

National Park Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 6

Youth Committee: #iwill Pledge



Paper for decision

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority has a long history of collaborating with young people of all ages. During the [2018 Year of Young People \(#YOYP2018\)](#) we transformed how we engage with young people, grasping the opportunity to increase, diversify and deepen the ways young people actively engage with us not only for the #YOYP2018, but the future of the National Park.

One of the key legacy elements from this work is our [Youth Committee](#). They have been working hard on actions which will really make a difference, both to young people and to the National Park itself. One of their priorities has been to tie into the UK wide [#iwill campaign](#), which aims to make participation in social action the norm for young people aged 10 to 20.

Based on this, the group have co-authored this paper for decision, with guidance and input from the relevant Operational Manager.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Members are asked to approve the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park pledge for the #iwill campaign.
- 2.2. Members are asked to approve a collaborative approach to work with the Youth Committee to launch our pledge in #iwill Week 2019, from the 18th – 22nd November.

3. Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) and Our 5-year Plan

- 3.1. The NPPP outcome that relates directly to this area of work is Outcome 9, Health and Learning. It specifically addresses elements of both Priority 9.1 Health Improvement, through supporting outdoor learning and volunteering opportunities; and Priority 9.2 Engagement and learning through our focus on working with young people.
- 3.2. This work also helps to deliver against Our 5-Year Plan, Priorities 3 (A Sustainable Organisation) and 8 (Communication and Engagement).
- 3.3. Our 'people' (including our volunteers and young people) and 'service design' are relevant enablers (as identified in Our 5-Year Plan) that will be core to this project.

4. Background

Our Youth Committee is made up of 12 young people, and we are really passionate about them making a difference in the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. We have been talking about how we can do more to raise the profile of and share our commitments to support the environment of the National Park. This led us to thinking about the UK wide #iwill campaign.

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4.1. What is the #iwill campaign?

In 2012, the then UK Prime Minister asked Dame Julia Cleverdon and Amanda Jordan OBE to review how to increase the quality and quantity of youth social action. After a wide-ranging consultation their [report](#) highlighted the barriers to youth social action and produced a set of recommendations. The #iwill campaign was one of the tangible actions that resulted.

Both the UK and Scottish Governments have recognised that young people have the energy, skills and ideas to change their communities and society for the better, not just in the future, but now. However it can be hard to ensure that all young people get their voices heard.

The #iwill campaign aims to make participation in social action such as volunteering, fundraising, mentoring and campaigning part of life for 10-20 year-olds, and wants to engage more partners around the role young people can play to address key environment challenges (e.g. #iwill4nature). Organisations are supported to make an [#iwill pledge](#) that demonstrates their commitment to environmental youth social action.

4.2. What are we asking?

Supported by the team, we (the Youth Committee) have drafted a pledge for the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority. Similar pledges have been made by the Peak District and North York Moors National Park Authorities.

We are seeking Board approval to make this pledge formal and register it with the #iwill campaign. This will not only mean that our voices are heard, but it is also a way that the National Park Authority can show its ongoing commitment to empowering young people to make a positive difference.

4.3. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park pledge:

- To provide opportunities for young people to be involved with, and have a voice in decision making for the National Park through our Youth Committee and links to the National Park Board.
- To support young people to feed into consultations and the wider work of the National Park Authority, both internally and at external events.
- To support skills development / placement opportunities for young people within the National Park.
- To co-design opportunities with young people, for young people, to share their views and experiences of the National Park.

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5. Conclusion

- 5.1. We, as the Youth Committee, are committed to working closely with the National Park Board and staff teams. We would be delighted to celebrate our first formal step towards this close working, through publishing our National Park Board-endorsed #iwill pledge.
- 5.2. We are working closely with the support of the staff team to make the first proposal that we bring to the National Park Board. We anticipate bringing further proposals in the future.

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