

Outstanding Achievements – Care, Learning & Housing Committee: 15 March 2018

Craig Maclean Leisure Centre, Granttown on Spey

Earlier this week, a customer experienced a cardiac arrest during a warm up session at the centre. Staff reacted quickly with a Defibrillator whilst an ambulance was called, prior to the person being removed to hospital, where he improved to be in a stable condition.

EEP Tomorrow's Engineers UK Robotics Final



Kinlochleven High School's racing robot was the fastest in competition history - at 1.66 seconds! Pupils were delighted that their tweet from the event was liked by astronaut Tim Peake.

While the Lochaber High School Team time was 2.05 seconds, they went on to be outright winners in the Robot Design Award!

FilmG

FilmG is MG ALBA's Gaelic short film competition and Highland schools were once again well represented in this year's major awards:

- Lana Pheutan from Portree, won two of the three awards for which she had been shortlisted, winning Best Performance and Best Student Film. She was also awarded the People's Choice.
- Eòin and Anndra Cumming from Laide (Gairloch High School) both won awards in two separate categories. Eòin won the youth award for Best Mobile Short. Anndra won Best Sports Commentary, and has won the chance to go behind the scenes at a live BBC ALBA sports broadcast.
- Best Film, Portree High was short listed.
- Most Creative Production, Millburn Academy
- Best Performance Portree High and Dingwall were short listed
- FilmG Prize for Gaelic Speakers, Eoin and Anndra Cumming were short listed
- FilmG Prize for Gaelic Learners, Culloden, Millburn and Alness were short listed
- Best Gaelic Script, Portree High and Tain shortlisted
- Best Mobile short (senior), Iain Wilson

Highland Community Play Award

Lundavra Primary School Nursery has won the 2018 Play Award, promoting inclusion, free play, innovation and transferable learning - and will collect their award at the Play Conference on 15 March.

Kinlochleven Primary School has become Highland's second Google Reference School

Lynda Banks

Lynda, Headteacher at Hilton Primary School, has added to her international success in powerlifting, by winning a Silver Medal at the European Masters Championships in Sweden.

Melanie MacLennan

Melaine, a leaver from Lochaber High School has had her work, 'A Poem for my Hometown' published in 'Write Times 2' - a new collection of the best creative writing by Scotland's young people. This publication provides a showcase for the ability, imagination and talent of SQA candidates from across the country. Melanie's work was part of her Advanced Higher English portfolio.

Rachel Tayler



Rachel, a fourth year pupil at Culloden Academy has been selected to be one of only 1,000 girls worldwide to take part in a Global STEM Alliance. The "1000 Girls, 1000 Futures" initiative engages young women in science, technology, engineering, and maths, to advance their pursuit of STEM careers through mentoring and skills development.

Rachael will be offered the chance to engage in online courses and activities that develop her leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills. In summer 2019, she will go to New York City for the Global STEM Alliance summit, where she'll have the opportunity to work with international STEM experts.

School Gymnastics

The 14th annual Highland Heats for the Scottish Schools Championships were held in February, with more competitors and more facilities, thanks to increased support from High Life Highland at Inverness Leisure. The success of this event is down to all of the schools and many volunteers, but special mention should go to Liz Danby and Inverness Gymnastics Club, who support activities throughout the year that culminate in this event.

Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships

There were three Highland School successes in this week's Pipe Band Championships in Edinburgh. Congratulations go to Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band who came 2nd in the Novice Juvenile A and Junior B categories.



Also, Ullapool & District Junior Pipe Band won the Eilidh MacLeod Endeavour Award, named after the young piper from Barra who tragically lost her life in the Manchester Terrorist attacks. The award is specific to bands that demonstrate perseverance and resilience in the face of challenges, community contribution, enthusiasm and camaraderie.



On the 27th of October 2017 the Highland Community Justice Partnership held a Participatory Budgeting event called 'Small Change For Justice'.

Why?

The Community Justice Partnership (CJP) received funding from the Scottish Government to support the transition from a Northern Criminal Justice Authority to a CPP Based Community Justice Partnership. The Partnership were open to new approaches and consideration was given to exploring the possibilities of small grants through a thematic participatory process. It was felt that this has a higher chance of engaging a wider group of people in the community justice agenda and also acted as a really positive show casing event for the work communities and Third Sector already do.

What & How:

Third Sector groups from across Highland were invited to 'pitch' their ideas for a project or piece of work around one of the following themes:

- Helping communities to understand and participate in community justice
- Helping partners to plan and deliver in a more strategic joined up way
- People have better access to the services they require
- Effective interventions prevent and reduce the risk of further offending

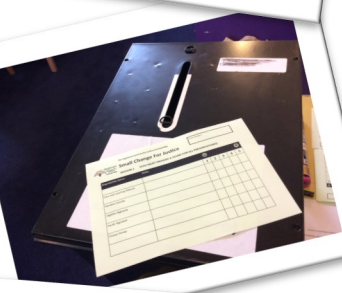
Out of eighteen applications fifteen groups were invited to pitched on the actual day; and ranged in areas of work to include children and young people, victims and peers support as well as direct work with offenders and those with an offending history.

Each group was given four minutes to pitch and three minutes of follow up questions from the audience. The groups were split into three groups of five and we had poetry, play games, personal stories and a pretend dog.

Each person in the audience registered in the morning and were asked to rank each pitch out of five. The scores were added up and they were ranked overall to identify the top scoring groups.

With £25k to distribute we anticipated a minimum of five groups but were able to provide funds to the top seven:

- Apex Highland
- Serenity
- Skye and Lochalsh CVO
- Crocus



- RASAH
- Libertie Project
- Abriachan Trust*

*Abriachan were offered a reduced amount based on the total funds left.

Funding Since:

Since the event further funding has since been secured to fund all of the projects that were pitched on the day and provide the additional funds to Abriachan.

The other groups who received funding in early 2018 are:

- Youth Highland
- Signpost
- New Start
- Dingwall Men's Shed
- CALA
- Lochaber Hope
- Highlife Highland
- Families Outside

Reaction:

On the day itself the reaction from everyone was incredibly positive. Public Sector colleagues from all agencies commented on how much they had learned about what was going on in their communities that they hadn't been aware of before. The Third Sector enjoyed the opportunity to network and the positive atmosphere.

Participants who were pitching but also had a history of offending were at times overwhelmed with the positivity they felt at being involved in such an innovative exercise. In particular it was noted that there was a real sense of pride at being part of a 'winning' bid and how that was validation for their efforts; something they don't necessarily experience very often.

We know that nationally the concept has been received really well and that nothing quite like this event has been replicated anywhere else within Community Justice.

Since the event the groups who have subsequently been offered funds have been absolutely delighted.

Local press picked up on the story and attended on the day, covering it in the following days and weeks in their respective papers.

What next:

Each group that has received funds will be linked to the CJP through one of the members who will keep in touch and ideally visit the group to see how they are progressing and getting on. These reports will come back in September 2018.

The CJP members themselves are very keen to have another similar event as they felt that it was very energising, informative and really engaged a lot of people on the issues most connected to the work of the CJP. We are exploring opportunities to do that in the coming 2018/19 year, though with potentially a lot less funding.

To get an idea of what the event was like then please have a look at the short slide show we have put together here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k20w9B_mz1s