



Youth Work in the Black Isle 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

Outstanding Volunteer – John Munro

What was I like before?

"I was often scared and nervous. My confidence wasn't so good, I didn't want to speak to people that I didn't know and didn't want to speak to people I did know if they were with other friends."

What changed? What did I do.

"I volunteered at Cromarty Youth Café running dodgeball sessions, I am just there for the young people. I used to help with Cookwell too.

I supported with getting to know your Techno, I worked with the Black Isle Cares doing the games sessions and Intergenerational lunches. I really enjoyed that.

I have gained over 1000 Hours on my Saltire Award, and also have 518 hours of Leadership on my High Life Highland Leadership Award. I won High Life Highland Volunteer of the Year Award in June 2019."

What skills have I developed.

"I am more approachable now and can talk to strangers without any difficulty. My confidence has boomed, I can now run sessions without asking for help which I couldn't do before. I am more mature too with my volunteering and I can work with lots of different people.

My leadership is better as I can deliver sessions to the standard needed."

Quotes

"John show's great enthusiasm, he is passionate about helping others, providing many opportunities: John has improved confidence and resilience and is more optimistic about his future. John loves nothing better than talking about his volunteering"

At the HYP conference in June 1 young person from this area took part

At the Area winter conference in Mid-Ross 6 young people from this area took part

During the period, across this area there were 3908 meaningful contacts

5858 hours of learning and youth work activity

313 Programmed Activities

77 Awards gained by young people

Some useful information

Local contacts

Wanda Mackay
Youth Development Officer
High Life Highland
Black Isle Leisure Centre
Deans Road
Fortrose

Tel:01381622206

Mob:07515717011

Social Media –

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/blackisleymo/>



Pupils of Fortrose Academy came along to help with serving lunch and chatting with the seniors. Picture: Gary Anthony

