



Youth Work in the WICK area

October 2017 – March 2018

Celebrating Achievement and Valuing Young Voices



year of young people
bliadhna na h-òigridh
2018

2018 has been designated the Year of Young People during which the ideas and talents of children and young people aged 8 to 26 will continue to be promoted and celebrated.

There are six themes, all of which will feature in some shape or form. Young Highlanders, with their supporting adults and partners, have agreed to focus on two of these namely

Equality & Discrimination and **Participation**

During this period, the local youth team has worked with 73 young people aged between 11 and 21 (excluding anonymous ones) amounting to about 948 meaningful contacts

In total there were approx 1,825 hours of engagement with young people

And these took place on 284 separate occasions at the following locations

Wick, Lybster, Dunbeath, Canisbay and on day trips to Forsinard.

A total of 18 recognised awards were gained

Some of what's been happening and what's planned

What's been happening – Girls Make Games

In January, High Life Highland's Wick Youth Development Team supported an initiative in partnership with Chris Aitken, Wick High School's Computing Science Teacher, to encourage girls to consider computer games programming as a potential career choice.

Wick was the first town in Europe to participate in the scheme, which involved 100 towns from around the world. 19 girls from around the area joined in the day, following online tutorials on iPads to create platform games on their laptops and desktop PCs.

Following the creation of their games, the girls had the experience of being interviewed over Skype by a journalist from California, where the Girls Make Games project originated.

What's been happening – Targeted Youth Work

We continue to have a Youth Support Worker deployed in Wick High School through the school week, providing a link between our informal learning opportunities and school. She has been running confidence cooking classes, to not only teach new skills but promote social interaction. Young people are encouraged to talk about their interests, and sessions give them to explore these interests further as well as promote self-worth.

We also completed a series of visits to RSPB Forsinard, where young people completed their John Muir Award and Saltire Awards. The group removed 900 non-native trees from peat bogs, helping to protect the environment.

Quotes

"I'm really proud of my son completing his John Muir Award." - Parent

"I really enjoyed doing sand art, I found it really calming!" – Young Person

What's planned – Youth Independence Programme

In the new academic year, we will be running a Caithness-wide programme for young people aged around 15, and who are likely to want to leave school and get their own place to live. Being run in partnership with The Highland Council's Tenant Participation Officer, small groups of young people will learn about independent living, and the responsibilities that go with it. They will support each other through the programme, and work towards gaining an ASDAN Award in Peer Mentoring.

What's planned – Outdoor Learning Projects

Following on from the success of our 2017 John Muir Award Group, we will be setting up 2 more groups; one with the RSPB, the other with the Countryside Ranger Service, which is now part of High Life Highland. Again, as a project involving young people from around Caithness, it allows young people from Wick and Thurso to work together. Three of our 2017 group will return and assist in the role of Young Leaders, working towards High Life Highland Leadership Awards.

Some useful information

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YoYP 2018

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