



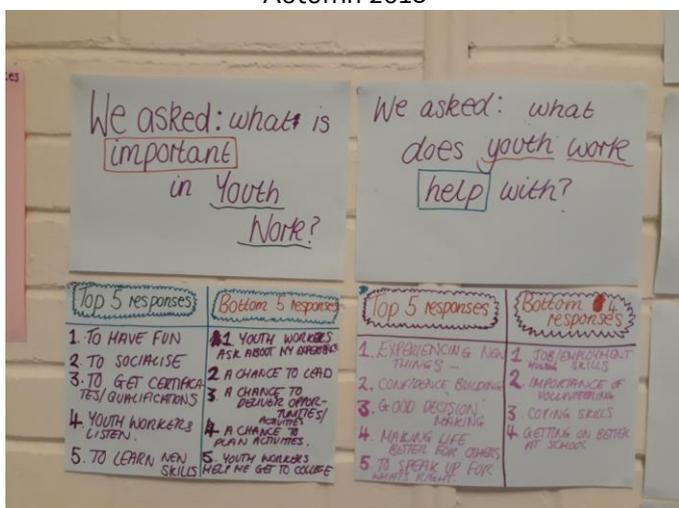
# Youth Work in the Thurso area

October 2018 to March 2019

## Celebrating Achievement and Valuing Young Voices



Highland wide survey of Young People  
Autumn 2018



During this period, the local youth team has worked with around 30 individual young people aged between 11 and 21 amounting to 422 meaningful contacts

In total there were approximately 1028 hours of engagement with young people

And these took place on 50 separate occasions at the following locations

Thurso High School & Community Learning Office,  
Prince's Street Thurso.

A total of 3 recognised awards were gained

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

## What's been happening locally YOYP 2018.

Organisations all over Scotland celebrated the Year of Young People 2018 and Caithness was no exception. Thurso hosted its own hugely successful event which gave our young people the opportunity to GET ON & GET HEARD. Our day kicked off with a lively debate on the restructuring of the NHS in Caithness. Officials from the NHS were put in the firing line and in front of a panel of independent professionals were asked some very direct questions and heard some distressing stories which individuals and their families experience when needing medical assistance. We also learned about plans for a new 'Health Village' that will be built in Thurso within the next 10 years. After we had built up an appetite we tucked into a magnificent hot & cold buffet from our Thurso Community Café.

Yum Yum ☺ onto the evening and the buses started to arrive for our under18's disco @ Skinandi's night club in the centre of town. Time to let our hair down and have some fun. A great evening was had by all, definitely a night to remember.

Our local Winter Conference was another great example of GETTING INVOLVED & GETTING HEARD. Young people attended from both sides of the county and shared experiences from their own area. We had LGBTi representation and discussed the key issues and the need to create more safe places in and around Thurso's Community.

## Quotes

"It's good when adults listen to kids"  
"We need more discos in town"

## A vision for high quality youth work across Highland

The current Youth Work policy has been in place since 2007, and has stood the test of time.

However, stakeholders including young people, statutory and third sectors have agreed there needs to be a refreshed strategy to reaffirm core youth work principles and reflect emerging and changing needs of young Highlanders.

Since autumn 2018 much activity has occurred to contribute towards this new youth work strategy – surveys, focus groups, stakeholder engagement and conversations.

Watch out for a new youth work strategy for 2019 onwards, which will describe how the following will be achieved:

- ✓ *clear ways for young people to become involved in youth work activity*
- ✓ *young people have a voice in youth work and an influence in decisions and services which affect them*
- ✓ *support for young people to progress from youth work into other positive destinations such as employment or further education.*

## Some useful information

Local contacts: Mandy Bentham 'Youth Development'  
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## Social Media:

[www.facebook.com/thursoyouthdevelopment](http://www.facebook.com/thursoyouthdevelopment)

