



# Youth Work in the Thurso 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

## Highland Youth Parliament and Caithness Youth Parliament Winter Conference.

A little bit more about Highland Youth Parliament (HYP) at UHI in Inverness back in June where young people attended from areas around the Highlands, we are pleased to report that THURSO had excellent representation from young people this year. There are now 2 local HYP executive members along with 2 youth forum members that bring along their experiences of living in the far north and tackling local issues within their communities.

In November a CAITHNESS Winter Conference happened bringing together the two towns, THURSO & WICK. There were fantastic presentations from Alison Bell (HLH) on the Inverness Castle Project and Trish Mathews (HLH) on Climate Change.

## Thurso Climate Change group

A satellite group in THURSO has been created that links up with the Brora Learning Zone and Ullapool to develop a Climate Change enterprise Group of our very own. Quality items are being made from re-cycled and second-hand items to be made into highly desirable items to be sold at craft fayres around the area. The group comprises young people that have left school and on Activity Agreements or attending part time college courses at UHI in Thurso.

## Quotes

"Thanks for allowing us to come to the seminar, I thoroughly enjoyed myself and I've learned so many new things! We also made new connections with people. Thanks again".

At the HYP conference in June

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

At the Area winter conference in November

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

During the period, across this area there were

**1168** meaningful contacts

**5078** hours of learning and youth work activity

**123** Programmed Activities

**4** Awards gained by young people

## Some useful information

### Local contacts:

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### Social Media

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