



Youth Work in the Alness area

April to December 2019

Young People Involved, Being Heard and Achieving



Pàrlamaid Òigridh na Gàidhealtachd – The Highland Youth Parliament Conference - took place on 24-25 June 2019 in the UHI Inverness Campus. HYP includes young people from all 29 Highland Secondary Schools and Local Youth Forums. The HYP conference is a young person-led event at which approx. 80 young people from across the Highlands met with Service Directors, Lead Officers and Elected Members from The Highland Council, High Life Highland and partner agencies, in order to influence decision making that impacts Highland's young people.

Sessions

The event was themed around young people's 'Right to Freedom of Expression' with sessions of importance to young people in Highland including peer support for young people's mental health, climate change, an Education Q&A with The Highland Council's Head of

Education, Highland Children and Young People Forum's'



Inspire Group, the 'Grow2gether' teenage pregnancy project, the new Highland Youth Work Strategy (co-produced with young people), NHS Highland, Waverley Care and HLH C-Card scheme update and local workshops.

Delegates from Argyll and Bute and Western Isles Councils also attended in order to learn more about HYP and the role of the Highland Youth Convener. The Northern Alliance (NA) Youth Conference, involving 70 young people from across all 8 local authorities which make up the NA took place alongside the Highland Youth Parliament conference.

Issues

Issues highlighted by young people were Climate Change, Mental Health, Additional Support Needs, Youth Services Promotion in Schools, School subjects, languages, PSE improvements, LGBTI, Rurality and Cuts. View the event report at:

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/youth/highland-youth-parliament/>

A couple of stories and some headline stats

Story #1 “Life Skills – Planning, Cooking, Budgeting Programme”

In Partnership with Alness Academy we have supported and facilitated Life Skills – Planning, Cooking, Budgeting Programme. At its core the project is a targeted weekly cooking session with a group work approach. This block we have worked with 3 young people to work on their organisation, social skills working within groups, and supporting them to re-engage with mainstream education.

Story #2 “Family Support Group “

Alness Academy Family Support Group has successfully run each week during term time in Alness Youth Centre in partnership with Children’s Services Worker and the Youth Development Team. FSG is a targeted project supporting young people who may be care experienced, have caring responsibilities, bereaved or have additional family pressures. This year like every year since 2004 Alness Academy Family Support Group has come together for their Christmas festivities. For a number of years, young people have made a Christmas meal and invited their family, friends, and the people who they feel have supported them throughout the year.

The Group is supported by key staff, offers peer support and a safe space to be themselves.

Quotes

“Thank you for making me laugh and getting me through the hardest time of my life”
From Bryn

“Thanks for a safe, comforting place for my time at Alness and thanks for all the laughs and everything else” From Grant

“Its been great fun learning about cooking and just getting time away from school”
From Dan

At the HYP conference in June

4 young people from this area took part

During the period, across this area there were

3547 meaningful contacts

9113 hours of learning and youth work activity

404 Programmed Activities

109 Awards gained by young people

Some useful information

Local contacts

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Youth Development Officer

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Social Media

Facebook – @Alnessydo

Twitter – @HLHYouthWork



Young people, Family, and Community eating together at the Family Support Group Christmas Meal



Young people taking part in a litter pick in the forest before our Autumn Bush Craft Sessions