

**Cultural Commission: phase 2
(questions revised by YouthLink Scotland for member organisations)**

Cultural leadership in Scotland

What role should the Scottish Executive play?

The Scottish Executive should consider the best placing for a cultural team within their structure given the current strategic attention on culture through the Cultural Commission as well as the need to develop the potential of the arts and culture in meeting agendas across: social justice, the curriculum, health, education and within the emerging National Youth Strategy.

The Executive should ensure that there is adequate resourcing for the youth work sector across voluntary and statutory provision to develop high quality creative activity for young people.

Should there be an arms length body?

YouthLink Scotland believes that there should be an arms length body, staffed with specific expertise in all areas of arts development and managing specific funds.

The arms length body should take a role of: leadership, advocating for excellence in developing the arts in Scotland and responding to localised cultural forums.

Within the arms length body there should be a youth arts officer liaising closely with officers in YouthLink Scotland, Young Scot and other national bodies to deliver Scotland wide programmes for the development of arts in informal learning and to individual young people.

The decision making committees should have representation from different sectors and from young people.

What role should local government play?

Local government should be resourced specifically to develop exciting sustainable cultural services for young people in their area – focusing on both access and excellence.

How could a strong youth voice be developed in cultural leadership?

YouthLink Scotland should be represented in decision making structures in the arms length body (such as on a youth committee) and regional representative youth groups should be represented in regional cultural planning bodies.

Young people throughout Scotland should be consulted periodically on arts and cultural developments.

Rights, entitlements and responsibilities

Should cultural rights and entitlements:

a. be used to develop policy and standards?

Yes – cultural rights should run through policy developments and strategies such as the National Youth Strategy, and should be translated into local authority strategies developed through community planning.

b. reflect or link to other areas of policy (social inclusion, social justice)?

Culture should be fully recognised as being integral to the health of a community or society.

YouthLink Scotland believes that the benefit of the use of the arts for young people across social inclusion or social justice agendas is widely acknowledged, however there is scope for the dissemination of good practice and to raise the awareness of the potential of arts professionals delivering high quality programmes in partnership with youth workers.

Existing platforms such as YouthLink Scotland's CREATE Scotland website, www.create-scotland.co.uk, with over 400 contacts of organisations working creatively with young people in informal learning and case studies across the youth and arts sectors lends further scope to the dissemination of good practice in relation to other sectors such as health and justice.

The arts should be seen as having intrinsic value as well as being a powerful tool for personal and social development.

2. Who should have guardianship over cultural rights and who should update/ amend them?

There is a significant difference between cultural rights and cultural entitlements.

The UN convention on human rights already states:

Article 27. (1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

The commission should consider the best legislative and policy mechanisms to facilitate a society where people are able to access excellent cultural activity both as an audience member and participant.

In considering the development of rights and or entitlements for young people in Scotland issues of existing geographical, social and other excluding factors and barriers to participation should be fully explored.

Creating entitlements would involve an obligation through the education system and local authorities to deliver a set of cultural entitlements and resourcing these entitlements would have financial implications for local authorities which the executive should consider.

Guardianship over cultural rights or entitlements would be based with the Executive. The arms length body should be resourced to work with the Executive to update cultural entitlements through a pan sectoral forum responding to local cultural forums.

Pan – sectoral planning

How could pan – sectoral planning regime be established for culture in Scotland?

Pan sectoral planning could take the form of local pan sectoral forums informing a national pan sectoral forum, contributed to and hosted by the arms length body.

The minister for culture and a ministerial grouping/ forum for culture would be involved in and informed by the national pan sectoral forum.

How could a pan sectoral planning regime reflect the needs of young people and the youth sector?

Local youth groups, sourced through the YouthLink Scotland membership, Dialogue Youth and the Scottish Youth Parliament should have representatives on the local forums.

YouthLink Scotland, Young Scot and the Scottish Youth Parliament should have representatives on a Youth Committee at the arms length body.

Local authorities

What legislative requirements are necessary to clarify and enshrine the responsibilities of local authorities towards cultural provision for young people?

A National Culture Bill could be brought forward to both enshrine and ensure the realisation of Cultural Rights. This should refer to the emerging National Youth Strategy

Do we need to define 'adequate provision' with regard to local authorities responsibilities to young people and culture?

Local authorities should be supported in aspiring towards creating excellent creative and cultural provision for young people both in formal and informal learning and should be adequately resourced to do so.

The danger in setting minimum cultural entitlements would be a lack of ambition to develop excellence in cultural services if these were taken as a minimum delivery marker.

However the positive impact of defining 'adequate provision' would be the highlighting of gaps in existing provision.

In setting out cultural entitlements it should be recognised that local authorities face a range of very different challenges and opportunities in providing access to cultural activity; geographical diversity, transport issues and existing cultural facilities and organisations.

A national audit of current cultural provision for young people (12-25) would provide a baseline to inform any strategy for development. YouthLink Scotland could be resourced to develop an audit of cultural provision in informal learning across all art forms.

Should local authorities ring fence funding for culture?

Possibly, however local authorities need to be properly resourced to meet their obligations and local communities aspirations.

Regional

1. Is there a need for regional cultural planning bodies?

Yes.

2. How should they be constituted, governed and managed?

Using Community Planning principles the forums should sit with and be managed by the local authority.

YouthLink Scotland secured a commitment on stage 3 of the Local Government Scotland Act 2003 that local authorities must consult and cooperate with young

people in the community planning process through which they must now deliver public services.

Any forum constituted to oversee cultural decision making should include voluntary organisations, schools and community schools, cross sectoral representatives from health, justice and inclusion, young people and arts practitioners and organisations.

3. What responsibilities should they have?

They should devise a regional strategy within the context of the national framework and local needs and ensure effective use of available finance. They should also be tasked with establishing internal quality assurance systems.

4. How could young people be involved in regional planning bodies?

Young people should have a full and active involvement through meaningful engagement and youth representation.

There should be a number of models explored for youth participation in cultural forums with findings published and disseminated by YouthLink Scotland.

5. How could the cost be justified?

The regional cultural planning bodies would ensure effective and efficient local service delivery, based on local needs, which avoids duplication and ensures value for money.

Funding

1. How can funding processes be simplified and streamlined across Scotland to support cultural activity for young people and the youth sector?

YouthLink Scotland would advocate for a Young Persons Arts Fund which could be managed by YouthLink Scotland and Young Scot in association with the Scottish Arts Council. The fund should have an individual and youth work streams with separate application forms.

The fund would support the development of the arts in informal learning for young people in Scotland and through YouthLink Scotland member organisations would meet social inclusion, health and cultural diversity agendas.

The fund would prioritise high quality partnership work between youth organisations and the professional arts sector.

Each cultural planning forum could also ringfence some funds for work in informal learning contexts and voluntary organisations.

2. Should some money be guaranteed for traditional and indigenous arts?

Yes the traditional arts are part of Scotland's cultural heritage and young people should be encouraged and resourced to take part in traditional arts.

Standards and evaluation

1. What standards of outcome, output, process and governance is it appropriate for a funding body to impose on a recipient of funding?

There should be simple standards agreed nationally and reviewed periodically. These would be based on both quality of artform, quality of delivery (for work with young people recognising youth work skills), quality of experience and measured outcomes and outputs.

2. How are standards of outcome established without compromising quality or local empowerment to meet young people's needs?

The emphasis in creating standards which can be used to report back on work is parity throughout the sector and simplicity.

IT

What are the potential uses of IT to improve cultural administration in Scotland?

The potential uses are vast.

It would be worthwhile to explore models from elsewhere in Europe and further afield.

National companies

What role should national companies play in developing young talent?

National companies should actively collaborate with local authorities/regional cultural planning bodies resulting in touring/outreach to all areas.

They should develop education programmes with access and excellence strands and should respond to young peoples views on cultural delivery.

Cross Cutting

How can the cultural sector as a whole arrange mutually beneficial partnerships with other areas of government such as education?

Through a cross sectoral grouping in the Executive linking in to and listening to the cultural sector on a regular basis through online and face to face forums hosted by the arms length body.