



Youth Work in the Fort William 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

Plantation Youth Drop in Success

The recent renovations and make over of the Plantation Community Hall has seen a dramatic and successful turnaround in purpose and use by many community groups and members including – HLH Adult Learning Team, The Duncansburgh Church Planny Praise group and Fusion Youthie drop in @ the Planny. The Youth Participation in our drop In groups has been powerful so far with our young people using the space and time to talk openly and honestly about some very serious issues and topics affecting them and their peers whilst discovering various coping strategies and challenging differing thoughts and opinions in group discussion which has then in turn influenced the planning of activities and feedback to partner agencies and projects within the greater community.

The creation and ongoing work on the group's new agreement of boundaries and acceptable behaviour – "THE TREATY" has given all young people and staff the opportunity to create something which holds us all accountable and gives clear understanding of what is expected and acceptable regarding equality, support and respect. This is very much needed and welcomed by all as we have many differing groups of young people with different cultural backgrounds, so this gives us an even and equal ground to work from together.

Buzzing about Lochaber

Our ASN girls group took part in a 5-week programme in the Buzz projects studio which included photography, felting, emotions through mask making and a pampering / make up session. They held an exhibition of their work for family and friends. All the girls felt safe and enjoyed their time in the new environment and became more confident working with new people.



Quotes "I think with you and Mary, as I know you's and I feel most comfortable" Piper.

"Thank you for listening to me, I feel much better being able to talk to you about it!" Milly.

"Can we go to back to studio 2 some other time as it was fun " Fiona

At the Area winter conference in Glenuig

3 young people from this area took part

During the period, across this area there were

4284 meaningful contacts

11492 hours of learning and youth work activity

219 Programmed Activities

15 Awards gained by young people

Some useful information

Local contacts – Caol Youth Centre -

Mary Barker – 07786856183,

mary.barker@highlifehighland.com

Rachel Carmichael – 07557566443,

Rachel.carmichael@highlifehighland.com

Social Media – Facebook profiles... search....

Rachelc Fort William Youthworker

mary b fortwilliam youthwork

Fort William Youth Development

