

THE BIG HEADLINES



The young people setting out on their adventure at Forsinard

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



A proud moment – Thurso young people receiving their 1st place award at Rock Challenge Eden Court.

Key numbers for the period

The Thurso youth team has had 246 meaningful contacts with young people

In total there were 413 hours of engagement

All this was delivered on 59 separate occasions.

And took place in 6 locations such as youth drop in, youth club, Headspace community venue, Ormlie Centre.

STORIES: DIFFERENCES: and THE FUTURE

Projects

Headspace is a support group for young people to come along to for personal and social development and to have fun in a relaxed atmosphere. The group has grown from 3 attending to 18 on most weeks. All of the young people are still in school. At the end of the school day, the youth team meet the young people and support them to walk down to the town venue. This walk in itself is a sociable and learning experience for all which is adding value to the young people's confidence and sense of belonging to this group. Parents collect their young people at the end of the group meeting and the feedback from them is always positive and encouraging.

The Transition Group meet at Thurso Youth Club every week and enjoy a variety of activities. This year some of the members who have attended since a few years took on some leadership roles and have been learning how to deliver activities and take on responsibilities in decision making and making sure that all who attend have fun.

Rock Challenge

This year, Thurso High School came 1st place at the Highland Rock Challenge event at Eden Court. This is a school lead initiative and is supported by an assistant youth worker. The school and youth development staff are very proud of the young people for achieving this award and look forward to attending the Scottish Finals which take place in Caird Hall Dundee in June.

Partnership work with RSPB

The RSPB Centre at Forsinard opened earlier this year and are keen to work with schools in Caithness and beyond on their Flows to the Future Project. A group of young people from both Thurso and Wick visited the Centre and will be a part of this project which will give them an opportunity to gain their John Muir Award.

Quote

"the most rewarding part of being a youth development worker is the relationships you build, supporting young people with their life issues and knowing that you are making a difference from the connection that is fostered.



More from Forsinard.....

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 involved in a new project in developing the partnership room at Thurso High School which will become their youth space >
- Will become more involved in Thurso Youth Forum to develop a group who work towards addressing issues which affect them. The forum will also be involved in developing activities during the summer for younger people.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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