

The Highland Council
Lochaber Area Committee
27 February 2014

Agenda Item	3
Report No	LA/1/14

Youth Work in Lochaber

Report by Pablo Mascarenhas, High Life Highland Principal Adult and Youth Services Manager

Summary

This report updates members on youth work in the Lochaber area. In summary form, it describes provision in the area and how this links to the youth work policy. It is followed by a presentation from young people on their involvement in youth work activities. It is recommended that Members note the report and comment on the presentation on youth work provision.

1. Background

1.1 High Life Highland (HLH) delivers the Highland Council Youth Work policy which has 5 main themes:-

- enabling young people to have a voice
- partnership working
- developing achievement frameworks
- coordinating, integrating and developing provision
- working with vulnerable young people

Across Lochaber High Life Highland has a Youth work presence around each of the four associated secondary school groupings delivering a range of programmes. In the year 2012/13 the service had 16,132 contacts with young people.

2. Examples of Current Programmes

2.1 Enabling Young People to have a voice

The area is represented through the Highland Youth Voice representatives from the four secondary schools. Youth work staff support young people at the bi-annual youth parliaments and the Lochaber Youth Forum. In the past young people have taken part in the Public Health Consultation 2013.

2.2 Partnership working

HLH youth work staff work in partnership with schools and Health and Social

Care staff to further develop the Curriculum for Excellence and Getting it Right for Every Child. Examples include co-delivery of group work on health issues, delivering PSE (Personal, Social Education classes), CV writing and promotion of achievement awards.

In addition HLH staff support the voluntary sector to deliver additional learning programmes by setting up clubs or helping them to apply for funding.

2.3 Developing achievement frameworks

Historically the Duke of Edinburgh Award was only on offer through Caol Youth Centre. The Award is now offered around each of the four secondary schools in partnership with HLH. HLH also deliver other award programmes such as Youth Achievement, Saltire and Dynamic Youth Awards.

2.4 Coordinating, integrating and developing provision

HLH staff deliver a range of learning programmes within existing youth clubs across Lochaber: the Sunart Centre, Mallaig Community Centre, the Nevis Centre and the Leven Centre. There are also a range opportunities across Lochaber led by the voluntary sector.

2.5 Targeting vulnerable young people

The Highland Council commission an employability programme called *Go4IT*. HLH deliver this programme in Fort William which is helping young people improve their life chances. As part of this scheme young people are given an annual High Life card to allow access to the leisure centre programmes.

HLH deploy youth workers on a Friday and Saturday night in and around the Fort William High Street. The youth workers signpost young people onto other services if the need arises.

3. Implications

- 3.1 There are no known resource, Legal, Equalities, Climate Change/Carbon Clever and Risk implications as a result of this report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the report and comment on the presentation on youth work provision.

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