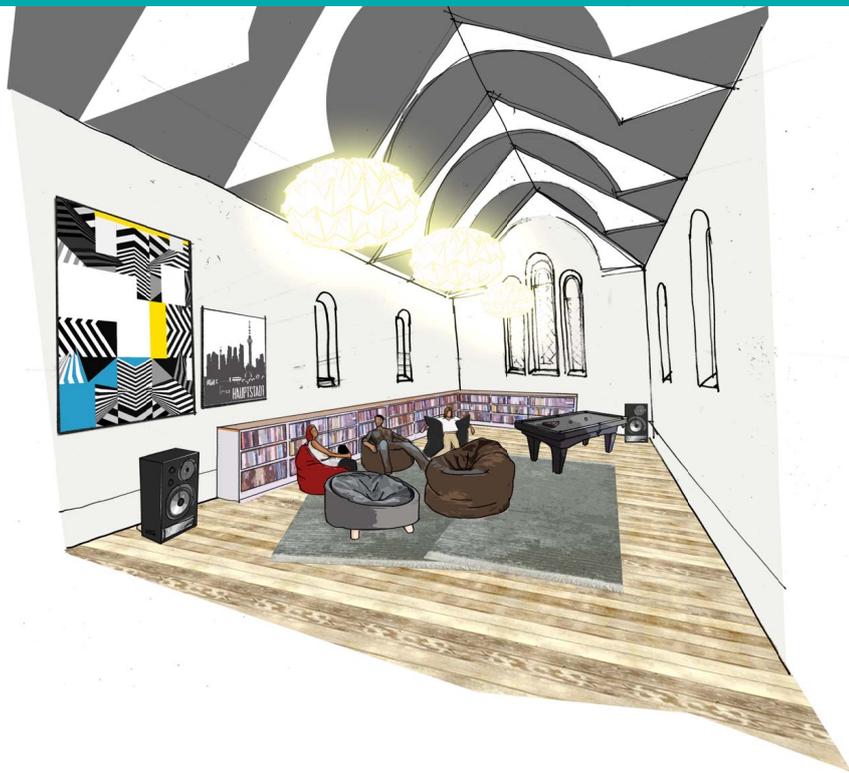


# Community and Recreation YOUTH CENTRE



## AIM

The aim of this project would be the creation of a dedicated space for the young people of the Peninsula West area.

## OUTPUTS

By the end of the project the outputs that could be achieved are:

- The provision of a youth centre catering for young people
- The involvement of a significant number of young people from the area in diversionary activities

## OUTCOMES

The associated outcomes would be:

- Reduced impact of antisocial behaviour and young people on the streets in evenings as a result of diversionary activities
- Better informed young people with access to support services to enable them to develop as citizens

## NEED FOR PROJECT

### STATISTICAL EVIDENCE OF NEED

While there is a lower proportion of young people in the Peninsula West area than in both Argyll and Bute and Scotland, the proportion of 16-19 year olds in the population is much greater. Across the three data zones that comprise the Peninsula west area, 16 – 19 year olds account for 5.35% of the area, higher than the 4.82% and 5.13% in Argyll and Bute and Scotland respectively. In one of the areas, 16 -19 year olds account for 6.67% of the population, 38% higher than Argyll and Bute as a whole.

29.7% of all households in the Peninsula West area contain dependent children, slightly higher than the 26.8% and 28.2% rate of household with dependent children in Argyll and Bute and Scotland respectively.

## COMMUNITY DEMAND FOR PROJECT

### CURRENT PROVISION IN AREA

While a number of groups for young people such as Rainbows, Cubs, Scouts and Guides are held in the area, there are no youth groups outwith these organisations and no dedicated youth space in the Peninsula West area. There is currently a project under consideration/development to renovate the tennis pavilion at the top of Church Road to create, even in the short term, a dedicated youth centre for the Peninsula West area.

### COMMUNITY SURVEY

Almost a third of respondents to the household survey selected 'a young people's place' as their top community and recreation priority for the Peninsula West area. 69% selected this option as one of their top three priorities, making this the fourth most popular option in the whole survey.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SURVEY

91% of the young people who completed the survey responded that they would use a new youth facility if it was provided in the area and 83% thought that it would reduce antisocial behaviour.

### COMMUNITY PRIORITISATION EVENT

96% of the participants that completed the Young People's Place board indicated that there should be a separate youth centre in the Peninsula West area. 68% of participants believed this should be located in the Rainbow Centre.

## RELEVANT POLICIES

The Argyll and Bute Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2005-2008 identified that within the Kilcreggan and Cove area:

***"Occasional problems arise with young people, under 18 years of age, from outside the area causing trouble. A small number of vandalism and alcohol related offences are reported."* (p.22)**

The strategy is committed to projects which are targeted at individuals and groups who engage in antisocial behaviour and aims to encourage them to participate in activities which divert them from conduct which constitutes antisocial behaviour.

In addition, a dedicated youth centre, including the provision of services and activities directed at young people could contribute to the Scottish Government's national outcome:

***"Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens."***

## POTENTIAL PROJECT

The Trust could purchase the Rainbow Centre with the aim of converting the building into a youth centre. A dedicated space specifically for young people to gather would prevent them from hanging about the streets and potentially engaging in antisocial behaviour. The Trust could also engage outside organisations to provide support services to young people for example talks on health issues and activities, such as sport activities, to engage young people. The provision of a facility allowing young people to interact would also provide an ideal scenario for the Trust to engage young people in wider issues relating to the Peninsula West area, perhaps with the development of a youth sub-committee of the Trust or similar.

## FACILITIES AT YOUTH CENTRE

Respondents to the young people's survey selected a sports hall, cinema, and games room as the top priority facilities for inclusion in a youth centre. Participants at the community prioritisation event highlighted a café, climbing wall and indoor 5-a-side pitch as the top three facilities.

## POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

### COMMUNITY PREFERENCE

68% of the participants at the Community Prioritisation Event felt that a youth centre should be based in a renovated Rainbow Centre.

In addition to considering the Rainbow Centre as a youth venue, the Trust are also committed to assisting the existing youth group and their efforts to improve the old tennis court pavilion. It is possible that in the longer term this building could be demolished and replaced with a sports centre featuring a separately accessed youth wing.



### CURRENT OWNERSHIP OF SITE

The last recorded proprietor of the Rainbow Centre was Dumbarton District Council, the assets of which will have been transferred to either West Dunbartonshire Council or Argyll and Bute Council upon reorganisation of the local authorities in Scotland. The Rainbow Centre is a listed building, Category C(S), which may limit the renovations that can be undertaken. Details of the ownership of the tennis courts and bowling club could not be determined exactly but may be owned by the local authority.

## COST OF PROJECT

**£270,000** - improved Rainbow Centre

**£350,000** - attached to a new indoor sports facility

## POTENTIAL FUNDERS

**Big Lottery Fund Growing Community Assets** stream can support communities to develop community facilities where these are owned and controlled by the local community. Big Lottery Fund can provide up to £1m where there is strong evidence of need for project. A mandate of 10% community support is required for successful projects.

**The Robertson Trust** can support Scottish charities to improve facilities contributing up to 10% of overall capital costs with priorities including young people, education and community sports.

**Garfield Weston Foundation** and **Tudor Trust** provide funding for small charities and both have recent history of contributing towards community owned facilities in rural Argyll.

**BBC Children in Need** will fund up to £20,000 of building costs for projects that aim to make positive changes to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people.

**The Links Foundation** aims to benefit communities throughout the UK by providing, or assisting, in the provision of facilities or services necessary to improve quality of life. The Foundation provides funding of on average £20,000 for revenue and capital costs of projects.

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

**Cove and Kilcreggan Youth Café** – This group is currently trying to convert the old tennis pavilion into a youth centre. To prevent duplication of projects, the Trust could work closely with this group to develop any facilities/ activities for young people in the area, access funding and generate interest in renovating the old tennis pavilion in the short term. For the longer term, the Trust could work with the group to involve young people in a larger scale redevelopment to create a modern, lasting facility for the young people of the area.

**Argyll and Bute Youth Services** – The Trust should also involve the council youth services in any proposed project. The department may be able to assist by providing advice and contacts to other groups working with young people. They may also be able to provide practical help through funding or support to maintain the centre and any youth activities as part of their commitment to providing “enjoyable opportunities, challenging experiences and effective support” to young people aged 11 to 25 years old in Argyll and Bute.

## PROJECT EXAMPLES

### ROUTE 81 YOUTH PROJECT, GARELOCHHEAD

Route 81 Youth Project redeveloped the former Outdoor Education Centre in Garelochhead to provide a facility that is for the whole community and run by the community. The centre is intended to serve the needs of local young people and the wider community while sustaining itself through residential visitors using it on a commercial basis as an outdoor activities residential centre.

### THE LOFT YOUTH PROJECT

The Loft Youth Project was established to address the needs of young people in Keith. The Loft runs an informal drop-in where young people are largely responsible for the development and running of the provision. Loft Trading was set up in 2005 to provide commercial, work based learning environments for the young people and to provide SVQ accredited training. This project aims to provide better training and learning opportunities for young people and to significantly improve the built environment in which this learning takes place.

## CONTACTS

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