



“FestiVale” in Lewisvale Park Report



East Lothian
Council

Friday 24 June 2011

Contents

Background	2
The Music Programme	3
Activities and Information Stalls	4-5
Additional Outdoor Attractions	6-8
Outcomes and Recommendations	9
Acknowledgements	10



Background

The Musselburgh Children & Young People Network met for the first time in April 2011. With the longer term aim of developing a professional partnership of children and youth service providers in the Musselburgh area, however, it was decided in the short term to focus on a single event, based on a model which had been successfully used in North Berwick the previous year. The theme was “Substance Awareness for Everyone” (SAFE) as the local Community Planning initiative had also identified a ‘SAFE’ event as one of its priorities. Central to the success was the key involvement of Musselburgh Grammar School from the outset.

The event was therefore multi-faceted and had several aims. These were:






1. To promote a healthy lifestyles message with an emphasis on SAFE (Substance Awareness for Everyone)
2. To develop stronger links between Musselburgh Grammar School and the community
3. To link with the Strategic Music Partnership (ELJam) as part of their roll out in the Cluster
4. To celebrate the talents and achievements of local young people
5. To involve local young people in planning and participating in a community activity
6. To provide an opportunity for organisations and groups to raise awareness of services that they offer young people.

The date was chosen to coincide with Musselburgh Twinning Association’s 50th Anniversary Celebrations with Champigny sur Marne, France, to help promote international opportunities for young people. It also coincided with the Musselburgh Cluster Primary 7’s visit to the Grammar School as part of their transitional arrangements, allowing them, their carers and siblings opportunity also to participate.

Young people from Musselburgh Grammar were involved in the planning and participation of the event, including naming, branding, publicity (creating the posters and flyers), and filming for screening within the school on MGTV.

Planning Group

The Planning Group met on 3 separate occasions with smaller sub-groups set up to deal with specific aspects of the multi-faceted event. The partnership included:

-  Campie Primary School
-  Dialogue Youth
-  East Lothian Strategic Music Partnership ELJam
-  ELC Community Learning and Development
-  ELC Integration Team (Substance Misuse)
-  ELC Local Community Planning
-  Lothian & Borders Police
-  Lothian Fire Service
-  Musselburgh Grammar School
-  Musselburgh Grammar School Amnesty Group
-  Musselburgh Grammar Parents Council
-  NHS Lothian

Health & Safety

A comprehensive risk assessment was carried out, covering all aspects of the event. In attendance were the British Red Cross, Police, Fire Service (Red Watch), Community Wardens. Road Monitors were appointed. Staff organisers and senior pupils with delegated responsibilities wore high visibility jackets. This ensured maximum consideration for health & safety issues and the event itself passed smoothly and without incident.

The Music Programme



ELjam, East Lothian's Youth Music Forum was set up to support, promote, and develop Youth Music across the county. In February 2011, a working group was established to look at current youth music provision, and ways of improving access at a local level.

One of the main gaps in provision, identified through informal dialogue with young musicians- was the opportunity to perform publicly. A decision was taken therefore to resurrect the type of outdoor event which had taken place in previous year. It was agreed that this could only take place in partnership, with duties and responsibilities spread evenly among stakeholders.

ELjam, working closely with colleagues from Musselburgh Grammar School, Community Learning and Development and others from The Musselburgh Children & Young People Network, were able to successfully identify a large number of local youth acts keen to perform at the event- stylistically varied and from a wide range of backgrounds- P7 to professional. In the end, 11 local youth acts performed at the event, with a further 7 held in reserve. The aim was to reflect the full diversity of youth music taking place within the Musselburgh area.

The stage, generator, and three members of staff (including sound engineer) were provided by ELjam. The majority of the equipment used belonged to Musselburgh Grammar School, with key additions from The Bridge Centre Music Project in Haddington.

It had been hoped to use this event as a means of promoting Youth Music activities taking place over the summer. However, a number of setbacks were encountered in relation to host venues, leaving the situation uncertain surrounding summer provision.

One of the next key aims for ELjam will be the initiation of a large-scale music consultation with pupils at the Grammar School, as well as the formation of a Youth Music Hub, an increased range of music-related activities on offer locally for young people aged 0-25, and improved progression routes for all- including those working in Youth Music.

The event was filmed by students from Musselburgh Grammar and a fun trailer link can be found on <http://youtu.be/9Mcu5dTA0ns> Also many more clips of all the bands activities of a great day on <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/mgsevents/live-music-events/festivale/>

THE GATEHOUSE

Health Drop-In

12noon – 2pm



MARQUEE

	Organisation	Activity offered
1	Bridges Project	Project for YP. Stall with information, activity still to be decided
2	Fast Forward - YSTEP	YSTEP aims at reducing attractiveness of smoking to YP through a range of activities, information & resources
3	Integration Team – Substance misuse	Information; Display (Alcohol & drugs); Beer goggles challenge
4	Inter.Esk Youth project	Computer Focused youth project for 11 – 21 year olds
5	Local Community Planning	“Planning for Real” consultation using 3-D model
6	MELD Mid & East Lothian Drugs Advice	Substance misuse information and advice
7	Musselburgh Grammar School Amnesty Group	Information about the Amnesty Group’s activities and Oxfam
8	Musselburgh Grammar School Parent Council	Info about role & activities of Parent Council at School – publicize achievements & encourage more parents to become involved in life of school
9	Musselburgh Sports Centre	Mini circuit + other activities to promote the Centre
10	Musselburgh Twinning Association	Weekend event celebrating 50 th Anniversary with Champigny , France. Display & raising profile of twinning activities. Official opening of new pétanque pitch.
11	Oxfam	Campaigning (petition) and selling Festival attire from Oxfam stock
12	North Berwick Youth Café – LGBT East Lothian Group	Advertising the launch of and LGBT East Lothian group
13	Skills Development Scotland	Careers Service. Main activity – “The Buzz” personality test with information & stickers to help with positive life choices
14	Social Enterprise: Independent Phoenix Trader	Direct selling – cards, gift wrap & stationary
15	Social Enterprise: Beads Galore Jewellery	Hand crafted jewellery, bracelets & necklaces made with no metal clasps. Silver, acrylic, glass & crystals



A wide range of organisations set up stall within the marquee. In addition to the 'SAFE' message, many services were promoted, giving the chance for providers to speak with young people directly. The 'Planning for Real' local community planning consultation about Musselburgh High Street was also on display, giving young people the opportunity to contribute to the consultation, by selecting or writing their views onto cards and placing them on a 3D map of the area. Seventy three comments were recorded and have been added to the overall consultation.



Additional Outdoor Attractions

The Musselburgh Grammar Parents' Council arranged a fundraising Stocks activity, in addition to a stall of home baking and Fairtrade goods.



Fifteen **Musselburgh Amnesty Group** Students from the Musselburgh Amnesty Group ran a stall with a Fairtrade tuck shop and Tombola, sale of the school magazine (the MAG at <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/mgsmag/>), Human Rights Campaign materials and invitations to the weekly meetings. Campaigners took pictures of spectators holding 'Scotland Stands for Human Rights' placard for submission to the Scottish Parliament.



Sam Elliot, Scottish Youth Parliament representative for East Lothian



Callum Beattie & Shirley MacPherson



Elite Catering Staff



Cake to celebrate Amnesty's 50th Anniversary



Musselburgh Amnesty Group stall
(Sarah MacLean, Katherine Burns)

Refreshments were available from Luca's Ice Cream, The French Connection Crêperie and school catering staff.



The Fire Service (Red Watch) was in attendance with a separate gazebo, stall and information.



enjoy Leisure provided opportunity for playing badminton and basketball. An information gazebo provided further information on health & fitness activities that are on offer.



The Young Scot Outreach and Information Mobile was on hand to provide a wide range of information about young people's services. A consultation was also carried out about climate change, part of a current national survey, with complimentary T-shirts for those who took part.



A Bouncy Castle and inflatable boxing were available for younger children.



Face painting was provided by senior pupils from Musselburgh Grammar, raising money for charity.



Twinning 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend between Musselburgh and Champigny sur Marne, France

Representatives of Musselburgh Twinning Association, with their overseas guests from Champigny and their other twin town Rosignano Maritimo, Tuscany Italy, joined in the event which coincided with the official opening of the new Pétanque pitch in Lewisvale Park. Representatives from East Lothian's civic twinning link with Pardubice, Czech Republic were also present. These twinning links offer opportunity for international experience and display boards of previous youth exchanges were on show at the event.

Numbers

The SAFE event in Lewisvale Park was attended by over 1000 children, young people and adults.

Aims

All of the stated aims were met. Further feedback from both participants and service providers is being sought as part of the evaluation process.

The Children and Young People's Network met again at the end of August to review the event and decide on further activity and priorities. These are listed below:

FestiVale Review

In general - The anecdotal response to the event was very positive with school pupils enjoying and being engaged with the event until its close. There was a less positive response from other community groups, as a community event, perhaps reflecting the fact that this event was aimed very much at a youth audience.

It was agreed, however, that it would be worthwhile to build on the success of this first event by trying to get organised earlier so that more groups could become involved and in order that the young people could be more involved in the planning and organising of the event.

Funding – It is suggested that East Lothian Council consider the prospect of buying a stage and generator to off-set the recurring cost of hiring these for such events. It is also suggested that an international theme be adopted for the next event. This could create the possibility of applying for funding from the British Council. Securing funding from some local sources had been unsuccessful. Hence, the additional time to pursue such funding could prove beneficial.

Planning – It was agreed that more people needed to be involved in the initial planning and organisation. From the school's perspective, it could be possible to arrange a Curriculum for Excellence Group for staff to become involved at an earlier stage. Likewise, senior pupils had already begun to be consulted. From this, it was suggested that the school could try to get senior pupils involved in the planning through curricular and extra-curricular interventions.

Marketing – If pupil groups are to be involved, it was hoped that they could produce posters, leaflets and information on the electronic media.

Programme – Through having pupils and community groups involved at an earlier stage, this will allow the programme to evolve more readily than the previous show. Pupil involvement should be the main driver of the programme.





Health and Safety – The Health and Safety arrangements worked well. The risk assessment for 2011 should be sufficient for another such event with only minor modifications.

SAFE Transition Project

The SAFE theme will be continued in the Spring 2012. It will focus on the transition year of the parents and pupils moving from Primary 7 to secondary school. This project is now included in the Cluster Development Plan for March 2012. A separate sub-group is being set up to progress this.

Acknowledgements

The Musselburgh Children & Young People's Network would like to express thanks for the financial assistance received for this event by:

-  East Lothian Council Community Learning and Development Services
-  East Lothian Strategic Music Partnership ELjam
-  Fairtrade East Lothian
-  Young Scot Dialogue Youth

Thanks are also extended to all partners involved with the Network, for their time and enthusiasm given to the planning, organising and facilitation of this event, in particular the staff and pupils of Musselburgh Grammar School.

Report prepared by

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August 2011

