ACE Achievements
2018

Active Community of Empowered people who have learning disabilities

An equal society for every person who has a learning disability
Welcome to our 2018 ACE Achievements

Our local ACE and ACE Youth Groups have had a great year. We have had lots of fun. As well as campaigning, fundraising, and speaking up about important things. Read on to find out about what we have been up to.

25 ACE and ACE Youth members trained to become Change Champions. They are taking forward ENABLE Scotland’s national anti-bullying campaign #BetheChange.

As part of our #BetheChange campaign, during Learning Disability Week this year, we hosted 23 ‘Get to Know Us’ events. Nearly 400 people came. They heard all about the work of ACE.

We look forward to working with you all in 2019 to help #BetheChange in your local communities.

This year was also the Year of Young People. ACE Youth hosted our brilliant You Can’t Stop the Beat accessible gig to celebrate.

Finally congratulations to Ivan Cohen. This year Ivan was elected as ENABLE Scotland’s Scottish Council Convenor. The Convenor speaks up for all Scottish Council members. This is a big job. But he is already great at it!

Who is ACE?

ACE is an Active Community of Empowered people who have learning disabilities.

ACE challenges the barriers to an equal society for every person who has a learning disability across Scotland.

A stands for Active. ACE members take action to make things better for people who have learning disabilities.

C stands for Community. This is because ACE is about making friends.

E stands for Empowered. Empowered means having the chance to speak up about things that matter to you.

Kirsty Kennedy,
Chairperson of National ACE

Lucy McKee
Chairperson of National ACE Youth
#BetheChange

#BetheChange is our anti-bullying campaign. We want people to be more understanding. We want them to be a friend to people who have a learning disability.

500 people promised to #BetheChange.

25 ACE members trained as #BetheChange Change Champions. They will teach other groups about learning disabilities.

Change Champions made their own short films. These have been shown in the Scottish Parliament and to local Councillors from all over Scotland. Nearly 2000 people have seen these films.

Change Champions have made a workshop too. The workshop helps people understand learning disability. They are working in their local areas to ask everyone to #BetheChange.

As part of #BetheChange, during Learning Disability Week 2018, ACE held ‘Get to Know Us’ events in 23 places across Scotland.

This was a chance for us to bring people from our local area together. To meet new people and make friends. We told people about ACE and #BetheChange. Nearly 400 people came to our events. They promised to work with us to #BetheChange.

Join our campaign at: enable.org.uk/BetheChange

Aberdeen ACE

This year ACE launched in Aberdeen. And what a year it has been! ACE members have focussed on building the group’s membership and now have 5 members attending every month.

National ACE member Sadie helped start up Aberdeen ACE.

In March Aberdeen ACE members went to the launch of Aberdeen’s new learning disability plan: ‘A’thegether in Aberdeen’. The group have been working on a local transport campaign. Members think the big issues are training transport staff and the flexibility and affordability of taxis.

Neil, one of the group’s newer members, travelled to Dundee to take part in the Kiltwalk. He also travelled to Glasgow to attend ENABLE Scotland’s national conference. He is very much enjoying being part of the ENABLE family.

Aberdeen ACE is planning for an information stall early next year to promote the group.

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Brand New Aberdeen ACE
Airdrie ACE

Airdrie members took part in the #BetheChange campaign. And held a ‘Get to Know Us’ event. It was a great chance to meet new people. And to spread the word about ACE in Airdrie.

Some of the wider ENABLE family also joined the group for the evening.

ACE member Scott Raeside spoke at the event. He shared his story with everyone. Everyone spoke about the big issues for people who have learning disabilities in the Airdrie area.

As well as campaigning, members have enjoyed doing different things at each meeting.

Quizzes, workshops and team building activities have helped Airdrie ACE become a great team.

Airdrie ACE also welcomed a new member recently. It is always great to have new members join.

Bill Cadger, Arbroath ACE

Bill has been a member of ENABLE Scotland for almost 30 years. He has been part of ACE from the start, 25 years ago. Bill is a big supporter of ENABLE Scotland’s campaigns. And he always has a word of advice or encouragement for everyone in the ENABLE family.

In 2017 Bill helped to set up an ACE group in Arbroath. This has been something Bill has been passionate about for a long time.

At ENABLE Scotland’s AGM and Annual Conference this year Bill was recognised as a dedicated member of ENABLE.

He was awarded the Star member award. This was presented to him by ENABLE Scotland’s President, Hazel Irvine.

Bill truly is a champion of ENABLE Scotland’s values and a real Star Member.
Arbroath ACE

In 2018 Arbroath ACE group has worked hard on their transport campaign. Their campaign is about buses in Angus.

Arbroath ACE worked with other local groups to research the problems. Members met their local councillor, Lois Speed, to talk about the campaign.

Lois worked with ACE and has helped members plan the next steps in their campaign.

The group also enjoyed a session on Human Rights.

And have had First Aid training.

The group also enjoyed a tour of historical Arbroath Abbey. Members discovered a Lego exhibition, sang Scottish songs in the crypt, explored the ruins and graves, and listened to stories.

Arbroath ACE and Arbroath ACE Youth joined up and held a big ‘Get to Know Us’ event. This is part of the #BetheChange campaign.

Arbroath ACE Youth

Arbroath ACE Youth is formed of two youth groups with almost 40 members in total.

This year members and peer supporters have been involved in community projects. Members helped make a huge poppy arch from plastic bottles for remembrance Sunday and raised £2300 by doing a supermarket bag pack.

30 Young People walked the Dundee Kiltwalk. Members had a really fun day whilst raising money for ENABLE Scotland.

Thanks to some community funding the group were able to enjoy a teambuilding day. Members took on a ropes course in the summer holidays.

Arbroath ACE Youth has been busy doing lots of campaigning too.

Three members trained as #BetheChange Change Champions. They have delivered a number of workshops to local schools and youth groups. These Change Champions went to the Scottish Parliament. They talked to MSPs about bullying.

The groups have also been busy with Year of Young People 2018. 4 members trained as Year of Young People ambassadors with Young Scot.

To celebrate all their hard work the group organised a joint event with another local charity showcasing local young peoples’ skills and talents.
Ayr ACE

2018 has been a very good year for Ayr ACE. Members called on family and friends to support them in the Glasgow Kiltwalk. With 20 walkers the group raised nearly £1000 pounds for ENABLE Scotland.

Members enjoyed the day. It was a good way to spend time together. Members completed the ‘Wee Wander’ as a team with ACE members from across Ayrshire.

Ayr ACE has also launched their first local campaign: ‘See the light’. The campaign is to improve the road safety in Ayr. The group are campaigning for a safe pedestrian crossing in a busy part of the town.

At the moment the only way across this busy road is by walking through dark underpasses. Ayr ACE want to change this!

This is an issue that members have faced for a long time. So they decided to do something about it.

Members have been speaking to other people in the community. They met with the local Council, Police and other groups.

Ayr ACE members are confident that this will change because of their campaign.

£1000 raised for ENABLE Scotland

Heather’s energy and enthusiasm make her a fantastic campaigner

Heather Stewart
East Dunbartonshire ACE Youth

Heather has had a big year. She was one of the first students on the Breaking Barriers course at the University of Strathclyde.

Breaking Barriers is a partnership between ENABLE Scotland, the University of Strathclyde, and Scottish Power. It is a chance for people who have learning disabilities to go to University and get work experience.

Through Breaking Barriers Heather has made new friends, as well as developing new skills. She has lots more confidence too.

In November, Heather graduated from the University of Strathclyde. She now has a certificate in Applied Business Studies.

Heather also joined the Youth Action Success Forum. This is a group for young disabled people. It advises the Scottish Government. In their meeting in November Heather spoke up about supporting more people who have a learning disability to attend university.

Heather is passionate about showing other young people who have a learning disability what they can achieve. Like getting a job or going to university.

Heather’s energy and enthusiasm make her a fantastic campaigner. Well done Heather and thank you for all of your hard work this year!
**Cumbernauld ACE**

Cumbernauld ACE members planned for their ‘Get to Know Us’ event as part of the Learning Disability Awareness week.

This was well attended with local branches and services coming along to find out more about ACE.

On the night it was inspiring to see members come out and talk about the amazing work they do.

Cumbernauld members have taken on new roles with ENABLE Scotland this year.

Stephen Beattie and Natasha Connan represent Cumbernauld ACE on National ACE.

John Pittendreigh was elected to Scottish Council. This is the elected group that represents all members of ENABLE Scotland.

Stephen was also chosen to be an ENABLE Scotland Change Champion. As a Change Champion Stephen met local councillors at COSLA. He spoke about his experiences of disability hate crime.

**You Can’t Stop the Beat**

2018 was Year of Young People. To celebrate ACE Youth members held a live music event where they could celebrate with friends.

ACE Youth member, Rachel, had been talking to National ACE Youth about a campaign on access to gigs and music events. It was a great way to start the campaign by holding our own accessible gig.

The event was great. 135 young people joined ACE Youth members for a day of fun at SWG3 in Glasgow.

There was live music from X Factor finalist Emily Middlemas. And other young performers. There was also a Silent Disco, A Gaming Zone and Karaoke. And a chill-out space.

ACE Youth members will launch the next part of their You Can’t Stop the Beat campaign in 2019. This will tell people about the problems disabled people have accessing music events. And how to make things better.

Artists and venues will be asked to support the campaign to change things.

**YOU CAN’T STOP THE BEAT!**
Cupar ACE Youth

This year the membership of Cupar ACE Youth has grown from 8 members to 12 now attending each week.

Cupar ACE Youth has been very busy during Year of Young People 2018. Members helped plan and deliver the You Can’t Stop the Beat event.

The group successfully applied for funding to organise their own local event. They held a ‘Try Something New Event’. Young people enjoyed a DJ booth, a vortex creator, indoor hockey, learning Spanish, yoga and lots more.

This year Cupar ACE Youth member, Billy, trained as a Change Champion.

Billy joined other Change Champions for a weekend. As well as making their own short film the group took part in lots of activities. Billy tried archery and climbing. Billy has worked with other Change Champions to deliver workshops to other Youth Groups in the area.

In June the group received Financial Capability training. This helped members to think about money and budgeting.

During the holidays the group visited different local attractions.

Members also took part in the Dundee Kiltwalk to help raise money for ENABLE Scotland.

“[It’s a good place to meet people. Something that I have struggled with at school and college. We do make our meetings fun and we all get along with each other. We take part as a team. It has helped me a lot as making friends can be hard.]

Dundee ACE

Dundee ACE had its first Anniversary this year.

Growing the membership of Dundee ACE has been a big piece of work this year.

The group held a ‘Get to Know Us’ event in May. It was a great event. ACE member, Keith, did a great job of sharing the work of ACE with others.

Aberdeen ACE member, Sadie, visited the group. She told everyone about #BetheChange campaign. And her work as a Change Champion.

Dundee ACE have been getting involved with the big changes that are happening locally. Dundee ACE visited the new V&A museum. Members provided feedback about the accessibility of the new venue.

Members have also been in touch with the council. They said what changes should happen to make music events in Slessor Gardens more accessible.
Dunoon ACE

Dunoon ACE had a successful ‘Get to Know Us’ event at the end of May. More than 15 people from the local community came along. Scottish Fire and Rescue came. And some local Councillors.

ACE members Robinette and Samuel spoke at the event. They are the National ACE representatives for Dunoon ACE. Samuel has been attending Dunoon ACE for 2 years and National ACE for a year. This was Samuel’s first time giving a talk to members of the public. But he was well supported by Robinette on the night.

They both gave a great presentation about the #BetheChange campaign. Everyone stood up to clap for them.

Dunoon ACE has been working on a local campaign with Dunoon Fire Station. The campaign is about making Easy Read fire safety information and videos.

They have had their first meeting with the local Crew Commander. They had a list of things that they would like to work on with the Firefighters.

Members are looking forward to visiting the Dunoon Fire Station. And working with the local Community Fire Safety Officer. They hope that they can take this campaign across Scotland.

Fundraising

116 ACE members laced up their trainers and put on their purple t-shirts to take part in the 4 Kiltwalks this year.

Members overcame sore feet and sometimes rain showers and managed to raise an amazing £7164.71!

Every step our ACE members took was a step closer to an equal society for every person who has a learning disability.

In total, ACE members walked 998 miles. This is the same as walking from INSPIRE House to Paris, in France, and back again!!

Lisa Kerr from East Renfrewshire ACE and Heather Gilchrist from Bearsden ACE won the Fundraising Champion award at ENABLE Scotland’s AGM. This was for their fantastic fundraising efforts this year. Both walked a huge 15 miles in the Glasgow Kiltwalk. In total, they raised over £2,117!

Members of Helensburgh ACE and Perth ACE also held bucket collections in their local supermarkets. They helped to spread the word about their local ACE group whilst raising lots of money for ACE and ENABLE Scotland.

Nicola Young from Helensburgh ACE organised a disco party night. She worked hard to raise money by selling raffle tickets and home baking at the event. Nicola managed to raise £455.80.
Dumfries ACE

Dumfries ACE group has gone from strength to strength over the past year.

4 members took part in two kiltwalks, in Glasgow and Edinburgh. These members walked over 15 miles on both occasions. What a huge achievement!

The group have been planning a local campaign to try and improve the bus stops and timetables. This will improve the lives of people with a learning disability in the area.

Members have formed very good relationships with other people from the local community, including the local MSP.

Dumfries ACE now have the chance to go to the Scottish Parliament in early 2019. They will get to watch First Minister’s Questions.

Earlier this year, group member, Andrew Doyle was also elected onto Scottish council. Scottish Council is the group elected to speak up for all ENABLE Scotland members. Andrew will be able to feedback all of the good work that happens at Scottish Council. Well done Andrew!

East Dunbartonshire ACE Youth

2018 has been a great year for East Dunbartonshire ACE Youth. The groups have had visits from LGBT Youth Scotland, Epilepsy Connections and the community banking team at Royal Bank of Scotland. We have also been learning British Sign Language together!

Our ACE Youth Change Champions have been busy delivering #BetheChange workshops to other groups in the local community. They have had amazing feedback. A big well done to Callum and Lucy for being such inspiring Change Champions.

In November, ACE Youth member Heather attended the Youth Action Success Forum in Dundee. Heather spoke to members of the Scottish Government about accessible university courses for people who have learning disabilities.

East Dunbartonshire ACE Youth groups have also taken part in a fun activity programme during the Easter and summer holidays. Members took part in lots of different fun activities like mini golf, bowling and trampolining.

A big well done to Callum and Lucy for being such inspiring Change Champions.

In November, ACE Youth member Heather attended the Youth Action Success Forum in Dundee. Heather spoke to members of the Scottish Government about accessible university courses for people who have learning disabilities.

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East Lothian ACE started a year ago. While group numbers are still small they have got straight to work. ACE members have been talking about:

- Communication Passports
- The problems with public transport between small towns in East Lothian.
- Access to sports facilities and clubs.

But it’s not all been business. The group joined ENABLE Scotland Services in East Lothian for a Halloween party. There were some great costumes and spooky music.

The group held a ‘Get to Know Us’ event in May. They welcomed members of the public, along with other ACE members from Edinburgh and West Lothian. Everyone spoke about ENABLE Scotland’s #BetheChange campaign.

It was great to see so many people coming along. Lots said they would like to be part of #BetheChange.

The group has decided to change our meeting time next year. East Lothian ACE will now meet in the afternoon. Members hope that this helps more people join so they can get even more done in East Lothian!

National ACE is a meeting of elected members from every ACE group in Scotland.

Members speak up about what local members think. They also make decisions about ENABLE Scotland’s campaigns.

National ACE meets 4 times a year. And it has been a big year!

National ACE Youth and National ACE are now more joined up. Both groups meet at INSPIRE House. This is a good way for ACE and ACE Youth to catch up and help each other.

This year National ACE has worked on a lot of big things:

- Our national anti-bullying Campaign - #BetheChange
- Raising money for ENABLE Scotland at Kiltwalk 2018
- Supporting ACE Youth to plan the next steps for You Can’t Stop the Beat. This is a campaign about access to music events.

National ACE talked about lots of important things too. This helped ENABLE Scotland talk to politicians and the Scottish Government about what matters to people who have learning disabilities.

Some of the things National ACE talked about were:

- **Housing.** Members talked about what is important to have in a good home. ENABLE Scotland told MSPs what they said. MSPs talked about this in the Scottish Parliament. The Housing Minister promised to talk to people who have learning disabilities about what would make things better.

- **Mental Health Law.** The Scottish Government is thinking about this law and people who have learning disabilities. Some members have joined the group that is thinking about this.
East Renfrewshire ACE

East Renfrewshire ACE welcomed 3 new members to the group this year. Members have been working hard to improve life for people who have a learning disability and use public transport to get around.

Members of the group want to change the attitudes of other people on buses towards people who have a hidden disability. People like drivers and other passengers.

The group worked together on a survey. So far more than ten people who have learning disabilities, and live in East Renfrewshire, have taken part.

Members have been working together to plan a special project in partnership with Bus Users Scotland.

Lisa Kerr from East Renfrewshire ACE also took part in the Glasgow Kiltwalk. Lisa took on the challenge of walking 15 miles to raise money for ENABLE Scotland.

Lisa was successful. She was awarded the Fundraising Champion award along with Heather from Bearsden ACE at this year’s ENABLE Scotland AGM - well done Lisa!

Edinburgh ACE

This year Edinburgh ACE has been working on a local campaign. The campaign is about public toilets in Edinburgh. Members think there should be accessible toilets and good information about where they are.

Members called the campaign: #ToPeeOrNotToPee – Where is the toilet?

Members planned a survey. And they are working on a map with a local charity called Invisible Cities.

Edinburgh ACE has also been working on the #BetheChange campaign. 3 members successfully trained as Change Champions.

They have worked with other Change Champions to develop the workshop materials. They can’t wait to get the workshops out into the local area.

This year Edinburgh ACE member, Ivan Cohen, took on a big new role with ENABLE Scotland. Ivan was elected as Convenor of Scottish Council. This is the group that speaks up for all ENABLE Scotland members. Congratulations Ivan!

Members have spoken up for people who have learning disabilities. This year they talked to the Scottish Ambulance Service. And to the Scottish Government, about their plan for people who have learning disabilities.

They have also worked with the General Medical Council. They made a training video for doctors!
Edinburgh ACE Youth

Edinburgh’s Active Community of Empowered young people started this year. They meet at a brilliant youth cafe.

Members are having fun getting to know each other. They have taken part in big Jenga games. And enjoyed a pampering night.

Edinburgh ACE Youth has been talking about life at school. They have talked to the City of Edinburgh Council. And to other groups. They have told them about ENABLE Scotland’s schools campaign - #IncludED in the Main?!?

The group went to a local Hate Crime Awareness Event.
Next year Edinburgh ACE Youth looks forward to new members joining in!
Elgin ACE

One of the members from Elgin ACE group – Phillipa Garrity – was chosen to become an ENABLE Scotland Change Champion. This is part of the #BetheChange campaign about bullying.

This is a huge achievement for Phillipa. Phillipa applied and took part in a video interview.

Phillipa attended Change Champion training. She has helped to build a workshop that showed people what they can do to be the change and stop the bullying of people who have a learning disability.

Elgin ACE tried this workshop out. They really enjoyed the activities that Change Champions had created.

12 people from the Elgin ACE group helped fundraise for the ENABLE Scotland. They walked the Kiltwalk in Dundee. They had a great day and raised lots of money to help ENABLE Scotland.

The Kiltwalk is a great chance for our members to get active. It is a nice way to make friends and support others. The Elgin group really enjoyed coming together to help each other achieve such a terrific goal of walking over 6 miles.

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Falkirk ACE

2018 was an exciting year for Falkirk ACE Group.

In the first few months of the year members planned their ‘Get to Know Us’ event. They held the event during Learning Disability week in May.

Falkirk ACE invited the community to ‘Get to Know Us’. To learn more about ACE and ENABLE Scotland’s campaigns.

17 people came along. ENABLE Falkirk branch members came too. And local councillors from Falkirk Council.

They heard about what they can do to #BetheChange. And support people who have learning disabilities in Falkirk.

ACE member, Wilma, talked about ENABLE Scotland’s anti-bullying campaign - #BetheChange. Everyone heard about what Falkirk ACE Change Champion, David Allan, has been working on.

Wilma talked about Falkirk ACE’s local campaigns too. Members are working to make bus timetables easy to understand.

And one of our members has been working with ASDA. They want to make self-scanners easier to understand for people who have learning disabilities.

Members had a great summer fundraising for ENABLE Scotland. The whole group took part in Kiltwalks in Glasgow and Edinburgh. What a team!

12 Kiltwalkers in 2018!

4 members walked the Glasgow Kiltwalk for ENABLE Scotland
Glasgow ACE

Glasgow ACE group kicked off the year with a brand new venue in Glasgow city centre. And welcomed some new members to the group.

The group have spent time getting to know each other some more. They have played some fun team building games.

The newest Glasgow ACE member, Michael Hill, put himself forward and was selected to be a Change Champion. Michael represents Glasgow ACE in ENABLE Scotland’s #BetheChange Campaign.

Peter McMahon was also selected to be a Change Champion mentor. This is because Peter has done lots of work to stop bullying. Well done and thanks to Peter and Michael for all of their hard work this year!

Members had been worried about scams. This is when people try to trick you to take your money. Trading Standards Scotland visited the group. They helped members understand different types of scams. And how to protect yourself.

3 members of Glasgow ACE have become SCAM Champions. They are helping to tell other people about scams. And how to keep themselves safe.

3 SCAM CHAMPIONS trained in 2018

Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy ACE Youth

Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy ACE Youth have been busy working on You Can't Stop the Beat campaign this year. The campaign is about making it easier for disabled people to enjoy music events.

Group member, Rachel, had the idea for the campaign. Rachel has been on TV talking about the campaign. This year Rachel won the Member Led Campaign Award at ENABLE Scotland’s AGM.

In May, the group held a ‘Get to Know Us’ Event in Glenrothes. It was a great event. Members enjoyed sharing the work they had been doing. They encouraged other young people to come along to their group.

The group has enjoyed taking part in some fundraising this year. They walked the Kiltwalk in Dundee. And hosted a pool competition in Kirkcaldy.

The group have talked about bullying. They helped Respect Me think about their work to stop bullying. Respect Me is national anti-bullying group.

To round off Year of Young People 2018 members planned a Diversity Ball. They worked on this with a local LGBT youth group and the Lomond Centre Youth Club.

The group is really fun and we get to organise things and have fun and I love the trips we do and I really liked the events we have done from Cupar to ‘You Can’t Stop the Beat’.

Colleen Melville

“I like the people, it is relaxing and a nice wee group. It’s Funny and has brought on my confidence.”

Jordan Stenhouse
Helensburgh ACE

Helensburgh ACE has been busy this year.

They worked hard on their presentation for their ‘Get to Know Us’ event.

Police Scotland came to the event. Some members of Argyll and Bute Council came along. Local MSP, Jackie Baillie, came too.

Members talked to them about bullying. They talked about online safety and jobs too.

Online safety was a big priority for the group. They have written to the local police about this. The group want to work with them on personal and online safety.

In August members supported Nicola Young with a local fundraising charity night.

On the night there was a Disco, raffle, cakes and games. Everyone had a fantastic night. They raised over £450 for Helensburgh ACE.

Inverness ACE

Members of Inverness ACE were really pleased to welcome lots of important guests this year.

Maree Todd came along to hear all about ACE and ENABLE Scotland’s anti-bullying campaign - #BetheChange. She is a Minister in the Scottish Government. She works for children and young people.

She was very impressed. She said she would support Inverness ACE with their campaigns.

Another special guest was Drew Hendry. He is a member of Parliament. He talked about how he can work with members to make things better in Inverness.

The Leader of Highland Council, Councillor Margaret Davidson came too. Members said it was great to speak to her about local issues in the Highlands.

Members were pleased to meet politicians from the UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and the local council.

Members look forward to continuing to work with them on our local campaigns.
James Anderson, Arbroath ACE

James lives in Angus. He is part of Arbroath ACE Youth Group.

James is a very active member of his community. He is a member of different groups in the area. He has a job in a Kitchen at a golf course. He runs his own business. He does cleaning, shopping, ironing for people who need it. All this and he is still at school too!

He has been very involved in the #BetheChange anti-bullying campaign as a Change Champion.

He joined other Change Champions for a training weekend. As well as working on the campaign. They tried out archery and climbing.

In October James went to the United Nations in Geneva. He was invited there to represent ENABLE Scotland.

James went to the UNCRC day of general discussion. The UNCRC talks about the rights of children and young people.

James talked about the #BetheChange campaign. And his work to defend the rights of disabled children and young people. James also talked about technology. And how it can help young people who have learning disabilities.

The United Nations described him as a ‘human rights defender’. What a brilliant member of the ENABLE Family!

Kilmarnock ACE

This year Kilmarnock ACE has grown from 5 to nearly 20 members.

The group started their first ever local campaign. Members want to improve street lighting and pedestrian crossings. They want to make them safer and make sure pedestrian crossings give people with learning disabilities more time to cross.

Kilmarnock ACE worked really hard to find new people in their community to join the ACE group. They have added almost 15 new members to their group during 2018!

Members also organised a Christmas party for all ACE members in Ayrshire. Nearly 100 people came along to join in the festive fun!

This was a great chance for members from different ACE groups to get together. Members had a dance as well as sharing ideas for their campaigns.

Nearly 15 new members in 2018!
Kirkconnel ACE

Kirkconnel ACE group meets at the local ARC. It is a growing group.

This year ACE members have been encouraging others to come along. To spend time together. And think about the things that mean the most to members in Kirkconnel.

Kirkconnel ACE is a group of good friends. They love spending time together with some of the homemade soup from the venue! Our members enjoy coming along to have fun. To start new friendships. And make a real difference in their community.

The group has big plans. Next year they plan on doing the Kiltwalk in Glasgow. And going to other ENABLE Scotland events like the AGM and National ACE.

Milngavie & Bearsden ACE

This year the group have been busy working hard on their local campaign to improve bus services in East Dunbartonshire.

The group worked closely with an organisation called Bus Users Scotland as a part of their local campaign.

Members attended an event called ‘Your Bus Matters’. They joined up with other members of the local community to meet First Bus Glasgow. They talked about their problems with buses in their area. They met Alan Moir too. He is a Councillor from East Dunbartonshire Council.

Well done to the group for being such great campaigners and making this event happen!

Heather Gilchrist from the Bearsden group was also selected as a Change Champion. This is part of ENABLE Scotland’s campaign about bullying - #BetheChange. She helped to deliver a workshop to Councillors from all over Scotland. This was at COSLA.

Heather got her dream job this year too. What a year!

On top of that, Bearsden ACE members have taken part in Kiltwalks in Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. They have raised a lot of money for ENABLE Scotland.
Oban ACE

Oban ACE is going great. This year members have had some brilliant experiences.

This year members campaigned access to cultural places. This is nice things to do in your area. Members wrote letters about concession pricing at council arts venues in Oban.

Oban ACE Member Shona Campbell was elected to National ACE. National ACE meets 4 times a year. Members from every ACE group meet up. Oban ACE is very proud of you Shona!

Marion McArthur is a newer member of Oban ACE. This year she was chosen as a Change Champion as part of our anti-bullying #BetheChange campaign.

Marion worked really hard on this campaign. She can’t wait to meet different groups. As a Change Champion, she will talk to them about life with a learning disability. This will help stop bullying.

Another member, Kerry McInnes, took part in two Kiltwalks this year. Kerry was chosen as a Change Champion mentor too. She helped other Change Champions to build their skills and campaign for change!

Paisley ACE

This year has been a busy one for Paisley ACE. Paisley ACE wanted to do something about the roads and streets in Renfrewshire. They started their own local campaign. This has been a great success.

In April, the Community Police came along to the group. ACE members talked to them about the campaign.

The group asked people living in the local area to sign a petition. This was about keeping the local streets and parks clean and tidy. More than 40 people signed the petition.

Paisley ACE members talked to Renfrewshire Council about their ‘Team Up to Clean Up’ initiative. ACE members updated the Council on their local campaign work about this.

Paisley ACE member, Sandra Mitchell walked both the Edinburgh and Glasgow Kiltwalk. She raised money for ENABLE Scotland.

40 people signed their petition in 2018
National ACE Youth

2018 has been an interesting year for National ACE Youth.

National ACE Youth and National ACE now meet up together.

Members enjoy having the chance to meet more people. But still have their own space.

2018 is Year of Young People. This has been high on the agenda this year. ‘You Can’t Stop the Beat’ was a big priority. This was a music event to celebrate Year of Young People. This is part of ACE Youth campaign to make music events better for disabled people.

Local ACE Youth Groups have also held their own events. National ACE Youth members have updated each other on what they have been doing.

Some visitors came to National ACE Youth meetings this year too.

The Learning Disability team from Scottish Government came to a meeting. They were thinking about the big plan for people who have learning disabilities. This is called the Keys to Life plan. They were thinking about the next steps.

National ACE Youth talked to the Scottish Government about school and college. Members made a giant snakes and ladders board. They said what is helpful and not helpful.

They talked to them about getting a job too. Members played a giant game of Jenga. They talked about all the things you need to get a job.

National ACE Youth members made ‘Youth Power’ posters. This was part of Year of Young People 2018.

Perth ACE

This year Perth ACE focused on growing their membership. Perth ACE reconnected with people who attended in the past.

Members enjoyed their ‘Get to Know Us’ event in May. ACE members Christine and Joanne talked to other people about the work of ACE.

The group worked on a local campaign. Members wanted the local cinema to be easier for disabled people to use.

Members met the cinema manager. They talked about some of the problems. They talked about their ideas to make things better.

Perth ACE have been busy raising money this year too. Members held collections at Tesco. These were great fun!
Saltcoats ACE

This year Saltcoats ACE worked with the local council. And the community police. And the North Ayrshire branch of ENABLE Scotland. They told everyone about ACE.

The group started a local campaign. The campaign is about keeping people safe. And making sure everyone can take part in things in the community.

Members talked about in the Council’s plan for people who have a learning disability. The plan wants to improve support for people who have a learning disability. Members met with the Council. They talked about what was good in the plan. And what could be better.

Two members from the group, James and Natalie, took part in the Glasgow Kiltwalk. They walked the ‘Wee wander’.

Saltcoats ACE wanted to welcome new members. The group talked to local politicians. And schools and colleges. They made sure that everyone who has a learning disability in North Ayrshire knows about ACE. Members want to do even more of this next year!

David Allan, Falkirk ACE

David is a member of Falkirk ACE. He is a great ACE campaigner.

David worked with ENABLE Scotland to start Falkirk ACE in 2016.

David told everyone about Falkirk ACE. He talked on radio. And to the newspapers. He is also very good at telling everyone about ACE on social media. This is Facebook and Twitter.

This year David became a Change Champion. He has been busy campaigning as part of ENABLE Scotland’s #BetheChange campaign ever since. He had a big part in the campaign video.

David also led a successful campaign. This was about shops. David wants to make self-service checkouts easier to use for people who have learning disabilities. David got support from his local Member of Parliament. A big supermarket is trying out the changes David talked about.

David really is a star campaigner. And a wonderful friend to many ACE members!
Stirling ACE

This has been a very busy year for Stirling ACE.

Stirling ACE held a ‘Get to Know Us’ event in May. This gave local members a chance to meet lots of people from the local community. Members met people from Stirling University too.

It was a good chance to talk about the #BetheChange campaign. And spend some time getting to know what other groups were doing.

This led to some members attending events at Stirling University. They talked to staff and students about what makes good healthcare for people who have learning disabilities.

This will help to make sure that nurses trained by Stirling University are able to support people with learning disabilities well.

Stirling members are looking forward to delivering #BetheChange workshop to more people at the University next year.

In other big news. This year Stirling ACE member Kirsty Kennedy was elected to become National ACE chairperson. National ACE is the meeting of members from every ACE group in Scotland. This is a very big job. And Kirsty is already great at it!

West Lothian ACE

West Lothian ACE has had a fantastic year. Membership has doubled!

West Lothian ACE group had a great local campaign. It was called ‘Keep West Lothian Safe’.

Members wanted more safe places for people to go when they need help. Members wrote letters to lots of community groups and businesses. They asked them to become a Keep Safe Place.

This means they would be trained by Police Scotland. And I Am Me Scotland to look out for vulnerable members of the community.

So far because of this campaign 6 businesses have completed their training. This is a big achievement. To celebrate West Lothian ACE had an event and lots of the businesses came along.

More than 30 people came to the event. It was a fantastic afternoon.

The local Member of Parliament, Hannah Bardell came along too. Everyone heard all about the work of ACE and the #BetheChange campaign.

A big thanks to Faye Johnstone. She is the West Lothian ACE Change Champion. She is an awesome spokesperson for the group. And got everyone involved in a #BetheChange workshop.

The Newspaper wrote about this campaign. This will help get even more Keep Safe Places.
Join the ENABLE Family today. Contact us to find out how to become a member.

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