

Bridging the Gap

Galashiels Academy | Scottish Borders | 2017 - 2021



Scottish Government
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WHAT WE ARE DOING

The 'Bridging the Gap' project is the first of its kind in the UK encouraging a unique sustained intergenerational partnership that will equip young people with the skills and tools of how to engage with placemaking and learn about decision making. Older people will learn from young people about digital inclusion and social media.

The project will match students with elected members and officers from Scottish Borders Council, members of Energise Galashiels Development Trust and local Community Councils to provide young people with first-hand experience of learning to balance different demands, learning about decision-making structures and making their views heard.

WHY WE ARE DOING IT

In 2016, PAS and Galashiels Academy ran a month-long pilot project in which all 180 S2 students used the Scottish Government's 'Place Standard' toolkit to assess the quality of their town and come up with ideas for the future.

Following on from the pilot, the 'Bridging the Gap' project will see students from Galashiels Academy test out new digital tools to help engage local communities in the future of their place, such as developing a digital app for the Place Standard toolkit.

The four year project will lead to a sustained interaction providing young people with real experiences about civic engagement.



"Planning affects everyone's lives, so I'm delighted those involved in the Bridging Gap project are providing a platform for young people to get involved. The project supports the ambitions outlined in our consultation on the current planning review, to encourage more people to get involved in planning, and give young people a stronger voice in the decisions about the future of the place they live in." Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

STUDENTS HELP DESIGN PLACEMAKING SMARTPHONE APP

As part of the 'Bridging the Gap' project, students helped PAS and the Scottish Government design a smartphone app for the Place Standard tool, allowing people to use the Place Standard in any location. The app will facilitate conversations that will bring together younger and older generations, allowing them to compare and learn about their different experiences about the places they inhabit.

Download the app (Apple and Android): <http://pas.org.uk/news/place-standard-app/>

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PAS is a charity operating on social enterprise principles. PAS provides impartial planning advice, training, education programmes, facilitation, community visioning (charrette), mediation and awareness-raising to ensure everyone has a voice in creating positive places.

Planning Aid for Scotland, known as PAS.
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