



**highlife**  
highland  
na Gàidhealtachd

# Youth Work in the Lochaber 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 Lochaber youth team has had 3217 meaningful contacts with young people

In total there were 8,857 hours of engagement

All this was delivered on 115 separate occasions.

And took place in Fusion Youth Space, Caol Youth Centre and Street Work Project

8 awards have been gained which recognises the variety of achievements going on

# STORIES: DIFFERENCES: and THE FUTURE

## Projects:

### Fusion youth space:

Fusion has been established and developed as a hub of opportunity for young people in the town centre with a wide range of activities and issue based learning

### Fusion Events:

One held in the Nevis Centre's Spectrum soft play seen 75 young people attend. Another, a community charity Christmas Craft Day raised £500 for one of our young people whom is currently undergoing treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Our other event was our Halloween Party, with haunted house, Halloween themed activities and games and fancy dress prizes.

### Caol Youth Centre:

A Wednesday night drop-in for young people to be able to take part in a range of activities that will include volunteering and youth committee training.

### Street Work:

Street work is a detached youth work team who are out two nights during the weekends that target young people who do not access other youth provisions or learning, to establish relationships with these young people and offer them the same opportunities as young people who attend mainstream learning. Youth workers are able to identify young people who would most benefit from additional support.

### Lochaber High School - Life Skills Course:

This project aims to increase levels of engagement ,participation and achievement of young people who may be at risk of not securing a positive and sustainable destination after leaving school by engaging them in a 12 week programme of life skills Inc. Cooking ,budgeting ,personal skills and future planning, CV writing and interview skills works

## 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 Lochaber 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
- Fusion: Fusion's Lease has been extended until March 2018, during this year young people and staff would like to explore alternative youth work opportunities and developments in Greater Fort William.
- Youth Forum: Our Forum is currently being established and they are developing a questionnaire to explore young people's perspectives; "what makes a happy young person growing up in GFW?"

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Mary Barker

Tel: Mob: 07786856183 Office: 0139709645

Email: [Mary.barker@highlifehighland.com](mailto:Mary.barker@highlifehighland.com)

Facebook: Fort William Youth Development

