



## Young Place Changers – Catalyst Fund

The place where you stay has a huge impact on your quality of life but not all of us have easy access to great greenspaces. Public spaces should be open, accessible and usable for everyone as well as contributing to wider green networks.

Young people are almost invisible in public space and are a missing voice in local place consultations. They are frequently described as a ‘problem’ by the wider community and the answer to the perceived threat of young people ‘hanging around’ is often to restrict their access to greenspace. Young people often feel excluded from the decision making process and are unsure how to raise their concerns.

Young Place Changers is a pilot project developed by Youth Scotland and greenspace scotland. This puts young people in the lead role – supporting them to bring together the community (including key staff from councils and agencies) to look at local spaces and to plan improvements. The pilot is working with three youth groups within the CSGN area to support placemaking in their communities. The projects are:

- Herd Park, Methilhill in Fife
- Reidvale Park (Denniston), Glasgow
- Community Park, Wellhouse, Glasgow

Each group is being supported and mentored by a group of young people trained in placemaking and project facilitation by greenspace scotland (gs) and Youth Scotland (YS). You will hear from members of this group today. In each case, young people locally have identified spaces that are not performing as well as they should and want to get other people involved in making things better. They are using a range of interesting approaches to consultation and engagement – many of which they have developed themselves.



So what is our Ideas Fund idea? The groups in Methilhill and Glasgow are working hard to engage with their communities and to find out what people would like to see for their local greenspaces. This includes discussion of the ways in which these spaces link with other access routes and key community facilities. They are still early in this process but there is every indication that a strong local action plan will be created for each area. The challenge is getting things started while keeping the young people at the heart of the process.

If we are successful, we will use the Ideas Fund money to enable the groups to catalyse local action by initiating some of the quick win projects that they have identified. Our community placemaking experience shows that successful quick wins are essential for convincing local people and partner organisations that change is genuinely possible – building commitment and attracting other resources. The money will be used to fund up to four gs and YS staff days to support the groups in planning and organising their projects. The remainder will be offered as a ‘challenge fund’ where each project will be able to bid for funds with an element of competition between the groups (this will encourage the groups to be innovative and to work up their plans fully before bidding).

This is a fantastic opportunity to engage young people in the development and delivery of the CSGN; build local skills and capacity; improve local greenspace and to create a new way of working which could be used across the CSGN. Please vote for us!