



University
of Glasgow

What's Love got to do with it?

Youth Participation in North Ayrshire

Dr Louise Sheridan

Who are they?

- **'I think it's good when you've got kids that have experience in different walks of life coming in and sharing what they've kind of learned or what they're going through and what they want to see change. I think a lot of people as well think 'Oh yeah if it's full of kids that are all well off...' Like you could have a group that are full of kids that are all well off but just because they're well off doesn't mean that they don't have struggles'**
(Young Person)



Common Goals...

- ‘So, there are totally difficult backgrounds. There’s ones who are wealthy and others who live with their gran and stuff. But they still do the same stuff; they’ve still got the same mindset to go and change things.’ (Youth Worker)



Making a difference for others...

‘I like being able to help other people get their voices heard; I like being able to help things. I like helping make a change in things’ (Young Person)



Youth Workers....

- How they see young people
- What they are like
- How they treat young people

How they see young people...



Young People
as Trouble



Adults in
Training



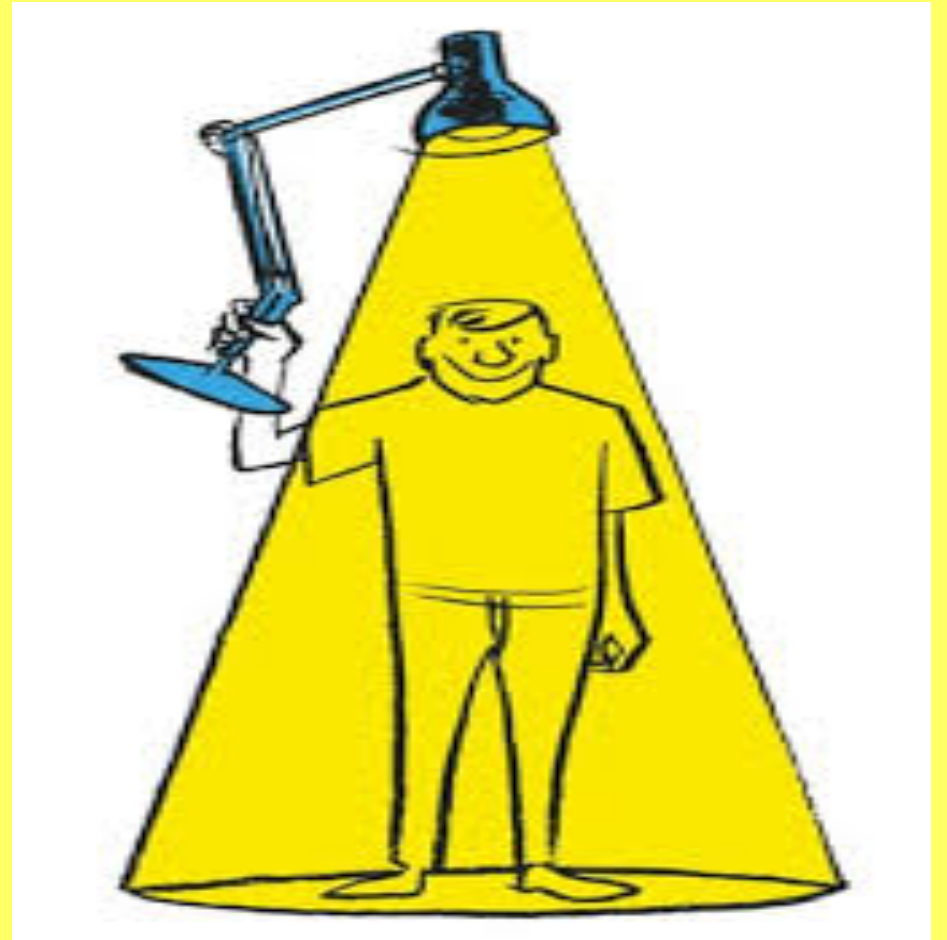
As Agents of
Change

What are they like?

- 'Friendly, like outgoing, like they're professional but they're kind of they're relaxed so that you can just chat to them and they're '(Young Person)
- 'Fun, always up for a good laugh, doesn't take everything too seriously. Always chatting, trying to keep my conversation going, always concerned if there's something wrong, like you know, being there supporting them through whatever, wherever' (Young Person).

Just attention-seeking...Not in their eyes

- ‘I’ve always thought if someone’s seeking attention they need attention. So, look beyond the attention-seeking and try and find out what’s going on in their head because, who knows, it could be something a lot deeper and more problematic than they’re making it seem.’ (Young Person)



They stay calm...

- ‘...there’s been a couple of times where I’ve not been myself, and they’ve noticed. But instead of getting angry and stuff they’ll talk to you and try and understand what’s going on. I think that’s great’ (Young Person)



**Youth Participation Practice:
A Scottish Experience**

Making a Difference

Connecting

Trusting Relationships
On the Same Level
Importance of boundaries

Enabling

Youth-led
Encourage Participation
Continuum of Support

Transforming

Build Confidence
Encourage tolerance
Political awareness

They are there...

- <https://youtu.be/BcJbzuyp6VY?t=174>

What influences me...

- Freire (2000) identified love for others as a core element of striving for positive change within society.



How they treat young people?

- It's about 'alfirmo', which is the act of caring for, nourishing and supporting young people, while asserting belief in their ability as agents of change.



It links to armed love described by Freire

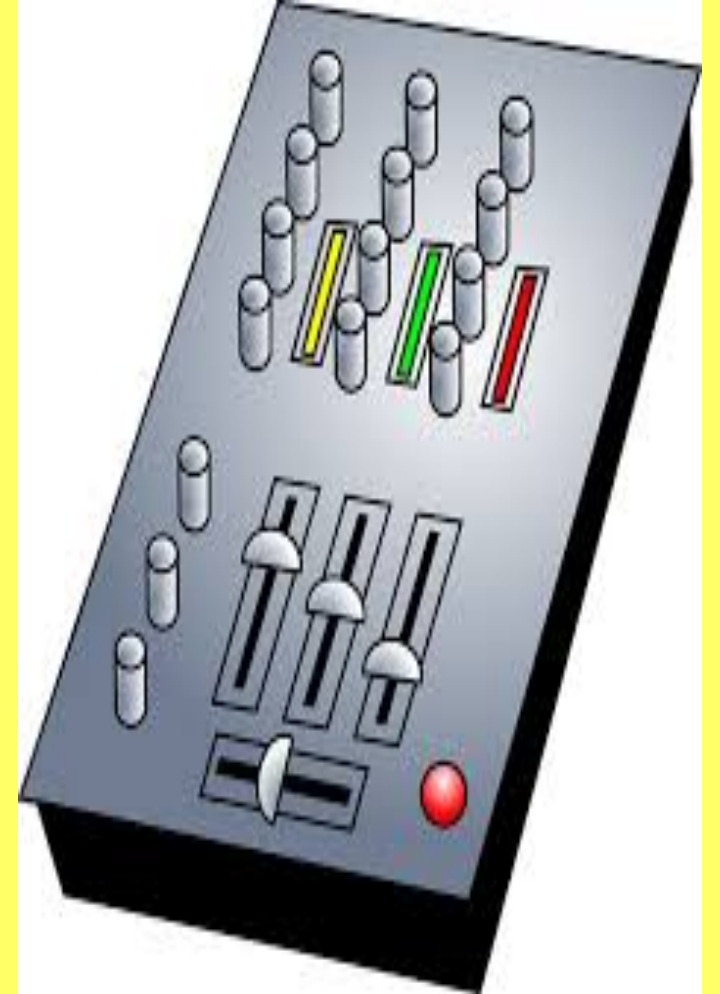
- It is embodied by noticing if someone is tired, or noticing if someone seems not to understand a concept, and responding to this
- It involves provoking critical thought, questions and actions
- It's about encouraging people to question answers



It's also about Scaffolding...



MacIntosh and Youniss (2008:32) refer to the importance of scaffolding in YPP; the level and type of support or 'training' is dependent on the young person.





What about Radical
Youth Participation?

Thank you for listening

- **If you would like to find out more about my research, please contact me on louise.Sheridan@glasgow.ac.uk**