



# Youth Work in the Mallaig 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

## Hostels

Young people from the Small Isles and Knoydart live away from home in order to attend school. In November 2019 representatives from the Mallaig hostel travelled to Ardnamurchan to take part in a consultation about the new National Youth Work Strategy with the young people who live in the hostel there, most of them are from Kilchoan. The group considered the outcomes and priority areas and spent time discussing the importance of each. The priority outcomes for the two areas were a bit different, basically because the young people from the Mallaig hostel live away from home for two weeks at a time while the Ardnamurchan ones are away from home for just three nights during the week. What the two groups have in common is that they are members of two fairly isolated communities and their roles are quite different in the two places. For the Mallaig residents who live away from their home community more they would like to have the opportunity to take part in more activities especially at weekends. Both groups agreed that they would like better wi-fi in rural areas!

## Cal Mac Panel

Young people from communities served by the ferry port of Mallaig were asked to sit on a funding panel by Caledonian MacBrayne. The first distribution of funds was in June 2019. The panel is made up of young volunteers from Eigg, Muck and Mallaig. The group received training from Young Scot before being set the task of short listing the applicants and allocating the grants. They learned about impartiality and funding criteria and were very consistent and fair in their assessments. The funding group met once in 2019 and are due to meet twice in 2020. Funds were allocated to community groups from across the area and the young people will make excellent fund raisers of the future.

At the HYP conference in June

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

At the Area winter conference in Glenuig

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

During the period, across this area there were

**589** meaningful contacts

**1872** hours of learning and youth work activity

**95** Programmed Activities

**4** Awards gained by young people

## Some useful information

### **Local contacts**

**Emma Walters**

**Mallaig High School**

**Mallaig**

**PH41 4RG**

**07717348523**

**emma.walters@highlifehighland.com**

### **Social Media**

**Facebook: Mallaig Youth Development**

