

Curriculum for Excellence

A Youth Scotland Quick Guide 2013

A YOUTH SCOTLAND QUICK GUIDE

Youth Scotland is the network of youth clubs and groups across Scotland. It is the largest non-uniformed youth organisation in Scotland and delivers quality youth work programmes, information, resources, training and support to community based youth work across Scotland. This Youth Scotland supplement provides a quick guide to Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) for youth workers and volunteers.



What is Curriculum for Excellence?

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) aims to provide a coherent, more flexible and enriched learning experience from 3-18, firmly focused on the needs of the child and young person whatever their circumstances. CfE supports young people as they learn and develop the four capacities:

- successful learners
- responsible citizens
- confident individuals
- effective contributors

It's not just for schools

CfE is an approach that should be followed by all those who contribute to the education of Scotland's young people, wherever their learning takes place. This includes the learning opportunities that you deliver through youth work.

Schools are expected to work in partnership with external agencies, including youth work organisations, in order to meet the learning needs of all young people. Education Scotland's team of HM Inspectors expect to see evidence of joint planning and partnership work when they carry out school and learning community inspections. Inspectors also expect to see CfE being applied within your own youth work programmes.



The emphasis on partnership working is made clear in the Building the Curriculum publications, a series of documents produced by Education Scotland to support the delivery of CfE:

“Partnerships with colleges, youth work services, the voluntary sector and employers will open up a wide range of motivating choices, based upon the experiences and outcomes, to meet the needs of all young people.”¹

The Building the Curriculum documents also describe the entitlements which all young people in Scotland should expect. This includes the entitlement to a broad, general education, support in planning and recognising achievements and a 'senior phase' in which young people gain qualifications, undertake practical work experience and move towards positive destinations.

What does CfE mean for youth work?

There are strong links between CfE and the Nature and Purpose of Youth Work², particularly in relation to the young person-centred approach and the emphasis on young people's empowerment and health and well-being.

Many youth groups are finding that they can use the principles of CfE to;

- strengthen and improve their own youth work practice
- help set clearer outcomes and improve evaluation practice
- better describe the value of the work they deliver to young people, partners, stakeholders and funders
- build up robust and relevant evidence that accurately describes the impact of their work
- develop more effective partnerships with other youth work / learning providers

Youth Scotland supports youth groups to achieve the aims of CfE through initiatives such as Girls on the Move, Bored Meetings and Involvement Training, as well as through Dynamic Youth Awards and Youth Achievement Awards. Visit www.youthscotland.org.uk to find out more.

Read on...

to discover how your youth work programmes can link with CfE.

curriculum for excellence



¹ Building the Curriculum 3, The Scottish Government, 2008

² Statement on the Nature and purpose of Youth Work, YouthLink Scotland, 2009

Developing skills

CfE emphasises the wide range of skills young people need to acquire in order to develop the four capacities. Those skills need to be developed in different contexts, which requires a joint planning approach between schools and youth work organisations. The youth work examples on this page demonstrate that partnership approach.

Introducing CfE experiences and outcomes

Learning providers are expected to use the Scottish Government's 'experiences and outcomes' documents to plan, evaluate and improve their learning programmes. Youth workers are finding that the experiences and outcomes provide a common language to support partnership working.

Visit the Education Scotland website to download the complete set of experiences and outcomes: www.educationscotland.org.uk

Youth Scotland has produced a guide to support youth workers to identify the experiences and outcomes most relevant to their daily work. Download this at: www.youthscotland.org.uk/CfE

You will be delivering outcomes for young people that are not described in CfE's experiences and outcomes. These should be valued too, and recorded!

CfE

Peer Education and Leadership, Edinburgh



Understanding the CfE levels and curriculum areas

The CfE levels are:

| Level | Early (0) | First (1) | Second (2) | Third (3) | Fourth (4) | Senior Phase |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Stage of learning | Nursery-P1 | P2-P4 | P5-P7 | S1-S3 | | S4-S6 |
| Age | 3-6 | 6-9 | 9-11 | 11-15 | | 15-18 |

*The 'stage of learning' and 'age' categories above should be used as rough guides only.

Understanding CfE experiences and outcomes codes

All the experiences and outcomes within CfE carry a reference code. The example below has the code SOC 2-10a.

Having explored my local area, I can present information on different places to live, work and relax and interesting places to visit. **SOC 2-10a**



- **SOC** refers to the Social Studies curriculum area
- **2** refers to the **Level**;
- **10a** refers to the **particular statement**.

Within CfE, there are 8 curriculum areas:

Expressive Arts (EXA)
Languages (LIT) and others
Religious and Moral Education (RME)
Social Studies (SOC)

Health and Wellbeing (HWB)
Mathematics (MTH) & (MNU)
Sciences (SCN)
Technologies (TCH)

Senior Phase

The **senior phase** of CfE is for young people aged 15-18. A key aim of CfE is to ensure that all young people can continue to expect to gain knowledge or skills and work towards qualifications and awards, whatever their individual needs and wherever they are learning. You can support young people in the senior phase by working in partnership with others to offer a range of options, including work-based learning or community-based learning, volunteering or a combination of these.

Artistic Creations at Action for Children, Perth



Lauren takes the Lead, Callander



in practice

Keen to take on more of a leadership role, young people from West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre ran a series of activity programmes for the younger members of their youth group.

At the planning stage, the four young people attended a residential where they came up with ideas for the project they would like to deliver.

Supported by their worker, the older members of the group then ran dance, football, bowling and cycling workshops for their peers. The programme ran for 8 weeks. At the end of the project, the young people gained formal recognition for the skills they had developed, and the responsibilities they had taken on, through Youth Scotland's Dynamic Youth Awards.

Some of the experiences and outcomes demonstrated:

I am developing the skills to lead and recognise strengths of group members, including myself.

I contribute to groups and teams through my knowledge of individual strengths, group tactics, and strategies. **HWB 3-23a**

I am developing confidence when engaging with others within and beyond my place of learning.

I can communicate in a clear, expressive way and I am learning to select and organise resources independently. **LIT 3-10a**

I can analyse and discuss elements of my own and others' work, recognising strengths and identifying areas where improvements can be made. **HWB 3-24a**

What are your hopes and dreams for the future? That was the question a group of young people were asked by animation group Anim8.

In response, the group created models of themselves and their bedroom, then recorded their characters using stop-motion techniques, following a story-line they had written.

The project, run over a year by Action for Children, was developed to help improve self esteem, group working and communication amongst vulnerable young people that are referred to the organisation. Community Link Workers supported the young people involved to gain Dynamic Youth Awards for their involvement in the project.

"There has been a noticeable boost to their confidence which has paid off at school and at home", said one of the workers.

Some of the experiences and outcomes demonstrated:

I value the opportunities I am given to make friends and be part of a group in a range of situations.

HWB 3-14a

Opportunities to carry out different activities and roles in a variety of settings have enabled me to identify my achievements, skills and areas for development. This will help me to prepare for the next stage in my life and learning. **HWB 2-19a**

I am developing confidence when engaging with others within and beyond my place of learning.

I can communicate in a clear, expressive way and I am learning to select and organise resources independently. **LIT 2-10a**

Lauren had no previous dance experience, but was keen to try something new and develop her skills. She found out about the Girls on the Move Leadership course and decided to give it a go.

As well as gaining her Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Dance Leadership, Lauren developed a range of skills over the residential course. She learned leadership skills, how to communicate as a leader, developed planning and organisation skills, learnt lots of warm up games and fun dance activities, tried dance styles from break-dancing to body percussion, and at the end of the week taught her own session.

She is now teaching weekly dance classes at Callander Youth Project and is finishing her Platinum Youth Achievement Award.

Some of the experiences and outcomes demonstrated:

Through contributing my views, time and talents, I play a part in bringing about positive change in my school and wider community. **HWB 2-13a, 3-13a, 4-13a**

As I encounter a variety of challenges and contexts for learning, I am encouraged and supported to demonstrate my ability to select and apply a wide range of complex movement skills and strategies, creatively, accurately and with consistency and control. **HWB 4-21a**

I can: * observe closely, reflect, describe and analyse key aspects of my own and others' performances; * make informed judgements, specific to an activity; * monitor and take responsibility for improving my own performance based on recognition of personal strengths and development needs. **HWB 4-24a**

CfE Resources

Recognising personal achievement - Youth Achievement Awards and Dynamic Youth Awards

CfE expects learning providers to offer young people opportunities for personal achievement, and youth work is well placed to support young people in these achievements:

“This is one of the key areas where schools need to work closely with voluntary youth organisations to help young people access information and opportunities and make their voices heard.” Building the Curriculum 3

Personalised learning awards – such as Youth Scotland’s **Dynamic Youth Awards** and **Youth Achievement Awards** – offer learners the opportunity to tailor a learning programme around their interests, as well as measure the level of responsibility undertaken and personal achievement of the individual.

Crucially, too, personalised learning awards allow an individual’s learning journey to be externally recognised and accredited, in line with the ethos of Curriculum for Excellence.

Youth Scotland has produced a presentation highlighting examples of work accredited by these awards and how they link to CfE.

View the presentation at www.youthscotland.org.uk/CfE

Find out how your group can access Youth Achievement Awards and Dynamic Youth Awards at www.youthscotland.org.uk/Awards.




Dynamic Youth Awards (10-14 year olds) and Youth Achievement Awards (14+) enable young people to measure their own and each other’s achievements through youth work approaches and to develop new skills. The Youth Achievement Awards are placed on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework.

Stay in the know... New Qualifications on the cards for the young people you work with

To reflect the changes in Scottish education introduced by CfE, new qualifications are being developed by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

The new qualifications – National 4 and National 5 – will replace Standard Grades and Intermediates from 2013/14. Young people will sit the new qualifications when they are deemed ready to do so (usually 14 to 16 years).

For more info, visit www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence

Curriculum for Excellence: An introduction for Youth Work

Youth Scotland has delivered introductory CfE training sessions for 600+ youth workers and volunteers.

Curriculum for Excellence: An introduction for Youth Work will:

- Develop your understanding of Curriculum for Excellence and how your work relates to it
- Support you to understand the Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes and to be able to describe your own work in terms of them
- Help you to discover how non-formal learning awards can demonstrate achievement of experiences and outcomes

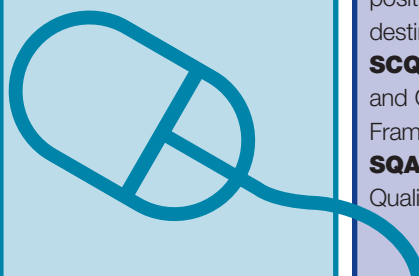
Visit www.youthscotland.org.uk/cfe to find a training session or book your own event

Curriculum for Excellence

Education Scotland is the national agency responsible for supporting the implementation of CfE.

The Communities team in Education Scotland work closely with colleagues to support, recognise and promote Curriculum for Excellence for all young people in all learning contexts.

For more info, visit www.educationscotland.gov.uk. or join the community of practice at www.cpconnect.org.uk



Abbreviations you might come across...

- CfE** – Curriculum for Excellence
- Es and Os** – Experiences and Outcomes
- ASN** – Additional Support Needs
- ASL** – Additional Support for Learning
- GIRFEC** – Getting it right for every child – the Government’s plan to improve the lives of children
- MCMC** – More Choices, More Chances – the Government’s action plan to prevent young people leaving school without a positive and sustained destination
- SCQF** – Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
- SQA** – Scottish Qualifications Authority

Find out more... Visit www.youthscotland.org.uk/CfE for more information and links to relevant resources.