

A study and report by YouthLink Scotland and Youth Scotland

HEAR.EU REPORT

Brexit and Youth Work in Scotland



Acknowledgements

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About YouthLink Scotland

YouthLink Scotland is the national agency for youth work. We are a membership organisation, representing regional and national youth organisations from both the voluntary and statutory sectors. We champion the role and value of youth work and represent the interests and aspirations of our sector. Our sector has a workforce in excess of 75,000 – including over 70,000 adult volunteers. We reach in excess of 380,000 young people in youth work opportunities each week. Youth work has three essential and definitive features:

- Young people choose to participate
- Youth work must build from where young people are
- Youth work recognises the young person and the youth worker as partners in a learning process



About Youth Scotland

Youth Scotland are the largest national youth work organisation in Scotland, supporting 61,000 young people, 1,300 youth groups and over 7,700 youth workers. Youth Scotland has been around since the early 20th century and has a diverse membership network – from small rural youth groups to large urban projects. The common goal that we all share is better outcomes for young people.

Our membership network is made up of local youth groups of all sizes, Area Associations and Youth Scotland staff who can provide support and training on a range of youth work topics. We are proud of the varied, universal youth work our network delivers and the innovative solutions our members create in an ever-changing youth work landscape.



Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a project to explore the impact of leaving the EU on the youth work sector and the experience of youth workers in discussing political issues with young people. A combination of participatory workshops and an online survey reached 168 youth work practitioners across Scotland.

KEY FINDINGS

- Youth workers did not feel informed about Brexit, with 18% feeling 'very uninformed'
- Half of respondents had observed that community relations had been negatively impacted since the EU referendum
- The majority of respondents were unsure of the financial impact of Brexit on youth work
- Respondents were divided between those who had (42%) and those who had not (42%) provided information to young people at any time during the EU referendum and negotiation period
- Lack of confidence was a reason many youth workers in our research did not discuss Brexit with young people

NEXT STEPS

- Advocate for sustainable investment in youth work
- Develop and deliver high quality training to the youth work sector
- Prioritise political literacy within sector strategy
- Work in partnership to support young people to challenge racism and xenophobia
- Continue to promote opportunities to collaborate with EU partners

Introduction

What is Hear.EU?

Youth Scotland (the network for community based youth work) and YouthLink Scotland (the national agency for youth work) have collaborated to explore the impact of Brexit on the youth work sector in Scotland and to support youth workers in their work with young people on Brexit. This project and this report is called Hear.EU.

Youth work has three essential and definitive features¹:

- Young people choose to participate
- Youth work must build from where young people are
- Youth work recognises the young person and the youth worker as partners in a learning process

By its very nature and purpose, youth work is always embedded in contemporary political and social issues. Our National Youth Work Strategy² clearly says: “young people should be directly involved in local and national decision making.” And one of our five Community Learning and Development values³ is empowerment: “increasing the ability of individuals and groups to influence issues that affect them and their communities through individual and/ or collective action.” Whilst Brexit has proven to be a particularly divisive issue, this should not preclude youth work from empowering young people to engage, learn, connect and influence.

Youth workers are on the front line when it comes to dealing with challenging questions and debates from and with the 380,000⁴ young people accessing youth work in Scotland each week. Despite youth work’s principled position as an empowering process⁵ through which young people make their voices heard, when it comes to ‘big P’, political issues the sector has become unsure of its place. It is worried about bias, and at times simply does not feel informed or confident to support young people to explore political issues.

¹ YouthLink Scotland (2009)

² YouthLink Scotland (2014)

³ CLD Standards Council for Scotland

⁴ YouthLink Scotland (2016)

⁵ YouthLink Scotland (2014)

Introduction

As we near the date for the UK leaving the European Union youth workers and organisations alike continue to grapple with the likely impacts for the sector and for young people. Although that impact is, at this time, impossible to calculate with exactitude, issues such as; funding, worker's rights, immigration, opportunities for practice development and international collaboration are relevant across the sector. For young people feeling disenfranchised with politics and the media⁶, for those who feel young people did not get a say in the referendum⁷ and for those it has had or will have a direct impact on their lives, youth work will play a varying role.

It is considering this context that this report brings together findings from qualitative and quantitative research with Scotland's youth workers, discusses the implications for the sector, and presents our for next steps.

“Young people express their voice and demonstrate social commitment.”

Outcome 6, Scotland's Youth Work Outcomes⁸

“Young people broaden their perspectives through new experiences and thinking.”

Outcome 7, Scotland's Youth Work Outcomes⁹

⁶ Mejias, S. and Banaji, S. (2017)

⁷ Young Scot (2017)

⁸ YouthLink Scotland (2018)

⁹ Ibid.

Methodology

What did we do?

For this research, we wanted to answer two questions, by hearing from youth workers across Scotland:

- **What is the impact of leaving the EU on the youth work sector?**
- **What is the experience of youth workers in discussing political issues, such as Brexit, with young people?**

We conducted participatory workshop sessions with community based youth workers (including volunteers) and provided an online self completion youth worker survey. The workshops were an opportunity to both conduct research with youth workers, and to develop their knowledge around Brexit. The survey reached wider than the workshop session, and provided an opportunity for those who want to give their views on the matter to do so. The combination of the two methods allowed us to reach a broad cross-section of the youth work sector in Scotland in a short period of time between December 2018 and January 2019.

There were 4 workshops (see Table 1 for details), the locations of the workshops were chosen according to strong existing links with partner organisations with groups in these areas, with consideration also given to communities on the margin (geographically and socially). The survey was responded to by youth workers working in 22 of Scotland's 32 local authority areas. The areas which made the greatest response were City of Edinburgh, Highland, and West Lothian.

The workshops used Youth Scotland's Creative Consultation methodology, which simultaneously gives facilitators a way to collect information, and supports practitioners to gain additional skills around consultation techniques and styles. A variety of activities were used as part of this, including small group discussions and interactive tasks. Youth workers at the workshops also received a Brexit factsheet¹⁰ to support their knowledge of the issue.

After all the data had been gathered from the workshops it was analysed alongside the online survey data, and the findings have been presented in this report.

¹⁰ See Appendix A

Methodology

Table 1:

| Date | Location | Number of attendees |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 6 December 2018 | Edinburgh | 29 |
| 18 December 2018 | Edinburgh | 5 |
| 19 January 2019 | Fife | 12 |
| 26 January 2019 | Orkney | 14 |

Who gave their views?

Consultation events

The four workshops attracted 60 participants, gathering views from communities across Scotland. We held two sessions in Edinburgh. One was part of a wider Youth Scotland activity and the other was specifically to consult on participants' views for this project. These attracted participants from across Scotland including Moray, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Highland, Argyll and Bute, West Dunbartonshire, North and South Lanarkshire and across the Ayrshires.

Participants in these workshops work across the Community Learning and Development spectrum professionally, with many also volunteering as youth workers in their community over and above their paid roles. Our two sessions in Fife and Orkney were undertaken to supplement Youth Scotland's delivery of training. All participants were part-time or voluntary youth workers in local communities.

Online Survey

The online survey was circulated via the networks of YouthLink Scotland and Youth Scotland and on both organisations' social media channels. It was open for responses for six weeks over December 2018 and January 2019. The survey was incentivised and gathered the views of 108 youth workers.

Methodology

Figure 1:

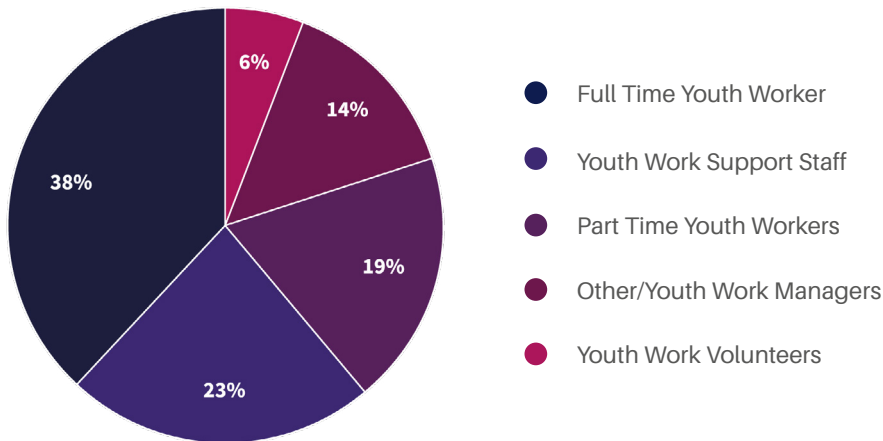


Figure 1 shows the roles that the youth workers who responded to the survey held at the time of completion.

Figure 2:

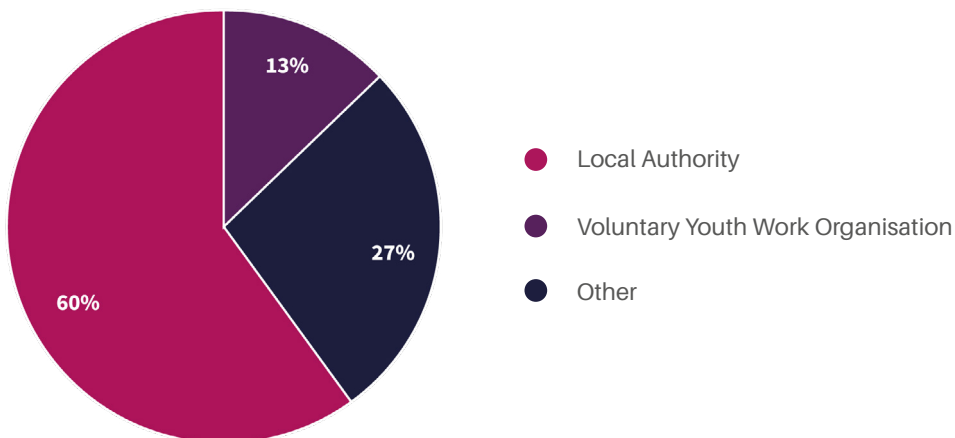


Figure 2 shows us that 60% of respondents worked or volunteered in local authorities, 27% in voluntary sector youth work organisations, and the remainder of responses working or volunteering with arms length organisations, non-youth work specific third sector organisations, or in multiple settings i.e. work in one context and volunteer in another.

Findings

What is the impact of leaving the EU on the youth work sector?

Youth Workers told us the sources where they had obtained most of their **information about Brexit**, the most common responses were social media (31%); newspapers/print media (27%); and TV (24%). Youth Workers did not feel informed about Brexit, as only 8% of survey respondents felt 'very informed' about the Brexit process and negotiations, with 18% feeling 'very uninformed'.

The Impact of Brexit on Youth Worker's Community

- To help us understand about our **workforce**, survey respondents were asked if any of their colleagues/volunteers were non-UK EU nationals, 38% said yes to this question; there was little variation between local authority and voluntary sector respondents to this question.
- 82% of respondents said that their **service users** include young people who are non-UK EU nationals, including those young people where one or both parents were born outside the UK. There was no variation in this participation rate between local authority and voluntary sector respondents.

Half of the youth workers (50%) in both the online survey and in the workshops had observed that **community relations** had been negatively impacted since the EU referendum. With a small proportion (8% in the workshops; and 14% in the survey) recording that community relations had been positively impacted by the referendum.

"I think young people are disillusioned by Brexit; the constant, and conflicting, media coverage and the fact that it's still ongoing... I'm not sure if Brexit is a good example of democracy - young people were not able to vote in the EU referendum and so I'm not surprised that they feel frustrated and/or disengaged from it all."

(Youth Worker, Survey)

"European communities perhaps feeling more ostracised. Relationships between Scotland and the rest of UK have been more strained."

(Youth Worker, Workshop)

"I don't think in my area there has been an increase in racism...I think young people are at risk or being apathetic and disillusioned by the process."

(Youth Worker, Workshop)

Findings

To help us better understand the positive and negative impacts on community relations, youth workers had the opportunity to provide comment and contribute to the discussion about why they held this view. It should be noted that these are perceptions held by individuals, based on their experience and observations. These comments have been analysed and are summarised in **Table 2**.

| Positive Impact (Youth Worker Perception) | Negative Impact (Youth Worker Perception) |
|--|---|
| young people are more aware of their rights | people in powerful and influential roles (such as in politics and the media) perpetuate anti-immigration and divisive messages which influence young people |
| young people actively wanting more opportunities for democratic engagement | public validation of, and emboldened, hate speech and intolerance – particularly on social media |
| young people wanting to focus on their future | youth workers are having to challenge a small minority of young people who are engaging in hate-speech and in particular anti-immigrant name calling |
| young people being more aware of their connection to global impact | communities have not been supported to re-unite following divisive referendum |
| | public have lost trust in the information they receive, and do not know what is 'truth' and who to trust. |
| | young people feel uncertain about their future and feel they have been excluded from democracy |

Table 2: Table showing respondents' perception of positive and negative impacts on community relations since the EU Referendum.

Findings

The Impact of Brexit on Youth Work's Future

The financial impact of Brexit on youth work largely remains uncertain:

- 54% of survey respondents said they were unsure how it will impact youth work financially
- 39% said that 'yes' there would be a financial impact on their youth work organisation when the UK leaves the EU.

For youth workers who participated in the workshop discussion, 40 of the 60 people (72%) who took part said they thing were unsure about the financial impact on youth work. Specific concerns were raised about the loss of funds for youth employability work.

"I believe employability key workers in [locality] are EU funded."

(Youth Worker, Workshop)

"European funded projects for those 16+ are at threat"

(Youth Worker, Workshop)

"The region I'm working in very significantly benefits from EU structural and other EU funding - and there is currently no guarantee that national government will maintain current levels of funding in future. This will impact on virtually every part of our lives."

(Youth Worker, Survey)

"We are a growing organisation and are in a better position than ever before to look at opportunities for organising international partnerships and projects. We understand that brexit may make this more difficult, but are committed to ensuring that young people are able to benefit from global links and learning opportunities around culture etc."

(Youth Worker, Survey)

Findings

Youth workers perception of future funding for Scotland's youth work sector can be broadly understood in three ways:

1. youth work will experience a **negative financial impact irrespective of Brexit** due to reductions in public services and spending;
2. youth work funding will be impacted as a consequence of Brexit's impact on the **wider economy**;
3. youth work will have less funding as a **direct impact of Brexit** because of the loss of specific EU programme and project funds such as Leader, Erasmus+, ESF. Loss of these funds will affect organisations ability to develop international cooperation, and will disproportionately impact organisations in rural areas and those working on youth employment priorities.

Youth workers commented about other impact they perceived about youth work post-Brexit. The open comments have been analysed and summarised, and in order of frequency of comment appear below:

Fewer opportunities for international cooperation - negative impact on staff learning and development, and for young people to experience new places, culture, and volunteer, work, or study in Europe.

"Young people will not be able to experience wonderful opportunities and develop relationships with partner groups from European countries. Could start to become inward looking which is not great for anyone."

(Youth Worker, Survey)

"International exchanges could be affected with countries unwilling to host due to costs - restrictions on travelling due to young people being worried."

(Youth Worker, Workshop)

Findings

Youth work workforce – fewer youth work staff, increased job insecurity, loss of diversity within the workforce, smaller pool of people to recruit from. Smaller public services and increased community organisation/volunteer-led activity.

“Increased hardship on ordinary families, service cuts and more demands on voluntary sector to plug gap with stretched resources. Funding will become more targeted due to costs meaning greater numbers of young people will face exclusion from services. Temporary, part-time posts will become even more common and those who work within youth organisations will become over saturated yet face increasing job insecurity.”

(Youth Worker, Survey)

“There may be a reluctance for organisations to accept youth workers both to and from the UK.”

(Youth Worker, Workshop)

Social and cultural impact – Scotland will be a more inward looking place, with less diversity and increased isolation from those who were previously our partners. Decisions being made further away from communities.

“My concern is Scotland will have to work harder to reassure EU countries that we still want to have a good relationship with them.”

(Youth Worker, Survey)

“Less funding for apprenticeships and jobs. - Rights for young people / LGBT Community in the work place.”

(Youth Worker, Workshop)

“It will damage years of working together with our partners in the rest of Europe - I believe the UK will be thought less of.”

(Youth Worker, Workshop)

Findings

What is the experience of youth workers in discussing political issues, such as Brexit, with young people?

Youth Work and Political Literacy

We asked respondents to the youth worker survey to think of the time period from the lead up to the EU referendum up to the present negotiating period, and asked if they had provided any **information to young people** about this process:

- 45% of respondents had not provided young people with information
- 42% said they had provided information,
- 13% were unsure if they had or not.

We asked those who had provided information how they had done this and what information sources they had used; as shown in **Table 3**:

| Activities | Resources / Sources |
|--|--|
| Group discussion | Parliamentary debate (film clips) |
| 1:1 work, including emotion coaching | National newspapers |
| Support for youth-led independent inquiry | TV shows |
| Collaborative research projects | #Brexit on twitter |
| Discussion sessions with elected representatives | Young Scot website |
| Group pros/cons list | Youth Scotland EU workshop |
| Youth exchange focused on theme of borders/migration | Voter registration information / education |
| Respond when young people initiated discussion | |
| Follow council policies | |

Table 3: Activities and sources of information.

Findings

We then asked those who had not provided information to young people why they had not done so. The open text comments were analysed and summarised in order of frequency:

- Staff **did not feel confident** to discuss this issue, and/or did not have trusted or appropriate materials and resources to learn from or use with young people
- It was **not a priority**, they didn't think to talk about it with young people, or young people didn't raise it as a topic they wanted to learn about
- Staff were **not allowed** to cover political issues, or it was actively dissuaded by their organisation
- Staff felt they could not provide the information free from **bias** and this was a risk which was culturally unacceptable by their employers
- Staff said that the young people they were working with were **too young to engage**, or specifically not old enough to vote.

In the workshop sessions youth workers discussed their confidence at discussing Brexit with young people, and nearly a third of workshop participants shared that they did not feel confident. Youth workers in these sessions:

"If I found an article that explained immigration, I would use it. Some of my work is to develop local strategies /responses to discrimination and sectarianism. Immigration always is brought up as a focus for discrimination and hate crime. Within the Brexit debate there has always been assumptions made about what immigration means. So any information which de-mystifies focussing blame on in-comers was part of my work."

(Youth Worker, Survey)

"I'm not confident myself as I have not become too engaged in the whole matter - it is too fluid"

(Youth Worker, Workshop)

"It was just in discussion during the lead up to the Brexit vote, debating what it might mean... positive, negatives or remaining. I no longer feel confident as I'm unclear on the current negotiations."

(Youth Worker, Workshop)

Discussion

The findings of this research provide new insight to YouthLink Scotland and Youth Scotland. We have heard directly from youth workers at time of unprecedented and significant political, economic and socio-cultural uncertainty.

The optimism of a minority of respondents of the positive impact on community relations following the EU referendum is both encouraging and welcome – particularly given that the positivity is associated with young people being better able to access democracy, connect their place in the global community, and to be more politically aware.

The feelings of uncertainty about youth work's financial future are reflective of what we as organisations have heard previously from the sector, and was forecasted by Coburn and Gormally¹¹ in 2017. However, the findings do provide additional insight as to the specific work areas and priorities which may be disproportionately impacted by the loss of direct funds from the EU (beyond Erasmus+); namely for youth employability and rural areas.

We are also better informed of our sectors' concern of how Brexit impacts on Scotland's place in Europe, and concern about reduced opportunities for Scottish communities and young people.

The findings of the research shows a workforce who are almost in equal proportion providing and not-providing opportunities for young people to engage in discussion and dialogue about Brexit. We are empathetic to the workforce who do not feel confident, informed, or empowered to facilitate this dialogue; but we are concerned that a small proportion of youth workers do not think that it is youth works 'place' to do this; or who are prohibited from delivering youth work of this nature.

¹¹ Coburn, A. and Gormally, S. (2017)

Stakeholder Opinion

What is youth work's role in talking to young people about divisive political issues (like Brexit)?

The findings of this study have prompted us to open the conversation of youth work's critical and central place in political literacy, young people's democratic participation and the realisation of young people's human rights.

To start this dialogue, we asked key stakeholders of the sector their views on youth work's role in political literacy and engagement. We hope the following opinion pieces will spark discussion amongst practitioners and within organisations.

"Youth work has never been more needed than it is now. Brexit highlights a society which is polarised, politics which is reduced to slogans and sound bites and a citizenry which stands by bewildered and disconnected. Youth work is needed to help rebuild a vibrant, participatory democracy where there are spaces to think, challenge and hold all accountable for shaping our collective future.

Article 12 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child states that all children should be given a say the decisions that affect them. But engagement must be learned; and democracy is learned by practicing democracy. And so, it is not just the conversations that we have with young people that is important, it is "an insistence upon a democratic practice, within which every effort is made to ensure that young people play the fullest part in making decisions about anything affecting them"¹².

We must see young people as experts in their own lives and progressively support them to identify their issues and take action. This starts with youth provision but needs to develop across schools, housing, training and employment. We cannot provide top down services which silence young people and make them dependant on experts, in the hope that it will produce active citizens. However, as we work in ways that support young people to learn, to take responsibility, to challenge constructively, to listen and to compromise, we develop the building blocks for a truly democratic society."

Dave Beck, Lecturer in Community Development, University of Glasgow

¹² This is Youth Work: Stories from Practice, In Defence of Youth Work (2012)

Stakeholder Opinion

"As a young person I believe that youth work has a crucial place in letting young people talk about some of the most divisive political issues we face, such as Brexit. Now, I'm not talking about voting intentions or influencing us to think a certain opinion to be correct, I'm talking about the participation ethos that surrounds youth work, as well as youth workers being able to help us find our voices.

Youth work is prime placed to help us understand what is happening in the world we live in, especially when these decisions are being made about us, for us, yet without us.

So until politicians are able to stop using lots of jargon and say things in the same way as the rest of us, youth work will always be the jargon busting, thought provoking, group that young people can go to find out what's going on."

Rachael Hatfield, Vice-Chair of Highland Youth Parliament and #iwill Ambassador

"Youth work gives us the knowledge and understanding we need to have a say in our rights and a say in what can be changed".

Young people consistently stress how important youth work is in their lives. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child enshrines the right of every child and young person to be listened to and have their views taken seriously. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child stresses how young people are "agents of change" and have the "potential to contribute positively to their families, communities and countries". It recognises how young people contribute towards "peace, human rights, environmental sustainability and climate justice" across the world. Youth work supports young people to make this happen. It creates safe spaces where young people can learn about and debate divisive political issues. It supports young people as they develop the skills, resilience and understanding of their rights to help them to tackle difficult issues. It builds trusting and supportive relationships between young people so they can overcome the challenges they face in an increasingly globalised and complex world. Youth work ensures young people's right to be heard is upheld and taken seriously - and this is why youth work is even more important to young people in challenging political times.

Maria Doyle, Legal Research Officer, Together Scotland

Next Steps

YouthLink Scotland and Youth Scotland commit to the following next steps in response to the findings and discussion of this Hear.EU project.

YouthLink Scotland and Youth Scotland will:

- Continue to advocate for sustainable investment in youth work locally and nationally
- Work together and with partners to develop and deliver high quality training to Scotland's youth work sector, to give youth workers confidence to create learning opportunities which facilitate and engage young people meaningfully in exploring divisive political issues
- Advocate for the inclusion of political literacy within a future National Youth Work Strategy
- Work in partnership with specialist organisations to ensure that the youth work sector is well supported to challenge racism and xenophobia amongst young people; and to support young people affected by hate speech and anti-immigration sentiments
- Continue to promote opportunities to collaborate with EU partners

In addition each of our organisations commit to explore the following:

| Youth Scotland | YouthLink Scotland |
|--|---|
| Commit to building the capacity of the voluntary youth work sector to empower young people | Influence key stakeholders through existing forums, such as the Erasmus+ national agency country and specialist networks, as well as continue to campaign for the long term security of the Erasmus+ fund |
| Commit to developing young people's capacity to take the lead in their life, learning and communities so that their voices are heard | Work with other organisations to better understand the demographics of the youth work sector in relation to non-UK EU citizens and their contribution to our workforce |
| Continue to upskill and build the capacity of youth groups to tackle discrimination and build positive community relations | Providing support, advice, and trusted information related to Brexit updates and impacts for local authority and voluntary youth work organisations |

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Further Reading

You decide - A political literacy resource

This resource developed by Education Scotland can be used by youth workers to develop political literacy skills in young people.

Together: Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights

Together have a selection of briefings on Brexit and children's rights.

Erasmus+ report

This report by the Scottish Parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee outlines Scotland's participation in the Erasmus+ programme and the potential implications of no longer participating after the UK leaves the EU.

Building Bridges: A youth vision for a common future after Brexit

This report, written for the Westminster All-Party Political Group on a Better Brexit for Young People, focuses on the future UK-EU relationship and what it will mean for young people.

Listen to us

A report on Brexit by the Children and Young People's Panel on Europe.

Hear EU – Brexit Factsheet

Version 1 (4/12/18)

Introduction

Youth Scotland and YouthLink Scotland have teamed up to develop support for youth workers on Brexit through our Hear EU project funded by the Scottish Government [Brexit Stakeholder Engagement Fund](#).

The results of the referendum on European Union membership in 2016 were 51.9% leave and 48.1% remain. In Scotland, 62% of voters voted to remain in the EU. 64% of 18-24 year olds across the UK voted, with 71% of those voting to remain. These factors have meant Brexit has often been a divisive topic within communities and between generations.

The following information is intended to increase understanding on Brexit process and negotiations. Information is accurate at the time of writing in December 2018.

Brexit and Rights

Many laws in the UK related to human rights and equality come from the EU. The laws are designed to protect people, including children and young people. When the UK leaves the EU, there is no guarantee that these legal protections will remain the same.

According to the Withdrawal Agreement, the UK will remain bound by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), but not the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The ECHR protects the human rights of people in countries that belong to the Council of Europe, which is a different organisation to the European Union.

Brexit Timeline

** - The following indicate estimated dates.

25th November 2018 – EU Council formally endorses Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration.

December/January 2019** – UK House of Commons has a 'meaningful vote' on the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration.

February 2019** – European Parliament vote on Withdrawal Agreement.

29th March 2019 – The UK leaves the EU.

31st December 2020 – Transition period ends [unless both sides agree an extension by 1st July 2020].

FAQs

What does Brexit have to do with youth work anyway?

Young people have reported that they felt excluded and alienated by the political discussions around the EU referendum.

We believe youth work has an important role in speaking to young people about challenging political and social issues.

Beyond this, it is also possible that there will be as yet unknown consequences for the youth work sector as a result of the UK leaving the EU.

What about the rights of EU citizens living in the UK?

EU citizens who were lawfully living in the UK at the end of the transition period will be allowed to stay. This also applies to family members (spouses, children, grandparents etc) who do not yet live in the UK.

Will we still be able to take part in Erasmus+?

In short, this hasn't been agreed yet. Both sides have said they will explore the UK's participation in EU programmes like Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020. If the UK is to participate in these, it will be required to pay to participate.

Will the NHS receive the £350 million a week promised during the EU referendum campaign?

This one isn't so clear cut. Prime Minister Theresa May announced a budget increase for NHS (England and Wales) in summer 2018. Responsibility for NHS Scotland is devolved, which means the Scottish Government decide how it resourced.

Will I now have to get a visa to go on holiday to Spain?

Although free movement will no longer apply once the UK leaves the EU, both the UK and EU have agreed they will aim to provide visa-free travel for short-term visits. They will also look at other arrangements for youth exchanges, study, training and research visits.

Extra Reading

[Institute for Government](#) – Useful, non-biased explainers for Brexit processes and policy.

[Scottish Parliament Information Centre \(SPICe\) hub on UK's decision to leave the EU](#) – Analysis from Scottish perspective on Brexit.

[Building Bridges: A youth vision for a common future after Brexit](#) – This report focuses on young people's views on Brexit.

[Erasmus+ report](#) – This report by the Scottish Parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee outlines Scotland's participation in the programme and the potential implications of no longer participating after the UK leaves the EU.

[BBC Young Reporter](#) – The site has guidance and videos for young people on recognising fake news.

[Together Scotland](#) – Together have a selection of briefings on Brexit and children's rights.

[Equality and Human Rights Commission](#) – Analysis and comment on how Brexit may impact human rights across the UK.

[You decide – A political literacy resource](#) – This resource developed by Education Scotland can be used to develop political literacy skills in young people.

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YouthLink Scotland is a Company Limited by Guarantee.
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