

Learner Summit 2011

James Watt College held Learner Summits in Inverclyde and North Ayrshire on the 8th and 9th of November 2011. The events were organised by the Learner Services team which included Student Presidents Nick Eley and Robert Foster, Learner Services Advisor Esther Denning, Learner Services Development Manager Helen Canning and Assistant Principal O&LD Margaret Tierney. The college and the student association felt strongly that the learner voice was core to responding to the questions raised by the paper 'Putting learners at the centre: Delivering our ambition for Post-16 education'.

The events demonstrated the degree of engagement by learners on these issues. Over a 100 learners attended the events to consider the paper and share their views. In addition to our learners the event was also supported by our Principal Sue Pinder, and Vice Principals Alison Allan and Alastair Milloy. Our Chairman Drew Duncan, board members and staff were also there to support the events. NUS Scotland were key participants on the day with both the President Robin Parker and Depute President Graeme Kirkpartrick addressing attendees and taking part in the event.

The learners were welcomed to the event by our Principal and where addressed by the Student Presidents on the purpose of the events, the Vice Principals on the content of the consultation paper and by the NUS on the national picture and the student voice.

Learners then participated in workshops where the consultation questions were considered, debated, and responded to, this response formed part of the overall college response to the paper.

A joint summit was later held with Adam Smith College in Edinburgh on 13th December 2011 with students, staff and principals from both colleges and NUS. The student association in partnership with NUS lobbied a number of MPs on the paper and the proposed funding reductions.