



# Youth Work in the Golspie 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 Footprint Changer'

A Climate Change Youth Group was formed by young people concerned about their planet and keen to make a difference. Young people from Lairg to Helmsdale are involved so far.

'The Footprint Changers' were successful in their funding bid to secure money to further develop their ideas.

They are keen to raise awareness throughout the area and beyond by designing merchandise that can be used as a tool for discussion as well as educating others in how everybody can do their bit to help. Merchandise is made using recycled materials ensuring a Climate Challenge theme is running throughout the entire project.

The group met every Wednesday after school in Brora Learning Centre (and continue to do so).

## Sutherland Autumn Conference 2019

Young people from Golspie High School were part of the team who attended the Autumn Conference in Lairg in December.

Inverness Castle Project visited the conference asking for the voice of young people to have some input into how the Castle Project will be developed. They were asked for their thoughts on what they view as an attraction from their own areas.

The young people were enthusiastic about their villages and what they have to offer visitors to the Highlands. It is great to see young people being involved and their voices being part of this massive project ensuring our smaller communities are part of the wider plan

At the HYP conference in June

**3** young people from this area took part

At the Area Winter conference in December

**5** young people from this area took part

During the period, across this area there were

**1044** meaningful contacts

**2481** hours of learning and youth work activity

**176** Programmed Activities

**3** Awards gained by young people

## **Local contact:**

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## **Social Media:**

**Facebook: Golspie Youth Development**

