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Due to commitment and dedication of board members, staff team and supporters, I am pleased to report that Y2K has achieved much over the past year. Our new Project Manager has been appointed and has quickly settled in. A few staff have moved on to other positions and new members have joined the team.

Drop ins continue to be well attended with a variety of subjects, including healthy eating and the dangers relating to smoking and alcohol being addressed. Together with our 1-2-1 work and involvement in schools, our local young people have access to relevant advice, support and encouragement aimed at preparing them to become healthy, responsible, independent citizens. Our Summer Programme events involved 58 young people not only having fun but also gaining an insight into the role of our emergency services and building relationships at our local Fire Station. This involved inputs from the police as well as First Aid sessions. On the final day of the fire safety course the young people presented the learned drills to family and friends.

It is encouraging that major funders continue to recognise the value of the work and achievements of Y2K which enhance and benefit our local community.

Funding for Growing Gardeners ceased on 31st March 2017 and it was necessary to halt the operation for a short period which, unfortunately, resulted in redundancies. However, it was particularly satisfying to see “trainees” who had joined us as school leavers, securing employment in a variety of roles, proving that the training and experience gained during their time with Growing Gardeners was effective.

Funding was later secured, a Project Coordinator and new team appointed and gardening work recommenced in early July. Demand is high and customers have provided very positive feedback.

Continued...
A full review of policies and procedures was completed and staff undertook relevant training. The project has always benefitted from tremendous support and this year gratitude is particularly due to Midlothian Council Life-long Learning and Employability team who have devoted significant time to both staff and board members.

Major funders are Midlothian Council, Children in Need, The Robertson’s Trust, The People and Communities Fund and McSence. Projects have also received financial support from Melville Housing Association, Foundation Scotland, Dr Guthrie’s, Scotmid, Rag Bag, Santander, Tabhair Trust, Neil Williams Haulage and NHS Health Scotland.

Ongoing practical support continues to be provided by MVA, SEAM and McSence. The director’s appreciation is noted for all continuous support and encouragement received.

We look forward to the next year and the opportunities it will bring. The building of relationships within the community is an ongoing priority. Young people will be encouraged and supported to take an interest in local events and issues and become involved. Support to those in further education or seeking employment will continue, as will active encouragement of healthy lifestyles. Continuous monitoring of service provision and development of our services will enable us to meet the needs of our young members. We intend to continue to strengthen our Board of Directors by recruiting individuals who have relevant skills and experience as well as by undertaking appropriate training.

Our young people are at the centre of everything we do, and the reason for it! The success of the project depends on their involvement and enthusiasm and we are proud of them.

Pat O’Neill

Current Volunteers

♦ Lee Gilchrist.................Administration

♦ Elaine McCairney.........Support work

Anna Russell, Assistant Youth Worker and Steven Wise, Drop in Volunteer

I have been a volunteer at y2k for short time now. I supported the young people in the summer programme which was fantastic to see all the adventure the young people were involved in, It’s such an amazing feeling to support the young people to go to all the summer trips and see how happy they were. I think there should be a big thank you to all the staff in y2k as well as they are amazing and made me feel very welcome to the team. This is a great project and I love being in this environment.
CURRENT STAFF TEAM

♦ Carol Flack ..........Project Manager (Y2K)

♦ Liz Campbell ......Office Manager (Y2K)

♦ Rose Bird,..........,Administrator (Y2K)

♦ Lyndsey Ritchie .................Y2K+
   Project Leader

♦ Nichola Bailey ...Healthy Living Project
   Team Leader

♦ Laura Anne Mackay ....Young Women’s
   Youth Worker

Y2K KEY OBJECTIVES

Y2K provides activities and educational opportunities for young people living in Mayfield and surrounding areas. Over the past 17 years the project has grown and developed in response to the needs and requirements of the young people accessing the service.

Y2K aims to:

♦ Provide a safe and secure environment open to all young people in the community
♦ Work with young people to challenge risk-taking and anti social behaviours and offer positive diversionary alternatives
♦ Support young people to play active roles within the community
♦ Work with partners to provide responsive services and opportunities to young people, enabling them to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

Y2K delivers its aims through the following services:

Youth Drop-ins: Three open drop-in sessions are delivered weekly. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. The drop-ins remain popular, with 20-40 young people accessing the service each night. Building relationships with our youth workers is of vital importance for the young people’s engagement with the other services on offer.

Y2K+: A confidential and person centred 1:1 service, covering a wide range of issues, including family and relationship breakdown, poor school attendance, offending behavior, low self confidence and esteem, drug and alcohol misuse and gaps in employability skills.
Y2K KEY OBJECTIVES

Helfy Guid:
Y2K’s Healthy Living Project offering young people the opportunity to take part in a wide range of issue-based workshops, practical physical activities and cooking sessions. This includes work in schools.

Growing Gardeners:
A training and employability service for young people, offering work placements to school leavers to help them build confidence and skills, find meaningful and sustainable work, and realise their full potential. Growing Gardeners provides affordable gardening work to the local community and free or low-cost gardening work to local residents with a physical or health condition.

Partnership Work:
Y2K works closely with local primary schools within the Mayfield and Easthouses areas; as well as Newbattle and Dalkeith secondary schools; delivering 1:1 support and group work on a referral basis.

Y2K supports the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership priority of supporting young people into Positive Destinations by working closely with Skills Development Scotland and Midlothian Council, offering work experience placements, employability skills groups, qualifications through Borders College, and Youth Achievement and Saltire awards.

The Y2K building is also used by other community projects including Enable Scotland and the Community Access Team to deliver services for young people with additional support needs.

Y2K continues to be an NHS C Card Point which can be accessed during drop-in services.

FUTURE PLANS

The Y2K Project Manager has been in post since 1st August and as of 1st October has increased her hours from 21 to 28 per week. We are currently seeking funding to support the post at that level into 2018.

We have a Fundraising Strategy focusing on sustaining the core structure of Y2K and developing 3 interlinking project streams:

- Drop-ins – already extended hours, hope to add a 4th evening
- Healthy Living – hope to build the project, add worker post etc.
- Early Intervention for Youth Offending & Risky Behaviour

We will be strengthening our staff team, creating new posts and building a small pool of sessional youth workers. We have been targeting a number of different funders for specific aspects of our planned developments. We should have a clearer picture of how things might proceed by January 2018.

In 2018 we plan to develop our work in schools, educational activities and workshops as part of an alternative timetable designed to meet specific needs of primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils.

We will continue to strengthen partnerships within the local community, with voluntary and statutory services. It is our aim to support Y2K’s use by other local youth groups and services.

The staff team at Y2K will facilitate training and good practice sharing events for youth workers on a range of issues to build partnerships and encourage networking.

We are working with the young people to develop effective methods of communication and involvement – voice and choice – across Y2K, linking with the Board and also the wider community of Mayfield/Easthouses.
CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Patrick O’Neill .........Chairman
- Robert Hogg .............Director
- Sandy Florence ..........Director
- Morag McDonald .........Director
- Willie Hill .............. Director
- Mabel Currie.............Secretary
- Chen Zong ...............Treasurer

Y2K PLUS

Y2Kplus+ is a one to one support service offered by Mayfield & Easthouses Youth 2000 Project (Y2K) for young people aged 12-18 years old.

What does Y2Kplus+ do?

At Y2Kplus+ we can provide:

- One-to-one support on a weekly basis from a Y2Kplus+ worker
- One-to-one outings designed around young persons needs & interests;
- Access to well equipped info point providing advice & materials;
- Access to up-to-date database of agencies offering support & advice;
- Full support through any referrals made to other relevant agencies.

Y2Kplus+ can work with young people to look at issues affecting their lives. These issues can include but not limited to issues such as:

- school difficulties  - anger management  - bullying
- employment         - family difficulties  - isolation
- lack of confidence  - emotional difficulties  - learning support

Y2Kplus+ is a referral based service with referrals from social work teams, local schools and community projects, as well as many self referrals.

This year Y2K Plus has supported 148 young people within drop ins, group work and 1-2-1 settings. We continue to work closely with the local schools, social work departments and other youth services to ensure young people have access to quality supports.

Over the summer holidays Y2K plus+ offered local young people the chance to take part in positive diversionary activities. Over 50 young people engaged with the summer programme and feedback was extremely positive.
The Helfy Guid Project

The Helfy Guid Project takes a holistic approach to young people’s health and wellbeing, we strive to redress the inequalities experienced by young people through offering them assistance to develop skills and confidence, and support them to move forward and make positive choices in their lives.

The past year has seen the project go from strength to strength with 20 young people taking part in group work opportunities within school around issues such as building confidence and resilience, handling emotions and healthy relationships.

Going forward, our focus this year will be on Personal Safety and Positive Risk-Taking. We have already welcomed The British Red Cross to our drop ins to deliver Everyday First Aid sessions and we are continuing our school group work with a focus on the transition from primary to secondary education.

We hope to deliver lots more fun, educational and exciting opportunities for local young people over the coming year!

Nichola Bailey

Healthy Living Project Leader
Community Work

We increased the number of the free garden tidy ups we offer local people who have physical or mental health conditions by 20% from last year (we have offered this service for the last 2 years thanks to the PCF funding). An example of one of the free garden tidy up jobs we carried out during the summer 2016.

Partnerships with local schools

As a result of the increase in our work capacity we have managed to provide and support more Work Experience Placements this year than ever before. The young people have come from Newbattle High School, and commit time to Growing Gardeners every week as part of an alternative timetable. In addition, we also have a Trainee Placement from a local training provider.

Partnerships in the community

We have made stronger links with a few organisations the past year, Melville Housing Association have greatly increased their use for our services as we continuously provide them and their tenants with competitive garden maintenance and clearance work. This has been pivotal to helping us achieve our aim of reaching £30,000 through generated income this year. Working with Treework Scotland has allowed us to offer an additional service as they carry out extended tree work that we can’t provide, this has resulted in us gaining more work from Melville and the community (the cost is significantly lower than other local tree work businesses, this is another valuable service we now offer the community).
Y2K SUMMER PROJECT

Y2K Summer Programme

Every year Y2K offers young people the chance to take part in positive diversionary and educational activities during the school break. This summer we were able to offer 51 young people the chance to enjoy free, exciting trips and events as part of their 6 week school summer break.

The summer programme gives young people the chance to try out new activities and promotes healthy and active lifestyles. With support from our funders, young people were able to enjoy these summer trips with their peers, free of charge.

GROWING GARDENERS

In 2017/2018 our focus will be on:

- Increasing our partnership and collaboration working
- Increasing our customer database and amount of regular maintenance customers.
- Increasing our reach with young people not in education, learning or training.
- Continue to deliver an affordable, reliable, professional and values led gardening service.
- To work with more volunteers (and offer accreditations) in different skills areas.
- To secure funding for 2018/2019.

The Challenge Ahead

The biggest challenge ahead for Growing Gardeners is insufficient reserves to meet our growing social aims and delivery of business services. Diversification of funding income streams is needed, with particular focus on individual projects, social inclusion, growing, welfare reform, and fundraising with unrestricted funds.

Dawn Barclay, Project Co-ordinator, Growing Gardeners

Continued.................................
A year of change

2016/2017 has been a very significant year for Growing Gardeners. The project was called upon to make a very difficult decision in March 2017, the result of which saw Growing Gardeners closing its doors, ceasing its activities and making redundancies.

Its doors remained closed April – August 2017, during, historically, the busiest season for a company offering garden activities. The impact of the closure has resulted in the loss of existing customers and potential sales, the effect of which may not be truly known until the end of the next financial year.

Funding from People and Communities Fund in July 2017 allowed Growing Gardeners to open once again. The team now consists of one full-time Project Manager, one Lead Gardener, an Assistant Gardener, two young people as Trainee Gardeners, two job share Administrators and a Youth Worker. The full staff team were in place as of 12th September 2017. Business activities began again on August 3rd.

Y2K SUMMER PROJECT

I think y2k is a life saver this Summer, with all the free trips going on all through the school holidays.

Being part of the Summer Programme meant I wasn’t bored hanging around getting into trouble.

The trips during the summer were brilliant. I got to do things that I didn’t normally do.

TRIPS INCLUDED

EDINBURGH ZOO
OUTDOOR COMBAT
RYZE

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL
SKIING
PAINTBALL
CERAMIC ARTS

GO KARTING
BEACH TRIPS
GOLFING
Since coming to the drop ins I am so much more confident and feel happier.

The best thing about the drop ins is I have met loads of new pals.

If the drop ins closed, I would be hanging out on the streets bored!

I like all the activities we do like cooking and team games.
Y2K’s drop in services have continued to be our most used service on offer with 354 young people attending weekly sessions over the last year. The drop ins provide young people between the ages of 11-18 the chance to access a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment in which to build on skills and form positive relationships.

The drop ins are the entry level to all of Y2Ks services and it is most commonly through drop ins that young people are then signposted and supported on to the other services we have on offer, including Y2K Plus and the healthy living service.

This year our drop ins have included a real mix of activities ranging from issue based workshops to practical cooking sessions. Our programmes are devised based on the needs and wishes of the young people attending the drop ins to ensure we are being responsive to the needs of our service users.

The drop ins encourage and support young people to increase their confidence, resilience and gain transferrable life skills using informal education.