

YOUTH SPACE FIFE REPORT JAN - SEPT 2025



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WHAT IS YOUTH SPACE FIFE?

Youth Space Fife is a youth work programme for young people aged 13 - 25 that live in Fife.

Starting in 2015 as an initiative from the Fife Council CLD strategy team with the remit of engaging young people in youth work online, it has evolved over the last 10 years to delivering primarily Creative and Digital Youth Work sessions in all the 7 areas of Fife.

The primary purpose of the project is to increase the health, wellbeing, skills and sense of autonomy that young people need to thrive. Secondly to promote creativity and community as a means of achieving these.

The project is steered by Young People's interests and the Youth Workers skill sets. We aim to make decisions in dialogue with young people involved in the project which has led us to do a wide variety of activities including:

- Filmmaking
- Photography
- Podcasting
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Animation
- Drama
- Zine making
- Futures sessions (life coaching)

THE LAST FEW MONTHS..

YOUth Space has seen big changes since our last project report.

We finished some significant work in 2024 so 2025 held lots of opportunity, in January we started two new groups, one in Fife College and the other at the new Learning Campus in Dunfermline.

By far the biggest change though was saying goodbye to our longest standing staff member Otto, who was there at the projects inception. He has moved on to become a Community Education worker in the East Neuk after completing his Degree and we are very proud of his determination, drive and the good work he is doing in that area..

He is missed and his legacy stands strong both within the team and how it works but also with the hundreds of young Fifers he worked for, as well as the local youth work teams he supported along the way.

As a result of Otto's departure we interviewed to fill his role and our very own Nick Venture was successful and moved into the senior position of project officer from his previous project assistant role.

This meant we had a new vacancy and after a few months and over 30 applicants we were delighted to welcome Rosie Handley to the team!

WELCOME ROSIE!

Hi! I am Rosie, a Fine Art graduate with a passion for music making. I enjoy playing saxophone in several bands and playing gigs around Scotland. I also have a history of puppet and costume making for carnivals and art parades. I am passionate about using artistic creativity and music making in a learning context, and I hope to bring my enthusiasm to my role at Youth Space Fife.

Since starting the role of Project Assistant at the end of June, I've had the opportunity to get involved with the busy summer programme.

Throughout the summer I have enjoyed meeting some of the young people. and I have been impressed by their creative ingenuity and enthusiasm for the project.

Throughout this initial period, I have recognised the huge amount of passion and work that the Youth Space team puts into organising and facilitating a diverse and creative programme. Most notably, I have seen the impact that Youth Space has on these young people and how important it is to them.

I am looking forward to continuing to work in a close-knit creative team and bringing my own passion for music making into the programme, as well as learning new creative skills myself!



AWARDS SEASON



In June we had a busy month being recognised for the work we do at Youth Space.

First up we had the National Youth Link Awards 2025, in the STEM category Nick was nominated for his work on our Dungeons and Dragons group.

"I USED TO RARELY LEAVE MY ROOM. NOW I COME TO IN-PERSON SESSIONS EVERY WEEK." - YP

Through his D&D group, Nick has embedded key youth work outcomes – including teamwork, risk-taking, and broadening horizons – into an activity that feels like play but delivers real personal growth. His warmth, creativity, and care have made him a trusted adult, a brilliant mentor, and a Dungeon Master of change.

"I HAVE BEEN CHAMPIONING DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS AS YOUTH WORK TOOL FOR A WHILE NOW. ALTHOUGH I DID NOT WIN, I'M SO HAPPY TO BE A FINALIST. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER SHOW CASE THE POWERS OF CREATIVE GROUP STORY TELLING. WE STARTED A D&D CLUB FROM THE REQUEST OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE; THIS IN TURN EVOLVED INTO BEING YOUTH LED WITH YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING TURNS TO RUN THEIR OWN CAMPAIGNS." - NICK



AWARDS SEASON



Dunfermline Press
COMMUNITY
CHAMPION
AWARDS 2025

Our second award nomination was for 'The Sugarcoat project.' for 'Youth Community Champion of the year' at the Dunfermline Press Awards. Nick and previous Youth Space worker Otto were in attendance with Cameron and Maisie, two of the young people involved in the project.

It was a great night to celebrate the hard work of the project which produced 4 films and a month-long exhibition at the Carnegie library in Dunfermline last year.

The project **won the award** which provided an unforgettable night for our two young people.

“ I NEVER REALLY HAD THE CONFIDENCE TO DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE, GETTING IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA AND SPEAKING TO PEOPLE. NOW I'M A LOT BETTER AT IT. ” YP



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

- YOUTH SPACE STUDIO (FIFE COLLEGE)
- DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
- LEARNING CAMPUS
- T-HALL SUPPORT
- SUMMER PROGRAMME

YOUTH SPACE STUDIO Fife College

In November 2024 we were invited to develop a group that would run out of Fife Colleges media spaces in Glenrothes, having access and utilising their podcast suites, radio room, TV Studio's and creative breakout spaces after hours.

Outcomes:

Digital media skills, content produced, solid community developed, utilising spaces.

In January 2025 a pilot began and ran until June. An overall success, we are excited to announce we will return from September 10th to continue this group on Wednesday evenings.

Each session saw the attendees try out the various media rooms. Initially drawn to the podcast suite, the young people recorded some episodes around many topics. Aswell as podcasting the group also tried the radio room and even made a short horror film which you can watch below.

[The Static](#)



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Our Dungeons and Dragons group was created in 2022 and has now served two groups of young people online and at the Lomond Centre Glenrothes.

For those who have never played D&D it is a role-playing game, with a group story telling focus often in a fantasy setting. Players are encouraged to make choices often resulting in a cause and affect. A Dungeon masters is responsible for setting the scene and presenting challenges for players to overcome.

Over the past year our group have been taught the tools of running their own campaigns, starting with using 'Fractured Lands' a Youth Space created tool kit for training Dungeon Masters.

The success of this training enabled the Young people to take turns in producing and delivering 6 sessions of their own original D&D campaigns. A total of 4 campaigns were run ranging from fantasy, science fiction and Greek mythology.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Feedback highlights

YP 1: BECOMING A DUNGEON MASTER IT'S BEEN THE BEST PART.

YP 2: IT'S HELPED LETTING MY IMAGINATION OUT. I GREW UP FEELING I COULDN'T SHARE IT UNTIL I CAME HERE.

YP 3: I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE REALLY STRESSFUL, BUT I FOUND IT TO BE MORE FUN THAN STRESSFUL. I FEEL PREPARED FOR NEXT TIME. ONCE YOU START GETTING GOING IT GETS EASIER.

YP 4: I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE JOY OF CREATION, TO SHARE SOMETHING OF MY OWN CREATION.

YP 5: I'VE FOUND A GROUP OF LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS.

YP 2: AT THE BEGINNING DUE TO MY STAGE FRIGHT, I WAS PANICKING ABOUT SPEAKING ALOUD. BUT I BEGAN TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT SPEAKING IN FRONT OF PEOPLE WHICH IS GOOD FOR MY FUTURE.



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Outcomes:

We set out for the group to become more youth led by giving young people the freedom to take over gameplay. Young people displayed improved confidence from leading the group, organisation skills from producing session plans, and creative problem solving when dealing with players making unexpected choices.

Challenges:

Shifting to more of a youth led approach as a worker was initially difficult when you have been the main storyteller for so long. One issue that never came up was Dungeon master's dedication to deliver every nominated session. It is a true credit to the young people having produced original campaigns with a beginning, middle and end.

What's next:

Seeing the continuing value of a D&D group we will be forming a new group of young people at Waid Academy in Anstruther. We will once again be delivering a two-year programme starting with a staff led campaign 'The Heart of Morgarth'.

Young people will learn how to create a character and participate in their first adventure. Upon the success of the coming year, we hope once again to offer our Dungeon Master training programme.

The prospect of closing out the current group has been difficult, but the group unprompted made a request to continue running independently with remote support. We are excited to hear how they progress into this new phase of being truly a youth led group.

DUNFERMLINE LEARNING CAMPUS

A filmmaking project utilising the newly built Learning Lab at the learning campus school building which has both St Columbas and Woodmill high schools under one roof.

The group worked together learning how to use professional equipment and film-making techniques to create their own short, which they filmed around the school.

After weeks of idea generation and storyboarding they began shooting and wrapped just before the summer holidays. The 'Bank Heist' film will be shown at the National Youth Film Festival which will be hosted at the learning campus on October 4th.

Outcomes: A short film, new skills learned, friendships formed, utilising spaces.

"Hi, I just wanted to say thank you for today and the past several sessions. I am extremely grateful and lucky to have joined Youth Space as the experiences I have gained there have been some of the highlights of school and my summer. I cannot wait to see what we do next!" - Emily.

[Feedback video](#)



['The Bank Heist' short film](#)



TEMPLEHALL SUPPORT

Purpose:

To assist Local Development Officer Gordon Forbes in his consultation with the local population on Templehall's regeneration. Using photography, we have assisted young people in capturing the community from their perspective.

The initial idea was to facilitate a means for young people in Templehall to inform their experience with local services and the area in a positive way.

Through creative youth work we hope to continue building on positive relationships and activity that promotes wellbeing.

Objective: Initially to build capacity in youth work staff, later became giving new experiences and fresh perspective to the group of young people. The exhibition has also served as an opportunity for Gordon Forbes to hear about what changes locals would like to see in Templehall.

Activities: Exploration of local area, photography, art & culture exposure (galleries), curation

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Purpose: Our Summer Programme gives an opportunity for our young people to participate in engaging creative activities during the school holidays. Most years we work in partnership with an organisation, this year our main partnership was with Dundee University and Wessex Archaeology.

Activities: Annual BBQ, D&D one shots, Cyanotype printing, Taskmaster, Archaeology.

"This (Youth space summer program) has been the only thing he's gotten up and out for, it has meant a lot to us and him that he has youth space and he is willing to do new things. Please, please do it again next year"
- YP's mum



SUMMER PROGRAMME CONTENT



Summer activities reel



Task Master 2025

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Fife TV/Youth Film Festival - Our partnership with The Scottish Youth Film Foundation with this years festival being held at The Dunfermline Learning Campus our filmmaking group will be documenting the day as 'Fife TV'.

Dungeons & Dragons - A new group based in the East Neuk beginning early September 2025

'Tapped' - A Dunfermline group tackling illegal money lending through youth filmmaking starting late August 2025

Schools - Project Assistant Clare works in multiple schools across Fife supporting existing youth work provision

College Work - Utilising our partnership with Fife College

'Many Good Men' - A drama project in collaboration with Civic Digits. We will be working with the Young people at Dunfermline High who will become the authors of their own solutions to gender-based violence and the radicalisation of boys online. Through workshops, a play will produced and performed at Dunfermline football club early 2026.

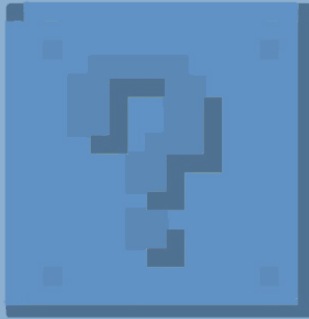


PARTNERSHIPS

We wanted to dedicate a segment to thank our partners who worked alongside us during this period.

Fife College
Dundee University
Wessex Archaeology
Lomond Centre & Staff
Dunfermline Media City
Dunfermline CLD Team
Glenrothes CLD Team
Kirkcaldy CLD Team
North East Fife CLD Team
Barnardos Mental Health & Wellbeing Service
Dunfermline Learning Campus
St Columbas High School
Woodmill High School
Waid Academy
Community Use
Scott Morgan
Adam Stanley
David Izzat

Most importantly, a thanks to the young attendees who come along and take part!

YOUTH 
SPACE