

Outstanding Achievements

Education, Children and Adult Services Committee: 26 October 2016

Ashton Road Children's House

The Children's House at Ashton Road, Inverness, has been graded 'Excellent' by the Care Inspectorate for the Quality of Care & Support and the Quality of Environment. Young people reported to the Inspectors that "the staff are amazing" and "got me to where I wanted to be - always supportive and full of the joys." Parents said: "the place is just excellent", "I get treated with respect" and "the staff go out of their way to resolve any things as quick as possible."

Caitlin Jupp

Caitlin Jupp from Tain Academy, has won the title of MFR Young Musician of the Year at the annual MFR awards. She was nominated by friends, who highlighted the many different instruments that Caitlin plays. She takes lessons for the violin and accordion but self teaches guitar, piano, ukulele, and mandolin. Caitlin plays fiddle with Gizzen Briggs and the regional orchestra, was part of the Highland String Orchestra last year, and plays in the school orchestra.

Educational Psychology Services

Highland Council's Educational Psychology Services have completed a validated self-evaluation with Education Scotland. This focussed on how Highland's Educational Psychologists support Learning & Teaching and Partnership Working. Feedback from the visit reflected the outstanding practice in the service, including that "staff are highly committed to continually improve their service delivery [and] demonstrated their ability to respond to the needs of their stakeholders with agility and flexibility, providing high quality and some sector leading services over a large number of national and local priorities."

Nasa Visit

Two Highland pupils, Elizabeth Gordon and James Walton, from Nairn Academy and Millburn Academy were selected to visit NASA after participating in the Scottish Space School - a week-long residential event at the University of Strathclyde, aimed at inspiring young people to consider careers in engineering. They had the rare opportunity to meet astronauts, engineers and scientists working on the space programme, during the visit to Houston from 14-22 October.

Stephen Pennington

Stephen Pennington, the Managing Director of Highland Home Carers and former Council employee, has been given a life time achievement award by Scottish Care, in recognition of his 35 years in social care. The awards are annual, recognising best practice in the independent care sector. Highland Home Carers was established in 1994, and now employs 475 staff, and has recently entered new ground-breaking partnerships with community-based organisations.