



Youth Work in the WICK 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

From April 2016 to September 2016 the Wick Youth Development team worked with on average 121 individual youngsters each month, aged between 11 and 25 amounting to 2,859 meaningful contacts

In total there were over 3,300 hours of engagement with young people, at 488 sessions.

55 Saltire Awards were gained

Wick Youth Work covers the Wick High School catchment, which stretches from John O'Groats to Berriedale, and from Wick to Watten.

THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCES: THE FUTURE

YOUTH SUPPORT IN WICK HIGH SCHOOL

High Life Highland and Wick High School formed a partnership in 2016 to place an Assistant Youth Worker in school throughout the school day. This member of staff works with young people who have behavioural, emotional or attendance issues but do not meet the criteria for a Children's Service Worker referral. This early intervention gives young people dedicated time to discuss and work on issues in an informal manner. Whilst it does not replace guidance staff, it does ease pressure on them as well as preventing problems from escalating to the point where more formal intervention would be required.

JUNIOR WARDEN SCHEME

Eight pupils from Wick High School successfully completed the Junior Warden Scheme project which was delivered as a partnership between High Life Highland and The Highland Council's Community Services Team. The 14 week course included a First Aid Awareness course, run by HiMATS, and was concluded with the young people making a presentation to partners, parents and local elected members.

BOXING CLUB

35 pupils from Wick High School attended a taster session in Boxing fitness, delivered in partnership between High Life Highland, Wick High School and Highland Boxing Academy. Funding has been secured to purchase equipment including a boxing ring, and training sessions will commence after the October Break, delivered by a volunteer coach and professional boxer Liall Mackenzie.

- **Quote from a youngster**
"I love coming to lunch club, it's so cool!"
- **Quote from a partner**
"The work that the Assistant Youth Worker does in school is making a massive difference. It's essential that we keep it going."
- **Quote from a parent**
"I just want to say thank you, my son got so much out of the Junior Warden Scheme; The whole family is so proud of him."

HOW'S THE FUTURE LOOKING?

- **Getting On** – achievements through learning

Following a successful funding bid made by Wick High School to help raise attainment, the school based Assistant Youth Worker role is to be developed to increase the number of Achievement Frameworks supported. This will allow us to tailor support for young people much more effectively.

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

Highland Youth Parliament (previously known as Highland Youth Voice) has for over a decade met twice a year as a Highland-wide conference twice per year. This is to be reduced to one Highland-wide conference per year, with the second conference being held locally so that young people can focus on local issues. The Caithness area conference is to take place on Wednesday 30th November at Wick Assembly Rooms with 30 young people from across the county attending to represent the views of their peers.

- **Getting Out There** – youth work: it's educational

Wick Youth Development is extending its partnership working with The Highland Council's Community Services department; to help young people aged 16-25 who have their own tenancy agreement. The Tenant Mentoring Programme aims to promote responsible, independent living and will explore the joys and challenges of setting up home as a young adult.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name Keith Moncur
Tel 07774 337 688
Email keith.moncur@highlifehighland.com
Facebook Wick Youth Development

