

Youth Work in the TAIN area

October 2015 – 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

Tain youth team has worked with 74 youngsters aged between 11 and 21 amounting to about 925 meaningful contacts

In total there were approx 2435 hours of engagement with young people

These were delivered on 204 separate occasions

And took place in Balintore, TRACC, the Academy, and trips away with various groups.

A total of 18 recognised awards were gained

THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCES: THE FUTURE

BALINTORE YOUTH GROUP (BYG)

In its 8th year of operation this twice weekly group continues to be the setting for positive relationships between young people and youth workers. Youngsters meet and learn together in a safe environment. They develop life skills, they enjoy trying new things and contribute positively to their community. This has recently included the "Food for thought" project with the NHS where young people from BYG were taught how to cook quick, versatile meals (pictured below). A new committee is being developed to allow the young people more of a role in planning what they want. In March the group went snow-boarding on the Cairngorms where they learned a new activity and also supported and encouraged each other to challenge themselves.

Tain Royal Academy Engagement Project

The youth team worked with several partners to support young people who typically have many needs. A feature has been the provision of good quality work experience opportunities with local employers. The empowering relationships between adults and youngsters has helped with wider educational and social development.

- **Quote from a youngster**
"I enjoy the bike project; I have learned a lot and hope to become a mechanic"
- **Quote from a partner**
"Working in partnership with youth services helps to build wider opportunities for our young people"
- **Quote from a parent**
"Thanks for arranging the (snowboarding) trip my daughter gained so much from it "

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.

Developing a stronger youth committee at BYG.

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

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

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

Building on the success of BYG and developing further projects for the Seaboard villages.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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