

# Peer Led Approaches to Substance Misuse Education Consultation *Local Investigation Teams*

## INTRODUCTION

Young Scot is the national youth information agency, supporting young people across Scotland aged 11 - 26 to make informed decisions and choices and to access opportunities. We do this through a variety of information channels, including books, magazines and online services such as the national youth information portal for Scotland – [www.youngscot.org](http://www.youngscot.org). Young Scot currently has 340,000 members and a network across all 32 Scottish local authorities through the Dialogue Youth initiative.

Young Scot has been approached by the Drugs Policy Unit at the Scottish Government to carry out a consultation exercise with young people across Scotland to find out what they think about peer led approaches to substance misuse education.

Young Scot will be carry out the consultation by using the following methods:

- Incentivised online survey via a new national consultation toolkit ([www.youngscotsayswho.org](http://www.youngscotsayswho.org))
- Offline paper-based surveys via Young Scot's Outreach work
- **Local Investigation Teams of young people carrying out a consultation in their local area**
- National Discussion Day – a national event to bring together the investigation's conclusions and recommendations, and discuss next steps

## **LOCAL INVESTIGATION TEAMS (LITs)**

Local Investigation Teams offer you the chance to participate in an informed way by conducting your own research on the subject of peer led approaches to substance misuse education in your area.

Your group might want to investigate the following questions through talking to young people in your area, people working in the field of substance misuse and other relevant organisations:

- What does 'substance misuse' mean?
- What kind of substances should be viewed as 'a substance'?
- Where would you go to for advice on drugs and why?
- Are drugs a problem where you live? What are those problems?
- Why do you think some young people take drugs?
- What would you do if a friend had a problem with drugs?
- What would you like to be able to if a friend had a problem with drugs?
- What is the role of young people in tackling substance misuse?
- How can you best be supported in doing this?
- Are there good examples / best practice in your area? What are they? Why do they work?

The groups will discuss and put together their findings and produce a report with recommendations which will form the agenda for the National Discussion Day. The report can be in written form or a video, or however you would like to produce it – it's your investigation!

LITs will have about four months to undertake their research, and their findings could then be used to inform the Scottish Government's Drugs Policy Unit on some aspects of their future work.

Each LIT will be given £1000 to undertake this piece of research, and can it be spent in any way that supports the group and the work it is doing. This could include such things as staff time, room hire, travel costs, residential costs...

## **ACCREDITATION**

The young volunteers taking part in the Local Investigation Team would also have the opportunity to become accredited with a nationally recognised Youth Achievement Award. Youth Achievement Awards, (YAA) provide the opportunity for young people to gain recognition and accreditation for activities they have chosen to be involved in. Youth Achievement Awards acknowledge the hard work and efforts of young people within projects and promote the contribution of young people within a whole range of services.

Some key facts of Youth Achievement Awards;

- Individuals who undertake YAA are aged 14+ (There are some exceptions to this rule)
- Evidenced by portfolios and completed YAA booklets
- Peer Assessed, operated by an award group and supported by a worker
- Based on a number of 15 hour challenges, (minimum time commitment) the number of challenges depends upon the award level.
- Challenges can be achieved in various settings
- Recognises prior learning, (up to 50% of an award can be gained this way providing the work has been completed in the last 12 months.
- Can be made up of school projects, youth club activities, hobbies, local projects etc
- Evidence can be demonstrated through the use of photos, drawings, posters, diaries, bus tickets, event tickets, timesheets, timelines, letters, case studies, statements, reports etc. You can be creative in how you provide evidence.
- Accredited by ASDAN, SCQF levelled (Scottish credit qualification framework)
- Awards can be achieved at 4 Levels
  - Level 4 – **Bronze**, General Standard Grade
  - Level 5 – **Silver**, Credit Standard Grade
  - Level 6 – **Gold**, Higher
  - Level 7 – **Platinum**, Advanced Higher, HNC

### **TIMESCALES FOR PROJECT**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>May 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training LITs</li><li>• Start LIT work</li></ul>
<b>June – Sept 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LITs conduct research</li></ul>
<b>October 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LITs return final reports to Young Scot no later than 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010</li></ul>
<b>November 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Young Scot reports to Scottish Government</li></ul>
<b>December 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Discussion Day held to bring together the investigation's conclusions and recommendations, and discuss next steps</li></ul>

Cat Scott | Consultation & Research Co-Ordinator | Young Scot

T: 0131 313 2488 | E: [cats@youngscot.org](mailto:cats@youngscot.org)