholder views shaped the development of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Strategy 2021-2026, so that we can best support the needs of all young people involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme in our region, in partnership with communities.

Our Council is committed to ensuring that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to grow, and it is adapted to meet the needs of young people who undertake their DofE programme and that the volunteers who support the Award are fully supported

We are exceptionally thankful to all partners and volunteers who work collaboratively on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award across Dumfries & Galloway to enhance the opportunities and experiences we are able to provide to young people in our region, and we are committed to ensuring the continued long term sustainability of the Award in Dumfries & Galloway.

**Councillor Adam Wilson,
Young People's Champion**

Introduction

What is the DofE?

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a national youth charity that supports over 300,000 people aged 14-24 every year to undertake their Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE Award. The ethos of the Award programme is to enable every young person irrespective of background to take part in a DofE programme and to accomplish, regardless of any barriers that may be present in their lives. Participation helps to instil a sense of adventure and have a lasting impact on young people's behaviour, skills and life chances.

The DofE mission is to inspire, guide and support young people in their self-development and recognise their achievements. Anyone aged between 14 and 24 can do a programme at one of the three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There are four sections at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold.

Young people will achieve a Duke of Edinburgh's Award if they show persistence, commitment and personal development over a period of time. Every activity must be successfully completed and assessed. The result is the world's leading achievement award for young people, recognised by employers and universities alike. Completing a DofE programme enables young people to develop skills for life and work, supporting young people to develop resilience, confidence and a 'can do' attitude as well as the social and communication skills that businesses are calling out for.

DofE programmes are delivered in the UK under licence by over 1,200 partners (Licensed Organisations, including Dumfries and Galloway Council) in over 13,000 DofE centres such as youth clubs, voluntary organisations, schools, academies, colleges, universities, young offender institutions and businesses, which are run and supported by around 50,000 adult volunteers.

Under the Council's license, around 430 young people are enrolled in the programme in Dumfries and Galloway per year. As of May 2021, Dumfries and Galloway Council operates 16 DofE Centres through Schools and community based Open Centres run by Youth Work Service.

The Youth Work Service has overall strategic responsibility for the Award within our Council and has responsibility for development and oversight of the award including expeditions and staffing.

Purpose of this Strategy

'Youth Without Limits' is the DofE's national strategy for 2021-26 and our strategy for Dumfries and Galloway Council aims to contribute to the objectives of the National Strategy, to set out how our Council has been running the Duke of Edinburgh's Award across our region, and how we will build on the delivery of the DofE moving forward. We will ensure that young people are at the centre of shaping of our provision, informing what that will look like as a model in practice for Dumfries & Galloway. A co-production model will be centre to our DofE approach in coming years.

Our strategy puts young people at the heart of DofE and is clearly aligned with the national strategy which is key to its identity. The strategy itself is a direct result of widespread stakeholder engagement with young people who access the Award currently, young people who don't or haven't accessed the Award, parents, Elected Members, adult volunteers, youth workers and Schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a refocused lens on the importance of supporting young people's mental health, qualifications, friendships and future. Outdoor education and the balanced structure of DofE programmes contribute greatly to supporting young people and their futures, and it is vital to ensure that we are working harder than ever to engage young people in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, irrespective of their circumstance or background. We must also place a strong emphasis on the benefits and positive impact that taking part in the award has on the lives of our young people. Over the next 5 years, we want to make the DofE more accessible and relevant, giving more young people in Dumfries and Galloway the chance to participate in a life changing DofE programme.

Within this Strategy, we will focus on our 4 strategic goals:

- Access
- Communication
- Quality
- Value

We will also place a focus on our key strategic drivers to be people-powered and values led; be data-driven and innovative and be financially sustainable.

Wider policy context

It is important for young people, volunteers, leaders, professionals and other stakeholders to know where this Strategy fits with local and national policies and strategies, and how these will guide the work that we undertake in relation to the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Scotland's Youth Work Strategy

Outlines the Nature and Purpose of Youth Work in Scotland with the overarching ambition that young people, in every part of Scotland, should have access to high quality and effective youth work practice. This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring that Scotland is the best place to be young and grow up in.
- Putting young people at the heart of policy.
- Recognising the value of youth work.
- Building workforce capacity.
- Ensuring we measure our impact.

Council Priorities

Priority Two:

“Provide the best start in life for all our Children and Young People”.

This includes supporting young people to become active citizens.

Priority Four:

“Be an inclusive Council” by ensuring that local people and communities are at the heart of our decision making.

Community Participation and Engagement Strategy

Objective 1: To ensure our decision-making structures and processes are understood and accessible for individuals and communities

Objective 2: To increase opportunities for individuals and communities to participate and engage in our Council's services and projects

Objective 5: To provide support for those seldom heard to enable them to be involved in our participation and engagement opportunities

Objective 6: To improve the quality of engagement activity across all Council services

Objective 8: To make the best use of our resources

Children's Services Plan

The priorities within our Children's Services Plan are that by working together with our children, young people, their families and communities we will ensure:

- Children and young people are safe and free from harm.
- The life chances and outcomes for care experienced children and young people improve.
- The impact of poverty on children and young people is reduced.
- The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people improves.
- Children and young people with complex needs and disabilities are enabled to reach their potential.
- How we support parents and carers to meet the needs of their children and young people improves.

CLD Plan

Outcome 1: Skills and learning opportunities are co-ordinated across partners and our provision is targeted and reaching those in most need.

This Strategy specifically related to Key Operational Action to: "Provide a range of accredited learning opportunities for our communities and targeted at those in most need (i.e. unemployed people, disabled people, those facing poverty).

Outcome 2: Our children and young people are experiencing improved outcomes and positive destinations through enhanced partnership working.

This Strategy specifically related to Key Operational Action to: "ensure every secondary school has access to an agreed wider achievement offer."

Youth Work Service Priorities & Commitments

The DofE is a key part of our Councils Youth Work Service and within the services Priorities and Commitments there is a clear focus on support and development of the DofE within our region.

Priority 4: Wider Achievement including The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Our Vision for DofE in Dumfries and Galloway

We will help any young person in our region to build their skills, challenge themselves to achieve their goals and believe in their own abilities. Young people and adults are partners in the process, and we will support individuals and communities to allow all young people to unlock their potential.

Our Values

- Challenge
- Openness
- Quality Orientated
- Community



Objectives and Priority Areas of Work

A. Access:

We will increase the number and diversity of young people accessing a DofE programme, make sure it is available in a setting where young people want to do it, and address issues that prevent young people undertaking their DofE programme.

- We will tackle barriers to participation and progression by supporting and extending our DofE network.
- We will make sure young people can complete their DofE programme where they are.
- We will increase the number of opportunities for young people to complete their DofE.
- We will review how we can further support young people to access the award, where finance may be a barrier connected with our Tackling Poverty & Inequality Work.

B. Communication:

We will promote the value, relevance, and positive impacts the DofE has for young people, leaders, volunteers and the wider communities in Dumfries and Galloway.

- Young people can share their experiences, achievements and enthusiasm, and support more young people to take on their own DofE programme.
- Establish a vibrant directory of organisations, businesses and supporters who can [maximise the experience of young people doing their DofE programme.](#)

C. Quality:

We will support delivery of high quality, challenging and personalised development opportunities and DofE programmes for all our young people and leaders.

- Young people have access to opportunities that are impactful to their well-being, development and communities in which they live or study.
- Young people receive a high-quality experience wherever they wish to undertake their DofE programme.
- Leaders and volunteers receive a high standard of support and development to fulfil [their roles.](#)

D. Value:

We will support meaningful reflection and evaluation for young people through their participation and achievement. We will celebrate our young people and our network.

- Young people understand how their achievements positively impact their life and opportunities.
- Local and regional events will recognise the achievements of young people, the dedication of our leaders and volunteers, and help extend the reach of DofE in the communities that make up Dumfries and Galloway.



Delivery Milestones

- Review current delivery model and scope areas for innovation with new and existing partners.
- Ensure all young people can access DofE at the level and in a setting of their choice.
- Review how we can further support young people to access the award, where finance may be a barrier.
- Dedicated recruitment campaign to attract more leaders and volunteers to support more young people to achieve a Duke of Edinburgh's Award.
- Secure funding to support leader training and development to build capacity.
- Develop and implement a communications plan to promote the impacts and opportunities the DofE offers to young people and adults.
- Continue to deliver an annual regional awards presentation event.

DofE Strategy Action Plan 2021-2023

Action	Link to Objective(s)	Timescale	Lead
Training for leaders delivering expeditions	A, B, C	September 2021	Manager Youth Work
Scope delivery models and resourcing with Education and Skills Service	A, C	December 2021	Manager Youth Work/ Education and Learning
Review how we can further support young people to access the award, where finance may be a barrier connected.	A	December 2021	Manager Youth Work
Review community based DofE opportunities across all communities	A, B, C	December 2021	Manager Youth Work
Implement communications plan for the DofE in Dumfries & Galloway inc. The promotion of the DofE and practical information about how young people can get involved	B, C, D	December 2021	Manager - Youth Work
Celebration of Participant and volunteer achievements and contributions	D	January 2022	Manager - Youth Work
Establish performance information and development plans for each DofE Centre	C, D	March 2022	Manager Youth Work
Young Mentor programme in place	C, D	June 2022	Manager Youth Work
Business and Organisation network in place supporting DofE participants	B, C, D	September 2022	Manager Youth Work



CONTACT INFORMATION

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