



SCOTCH WHISKY  
ACTION FUND

MANAGED BY



Lothian Association of  
Youth Clubs (LAYC)



@ScotchWhiskySWA

Organisation: **Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC)**

Date of Award: **2022**

Amount Awarded: **£13,525**

Project Name: **Alcohol Awareness for Youth Workers**



Lothian Association of Youth Clubs, (LAYC), supports community-based youth and children's work in the City of Edinburgh and the Lothians. LAYC support a network of over 120 youth and children's organisations, with nearly 3,000 staff and volunteers engaging over 28,000 children and young people. LAYC work covers three core service areas: training and capacity building; support and information; and representation and youth participation. LAYC delivers a training programme, informed by Member Groups, to meet both the needs children and young people are presenting within communities, but also the individual training needs practitioners are identifying for themselves in what in many cases are volunteer-led organisations with limited in-house expertise.

## The Project: Alcohol Awareness for Youth Workers

In 2022, LAYC received a grant of £13,525 from the Scotch Whisky Action Fund (SWAF) to contribute to the cost of delivering alcohol awareness workshops for youth workers to increase their skills, knowledge, and confidence to provide a range of alcohol awareness activities, support, and information. The grant helped to cover the cost of hosting the workshops, a venue, materials and toolkits, diversionary activity costs and staff to deliver them.

### The Impact:

LAYC delivered five workshops to seventy-five youth workers working within community-based youth work organisations across Edinburgh and Lothian.

The workshops focused on a range of topics within the broader alcohol awareness topic, including:

- How to talk with young people about alcohol use
- Parent/Carer alcohol use and the impact on children and young people
- Alcohol education and awareness with children at critical transition periods (Primary 7)
- Young people's alcohol use trends
- Spotting signs of alcohol misuse and signposting to further support

November 2023



In addition, forty-five diversionary youth work sessions were delivered within local communities across Edinburgh including Leith, Craightenny, Moredun and Muirhouse, all experiencing anti-social behaviour.

The activities included youth café events, streetwork providing hot drinks and snacks, football sessions, silent disco, laser tag, and more general youth work activities such as arts and crafts and games sessions.

In total the activities engaged with 879 children and young people.

*"This funding supported youth workers within the LAYC network to increase skills, knowledge, and confidence in relation to young people's alcohol use. This learning was complemented by the delivery of diversionary activities within local areas providing young people with positive opportunities to be involved in with their peers and trusted adults."*

**– Laurene Edgar, Director LAYC**

## Partnership Quotes

*"It will have a great impact as I feel I have more knowledge to help young people in regard to alcohol as well as agencies to signpost them to".*

*"It will improve my knowledge and I will implement into my practice with young people".*

*"This training will allow me to approach some of the more difficult topics and conversations with an older boys' group".*

*"The diversionary activities provided an experience for the young people that they wouldn't have had the opportunity to attend without the group. By removing the possibility of anti-social alcohol related behaviour, the community wouldn't have an opportunity to alienate or marginalise these young people. Also, the stress of having a child involved in a ritual of destructive behaviour in communities was alleviated, therefore improving the young people's relationship with their parents."*

Some activities were delivered during bonfire weekend within identified local communities, to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour at this key time of the year. This quote from a youth worker demonstrates the impact this had: *"Having an alternative youth work provision, with a fun safe approach around and on bonfire night in this area, allowed young people a space to celebrate it without risk of offending behaviour and alcohol use. This resulted in a safer community and fewer calls on the emergency services re fireworks related incidents for this part of the community."*



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