

Youth Work in the Thurso area

October 2015 – March 2016

The BIG Headlines



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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!



Thurso Youth Forum

Key Stats and facts

The Thurso Youth Development Team worked with over 40 young people aged 12 – 25 amounting to 447 meaningful contacts

In total, there were approximately 900 hours of engagement with young people.

These were delivered across 84 separate sessions, events and trips away.

Sessions took place in a variety of settings, including Thurso Youth Club, Thurso Community Learning Building, Pentland Community Enterprises IT Hub and Thurso High School.

What's been happening?

➤ *Transitions @ Thurso Youth Club*

This group meets on Mondays during term-time, 15:45 - 17:15 at Thurso Youth Club. It offers young people aged 12-14 the opportunity to meet outside of school in a safe environment and to try new things – this year, they have made milkshakes, had a lasertag trip and are doing an ASDAN Peer Mentor award. It is aimed at easing the transition into high school and we will soon be inviting current P7s along to begin socialising in preparation for their move to secondary school in August.

➤ *Thurso Youth Forum*

The Forum is for 14-25 year olds and meets on Wednesdays during term-time, 19:30-21:00 at the Community Learning Building. Members plan their own campaigns based on local and regional issues. Currently, they are designing a newsletter and helping to plan Fusion events for younger people. They will soon begin work on a drug education project. Members have also represented Thurso at the Highland Youth Parliament.

"I started Youth Forum just over two years ago as it's a good chance to open up doors to new opportunities; it's also good for my CV."

Sophie McIvor, 16

➤ *Chances @ Ormlie*

Chances provides targeted provision for young people with additional support needs to help them achieve their potential. The session takes place on Mondays during term-time between 12.30 - 14.30 at Thurso Youth Club. The session, which is a partnership between Ormlie Community Association, Highland Council and Highlife Highland, offers valuable opportunities for learners to improve their confidence and develop skills for learning, life and work. This year, participants have been on four employment visits and learnt about budgeting and benefits.

What's coming up?

Getting On – achievements through learning

Thurso Youth Development Team will be working alongside Thurso High School and other key community partners including Skills Development Scotland to deliver and accredit a selection of learning options for non-exam students this May.

Getting Heard – confident voices, influencing decisions

In collaboration with Highland Council's Tenant Participation Officer, we will deliver an accredited twelve week Tenant Mentor course for young tenants. Participants will build confidence, gain an array of transferable communication skills and use their own experiences of living independently to inform housing services and provide support for new tenants.

Getting Involved – youth work: it's educational

Roadwise Project

Young drivers will take part in an accredited course with input from Police Scotland, Youth Action Team and Scottish Fire and Rescue looking at the impacts of dangerous and anti-social driving in the region.

Headspace

An informal drop-in for young people aged 14-18 which will promote positive mental health. Beginning in May 2016 at Stepping Stones in Thurso.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Transitions Youth Club



Highland Youth Parliament