

**AGENDA ITEM 3
REPORT NO. LA/24/18**

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Lochaber Area Committee

Date: 7 November 2018

Report Title: Lochaber Year of Young People

Report By: High Life Highland Chief Executive

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1** This paper provides an update to members of the variety of activities undertaken within Lochaber surrounding Year of Young People

2. Recommendation

- 2.1** Members are asked to note the report and presentations made by Young People representing the youth voice of Lochaber and High Life Highland; and support three areas for improvement that young people wish Committee to action. It is envisaged with the support of the Committee, the recommendations will strengthen the voice of young people in Lochaber.

(i) The Lochaber Area Committee is asked to support the development and use of social media within the Council as a platform for engaging with young people.

(ii) We ask that the Lochaber Area Committee hold a consultation with Sheil Buses (main public transport provider), community transport providers, stakeholders and young people from the Lochaber area High Schools, West Highland College UHI and youth groups in the area to find out how public transport options could be improved to ensure they are efficient and meeting the needs of young people in the area so they can effectively engage in education, training, leisure and work activities as required.

(iii) The committee are asked to support the four High Schools in the Lochaber area to improve their LGBTI inclusive practice and where identified achieve their LGBTI Charter Award. Members are further asked, where appropriate, to positively consider applications to the Ward Budgets from schools to develop initiatives which support inclusive practice.

3. Introduction

3.1 It was agreed that YOYP Highland would prioritise the themes of Participation and Equalities & Discrimination. The group agreed that these were pertinent issues and that the year provided a useful opportunity to develop work in these areas and leave legacy of improved participation of children and young people in shaping effective services into the future. The four remaining thematic strands (Culture, Education, Health and Wellbeing and Economy and Regeneration) will be included in YOYP Highland but within the overarching context of the 2 priority themes agreed.

3.2 Engagement and events - The Highland Year of Young People Ambassadors have decided that social media is an important method for sharing and encouraging participation across Highland. Supported by High Life Highland, there are 3 social media platforms which showcase some of the activities and conversation underway across Highland.

These include:

- YOYP Highland - Facebook
- YOYP_Highland - Twitter
- YOYP_Highland - Instagram

There are other High Life Highland **Facebook** pages which showcase local young people

- South Lochaber Youth Development
- Ardnamurchan Youth Development
- Fort William Youth development
- Kinlochleven Active Schools
- Fort William active schools
- Ardnamurchan Active Schools
- Mallaig Active Schools

3.3 Highlights include young people taking part in the LGBTI seminar at the Scottish Learning Festival in Glasgow; A member of The Scottish Youth Parliament Craig MacAulay's speech in Edinburgh for Young People's Rights Review; Young people from Ardnamurchan attending PRIDE in Glasgow; 2 Young People in Kinlochleven receiving Young Scot Volunteer of the Year Award and Highland Youth Arts Hub Live projection at Glenfinnan Monument, which featured young people from Fort William.

3.4 Democracy is growing in each Associated School Group and Young people are meeting regularly to discuss issues that are important to them which period poverty and sexual health are 2 key topics. Having discussion as an Area wide forum where the 4 ASG's come together is predominantly done through Facebook, this overcomes the geographical challenges when trying to meet regularly. The Area conference 'GlenFest' event as part of YoYP will be in December where young people have designed an event by young people for young people. This will promote and bring together adults, services and young people.

4. Implications

4.1 There are no Resource, Legal, Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural), Climate Change/Carbon Clever or Risk implications.

Gaelic –None

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Date: 24 October 2018

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Background Papers: None