



# Youth Work in the Gairloch Area

April 2016-Sept 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 Gairloch youth team worked with over 60 youngsters aged between 11 and 21 amounting to 660 meaningful contacts

In total there were 2655 hours of engagement with young people

These were delivered on 35 separate occasions

Sessions took place in Gairloch High School, The Den Youth Club, summer activities and in the local environment

# THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCES: THE FUTURE

## The Den Youth Club

The youth work team has now expanded and has a part time member of staff supporting the Den Youth club and has introduced new learning opportunities and experiences. The YDO brought young people from Kyle to the Den to participate in mixed team football and then an evening meal

## Gairloch Youth Forum

The youth forum is still in its infancy and has had many barriers to cross but will see more members join over the coming year. School assemblies have been planned by current members in order to inform the school community about membership of a local youth forum and the Highland Youth Parliament.

## Supporting young people in need

Four young people were identified by Gairloch High School, Gairloch and Poolewe Primary Head and lead practitioners as needing an extended transitional period in to High school, The four boys chose to join the group and competed there discovery John Muir award over a period of eight weeks , every Friday morning during curriculum time

### *Quote from a youngster;*

"Taking part in the John Muir awards was fantastic, I learnt new skills and had fun, I also worked as a part of a team to conserve nature".

### *Quote from a partner;*

"During the summer holidays in 2016 we were able to provide activities for some very vulnerable young people that would not have been available without the support and involvement of the Youth Development Officer"

## HOW'S THE FUTURE LOOKING?

### *Getting On* – achievements through learning

HLH Youth Service will continue to support the local youth club, The Den, by supporting the sessional member of staff to create a stronger and more resilient community. Visits to other areas of the Highlands are planned which will see young people from Gairloch develop their social and emotional skills.

Recognising achievement; through The John Muir Award.

### *Getting On* – confident voices, influencing decisions.

Continue to support young people getting their voices heard at local level and Highland wide through Highland Youth Parliament. Develop a stronger area youth forum, promoting what they do.

### *Getting Involved* - youth work: it's educational.

Meetings are currently taking place between the YDO, Gairloch High School and Practice leads to identify young people with particular needs who will become a part of a group which the YDO will work with to reach their full potential in education, social and emotional needs

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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