

Young UK and Ireland Programme

Review of the year 2008-09



Mairi Clare Rodgers, UK and Ireland Young Thinker of the Year 2008

Six courses, six team competitions, 21 crowded days (and nights) of thought and debate, 268 delegates from as far afield as Shetland and Cornwall, a season stretching from the Public Sector Programme in early May 2008 to the finals in late March 2009 – this was the busiest season yet for the Young UK and Ireland Programme.

Towards the end of 2008, a significant milestone was reached. The number of delegates who have successfully completed the individual courses of the programme since its foundation in 2002 topped 1,000. This was commemorated at the autumn course of the Young Scotland Programme with a presentation to the 1,000th delegate.

Apart from the individual courses, many delegates have taken part in our team competitions, notably the Young Local Authority of the Year. The progress of this team event for local government staff has been remarkable: the number of teams taking part has increased by 50% in the four years of the competition.

In 2008-09, we were delighted to introduce new individual events for the NHS and for police, fire and rescue services and to re-introduce the title Education Young Thinker of the Year. Throughout the season, the standard of the papers by delegates was encouragingly high and 'On the Spot' became a popular regular feature of all the courses and competitions.

Our thanks to the programme's corporate supporters; members of the Institute of Contemporary Scotland for providing endowed places north of the border; our speakers and adjudicators; and, of course, all 268 delegates for an outstanding season.

Roll of Honour

Principal awards of the programme

Richard Wild Award

Young Thinker of the Year

2004

Louise Brennan

2005

Anne-Marie Bunting

2006

Amy Rees

2007

Adèle Buckley

2008

Mairi Clare Rodgers

Ian Mackenzie Medal

Runner-up Young Thinker of the Year

2008

Heidi Brooks-Yung

Inveramsay Medal

For an outstanding continuing contribution to the programme

2004

Ashley McLean

Marwan Toma

2005

Marie Richmond

Tina Winn

2006

Lianne Nagelsztajn

2007

Amanda Williams

2008

Claire Callaghan

Dunblane Medal

For a special contribution in the current season

2006

Paul Ager

Jason Collins

2007

Dhana McIver

Arwen Meertens

2008

Gianna Cassidy

Esther Roy Medal

For an outstanding contribution in the current season by a delegate aged 24 or under

2006

Christolite Ashley

2007

Joanna Roberts

2008

Rebecca Clark

Young Local Authority of the Year

2006

Newcastle City Council

2007

Wokingham Borough Council

2008

Hampshire County Council

young uk and ireland programme review

Results of finals

2003-04

12 June 2004: London

Young Thinker of the Year

Louise Brennan

Finalists

Ieuan Ashman, Louise Brennan, Caroline Grace, Daniel Hobbs, Robert Lowes, Clare Morley, Mohammed Nadeem, Jacqueline Sharples

2004-05

14 May 2005: Edinburgh

Young Thinker of the Year

Anne-Marie Bunting

Finalists

Anne-Marie Bunting, Sera Evans, Zoë Evans, Gareth McCartney, Lorna Mundy, Sinead O'Donnell, Ian Quigg, Rachael Thomas, Simon Whalley

2005-06

30 April 2006: Bournemouth

Young Thinker of the Year

Amy Rees

Runner-up

Zoe Woods

Finalists

Andrew Copson, Stephen Cummins, Iain Docherty, Regina Duane, Kate Findlay, Mhairi Henderson, Michelle Hurst, Ruth Innes, Sarah-Jane Marsh, Louise Mitchell, Ciara Morrison, Amy Rees, Ed Thomson, Zoe Woods

2006-07

31 March 2007: North Queensferry

Young Thinker of the Year

Adèle Buckley

Runner-up

James Henderson

Finalists

Adèle Buckley, Jenny Claydon, Adam Cooper, Jo Davidson, Tom Harris, James Henderson, Andrew Johnson, Katie Kelleher, Gordon Lawrie, Sarah Malcolmson, Esther Town

2007-08

29 March 2008: Stranraer

Young Thinker of the Year

Mairi Clare Rodgers

Runner-up

Heidi Brooks-Yung

Finalists

Tim Borrett, Heidi Brooks-Yung, Rebecca Clark, Russell Collins, Vicki Craighill, Adenike George, Ann Griffiths, Lynsey Harris, Shireen Khattak, Maria Kicinski, Peter Lamb, Elaine McGhee, Grainne Mc Kenna, Linda Memery, Michael Mitton, Carleen Protain, Mairi Clare Rodgers, James Steel, Sean Wattedegera, Keith Withers

Young UK and Ireland Programme

The Young UK and Ireland Programme exists to stretch the minds and broaden the horizons of people in the early stages of their working lives or performing voluntary work in the community. The minimum age for entry is 18; there is no upper age limit. Though an annual series of residential courses of three or four days' duration, the programme aims to encourage the research, writing and presentational abilities of delegates, provide a forum for debate and dialogue, and introduce delegates to fresh ideas and creativity.

The centrepiece of each course is the presentation by each delegate of a 900-word paper ('Argument') on a topic – of the delegate's choice – 'of current interest or controversy'. In addition, there are debates on issues of the moment, in-depth group discussions, enlightening guest speakers.

Since the establishment of the programme in November 2002, 1,048 delegates have successfully completed the individual courses of the programme. (A further 437 delegates have taken part in competitions such as the Young Local Authority of the Year).

Course results 2008-09

Young England and Wales Programme

Lancaster, May 2008

Public Sector Young Thinker of the Year: Charlie Webb, Civil Service

Runner-up: Carolyn Lund, Ministry of Justice

Associations and Societies Young Thinker of the Year: Christine Hunt, Age Concern England

Runner-up: Charles Miller, Anti-Slavery International

Young Scotland Programme

Stranraer, June 2008

Scotland Young Thinker of the Year (jointly): Madeleine Burns, Scottish Refugee Council

Runner-up: Katrina Marsden, RSPB

Young All-Ireland Programme

Stranraer, June 2008

All-Ireland Young Thinker of the Year: Barry Devine, An Bord Pleanála

Runner-up: Denise Fitzpatrick, Public Appointments Service

Young England and Wales Local Government Programme

Lancaster, October 2008

Local Government Young Thinker of the Year: Sarah Griffiths, Wokingham Borough Council

Runner-up: Elizabeth Stephenson, South Tyneside Council

Young Scotland Programme

Stranraer, November 2008

Scotland Young Thinker of the Year (jointly): Anthony Silkoff, BEMIS

Runner-up: Rebecca Winterstein, Scottish Government

Young England and Wales Programme

Lancaster, January 2009

Education Young Thinker of the Year: Elizabeth Harper, London South Bank University

NHS Young Thinker of the Year: Matilda von Sydow, NHS Barking and Dagenham

Police and Fire and Rescue Services Young Thinker of the Year: Kate Holford, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

Young Local Authority of the Year

The Young Local Authority of the Year competition was established in 2006. Councils throughout the UK are eligible to compete, entering up to three teams. Each team consists of two members of staff in the early stages of their career in local government.

The aim of the competition is to contribute to the personal and professional development of the participants – by improving their written and verbal communication skills and enhancing their research capabilities through the experience of preparing for, and participating in, the event. The minimum age for entry is 18; there is no upper age limit.

Each team presents a 900-word 'Argument' paper on a subject 'of current interest or controversy' of their own choice. In addition, the teams go 'On the Spot' for a three-minute presentation without notes.

Category competitions (preliminary rounds) are held each year in February, from which the winners and some runners-up progress to the final. In 2009, 49 teams competed in the category competitions.

Category results 2009

Young English County Council of the Year

Devon County Council
Hannah Alderson and Kamila Davis

Runner-up

East Sussex County Council
Caroline Bragg and Katherine Shepherd

Young English Unitary Council of the Year

Portsmouth City Council
Sophie Castle and Alan Dickson

Young English Metropolitan Borough Council of the Year

Birmingham City Council
Paul Lowney and Catherine Poyner

Runner-up

South Tyneside Council
Holly Bainbridge and Elizabeth Stephenson

Young English District Council of the Year

South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council
(joint entry)
Laura Batham and Laura Payne

Runner-up

Wycombe District Council
Claire Drake and Andy Foreman

Young London Borough Council of the Year

London Borough of Hillingdon
Laura Palmer and Richard Robbins

Young Scottish/Welsh Council of the Year

(joint category)
Orkney Islands Council
Gavin Barr and Stuart West

A second team from the London Borough of Hillingdon (Victoria Jones and Sam Taylor) was highly commended across all categories

Results of finals

2006

Young Local Authority of the Year

Newcastle City Council
Lisa Clark and Jon Sell

Runner-up

Cornwall County Council
Samantha Boyns and Andrew Brocklehurst

Highly commended

Portsmouth City Council
Syed Ali and Janine Bristow

Commended

East Sussex County Council
Edward Howarth and Sarah Lamy

2007

Young Local Authority of the Year

Wokingham Borough Council
Lynsey Harris and Keith Withers

Runner-up

Hertfordshire County Council
Colin Cornforth and Jennifer Lynch

Highly commended

Oxford City Council
Karen Martin and Sally Short

Commended

East Sussex County Council
Sara Jones and Bryn Thomas

2008

Young Local Authority of the Year

Hampshire County Council
Andrew Boutflower and Emma Gordon

Runner-up

East Sussex County Council
Darren Elliott and Polly Reynolds

Highly commended

Fenland District Council
Hetty Thornton and Amy Wilson

Commended

London Borough of Haringey
Lucy Cranshaw and Becky Cribb

Corporate supporters

The following placed delegates on the programme in 2008-09

Acas
Accountant in Bankruptcy
Adam & Company plc
Age Concern England
Alzheimer Scotland
Anti-Slavery International
Asthma UK Scotland
Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Aylesbury Vale District Council
Barnardo's
Basingstoke College of Technology
Basingstoke and North Hampshire
NHS Foundation Trust
Bedfordshire County Council
BEMIS
Birmingham City Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough
Council
Bord Bia, Ireland
An Bord Pleanála, Ireland
British Humanist Association
Broadcasting Commission of Ireland
ChildLine Scotland
Children's Trust
Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology
NHS Foundation Trust
Commission for Public Service
Appointments, Ireland
Confederation of Passenger Transport
UK
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal
Service
Dacorum Borough Council
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food, Ireland
Department of Defence, Ireland
Department of Justice, Equality and
Law Reform, Ireland
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
Devon County Council
Dorset County Council
Dublin City Council
Durham and Darlington Fire and
Rescue Service
East Staffordshire Borough Council
East Sussex County Council
Energy Networks Association
Faculty of Advocates
Fairbridge
Falkirk Council
FÁS, Ireland
Fenland District Council
Findhorn Foundation
Food Standards Agency Scotland
Gateshead Council
GCHQ
Glasgow City Council
Hampshire County Council
Harper Adams University College
Health Information and Quality
Authority, Ireland
Health and Safety Authority,
Ireland
Hertfordshire County Council
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Historic Scotland
Home Office
Identity and Passport Service
Institution of Civil Engineers
Institution of Gas Engineers and
Managers
Interact Worldwide
Kent County Council
Lancashire County Council
Land Registry
Law Society of Scotland

Learning and Teaching Scotland
Legal Services Commission
Lincolnshire County Council
London Borough of Barking and
Dagenham
London Borough of Greenwich
London Borough of Hillingdon
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
London South Bank University
Manchester City Council
Middlesbrough Borough Council
Midlothian Council
Ministry of Justice
Moreduin Research Institute
National Audit Office
National Crime Council, Ireland
National Physical Laboratory
Newcastle City Council
Newcastle University
NHS Ayrshire and Arran
NHS Barking and Dagenham
NHS Blood and Transplant
Nil by Mouth
North Ayrshire Council
North East Derbyshire District
Council
North Lanarkshire Council
Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Northumbria Healthcare NHS
Foundation Trust
Office of the Director of Public
Prosecutions, Ireland
Orkney Islands Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Partners in Advocacy
Personal Injuries Assessment Board,
Ireland
Peterborough City Council
Portsmouth City Council
Portsmouth University
Public Appointments Service,
Ireland
Regulation and Quality Improvement
Authority, Northern Ireland
Reigate and Banstead Borough
Council
Royal Bank of Scotland Group
RSPB
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
Scarborough Borough Council
Scottish Court Service
Scottish Federation of Housing
Associations
Scottish Government
Scottish Police College
Scottish Refugee Council
Scottish Secondary Teachers'
Association
Scottish and Southern Energy
Scottish Water
Scout Association
Shetland Islands Council
Shropshire County Council
Southampton City Council
South Hams District Council and
West Devon Borough Council
South Lakeland District Council
South Somerset District Council
South Tyneside Council
South Wales Police
Spelthorne Borough Council
St Albans City and District Council
St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Stockport Metropolitan Borough
Council
Sunderland City Council
Surrey County Council
Teignbridge District Council
Tynedale Council
Victim Support Scotland
Wakefield Council
Water Industry Commission for
Scotland
Welsh Assembly Government
West Lindsey District Council
Woking Borough Council
Wokingham Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wycombe District Council

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The programme in Scotland is organised by the **Institute of Contemporary Scotland**, which also subsidises places on the courses in Scotland for delegates who would not otherwise have an opportunity to participate. We wish to express our gratitude to Fellows of the Institute who support the Young Scotland Fund for this purpose.
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A supporting charity, **The Young Programme**, sponsors the national finals and subsidises places on the courses in England and Wales for delegates who would not otherwise have an opportunity to participate. Trustees: Kenneth Roy (Chairman), Fiona MacDonald, Islay McLeod
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