



Youth Work in the South Lochaber area

April 2016- September 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 South Lochaber youth team worked with 98 youngsters aged between 11 and 25 amounting to around 220 meaningful contacts

In total there were approx 330 hours of engagement with young people

These were delivered on nearly 80 separate occasions.

These took place in: The Leven Centre, Kinlochleven High School, within the local communities, summer programme excursions and Highland Youth Parliament conference in Skye.

THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCES: THE FUTURE

Brand new Socialize coming to Ballachulish!

South Lochaber Youth Development has secured funding through the participatory budgeting model. This funding means that we can expand youth provision within South Lochaber and achieve a much needed outreach to young people within the rural community hub, Ballachulish. This is an exciting, brand new project which is sure to benefit young people in these areas as this project will be organised by young people for young people!

- **Quote from a community member,**
"This sounds like a great resource for the young ones in the community and I hope they use it."

Socialize in Kinlochleven:

Socialize currently runs every Tuesday after school in the Leven Centre and is a place where young people can meet up, try new things, talk about issues which affect them, put forward their own project ideas, have fun, relax and SOCIALISE!

- **Quote from a young person,**
"I come here because youth workers listen to my ideas and we get to bake and cook."

Youth Development within the community:

Youth development work with any young person from 12-25Yrs in the South Lochaber area. Currently we are working alongside local community councils to see where young people fit within their communities and how we can build stronger relationships between young people and the communities they live in.

- **Quote from a parent,**
"I'm so glad that he's willing to put the work in with you, I finally feel he is getting somewhere now."



HOW'S THE FUTURE LOOKING

- **Getting On** – achievements through learning
Looking at the work young people are already doing through various projects like Highland Youth Parliament and volunteering at youth events.

Youth development will recognise young people for the time and commitment they put in to these projects and events.

- **Getting Heard** – confident voices, influencing decisions
South Lochaber now has two new Highland Youth Parliament Representatives who will be in post for 2 years. They will be a voice for all young people in the South Lochaber area, attending various events Highland wide.

Their first job in post will be to build on the foundations of the local Youth forum and get it kick-started fresh for 2017. This will involve recruiting other young people into the local forum and young people creating the agenda for the year ahead.

- **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.
YDO has now extended youth provision into rural areas of the community and will see this continue to grow

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