

Youth Matters – DGVoice Conference for disabled young people

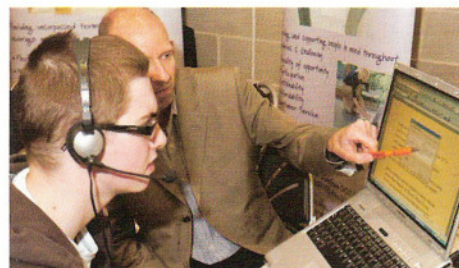
Youth Matters, the first conference for young disabled people ever held in the region, was organised by DGVoice, the voice of disabled people in Dumfries & Galloway. About 100 young people attended the event at DG One in Dumfries, along with a number of invited guests, expert listeners and representatives from the council, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, the police, the fire and rescue service and a wide spectrum of charities and organisations representing children and young people. Delegates took part in various workshops and activities designed to give young people opportunities to say what they really want from life.

Twenty-year-old Ryan McCann, who broke his neck in a car crash, gave an inspiring speech and Tam Baillie, Scottish Commissioner for children and young people, talked about the results of the 'Big Blether'.

Dancers from Body Electric Dance & Soul provided entertainment and in the afternoon the Partners in Autism and Cree Sound Band took to the stage and soon had everyone singing along with Lady Gaga's Born This Way. Cree Films, a group of young disabled filmmakers, filmed the conference for a DVD.

The work done at Youth Matters will inform policy and decisions in Dumfries & Galloway for some time to come, and everyone had a fun-packed and enjoyable day.

Photography by Allan Devlin



Paul Nisbet (Call Scotland) teaching the computer to recognise Andrew Tapner's voice



Members of the Cree Sound group



Nathan Bell, Gavin Christie and Tracy Muir from Youth Issues



Ryan McCann and Janice Hendry



Claire Charkon, Heather Hall, Ged Thomson, Marie Swan, Callum Dirom, Philip Heron, Dean Wilson, Yvonne Heron, Frank Smith, Tam Baillie



Mark Jardine and MP Russell Brown with some workshop participants



Sam Rankin of Equality Scotland with Annie and Robert Allan

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