

Youth Work in the Alness area

October 2015 – March 2016

Youth Work and 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 Alness Youth Work Team has worked with 236 individual youngsters aged between 11 and 21 years amounting to 7161 meaningful contacts

In total there were approx 19,000 hours of engagement with young people

These were delivered on 416 separate occasions

These sessions took place in The Place, Alness Academy, residential projects, play scheme and trips away.

A total of 89 recognised awards were gained.

THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCES: THE FUTURE

ROCK CHALLENGE

Alness Academy Rock Challenge is in its 6th year with over 100 young people taking part. Everyone on the team is fully committed from dancers, make-up and hair to costumes. They have now won at Inverness heats 4 years in a row and are off to Scottish Finals in Dundee again in June.

SPEAK

The SPEAK group is a group for young people that aims to raise awareness of mental health of all young people in the area. The focus of Speak group this year has been to raise funds for their mental health charities. The group have already done some fundraising, such as Giant Twister in The Place, Baking Sales and pancake making.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2015

A group of young people took on the challenge of organising a Christmas Fayre. From buying and wrapping presents, to setting up gazebos in the rain it was totally young person led. Santa and his reindeer also put in an appearance. The organising group were supported by members of the Youth Work Team.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

In partnership with Active Schools, a large number of young people signed up for the Leadership Programme. The programme is designed to encourage young people to take the lead in a variety of settings which can include Youth Work and Sport.

- **Quote from a partner**
“Working in partnership with youth services helps to build wider opportunities for our young people”
- **Quote from a parent**
“My son has gained so much more confidence from being involved with the Leadership Programme”

HOW'S THE FUTURE LOOKING?

- **Getting On** – achievements through learning

Expansion of the engagement project to include more young people who could benefit from such an opportunity.

Further promotion of wider achievement awards

- **Getting Heard** – confident voices, influencing decisions

Developing a stronger area youth forum and promoting what they do.

- **Getting Involved** – youth work: it's fun

Continue the strong partnerships with Alness Academy and the wider community to get youth work recognised as a valuable resource in the personal, social and educational development of young people.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name **Janette Douglas**
Tel **07789619591**
Email **Janette.Douglas@highlifehighland.com**

Facebook **Alness Youth Development**

