



# Youth Work in the NAIRN area

April to December 2019

## Young People Involved, Being Heard and Achieving



Pàrlamaid Òigrìdh 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 Penguins Tuxedos

Senior members of the Penguin Tuxedos returned with sky high motivation after spending a weekend playing with the festival “Pick Up Band” at the ENCONTRO Street Band Festival in Glasgow in July. Their visit also included seeing other bands from all over the UK and Europe performing, and the variety of styles and leadership “gave us inspiration for our own band”. The Penguins Tuxedo is an open access youth led street drumming band.

With support from the Time to Shine Fund, seven members are currently undertaking band leadership training with Oi Musica. For further information please contact the YDO.

## HLH Leadership Programme

A number of young people from the Nairn Youth Café and Nairn Youth Forum have signed up to the High Life Highland Leadership Programme.

The opportunities to take a lead have included: peer mentoring in the youth café; planning and delivering special activities; supporting the voices of local young people to be heard; undertaking leadership training; supporting the Community Planning Partnership consultation process and working with other partner organisations on projects of benefit to the local community.

## Quotes

**“If you want to make a real change then joining Nairn Youth Forum is your best chance of success.” NYF Member**

**“ Thank you again to everyone for their help and hard work today. It went really well and the ideas that the kids have come up with are great. Please pass my thanks onto the young people - they were fab!” Community Planning Engagement Officer**

At the Highland Youth Parliament conference in June 2019

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

At the Area winter conference in December 2019

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

During the period, across this area there were

**2201** meaningful contacts

**3987** hours of learning and youth work activity

**158** Programmed Activities

**11** Awards gained by young people

## Some useful information

### Local contacts

**Shona McDonald Youth Development Officer**  
**Shona.mcdonald@highlifehighland.com**  
**0782 511 6484**

### Social Media

**FB page - Nairn Youth Development**

