

The **BIG** headlines



Nicolle Larnach

Youth work is an educational practice

It is an **empowering** process which is about

- Building self-esteem and self-confidence
- Developing the ability to manage personal and social relationships
- Creating opportunities for learning
- Building the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control
- Having a targeted approach within a range of services for everyone
- Having FUN



Calum MacIennan

Key Facts and Stats

Between April 2016 and September 2016 the Alness Youth Work team have worked with on average 210 unique youngsters amounting to 5,724 meaningful contacts.

In total there was approximately 17,626 hours of engagement.

These were delivered on 426 separate occasions.

These sessions took place in The Place, Alness Academy, Residential Trips, Obsdale Primary School, Alness Swimming Pool and The Averon Leisure Centre.

THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCES: THE FUTURE

ROCK CHALLENGE

After achieving 4th place last year at the Scottish Final Alness Academy travelled to Dundee in June hoping to retain that place. No one in the team would have ever dreamed being Scottish Champions could be possible for Alness Academy. Equally important is the winning of the "Spirit of Rock Challenge" which epitomises the attitude of the youngsters that take part in Alness Rock Challenge.

SUMMER PLAYScheme

Playscheme is a programme run over a two week period for youngsters in primary 4-7. The workshops were led by 24 young leaders who took part in training in order to plan and deliver these workshops to the youngsters.

RESIDENTIALS

- 24 youngsters had an amazing overnight stay at activity centre Fairburn. Over the course of 2 days the youngsters took part in a huge range of activities which included; Lazertag, Archery, Raft Building, Bubble Football, Zipline and Canoeing.
- 13 youngsters travelled with High Life Highland Youth Workers to the Edinburgh Indoor Climbing Wall and The Rize Trampoline Park. All youngsters agreed that this was a brilliant trip.
- Over the course of 4 days 2 groups of young people travelled to Badaguish and took part in a range of activities including swimming at High Life Highland swimming pool in Aviemore, River Tubing and Zip Lining. It's fair to say the groups were exhausted and ready for home after this trip but again another successful residential.

WIDER ACHIEVEMENTS

Local young person Calum Maclennan (18) has been appointed as the new Highland Youth Convener. Nicolle Larnach was awarded for her hard work, dedication and commitment as she received the "Youth Volunteer of The Year Award" at the Highland Third Sector Awards.

- *Quote from a young person*
"I gained a lot of confidence and experience when leading workshops at our local summer playscheme"
- *Quote from a partner*
"Having Alness Youth Work Team working alongside the Catalyst Project has been very beneficial as the staff have a huge local knowledge and have already built relationships with their young people"



HOW'S THE FUTURE LOOKING?

➤ *Getting On – Achievements Through Learning*

Youth Achievement Award night has now started on a Monday evening. Young people attend and work on their folders and challenges to gain their Youth Achievement Award.

Further promotion of wider achievement awards

➤ *Getting Heard – Confident Voices, Influencing Decisions*

Alness Youth Forum has started meeting on a Monday evening. They have decided to organise a Halloween Fusion Event on Friday 28th October. The Youth Forum are also working together with another group of young people to organise the Christmas Fayre which will be held on Friday 16th December.

Highland Youth Parliament elections are taking place at the moment with a candidate to be appointed soon.

➤ *Getting Involved – Youth Work: It's Fun*

Youth club continues to run 3 nights a week. Numbers are now starting to increase after a slow start with young people attending youth club regularly and engaging with youth workers. Fusion events are running monthly with high numbers attending.

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