



highlife
highland
na Gàidhealtachd

Youth Work in the Alness area

October 2016 – March 2017

THE BIG HEADLINES



Youth Work is educational and it's fun

It's an empowering process where young people

- Learn new things about themselves and others
- Improve their confidence and self-belief
- Can express themselves without judgement
- Become more open and accepting of those who are different to them
- Are encouraged and supported to try and make differences to things that matter to all young people

Key numbers for the period

The Alness youth team has had 4904 meaningful contacts with young people

In total there were 10,270.5 hours of engagement

All this was delivered on 302 separate occasions

And took place in The Place, Alness Academy, The Averon Leisure Centre.

STORIES: DIFFERENCES: and THE FUTURE

Projects

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A group of young people took on the role of organising a Christmas Fayre. From buying and wrapping presents to setting up the hall the young people worked tirelessly to create a Christmas extravaganza. Santa and his reindeer also made an appearance.

YOUTH FORUM-MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

Alness representatives have been working with the Ross and Cromarty Youth Forum on a Mental Health Project. The group worked together to produce a film which tells a true story of a young person's life and their own mental health well-being experiences. The group of young people also designed a workshop which will be rolled out to schools and youth groups in the community. All the young people involved in this project are keen to tackle stigma surrounding mental health whilst raising awareness to all young people about the reality of everyone's mental health well-being.

GO LEAD

Seventeen young people attended our first Go Lead Course in Alness. The youngsters worked incredibly hard throughout the day and are all very keen to work towards gaining their next leadership award.

YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

Four Alness young people applied to become Co-Design Champions for the 'Year of Young People' which is to run throughout 2018. All four young people have been shortlisted for the next stage of the selection process. Successful candidates will focus on particular themes to promote throughout the year as well as planning and organising events for young people to get involved in all over Scotland.

LORD LIEUTENANT AWARDS

Alness was well represented at the annual Lord Lieutenant Awards Ceremony. Four groups – Coulhill Jrock Project, Summer Playscheme/Summer Lunch Club, Alness Christmas Fayre Group and Community Team- were nominated in the Group Category and were all awarded with Commended Certificates. Aeryn Cleary was awarded a Highly Commended Certificate in the helping others category and Paul Mackenzie was the overall winner in this section for his hard work in making the Syrian families within our area feel welcome and part of the community.

Quotes

"Attending the Go Lead course gave me an opportunity to further my leadership skills. It has allowed me to work with more people within my community." Orla O'Reilly (14)

WHAT'S COMING UP

In the coming months local young people

- Will represent their area at the summer Highland Youth Parliament conference which this year will be held at the UHI campus in Inverness.
- Will be asked to engage with the East Ross Community Partnership. This is the group of senior representatives from Education (Care and Learning), Health, the Third Sector, Enterprise and the Emergency Services who are all committed to involving communities to help improve local services
- Will take part in a Highland wide survey of youth work delivered by High Life Highland
- Will be able to participate in summer holiday activities including FUSION events
- Will continue to have opportunities to develop personal and social skills and be actively recognised for any achievements
- Will participate in the local Rock Challenge/Jrock events held in Eden Court. Alness Academy pupils will showcase their performance in Eden Court at the Inverness Rock Challenge Heats in April and then go on to compete in June at the Scottish Final held in Dundee. Coulhill and Bridgend Primary school pupils will compete in the Inverness Jrock event in April.
- Will have the opportunity to develop their skills further by planning and delivering workshops at our annual Summer Playscheme for youngsters in Primary 4-7.

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