



## Youth Work in the Fort William Area

April 2016-September 2016

### The BIG headlines



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



**Key facts and stats**

The Greater Fort William youth work team has worked with over 144 youngsters aged between 11 and 25 over the last six months.

In total there were 9,245 hours of engagement with young people

These were delivered on 189 separate occasions

And took place in Caol and Fort William Town Centre

11 young people achieved Saltire awards

# THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCE: THE FUTURE

## FUSION YOUTH SPACE

FUSION facilitates one of the main provisions of youth work within the associated school group (ASG). The centre has established and developed as a hub of opportunity for young people. Unfortunately due to staffing costs and a decline in footfall to Fusion over the last 6 months we have had to think about best use of budgets and staffing and deploy our resources in other areas, meaning Fusion now only operates on a Thursday Night from 7.30-9.30pm.

## CAOL YOUTH CENTRE

The club has moved from the original site to a new build community/Library/Youth Centre. We have cemented Wednesday night sessions into our youth programme and are looking to implement a 16+ session on a Tuesday Night where we will make ourselves and services accessible to those with more complex issues or in crisis and in need of advice and intervention. We have enrolled 4 new Youth Volunteers who have undertaken a variety of achievement awards.

## STREET WORK

Is a detached youth work team who are out two nights during the weekends that target young people who do not access other youth provisions or learning. To establish relationships with these young people and offer them the same opportunities as young people who attend mainstream learning.

Youth workers are able to identify young people who would most benefit from additional support.

With Fusion now not open on a Friday session, we have the opportunity to increase staffing levels in accordance to need and events scheduled in and around the Fort William area.

### ➤ *Quote from a Young Person*

*FUSION is a good place to learn about issues that affect us in life."*

### ➤ *Quote from a Young Person*

*"I would enjoy coming to something like this (LHS life skills) more afternoons than spend time in school as I feel that this is more beneficial."*

### ➤ *Quote from a Partner – SDS*

*"Street work is good at contacting young people who do not access main stream provisions."*



## HOW'S THE FUTURE LOOKING?

### ➤ *Getting On* – achievements through learning

With the new Youth Centre, YDO can look at expansion of the life skills programme to include more accredited awards like ASDAN, Youth Achievement Awards and Saltire Awards.

### ➤ *Getting Heard* – confident voices, influencing decisions

Fort William now have 3 newly elected Highland Youth Parliament Executive members and Initial meetings have taken place with positive steps being made towards the creation of Local Youth Forums in each ASG which will culminate in a Lochaber Wide Youth Forum Area conference and meeting towards the end of 2016.. The youth work team will be working towards bringing the forum members, young volunteers and other young people who attend our youth settings together to form a youth committee who will then take their seats as advisors on adult committees, such as the Caol youth centre management committee.

### ➤ *Getting Involved* – youth work: it's educational

To continue to build partnerships in the local area and build positive relationships between Young People and various services within the area. Having the new Youth Centre allows for better facilitation for targeted youth work. The new building also allows for future opportunities to have adjoining ASGs to join in on a Youth Club evening.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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