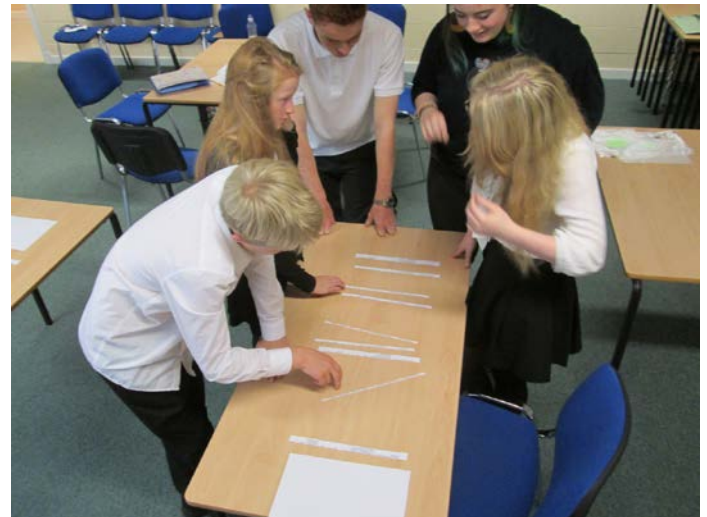


Youth Work in the Ardnamurchan Area

October 2015 to March 2016

The BIG Headlines



Youth work is an educational practice

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

- Having Fun
- 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
- Building self-confidence and self-esteem

Key facts and stats

The Ardnamurchan youth team worked with over 50 Young People aged between 11 and 21 amounting to about 1000 meaningful contacts

In total there were approximately 2390 hours of engagement with young people

These were delivered on 140 separate occasions

And took place in Strontian, Acharacle and The Sunart Centre / Ardnamurchan High School.

A total of 4 recognised awards were gained

THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCES: THE FUTURE

Anti-Stigma Project

Between 9 and 11 young people attend sessions on Tuesday evenings creating their own materials in a variety of media including song writing, poetry, script writing / drama, art and film-making. Young people were supported by High Life Highland Youth Development Officer, Ardnamurchan High School and members of "Ewen's Room" – a local voluntary mental health support group. As young people developed confidence in talking about mental health, it was agreed to focus on campaigning for improved mental health services for young people in Ardnamurchan.

Participatory Budget, Lochaber (Pilot)

Young people from Lochaber were invited to participate in the Lochaber Participatory Budget (Pilot) as members of an assessment panel to help decide how Ward Discretionary funding (Youth Fund) should be allocated. This was previously decided by Lochaber Councillors. After the process was completed, young people gave their views on how the Participatory Budget process might be improved. Responses from the Lochaber Wards included:

➤ **Quote from a partner,**

"Following all the feedback, I have asked members to consider upping the amount ring fenced for youth activity / Consider allocating this down to ASG Level / for the young people to have control of the process for the call for bids and consideration."

Celebrating Young Volunteers

21 Young Volunteers from Ardnamurchan were invited to a Celebration Dinner to thank them for giving their time to assist with activities and events in their communities and at High School. Youth Development, in Partnership with Active Schools, provided support to obtain the accreditation relevant to their Volunteering / Leadership roles.



HOW'S THE FUTURE LOOKING?

➤ **Getting On** – achievements through learning

Expansion of engagement projects to include more young people who could benefit from such opportunities.

Further promotion of wider achievement awards

Continue to support GIVE (formerly Anti Stigma Project) and develop further projects for Ardnamurchan.

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

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

Developing a stronger youth committee at Youth Club

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

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

Youth Forum will contribute to the Highland Youth Parliament campaigns to do with political engagement, mental health, transport and PSE.

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