

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS AS A CHARITY



highlife
highland
na Gàidhealtachd

Youth Work in the WICK 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 Wick youth team has had 2733 meaningful contacts with young people

In total there were 2532 hours of engagement

All this was delivered on 182 separate occasions.

And took place in school, youth club, on field trips and at High Life Highland Facilities

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

STORIES: DIFFERENCES: and THE FUTURE

Projects

Fourteen young people from the Wick High School ASG attended a "Mini conference" of Highland Youth Parliament for Caithness young people in November. These mini conferences have been introduced to allow more young people to focus on important issues at a local level. Senior management from both Wick and Thurso High Schools, and Head of Education Jim Steven discussed education issues with the delegates. Pat Groves of NHS Highland ran a sexual health session, and consultations were held by Highland Youth Convener Callum MacLennan and Isobel McCallum from the Commission on Highland Democracy.

A Youth Worker is currently placed within Wick High School tasked with helping to close the poverty related attainment gap. She has been in this role funded by Wick High School through the Scottish Attainment Challenge since October, and has been researching successful projects across Scotland that have been proven to help young people achieve their maximum potential. Working closely with Senior Management and Guidance staff, young people have been identified, and group sessions started in March.

Informal drop in sessions in school and at Wick Youth Club continue to help form trusting relationships between young people and staff. A number of young people have received vital support following disclosures made during these sessions.

Quotes

"Thank you for applying for gifts from Cash for Kids for our family; we couldn't have given our kids a Christmas without your help." – Parent

"The trip to the recording studio was great. I saw loads of cool stuff." – Young person

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 Caithness 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 be supported to achieve their John Muir Award in partnership with RSPB's Flows to the Future Project.
- Will gain life skills in partnership with Ocean Youth Trust Scotland, during a 5 day sail training scheme.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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