



**highlife**  
highland  
na Gàidhealtachd

# Youth Work in the Mallaig 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 Mallaig youth team has had 1500 meaningful contacts with young people

In total there were 3700 hours of engagement

All this was delivered on over 125 separate occasions.

And took place in Mallaig high school, Mallaig youth space, Mallaig Pool and various other locations

3 awards have been gained which recognises the achievements going on

# STORIES: DIFFERENCES: and THE FUTURE

## Projects

### Thursday night youth club

Thursday nights from 6-9pm in Mallaig sees young people travelling from all over the associated school group area to take part in activities provided at the youth club; this session is open to anyone in the S1 and up age range with as many as 30 young people taking part in a session. These nights will often incorporate Fusion activities where young people can take part in one off activities in their area. These activities have included Bubble football and the big NERF game in the past, watch out for the big splash that's coming before the summer break that will see 2000 water balloons being used at the back of the school.

### Signposting service

Young people sometimes need that extra bit of support and don't know where to go. Offering a drop in session often lets young people share their fears and aspirations with staff that can support them and signpost them to the appropriate services, when they feel there is nowhere else to go.

### Mallaig Young Enterprise

From September through to March the young Enterprise group created their own company and marketed this through social media and at various events. The company "Tailored to Tartan" created bespoke soft furnishings and other items, the young people involved were up against 11 other teams from the Highland and Moray areas and performed really well so much so that the profits raised from this company have hired a venue and paid for a band for their school prom.

"being listened to helps, it's something that just lifts that bit of pressure when the other stresses of life creep in"

"it was a learning experience that was worthwhile and let our group see the direct benefits of taking part in a venture like this"

## 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
- Continue the strong partnerships with Mallaig High school and the wider community that promotes youth work as a valuable resource in the personal, social and educational development of young people
- Will influence the training needs of sessional staff who will provide activities that are suitable to all young people in the Mallaig area.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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