

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee – 13 November 2024 Service Achievements

1. *A Sense of Purpose – Adults Serving Community Sentences helped transform Invergordon Day Centre*

[‘A sense of purpose’: Adults serving community sentences helped transform Invergordon day centre \(ross-shirejournal.co.uk\)](https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk)

In some cases, people who have been sentenced by the Courts to a Community Payback Order have to complete an Unpaid Work Requirement. The Highland Council Justice Service provides opportunities to complete the unpaid work in the person’s local area. Community Payback Officers engage with Community Groups, Community Councils, Third Sector Organisations, etc who might benefit from these unpaid work hours to offer their service. If interested these beneficiaries request for a task to be completed, this could a simple task such as tidying up a vulnerable person’s garden or completing more laborious project like the example we provide today.

2. The Pines

<https://www.thepineshighland.com/#gsc.tab=0>

The above website have recently been awarded Highland Third Sector Interface **Partnership of the Year 2024**. Previously they have won Autism Hero Award (UK national) Online Social Network Award London November 2023, Highland Council Staff Recognition Awards – shortlist Partnership of the Year 2023

The website is held by NAS (National Autistic Scotland)/The Highland Council/ NHS/Thriving families who all work together to support Highland’s families and professionals. The recent award exemplifies partnership working where diverse skills combine to create something very special. The partnership runs the website and the parent and professional training sessions on all things Neurodiverse and hosts filmed resources on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCC6TUmk4xqyVbvPuaSJ-Kg>. In the past 12 months there were 142,000 website hits. The website traffic has grown significantly since launch, in the last year alone there has been a 100% increase in traffic. The website is used widely within Highland, further afield in Scotland and worldwide. 82% of the site visits in the last year were from the UK, however 12% of the visitors were from the US, with the remainder from as far afield as Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Mexico and Japan. In addition to website traffic there have been 17,000 views of Pines YouTube videos in the last 12 months.

The website provides practice resources, advice, support links, signposting, films, and the neurodevelopmental learning journey. This intensive, holistic family support helps parents and professionals understand neurodiversity.

3. Specialist Community Public Health Nurse Post Graduate Training

This year in HSC we have supported another nine registered nurses through the advanced Specialist Community Public Health Nurse post graduate training. All nine nurses successfully completed the course and are now fully qualified health visitors and school nurses. The members of staff joined the Highland Council less than two years ago and will now fully join the HSC workforce in providing early and targeted family supporting into the future.

4. Education Scotland and Home to Highland Care Experienced Team

Education Scotland has asked the Home to Highland Care Experienced Team to host a National Webinar to impart the work that they undertake with returning children from out of area, the work to retain children in their local authority, the unaccompanied asylum seeking children and the family work. The webinar will be discussing the partnership working across services within the local authority and with the third sector. In particular, how we have set offsite provisions, the structures on referrals to this service and how that matrix is evaluated in our to reach a decision of support and how we transitions children back to mainstream. This will also feature on the Education Scotland website with a 4 minute video clip of our service.

5. Fire Skills Course

The Home to Highland Care Experienced Education Team in conjunction with Police Scotland's Children's and Young Person Team and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service organised and facilitated a 5 day Fire skills course which was held at Inverness Fire Station and Invergordon Training Centre. The young people experienced real life opportunities of what it takes to be a Firefighter, observed key demonstrations from Green Watch on the induction day and engaged in a variety of areas to fully understand the role.

The course included fire safety and water safety presentations, presentation from Police Scotland Firearms teams. Practical experience extracting a casualty from a vehicle, Breathing Apparatus, working in confined spaces, First Aid and combination drills putting together all the skills learned.

This culminated in a passing out parade showcasing the combination drill encompassing the skills learned by the young people in front of invited friends/families and supports with 6 young people completing the course.



