



Youth Work in the Tain 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

Tain Youth Forum

Members of the Tain Youth Forum decided to highlight the desperate need to get a new 3-18 school for Tain to have the 2 primaries and the high school replaced as a matter of urgency. They really wanted to get heard!! They made a video, a warts and all production, showing the state of the existing schools and highlighting the obvious need as none are considered "fit for purpose" any longer. It reached over 100,000 people on social media and got great support. A succession of Councillors, MSPs and UKMPs met with the group and saw first hand that something needs to be done. This culminated in the visit of John Swinney, Depute First Minister for Scotland, coming to see for himself and meeting with the group. Soon after his visit money was pledged to get the campus built. Financial planning is ongoing.

Balintore Youth Club

Balintore continues to enjoy the twice weekly youth club. Isla and Jamie (supported by Rob) run the lively group and average engagement is 18 young people each night. They enjoy a variety of activities ranging from arts and crafts, board games, pool, gaming and just about anything they tell us they want to do with their friends. Oh and of course – food!!

Quotes

"Youth Club gives us somewhere to go and be together with friends, Isla and Jamie are great"

"Being part of the Youth Forum has given me so much confidence and the ability to speak up in front of people"

At the HYP conference in June

3 young people from this area took part

At the Area winter conference in November

6 young people from this area took part.

During the period, across this area there were

3299 meaningful contacts

8731 hours of learning and youth work activity

260 Programmed Activities

47 Awards gained by young people

Some useful information

Local contacts – Rob Parkes, Youth Development Officer for Tain and District.

Email – rob.parkes@highlifehighland.com

Tel – 07827 281502

Social Media

Facebook – Tain Youth Development

