



# Youth Work in the Ardnamurchan 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

## The Ard Rock Café Project

In early November 2019 a group of eight young people from Ardnamurchan High School came to their YDO to get support to run a music project for young people in the area. The group meets at the Sunart Centre on Thursday afternoons with high numbers attending. The project aims to build confidence, allow members to try new experiences and express themselves through music.

As part of this project senior members are working towards their Dynamic Youth Awards by mentoring and supporting young members of the group.

In the 2020 summer term the group is looking at coordinating a village hall tour bringing their talents to their local communities.

## Summer Trips 2019

Ardnamurchan Youth Work joined forces with the Mallaig Youth Work team to offer four summer trip opportunities. These included Laser Tag, Bouldering, Swimming, Trampolining and a High Wire assault course. These trips were well attended and gave an opportunity for young people to try new activities and to meet young people from an area out with their own.

With activities like the high wire it took members out of their comfort zone and it was lovely to see other members supporting their peers throughout.

## **A few thoughts from participants were:**

"I really enjoyed the Summer Trips, my favourite part was getting to meet new people and making new friends"

**Britney Nicol**

"The craic at Ard Rock is the best you can get! Its great to get some time and space away from school to play music and nice that we get to help teach and support the younger members."

**Sean Maclellan**



At the HYP conference in June

2 young people from this area took part

At the Area winter conference in Genuig

10 young people from this area took part

During the period, across this area there were

**1043** meaningful contacts

**2290** hours of learning and youth work activity

**157** Programmed Activities

## Some useful information

### **Local contacts:**

Alan Gray – Youth Development Officer

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### **Social Media:**

<https://www.facebook.com/alan.gray.33046>

<https://www.facebook.com/Ardnamurchan-Youth-Development-239945089503013/>

