



## ***Youth Opportunities Fund / Youth Capital Fund***

### ***Case Study: Isles of Scilly***

#### **Summary**

There are approximately 100 young people aged 13-19 on the Isles of Scilly; most of these are 13-16 as many young people leave the islands at 16 to access work or further education.

The school council has therefore proved to be an effective channel for administering the YOF/YCF, and the fund is able to have a significant impact on the activities available for all young people, opening up new opportunities for young people who have been geographically isolated.

#### **What young people have been engaged?**

Ten young people are elected to the school council – two from each year group – the council itself therefore makes up 10% of the youth population and is in close contact with others. The group come from different islands within the Scillies and are a balance of male and female.

#### **Role and involvement of young people**

Due to the small numbers involved, young people on the council are able to work with groups to support them in making applications. Young people are also aware of possible conflicts of interest and have had to ensure that applications are considered fairly. The group have taken on more responsibility as their experience has grown, and have now adopted roles such as Chair and Treasurer.

#### **Changes to public service delivery and lessons learnt**

A consultation of all 13-16 year olds was carried out before the YOF/YCF came into being, and provided a good starting point for identifying young people's needs. The funds have provided the resources to speed up the response to young people's expressed wishes for wider opportunities and more activities.

The authority now has a strategy in place for engaging young people, which includes a schedule for consultation, electing a youth MP and organising a 'Question Time' for young people to talk to local decision-makers. The Youth Opportunities Fund has helped to give more impetus to this aspiration to involve young people in local democratic processes.

## Benefits and outcomes

The focus of the fund has been to show young people that there is 'more to life' than they may have been able to experience up to now, due to their geographical isolation. The YOF has funded a cultural trip to London in which young people visited art galleries and theatres, learnt valuable life skills (such as using the underground) and experienced a very different, urban culture. Young people have also gone to the mainland to compete in sporting events such as judo, football and athletics. In response to needs identified through the consultation young people have taken part in increased activities through the summer holidays. Coaches have been brought from the mainland to run courses in football, cricket and rugby. 25 young people took part in a week-long series of music and dance workshops run by a group from Cornwall which culminated in a showcase performance. Joel Williams, Council of the Isles of Scilly Early Years Officer commented:

"The young people taking part have visibly grown in confidence as the week progressed. The feedback from parents and young people alike is amazing."



