

YOUTH WORK IN THE FORT WILLIAM AREA

October 2015 to March 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 250 youngsters aged between 11 and 21 amounting to about 8731 meaningful contacts

In total there were 5096 hours of engagement with young people

These were delivered on 364 separate occasions

And took place in Caol and Fort William Town Centre

A total of 11 recognised awards were gained

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.

- **Quote from a Young Person,**
"FUSION is a good place to learn about issues that affect us in life."

CAOL YOUTH CENTRE

The club has moved from the original site to a new build community/Library/Youth Centre. We will be looking at ways to incorporate an achievement programme into the existing youth club night and partnership working during the afternoon.

- **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."

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.

- **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.

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

Fort William now has a new Highland Youth Parliament Executive member for 2016/17. This position will allow for stronger representation of young people's views at events. The YDO will further this with views to develop a youth forum and a stronger youth committee so that young people have more of a voice in decisions that can affect them.

- **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.

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