



A Letter to Youth Work: A pledge to continue

Dear Youth Work,

It's been a tough weekend! As we gather our thoughts and chat amongst loved ones about what this all means, I have been empowered by the talks people are having in pubs, gyms and buses as we go about our lives. People coming together to let reality sink in, grieve and decide what we will do next as we watch our leadership carve out a new nation.

Having Indy100 point out the 7 stages of brexit grief has made this process easier for me, so thanks 1 to 7!

This letter is not to communicate personal agendas or opinions instead it is a pledge to empower and negotiate on your behalf. We, Xchange Scotland have come to terms with our future in European youth work and the future of our strong partnerships in Europe. **Partnerships that have estimated over €500,000 spent on youth work in Scotland since 2012.**

The Xchange Scotland team are moved by the messages we have received from all over the world, showing their solidarity and support for youth work and for that we thank them again.

We voice our passion and concerns to our fellow partners in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and England, who all work with us in the third sector, social enterprise and youth services. This pledge is to begin a conversation to create a platform that can continue the work we are doing to improve the lives of those most vulnerable.

Our work is supported by European funds that allow development, research and innovation to occur. Due to the European Social Fund, **since 2007 Xchange Scotland has been one of many deliverers of the €3.2 Billion Euros** given to the Youth Employment initiative for all member states to enjoy. Our European Youth Work has impacted over 1500 young people 16-30 to develop their confidence, personal relationships, enter education, enter employment and most off all, feel apart of the world as its moves around them.

The European union funds enable the youth to enter education and training opportunities. It provides civic involvement, volunteer work and broader multicultural outlook. The Erasmus+ program has been a pivotal backbone of this work and our colleagues in this program will no doubt be working with us to carve out a new era of educational opportunities for those most vulnerable.

Xchange Scotland

The Kinning Park Complex, 43 Cornwall Street

Glasgow, G41 1AQ

Tel: +44 0141 237 2430



Youth workers have benefited from these funds, to share best practice and to nurture their career. **Youth Work, without any doubt has been shaped by the UK being a member of the European Union.**

As we begin this journey, Xchange Scotland asks that we come together to create and negotiate alternatives to the funds and initiatives that are changing the lives of so many and the work of those that deliver it.

To the Youth Work sector in Scotland, let the next few months of negotiating count not just for infrastructure or business, but also for the people that will lead this country in the tomorrow. Let's continue to be proud that our youth work changes lives and brings social return to the UK and to Scotland.

We will not shy away, we will not hide, instead Xchange Scotland are already working with key people, organisations and European partners to carry on our work in Scotland, so that we can provide these opportunities regardless of a European membership status.

So don't worry Youth Work, you can count on us. Here is to the next chapter,

Carla Fyfe
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Carla Fyfe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.