

greenspace scotland media release – Monday 5 March

Young Placechangers programme takes off in Year of Young People

Scotland's parks and greenspace charity, greenspace scotland has received £90,100 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to develop the Young Placechangers programme over the next two years in partnership with Youth Scotland.

Young Placechangers puts young people in the lead role – bringing together the wider community to look at local spaces, plan and deliver improvements.

Welcoming the award, Julie Procter, greenspace scotland chief executive said *“Young people are the citizens of the future but too often they are invisible in the public realm and the missing voice in place consultations. Blending together greenspace scotland's expertise in community placemaking and Youth Scotland's extensive youth work experience, we have worked with youth groups and young people on a series of pioneer projects to co-develop a Young Placechangers programme”*

The Young Placechangers programme will engage and empower young people to take the lead on changing the places where they live. The programme has three core elements drawn from community placemaking principles and youth work approaches: Young people and youth workers will be given training both in residential settings and in local clusters. The Ideas Fund will support activity and deliver quick-wins. Support from peers and 'place professionals' will inspire and enthuse the young people to get involved in their local areas.

We are delighted that Scottish Government is also supporting the Young Placechangers programme through the Ideas Fund which will allow young people to lead community placemaking projects in their local communities and deliver the quick win projects.



Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government and Housing said:

“This year is the Year of Young People, which aims to give young people a stronger voice on issues which affect their lives and the opportunity to showcase their ideas and talents. Undoubtedly the Young Placechangers programme can contribute to this goal, giving young people more of a say in and with their communities, which is something that we want to see more of as part of the planning review. I am thrilled we have been able to provide £90,000 for the Ideas Fund and am looking forward to seeing the Young Placechangers' ideas come to life.”

Through peer facilitation and training the programme will give young people, and the youth workers and other adults that support them, the skills and confidence to engage with others in their communities to take action to improve the environmental quality, biodiversity, playability and vibrancy of

neighbourhoods – and, in the process, change attitudes and mindsets. The results will be better places; stronger and connected communities; more confident, skilled and capable young people.

Youth Scotland's Ian McLaughlan, Chief Executive added *"We are delighted to be working with greenspace scotland on this exciting programme which will empower young people to take the lead in their local communities. This is a great opportunity for community-based youth groups to further influence ways to change the places where they live. Young people in our network have a great track record in the co-production of programmes in youth work and this project will no doubt ensure their participation; a key theme in this special Year of Young People 2018!"*

Lucy Casot, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Scotland, said: *"We are enthusiastic about giving young people the chance to learn about heritage and empowering them to take the lead through our funding. Thanks to National Lottery players, HLF is delighted to support the Young Placechangers programme that makes it possible for young people to choose what is important, take decisions, develop new skills and interests, connect with their communities and choose how they want to spread the word throughout their community."*

ENDS

Notes to editors

About greenspace scotland

greenspace scotland is an independent charitable company and social enterprise. Our goal is that everyone living and working in urban Scotland should have easy access to quality greenspace which meets local needs and improves their quality of life. We work with a wide range of local and national partners to support the planning, development and sustainable management of greenspaces and green networks as a key part of the infrastructure of our towns and cities. www.greenspacescotland.org.uk
@greenspacescot

About Youth Scotland

Youth Scotland is the largest national youth work organisation in Scotland, supporting 64,255 young people, 1,095 youth groups and over 7,558 youth workers. The membership network is made up of local youth groups of all sizes, Area Associations and Youth Scotland staff who can provide support and training on a range of youth work topics. They are proud of the varied, universal youth work our network delivers and the innovative solutions our members create in an ever-changing youth work landscape. <https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/> @YouthScotland

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. www.hlf.org.uk

About Year of Young People

The Year of Young People 2018 (YOYP) is a year-long programme of events, activities and ideas that will give young people in Scotland the opportunity to show the world what they are made of. Year of Young People 2018 is led by the Scottish Government, working in collaboration with a core group of delivery partners including VisitScotland, EventScotland, Young Scot, Children in Scotland, Scottish Youth Parliament, Creative Scotland and YouthLink Scotland.

<http://yoyp2018.scot/what-is-yoyp/>

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