



Youth Work in the WICK area Apr 2017-Sept 2017

The **BIG** Headlines



Youth work is an **educational** practice

It is an **empowering** process which is about

- Building self-esteem and self-confidence
- Developing the ability to manage personal and social relationships
- Creating opportunities for learning
- Building the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control
- Having a targeted approach within a range of services for everyone
- Having FUN



Key facts and stats

From April 2017 to September 2017 the Wick Youth Development team worked with on average 91 individual youngsters each month, aged between 11 and 25 amounting to 1,322 meaningful contacts

In total there were over 2,500 hours of engagement with young people, at 829 sessions.

39 Saltire Awards were gained.

Wick Youth Work covers the Wick High School catchment, which stretches from John O'Groats to Berriedale, and from Wick to Watten.

THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCES: THE FUTURE

SAFE HIGHLANDERS & ISLANDERS

273 Primary 7 pupils from 19 primary schools across the north attended this year's Caithness & North Sutherland Safe Highlanders event at Wick Assembly Rooms in September. Previously coordinated by Dounreay, High Life Highland have taken over as the lead organisation. Four half-day sessions were run over two days, where pupils visited eight sets, each with an important safety message to deliver. These sets included road safety with Police Scotland, electrical safety with SSEN, Internet Safety and Drug & Alcohol information with High Life Highland among many others.

FORSINARD JOHN MUIR AWARD

Young people from Wick and Thurso have come together on a monthly basis to learn about the work of the RSPB's Flows to the Future project, which aims to repair peat bogs damaged by the planting of non-native trees in the 1980's. Research in recent years have found that far from absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, these trees are actually drying out the bogs which would otherwise absorb more CO₂ than the trees planted. Our young people have helped the project both by removing overgrown trees from the bog at Caol near Altnabreac, and have also dug drainage channels for paths, to ensure that the Forsinard Field Centre is accessible to people wishing to visit and explore the area. They are currently compiling their portfolios of evidence in order that they receive their John Muir Awards for their work.

WICK YOUTH CLUB FUSION

Friday night sessions have started at Wick Youth Club, following the successful recruitment of new staff and volunteers. The evenings, which are now called "Fusion" are open to young people aged 11+ and runs from 7pm-10pm. Young people can play sports, cook, do arts & crafts among a wide range of other activities.

- **Quote from a youngster**
"I look forward to meeting my new friends from Thurso every month."
- **Quote from a partner**
"I'm bowing out from coordinating Safe Highlanders knowing that it's in safe hands."
- **Quote from a parent**
"My son is turning out to be a really respectable young man thanks to the opportunities you're giving him."



HOW'S THE FUTURE LOOKING?

In the coming month's local young people will be:

- **Getting On** – achievements through learning

Young people from Wick are currently working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award through the Wick Open DofE Group, supported by High Life Highland. Their expedition is planned for early in the 2018 hiking season, around Loch More and Altnabreac.

- **Getting Heard** – confident voices, influencing decisions

Representatives from the local Community Planning Partnership will be invited to a local Youth Parliament "Mini-Conference" in January, to discuss issues that Youth Forum and Youth Parliament members from Wick, Thurso and Farr see as priorities.

- **Getting Out There** – youth work: it's educational

Working with The Highland Council's Tenant Participation Officer, we will offer a Tenant Mentoring Programme to young people who have taken out a tenancy, to educate them on their rights and responsibilities now that they have their own place. As part of this programme, they will also work towards achieving an ASDAN Peer Mentoring Award.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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