



Youth Work in the Grantown 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

Growing2Together Programme

2019 saw the start of the first 'Growing2Gether' programme in the Grantown area. This is a project run in partnership with the charity Ecologia and the grammar school that involves 8 young people from S3 & S4 in the secondary school. The young people who agree to take part in the 18 week programme participate in a wide range of group work topics to help support them being mentors to young children in either the nursery or primary 1 class.

Upon completing the course participants can be put forward for two SVQs certificates plus Saltire and High Life Highland leadership awards.

Proud Ness

In the summer it was fantastic to have the opportunity take a group of young people from across Badenoch & Strathspey to the 2nd annual Proud Ness event in Inverness. It was reported that 10,000 people attended the march through the city plus the events and activities at Bught Park afterwards. Young people commented how it was a great experience for them to be part of such an event with a really positive atmosphere.

Quotes

"I have learnt that I am patient and kind" – Growing2Gether participant.

"I want to use these skills to help make people



happy" – Growing2Gether participant.

At the HYP conference in June, one young person from this area took part.

During the period, across this area there were

1,129 meaningful contacts

1,860 hours of learning and youth work activity

84 Programmed Activities

10 Awards gained by young people

Some useful information

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Social Media

Facebook – 'Youth Development Badenoch & Strathspey'

