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For immediate release

Themes for 2018 Year of Young People

Created by Young People, the themes for Scotland's 2018 Year of Young People have been released today (Thursday 8th September 2018).

As part of the Scottish Government's programme of themed years, 2018 will be the Year of Young People, celebrating the very best of Scotland and its young people.

In July 2015, the Scottish Government commissioned Children in Scotland, the Scottish Youth Parliament and Young Scot to work with young people to co-design recommendations for the 2018 Year of Young People.

The partnership recruited and supported an Interim Planning Group of 18 young people - aged 8 to 22 - to work with their peers and stakeholders and report their recommendations.

In their final report published today, the Interim Planning Group set out four themes for the Year of Young People 2018:

- **Participation** – looking at how young people can influence public services and decisions which affect their lives
- **Education** – creating a stronger role for young people in shaping their learning
- **Health and Wellbeing** – supporting young people to lead healthier, active lives and have opportunities to learn about and improve their mental health and resilience
- **Equality and Discrimination** – broadcasting the value of young Scots, challenging negative perceptions of young people, and supporting young people to take leading roles in challenging discrimination in all its forms.

Following on from Discussion Group event with both young people and stakeholders, the 2018 Year of Young People Advisory Board agreed two further themes should be included to highlight additional areas important to young scots.

- **Enterprise and Regeneration** – celebrating young people's role in innovation, entrepreneurship and the Scottish economy as well as making Scotland a greener and more pleasant place to live
- **Culture** – celebrating young people's talent and contribution to Scottish culture and arts.

Scottish Government Ministers have signed off the recommendations and the six themes will now be used to structure the planning and implementation of the Year of Young People 2018.

Mark McDonald, Minister for Childcare and Early Years said: "I am really pleased to see the publication of the recommendations of the Interim Planning Group today. These set the roadmap for the ongoing planning and delivery of the Year of Young People in 2018. The

report has been a major piece of work, delivered by young people themselves, and I have been really impressed by the way the group pulled together and delivered it. They should be congratulated and I believe it sets exactly the right tone for moving on with the exciting plans for the Year. As well as helping plan and design the Year, young people from all over Scotland will be able to get involved in the programme of events in 2018 and join the celebration of their contribution to Scottish society.”

Jackie Brock, Chief Executive of Children in Scotland, said: “Alongside Young Scot and the Scottish Youth Parliament we were very proud to be one of the partner organisations who engaged with young people from across Scotland to help them set the agenda for the Year of Young People. This report underlines just how strongly young people feel about their achievements being celebrated, why being actively involved in issues that affect them is vital – and how fundamental education and equality are to their lives.”

Louise Macdonald, Chief Executive of Young Scot said, “The Year of Young People is shaping up to be a phenomenal celebration of Scotland’s young people. The young people on the Interim Planning Group did a wonderful job of engaging with people across Scotland to ensure that the aspirations and ideas of young people are central to the Year of Young People 2018.”

Terri Smith MSYP, Chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament, said, “The Year of Young People will allow us to celebrate Scotland’s young people and showcase to the rest of the world how integral and respected we are within our society. So all that is left to be said is, 2018 let’s be having you!”

A copy of the report can be downloaded from <https://2018.scot/>

(ends)

#YOYP2018 is the official hashtag for Year of Young People 2018.

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Notes for editors

The commitment of the Scottish Government to collaborate with young people on the journey to 2018 and beyond is part of Ministers’ wider ambition to allow all children and young people to enjoy their rights and be fully involved in matters that affect them at a personal, local and national level.

The Interim Planning Group report was created following six months of outreach events and research. With the support of the partners, the Interim Planning Group ran three regional discussion days and one national event. In total, 203 young people attended these events and 143 stakeholders took part

To gain wider insight the group also created a website, online survey and a digital toolkit for schools. 388 responses were received from young people to the online tools and 68 responses were also received from stakeholders.

The group also made a series of recommendations to the Scottish Government

- Young people should be equal partners in the governance to oversee the planning and delivery of the Year.
- A formal Planning Group should be recruited
- A wider network of young people and youth organisations across Scotland should have the opportunity to feed in to the Planning Group and governance structures.

They would like to see that the Year of Young People delivers the following:

- Provides a platform for young people to have their views heard and acted upon
- Showcases the amazing talents of young people through events and media
- Develops better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations
- Provides opportunities for young people to express themselves through culture, sport and other activities
- Recognises the impact of teachers, youth workers and other supporting adults on young.

At the end of the Year of Young People, the youth panel would like to see a long term impact from 2018 Year of Young People.

- Young people have a greater say in decisions that affect their lives
- Improved public perception of young people
- More opportunities for intergenerational work and conversations
- Young people have more opportunities to take part in positive activities and experience.