

Youth Work in the Mallaig area

October 2015 – March 2016

The BIG Headlines



Youth work is an educational practice

It is an **empowering** process which is about

- Having Fun
- Developing the ability to manage personal and social relationships
- Creating opportunities for learning
- Building the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control
- Having a targeted approach within a range of services for everyone
- Building self-confidence and self-esteem

Key facts and stats

The Mallaig youth team worked with over 100 young people aged between 11 and 21 amounting to about 1600 meaningful contacts.

In total there were approximately 3900 hours of engagement with young people

And these were delivered on over 100 separate occasions

Taking place in Mallaig High School's newly fitted out youth space as well as occasional trips away

THE STORIES: THE DIFFERENCES: THE FUTURE

Full on Wednesday nights

Wednesday nights from 5-7pm in Mallaig sees young people travelling from as far away as Fort William to take part in football training and coaching sessions, this session is open to anyone in the P7 and up age range as many as 30 young people regularly take part in the session. Straight after the football session is the Awards open evening that allows young people to drop in and get help logging information on the various award programmes on offer in Mallaig. Over 50hrs of volunteering has been carried out by young people in and around Mallaig.

Participatory Budget, Lochaber (Pilot)

Young people from Lochaber were invited to participate in the Lochaber Participatory Budget (Pilot) as members of an assessment panel to help decide how ward discretionary funding (Youth) should be allocated. This was previously decided by Lochaber Councillors. After the process was completed, young people gave their views on how the Participatory Budget process might be improved. Two of the Mallaig bids in particular were devised by young people on hearing of the fund and they were successful in obtaining £1100 for their projects. (football strips, pic 1 and dance mirrors pic 2)

Mallaig Youth space

Over the winter months - November through to February - young people had the opportunity to be in a safe place to meet and relax with friends on a Fri night from 7-9pm. The newly opened youth facility within the high school already provided 2 meeting nights per week. By having their own dedicated youth facility young people have the opportunity to socialise face to face with their peers. This became so much more apparent when a resident of the Mallaig hostel commented that **"this Fri night session makes us feel equal, they (his peers) have social media to keep in touch we don't and feel left out sometimes"**

Getting On – achievements through learning

Expansion of engagement projects to include more young people who could benefit from such opportunities.

Further promotion of wider achievement awards and their frameworks

Support sessional staff to help deliver sessions competently with the right experiences and qualifications

➤ *Getting Heard* – confident voices, influencing decisions

Developing a stronger area youth forum and promoting what they do.

➤ *Getting Involved* – youth work: it's educational

Continue the strong partnerships with Mallaig High School and the wider community that promotes youth work as a valuable resource in the personal, social and educational development of young people.

Through the Youth Forum young people will contribute to the Highland Youth Parliament campaigns to do with political engagement, mental health, transport and PSE and any other issues that young people feel are barriers to their personal wellbeing.

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