

NEWS RELEASE – Issued Wednesday 20 January 2016

## Westminster Parliamentary Reception celebrates Youth Awards in Scotland

YouthBank Scotland was one of 23 non-formal Award providers, represented at a special Westminster Parliamentary reception for the Awards Network on Wednesday 20 January, 2016.

The evening provided an opportunity to highlight the achievements of tens of thousands of young Scots who have had their non-formal learning recognised and/or accredited through one or more of the twenty three members of the Awards Network.

The event, sponsored by Carol Monaghan, MP for Glasgow North West, and Shadow SNP Westminster Group Leader (Public Services and Education), was attended by MPs from across Scotland, including Western Isles, Aberdeen, Inverness and Berwickshire, representatives from the Awards Network, Education Scotland, Scottish Government and other leading figures from the youth work sector.

In a very challenging climate for youth employment, the reception was a reminder of the opportunities that employers can and have gained, through young applicants being better able to communicate the skills that they have to offer.

The reception celebrated the publication of the Education Scotland Aspect Review, 'A review of youth awards in Scotland' which identifies that, "Participation in youth awards is encouraging some young people to remain engaged in learning for longer and, for some who are disengaged from education, participation in an award is a first step towards personal achievement and an increase in their self-belief and sense of ambition".

Phil Denning, Assistant Director, Education Scotland said:

"This review is part of a new series of Aspect Reviews that look at the contribution made by Community Learning and Development partners to Curriculum for Excellence, Scotland's guidance on Education. The review considered how well youth awards in Scotland collectively contribute to; improved life chances for young people; stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities; and, the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. We are encouraged by the progress made, and by the opportunities that still lay ahead. The establishment of the Awards Network was a timely and creative response to some of the challenges of developing the best education system for Scotland's young people."

Carol Monaghan, MP, who hosted the event said:

"The findings of the Education Scotland Aspect Review of youth awards in Scotland are very welcome. They demonstrate the real value that non-formal learning, and the awards that recognise those achievements, can bring to our young people as they prepare for learning, life and for work. They offer young people a real and lasting opportunity to highlight, record and share their positive contributions and achievements as they make their way in the world. Giving young people the chance to build and promote their skills is an important part of planning for their future. The awards offer great opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities and the Aspect Review tells us that the number of young people participating in, completing, progressing and gaining accreditation through youth awards is increasing. This is really excellent news for delivery of the Scotland's holistic approach to education through the Curriculum for Excellence."

Ian McLaughlan, Chief Executive, Youth Scotland, said:



“Youth Scotland has believed in the value of non-formal learning over its 80+ years history and has worked very hard over the past 8 years to develop the Awards Network in Scotland. This work has helped to realise the potential of the collaborative approach of the twenty three member organisations of the Awards Network and the benefits that this has brought to recognising young people’s achievements and attainment.”

YouthBank Scotland’s training programmes are based on strategic and practical knowledge of youth participation and engaging young people as financial decision makers and organisational leaders developed over 15 years across the UK. Our training enables young people to play active leadership roles in their communities.

Our accredited programmes include:

Decision Making Skills One Awards level equivalent to 2 SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) level 5 one credit

Leadership Skills One Awards level 2 SCQF level 6 one credit

Young People’s Grant making One Awards level 1 and 2 equivalent to SCQF level 4 or 5 one credit, both available.

Beyond grant making YouthBank Scotland is a youth led organisation that has been engaged by community organisations and national bodies to assist them to explore and improve youth participation in their development and leadership.

Our work in supporting others is tailored to suit the needs of their organisation. Our grant making training is utilised by others out with the YouthBank network to establish their own new grant making initiatives. YBS brings quality tried and tested grant making and training knowledge and experience.

**Information for Editors:**

**The Awards Network**

The Awards Network is a voluntary collaboration of providers of non-formal learning Awards that operate Scotland wide and operate their award using youth work approaches.

The Awards Network aims to promote the value of recognising young people’s achievements through non-formal learning and to promote a better understanding of the range of awards that are available for young people, for those who work with them and for those who wish to better understand the value of awards that young people have received.

The Network has also enjoyed support from Scottish Government and Education Scotland to continue to operate and develop our services.

The Education Scotland Aspect Review, ‘A review of youth awards in Scotland’ can be viewed on this link:

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/YouthAwardsReviewNov2015\\_tcm4-871964.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/YouthAwardsReviewNov2015_tcm4-871964.pdf)

The Awards that are members of the Awards Network include:

Air Training Corps

Army Cadet Force

ASDAN

Boys' Brigade

British Red Cross

CVQO

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Dynamic Youth Awards

Girlguiding Scotland  
Girls' Brigade  
John Muir Award  
Outward Bound  
Playback ICE Ltd  
Quality Scotland  
Saltire Award  
Scottish Qualifications Authority  
Scouts Scotland  
Sea Cadets  
SkillForce Scotland

SportsLeaders UK  
Young Scot  
Youth Achievement Awards  
Youth Scotland  
YouthBank Scotland  
YouthLink Scotland

## 20<sup>th</sup> Jan Westminster Parliamentary Reception attendees:

Phil	Denning	Assistant Director	Education Scotland
Ian	McLaughlan	Chief Executive	Youth Scotland
Steven	Greig	Depute Chief Executive	Youth Scotland
Simon	Ross	Her Majesty's Inspector	Education Scotland
Bill	Stevenson	Chief Executive Officer	Boys' Brigade
		Secretary ACFA	
Martin	Passmore	(Scotland)	CVQO
Anna	Smee	Chief Executive	UK Youth

## MSPS

Hannah	Bardell	Livingston
Deidre	Brock	Edinburgh North & Leith
Angela	Crawley	Lanark & Hamilton East
Stuart	Donaldson	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine
Drew	Hendry	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey
	Kerr	Calum Kerr Berwickshire, Roxburgh & Selkirk County
Calum		
Chris	Law	Dundee West
Angus	Macneil	Na H-Eileanan An Iar
Carol	Monaghan	Glasgow North West
Gavin	Newlands	Paisley & Renfrewshire North
Steven	Paterson	Stirling
Chris	Stephens	Glasgow South West
Corri	Wilson	Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock

# Awards Network

The network of youth awards in Scotland

**For further information about YouthBank Scotland please contact;**

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