



YOUNG SCOT PARTNERSHIP - PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Report by Chief Officer, Education and Children's Services

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to provide an update to the Comhairle on Young Scot partnership performance in the Western Isles.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 In partnership with Young Scot, (Scotland's national youth information platform) the Comhairle via Community Learning and Development section promotes access to Young Scot services including the Young Scot Identity Card, discounts and online services. The Young Scot Strategy sets out to help young people:
 - 'Be Informed' by making informed decisions and challenging misinformation.
 - 'Be Connected' by taking advantage of our opportunities, discounts and entitlements to support their wellbeing.
 - 'Be Empowered' by exercising their rights as system changers, influence decision-making, and sharing power both locally and nationally.
- 2.2 Young Scot National Entitlement Cards are PASS approved (Proof of Age Standards Scheme) in Scotland, and all Young Scot National Entitlement Cards (NEC) issued, display the PASS hologram. This allows young people to use their Young Scot NEC as a legal, voluntary proof of age. The Young Scot Insight Report which covers activity and impact in Na Eilean an Iar is detailed in the Appendix.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle note the Report.**

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Appendix: Young Scot Insight Report – September 2023
Background Papers:

IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	Membership of Young Scot is met by CLD Core budget
Legal	n/a
Staffing	n/a
Assets and Property	n/a
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	n/a
Equalities	Supports youth participation principles
Corporate Strategy	Supports community empowerment principles
Environmental Impact	
Consultation	Supports youth voice initiatives

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The Comhairle pays an annual fee to Young Scot to access their services linking to seven priority areas, aligned to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Young Scot Action Plan:
- Young Scot NEC uptake
 - PASS (the National Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
 - Rewards and discounts
 - Digital information (through young. Scot, a specific local page for the area and access to wide ranging social media platforms)
 - Empowerment opportunities
 - Smart tech
 - Planning and partner engagement (including specific local support)
- 5.2 Young Scot is delivered through Community Learning and Development (CLD). CLD promote the Young Scot opportunities through school inputs, youth work activities and their social media. CLD manage the applications and processing of all Young Scot applications for the Western Isles.
- 5.3 [young.scot](https://www.young.scot) website is Scotland's leading information website for young people. It is packed full of quality-assured information tailored specifically for young people. They share this information with young people inside the digital spaces they spend their time in including TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and YouTube. They also translate key information and social posts into Gaelic.
- 5.4 Nationally some of the most popular in-person discounts are at the Co-op, Cotswold Outdoor, Citylink and Schuh. Young people can also sign up at [young.scot](https://www.young.scot) and get access to online discounts – including money off at Footasylum, Hostelling Scotland, Snow + Rock, Cass Art and Cineworld.

DETAIL

- 6.1 3,388 young people have a valid Young Scot National Entitlement Card (NEC) in the Comhairle area, 89% of young people aged 11-25, providing them with access free proof of age, discounts and exclusive rewards.
- 6.2 2,069 young people in the area have travel entitlement on their Young Scot NEC - an opt in scheme (data taken from May 2024). Promotion of the Under 22s Free Bus Travel Scheme continues. In Spring 2024 all parents of S4-S6 pupils were contacted to ensure their child's Young Scot NEC is activated for Free Bus Travel - this is an opt-in scheme.

- 6.3 Young Scot National Entitlement Card holders in the Western Isles aged 16-18 years old receive their annual entitlement of two return ferry tickets a year.
- 6.4 There are currently 13 physical locations in the Western Isles that offer a Young Scot NEC discount for cardholders. Community Learning and Development (CLD) staff recently gathered the views of young people on where they would like to see discounts locally. Young Scot staff have contacted these local businesses to share with them the opportunity to offer a Young Scot discount – there has been no update on this so far.
- 6.5 Young Scot Voting: Scottish Youth Parliament elections took place in February 2024. Voting was via the Young Scot website. There were issues with the Young Scot Voting platform in November 2023 which resulted in the elections being delayed until February 2024.
- 6.6 429 young people in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have signed up for Young Scot Rewards, a 39% increase from September 2022. The Young Scot Reward Points app, which is due to be launched soon, will enable young people to collect their reward points for positive activities by swiping their Young Scot NEC at groups and events.
- 6.7 Young Scot Magazine: The Young Scot Magazine is a new initiative, with the first issue of the magazine targeted to P7 pupils in Spring 2024. The Young Scot magazines were distributed via CLD staff as part of their P7 Transition work.
- 6.8 Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) audit carried out in September 2023 for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. PASS/Young Scot did not have any concerns about the practice.

CONCLUSION

- 7.1 CLD have continued to have membership of Young Scot and the associated services because it sees value in the services provided for young people and the national entitlement card provides equity for all young people in the Western Isles.