

Press release

Monday 19th October 2015

Scotland's RSE Young Academy Publishes Strategic Plan for 2015–2020

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) has launched its first 5-year Strategic Plan, *2020 Vision*. The plan was produced with the input of its interdisciplinary membership with a view to supporting its vision:

Our vision is to provide a platform for leaders to work collaboratively for the benefit of society by informing public policy, supporting Scotland's people and by sharing our research and practical expertise.

To carry out this vision, the Young Academy has identified six core societal themes that will direct its future activities: Healthier, Smarter, Enterprising, Sustainable, Equal and International. YAS has committed to focusing on these themes through its working groups by raising awareness of specific issues, by advocating to inform policy, and by taking action in ways that have tangible benefits.

Strategy Group Lead and current co-chair Karly Kehoe said: "YAS is at a point where its members are ready to take the next step. We want to find ways of sharing our expertise for the common good. The six themes were unanimously endorsed by the membership and give us a powerful focus for the future. It's a really exciting time for all of us."

Strategy Group member and outgoing co-chair Neil McLennan said: "Getting our diverse membership to come together on some core themes facing society and how to address them was a major undertaking. However, the collective spirit and enthusiasm for our central vision shows what can be done when we work together. Hopefully the Young Academy will continue to be voices of the future and provide a voice for the future."



YAS Strategy Group members (left to right) Dr Sinead Rhodes, Mr Des Balmforth, Dr Karly Kehoe, Mr Neil McLennan

To support *2020 Vision*, YAS members commissioned a short video to help bring home the central vision and mission of the strategic plan. *2020 Vision*, its accompanying video, and more information about the RSE Young Academy of Scotland can be found at

<http://www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk/about/2020-vision.html>

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About YAS

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland fosters interdisciplinary activities among emerging leaders from the disciplines of science and humanities, the professions, the arts, business and civil society. Established by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2011, the Young Academy of Scotland provides a platform for able and innovative young entrepreneurs, professionals and academics to develop a coherent and influential voice, and to address the most challenging issues facing society in Scotland and beyond.

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland was the first such academy to be established in the UK and is part of a growing network across Europe and beyond. Now with 150 members, YAS has already benefited society with a range of projects such as the highly successful blog Research the Headlines, the STEM educational outreach programme FIRST Lego League, and interdisciplinary focus events like Arts and Humanities at the Parliament.

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