

MLG
Education



Supporting Service Families

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MLG (Education) NEWSLETTER

Supporting Highlands
Armed Forces Community

September 2022 Newsletter- Issue 14

MLG (EDUCATION) Highland

Would like to express their sadness at the passing of
Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II,
and express their sincere condolences to
King Charles III, The Queen Consort and all members of The Royal Family.



HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II
21 APRIL 1926 - 08 SEPTEMBER 2022



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MLG (Education) Group

supporting
HIGHLANDS
Armed Forces Community

Armed Forces Community



3 SCOTS—Over the summer period, the Young Persons within our community have been kept busy by the many activities provided by the Welfare team. These activities range from Friday Breakfast Club, trips to Infinity Trampoline Park and Lola's Play Centre, Arts and Crafts afternoon and a Young Person Coffee Morning. Our community also benefited from a trip to the Crazy Golf Park, Inverness.

7 SCOTS—A busy summer with personnel taking part in lots of events from the Black Isle Show to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



Picture—Lt Lapslie
Commander of the Guard of Honour.



Welfare

We have welcomed some new staff to the Welfare team covering the North of Scotland and continue to provide support for current and former members of the Armed Forces as well as their families.

Highland News

BUD our interactive mobile museum made it to the Orkney and Shetland Islands during August and September visiting schools. BUD travels across Scotland sharing the story of the poppy, helping us to challenge assumptions and create conversations. It's a place where people can learn, shape, and share stories of reflection and hope, helping us keep remembrance relevant all year round. Find out more here www.poppybud.org.uk



Contact us:

Tel: 0131 550 1557 (during office hours)
Email: gethelp@poppyscotland.org.uk
Web: www.poppyscotland.org.uk

School Enrolment Let your school know if your child is from a Serving, Reservist or Veteran family. If we know—we have a greater understanding of your child and how best to ensure their time at school is the best it can be. [Click Here](#) for info

Cadets Hold Successful Camp



In July, cadets from 1st Battalion The Highlanders held their first Summer Camp in three years.

160 cadets from the Battalion took part in this year's camp. Due to a last minute cancellation it was moved from Warcop in Cumbria to the Battalion's Training Centre in Dingwall.

Due to COVID-19 and the related regional travel restrictions throughout the pandemic cadet organisations had been unable to hold Summer Camps since 2019. The staff involved in planning worked tirelessly to overcome various obstacles to ensure that the cadets were able to have a camp this summer.

For more information about 1st Battalion The Highlanders [click here](#)



Top; Adventure Training at Comie Craig near Kingussie. Bottom Left; Fieldcraft Training at Fort George. Bottom Right; On Range



Highland Council's Armed Forces Website



[Click here](#)



Highland Council Admin & Clerical Staff

[Click Here](#) for resource or access via HC Schools Hub: Raising Awareness & Understanding of our Children & Young People from Armed Forces families in Highland:

Identification, Enrolment & SEEMiS Input

The [link above](#) is internal to Highland Council. If external authorities/organisations would like to learn more about please [CLICK HERE](#) to email.



A Resource for Early Years Staff & Teams



Linda Thom, Development Officer—Promoting Positive Relationships, Education & Learning at The Highland Council has retired.

Linda was the **Armed Forces education strategic lead** for The Highland Council and provided invaluable support and guidance to The MLG (Education) operational partnership. MLG would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda for her support and for her commitment to Highlands Armed Forces community.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day 2022

Learning Resources for Schools [Click Here](#)



Sowing the Poppy seed



Children & Young People Included, Involved, Participating

A tribute and memorial was unveiled to the men from Force K6, known as the Indian Contingent, who served and died in the Highlands. Force K6 was an Animal Transport Corps



with the Royal Indian Army who were dispatched to support the Allies in World War 2. Huge numbers of these men and their mules arrived in the Strathspey Valley and very quickly became well-regarded as they shared their food, their stories and helped on the land and farms. Nine of these men were interned in Kingussie



far from their homes and families. A kind and compassionate local lady called **Isobel Harling** tended and cared for their graves for over 70 years and was invited to unveil the first ever dedicated Memorial, at Gynack Gardens, Kingussie. This event was filled with a warmth of connection which was reflected through speeches, prayers, poetry and music.



Gynack Gardens, Kingussie



Organised and hosted by
Mrs Heather Taylor
(aka Major Heather Lawrie)
51st Infantry Brigade



Laying of Wreaths



Exhortation
Tate Goldsmith
Kingussie High School



The Last Post



Flowers of
the Forest



A Poem, "Inclusivity"
Gracie-May Short &
Tymon Jawor
Kingussie Primary School

3SCOTS WELFARE CENTRE

Regular Events

Youth Drop In Session



Thursday Evening

At the New location of the HUB!!!

18:00hrs – 19:30hrs



THIS EVENT IS ONLY OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL CHILDREN

S1 - S6

The Community Centre will be open to allow the children to come along and chill out, listen to music, play board games and play pool.



Tuck shop will sell sweets, crisps and juice.



3 Scots Families Committee presents



WIMBERLEY BUNNIES

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10:00 - 12:00
from 25th May 2022

The Hub
Children and Families Centre

£1 per family

lots of great toys, messy sessions, activities and fun!

For Children and their Carers from birth up to school age

Tea, coffee and biscuits

All Welcome!



COFFEE MORNING

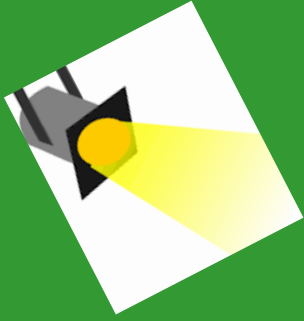
Tuesday and Thursday mornings 10:00-12:00 HRS
Everyone Welcome!



3SCOTS WELFARE CENTRE ACTIVITIES
LIT UP ON THE LED NOTICEBOARD



Wednesday Evenings 19:00-21:00 HRS



SPOT LIGHT ON Donna McCartney



Defence Children's Services

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/defence-children-services-dcs>

The DCS Vision is that we **Educate the Child – Support the Family – Defend the Nation.**

The Defence Children Services (DCS) provides professional direction, support and advice in order to ensure that Service children and young people are provided with every opportunity to achieve the best possible outcomes and fulfil their potential.

DCS seek to ensure that Service children and young people receive their full entitlement to statutory services and support and suffer no disadvantage because of their parent's Service status; this is the underpinning principle of the Armed Forces Covenant.

The aim is to provide support which is proactive and preventative as well as being responsive to emerging needs. There is an Education Advisory Team for Service families who are UK based and another for education within overseas postings. Both teams are comprised of qualified teachers and experienced case advisors. We have a deep understanding of both educational issues and the challenges of Service life.

Donna McCartney is an Education Advisor within the UK team with an oversight of the support available to families with a posting related to the devolved administrations.

Contact can be made using the following email address:

RC-DCS-HQ-EAT@mod.gov.uk

Who are EAT(UK)?

The Education Advisory Team, EAT(UK), is part of the MOD's Defence Children Services (DCS)

We are a tri-service organisation which supports operational effectiveness through the provision of support to Service and eligible MOD civilian families trying to secure appropriate educational provision for their children in the UK.

Our priority is the educational well-being of the children and young people whose families we advise and guide. All advice we give is child-centred and focuses on the best interests of the individual.

Whilst the education of children remains very much a parental responsibility, EAT(UK) can advise, guide and support families to provide a high quality educational experience for their children, whilst in the UK, despite the challenges that Service life can present.

How can EAT(UK) help?

EAT provides authoritative, bespoke and professional advice to Service and eligible MOD civilian families on a wide range of educational issues, within the UK, including:

- Parental rights and responsibilities
- Children/ young person's rights and responsibilities
- Special Educational Needs and/or Disability
- School admissions and appeals
- Retention of Service Families Accommodation for educational purposes where there is complex needs and multi-agency involvement
- Continuity of Education Allowance and the Special Educational Needs Addition

EAT(UK) does not make decisions about a child/ young person's education; we advise families about potential opportunities or challenges to allow them to make informed decisions.

More information about Defence Children Services and the Education Advisory Teams can be found on the website and Facebook page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/defence-children-services-dcs>

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SUPPORTING HIGHLANDS ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY
RESOURCES TO HELP FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS

[CLICK HERE](#) for Highland Council **Armed Forces website** which is full of further information, resources and guidance for you.

KEY RESOURCES for FAMILIES

- ⇒ [School Transition to Highland—Quick access to direct information and key contacts](#)
- ⇒ [Armed Forces Enrolment Leaflet—How we can help if you identify as being from an Armed Forces Family](#)
- ⇒ [Time for You: Personal Support for Armed Forces Families](#)

LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE MLG RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS AND PRACTITIONERS

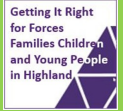
- ⇒ [Emotional Cycles of Deployment and Separation](#)
- ⇒ [Quick access to support for Children and Young People](#)
- ⇒ [Key Messages for Educators: Voices of Children from Armed Forces families in the *Early/Primary* stages.](#)
- ⇒ [Key Messages for Educators: Voices of Young People from Armed Forces families in the *Secondary* stages.](#)

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News and information FROM SPECIALIST SERVICE PROVIDERS MLG (Education) Partners



Introductions:

Susan Reid has been recently appointed as the Senior Community Development Worker (SCDW), Army Welfare Service – North, supporting Highland/Moray.

The Community Support (CS) vision within AWS is to “enable and inspire children, young people, families, and partners of serving personnel through high quality professional play, youth and community work. We do this to support children, families, and the operational effectiveness of the British Army”.

Susan is looking forward to meeting everyone in due course and updating on CS developments within future newsletters, however until then can be contacted on:

susan.reid137@mod.gov.uk Mob: 07855 077224

To make a referral to AWS please contact the Intake and Assessment Team

RC-AWS-IAT@mod.gov.uk Tel: 01904 882053

For general information about AWS in Highland/Moray and the North of Scotland please email Tracie.McDermott360@mod.gov.uk or call 0300 162 3075

RN FPS provides support for our service personnel and their families when required. Family support is vital to pre and

school age children and especially when loved ones are absent from home due to deployment. We can send out a Memory Box to decorate and fill with memories to show your loved one these precious moments upon their return. We can provide deployment publications to assist with emotions during this period, and of course we have our RN Forum to keep in the loop and in touch with What’s On, and days out ! Please follow this [link to RN Forum](#) .

If you wish any further information please email us at rnrn-wio@royalnavymail.mod.uk



Personal Support & Social Work Service RAF Lossiemouth

Need to talk? Contact our confidential, independent service on: Call 03000 111 723

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year or Email psswsraf@ssafa.org.uk

SSAFA offer a **CONFIDENTIAL** welfare service to **ALL** military personnel on the Station irrespective of rank, gender, or marital status. We are here to support spouses, partners, children, and extended families.

Contact Us

Debra.clarke@ssafa.org.uk

01343 817076 (95161 7076)

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News and information From MLG (Education) Partners Supporting Highland's Children & Young People

Forces Children's Education website is continually being updated with authoritative information and resources for families, educators, and support professionals.

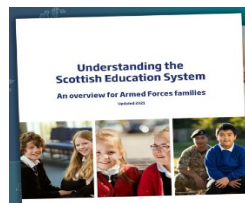


"The Scottish Government has provided funding to continue the role of ADES National Education Officer (NEO), who plays a key role in supporting schools and school leaders. Networks enable the sharing of information and best practice among all local authorities, to improve support for children."

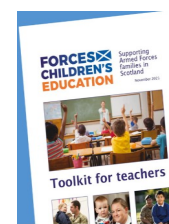


Knowing and supporting Forces families is key to helping students on their learning journey. **Learning Package**

Resource for Families



Guide to Scottish education system for Armed Forces families.



Toolkit for Teachers Resource

Developed to help staff answer the questions they will have when a pupil from an Armed Forces family joins their school.

Contact **Carolyn MacLeod**, National Education Officer, ADES at

info@forceschildrenseducation.org.uk

www.forceschildrenseducation.org.uk

Forces Children Scotland has co-produced a new mental health and wellbeing digital platform with and for children and young people from armed forces and veteran families, thanks to funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.



Titled Your Mind Matters, the digital platform aims to support children and young people from serving, reservist and veteran families to better understand and enhance mental health and wellbeing as well as to support parents, educators and professionals to better understand specific unique challenges this group can face.

There are many positive experiences associated with life in an armed forces and veteran family, however, this group can face mental health and wellbeing challenges unlike their civilian peers, including coping with uncertainty and the deployment of loved ones, regular relocations and the subsequent disruption to their education, activities, routines and friendships.

Children and young people have shared their lived experience, creativity and views to co-develop the look and feel of the digital platform and to co-develop podcasts and resources about specific mental health challenges and how this can relate to forces life.

Visit the site [here](#)



Highland welcomes new Youth Convener

Caitlyn Munro from Tain has taken up the role of Highland Youth Convener from 29 August 2022.

Caitlyn, 21, previously worked as an Assistant Youth Worker in Tain with High Life Highland for the past 3 years, she's completed Year 3 of the BA (Hons) Child and Youth Studies at the University of the Highlands and Islands, participated in the High Life Highland Leadership Programme and is an Assistant Cub Scout Leader.

As Youth Convener, Caitlyn provides a consistent link for Elected Members and senior officials in The Highland Council, representing young people's views and will act as a sounding board for youth issues in the Highlands. Caitlyn will attend Council and Community Planning Partner meetings and has full voting rights on the Education Committee with speaking rights at all other Council Committees.

The Youth Convener works closely with young people across the Highlands through Highland Youth Parliament, Area Youth Forums and Pupil Councils in Secondary Schools. Caitlyn will maintain the links between organisations and partners already established by previous Youth Conveners and will be seeking to develop new connections with organisations across the Highlands.

Caitlyn said, "I am excited to be taking on this unique role and feel honoured to be given this amazing opportunity to make a positive difference to all of the young people in Highland. Over the next 12 months, I will be continuing the work of previous Youth Conveners as well as developing and delivering my own action plan. My passion evolves around the participation of young people in groups and discussions, and I hope that in my role I can inspire people to get involved. I am keen to meet up with young people face to face to find out about anything that they feel needs voiced as well maintaining and establishing new connections. Another strong passion I have is improving the awareness of mental health services available in Highland, particularly as we emerge from the pandemic. I am looking forward to working with the Highland Youth Parliament (HYP) Executive to continue and develop the work surrounding mental health and any other relevant issues highlighted by young people."

Having grown up in a rural area of the Highlands, I am really looking forward to tackling the challenges that may arise and of course, working with young people to make the Highlands a supportive, inclusive and positive place for them to live in and to be proud to grow up in this incredible area."



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FAMILY FEDERATIONS NEWS

Supporting

Highland's Tri-Service Community

MLG (Education) Partners

Naval Families
FEDERATION
Speaking up for Naval Service families

Naval Families
FEDERATION

These resources demonstrate who we are and what we do - championing those Serving in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines and their families.
Scan the QR codes to download and view our resources directly on your device!

- Family Separation and Wellbeing Guide**
To help understand non-operational families separation (weekending) and how they influence family functioning and wellbeing amongst RN & RM families, we commissioned an academic research conducted by King's Centre for Military Health Research. The findings of this research have been used by MOD, senior Armed Forces personnel and charities to help improve support for families.
- Forces Families Jobs**
Forces Families Jobs is a free employment training portal for Armed Forces spouses/partners and their adult children. 'Shop' for job vacancies with employers who have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and understand the unique challenges that Forces families face; find the latest/discounted training programmes to prepare for your future! Use the free CV builder tool and set job alerts to keep updated.
Visit ForcesFamiliesJobs.co.uk
You can now also follow them on Facebook & LinkedIn: @ForcesFamiliesJobs.
- Parental Absence Guide**
Gain a better understanding of the RN & RM lifestyles, the impact of separation and find some strategies to help families thrive! If you are a parent, it could be helpful to give a copy to your child's school or those in your local network to help them understand your circumstances.
- Families Transition Too! Leaving The Service**
Transitioning to Civilian Street can be unsettling and uneasy for some. Our Transition Guide for RN & RM families include all of the information that you need!
- Strengthening Families**
This project aims to raise awareness of the 'holistic offers' provided by numerous charities such as Relate, Aggies, Naval Children's Charity, HOMESTART and more, to our RN & RM families. If you need support in your relationships, for children and young people, community or family support and some financial support, these charities may be able to help.
- Homeport Magazine**
Homeport is our quarterly magazine written specifically with serving Royal Navy and Royal Marines families in mind. Find the latest updates on us, RN & RM communities, official policy announcements that may affect you along with advice and humour columns, tempting reader offers & much more!

The Ministry of Defence has announced that there will be a full UK-wide rollout of the Wraparound Childcare Scheme (WAC) from Autumn 2022.



From the start of the 2022 autumn term, WAC funding will be available to all eligible Service families with children aged 4 to 11 years, who are in school or being home schooled in the UK. If eligible, personnel can claim up to 20 hours per week of funding for each child that is attending before and after school care during term time. Wraparound childcare is also known as 'School Aged Childcare' in Scotland.

More information can be found on our website: <https://aff.org.uk/advice/education-childcare/childcare-early-years/>

Our Education and Childcare Specialist Anna Hutchinson can be contacted on: educationsupport@aff.org.uk

Our regional lead for Scotland, Amanda Yorke can be contacted using the following details:
Scotland@aff.org.uk Tel: 07780 093115

The RAF Families Federation (RAFFF) provides an independent voice for all Regular and Reserve RAF personnel and families. We work to improve quality of life around the world – at work or at home, whether personnel are single or have partners and children.



The RAFFF produces a quarterly magazine and a short weekly e-Bulletin; both of which are free of charge to subscribe to and are aimed at keeping you up-to-date on what's available to you within the RAF, as well as the wider Armed Forces community. These include education-related news and policy updates. The Autumn edition of *Envoiy* is out now and includes articles on Wraparound Childcare and Higher Education. To find out more, or to subscribe, visit our [Publications page](#).

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Getting It Right
for Forces
Families Children
and Young People
in Highland

News and information From MLG (Education) Partners Supporting Highland's Children & Young People



www.armedforcesmorayandhighland.co.uk

Information, guidance, advice and help for the Armed Forces community in Highland and Moray. We welcome suggestions to improve information please email

emma.tayler@highland.gov.uk

The last few months have been spent carrying out a lot of 'behind the scenes' work in updating and refreshing the Highland and Moray Covenant website and updating the Highland Covenant Partnership Action Plan. In addition, work has been ongoing with consultants and partners, to develop new e-learning training packages specifically targeted at Community Planning Partnerships—but which will also be of use to all customer-facing staff across all sectors.

These materials are now available from the main

Highland and Moray website—

www.armedforcesmorayandhighland.co.uk

Combat Stress is delighted and very excited to be working from a new Highlands hub which is based at the **Army Welfare Centre in Inverness**. Our Highlands team comprises of a Senior Mental Health Nurse Rachel Speed and a Substance Misuse Practitioner Gill Chalmers who aim to work effectively and collaboratively with local agencies within the Highlands, both statutory and third sector. We are also in the process of recruiting a Psychological Therapist who will hopefully be joining the team soon.



Combat Stress is the UK's leading charity for veterans' mental health. We provide care and treatment to former servicemen and women helping them deal with issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression. We provide evidence-based, and trauma informed phased treatments for veterans with complex trauma-related mental health needs as a consequence of their military service. To compliment this approach, we also provide a non-clinical Peer Support Service which is available to those who are currently engaging in or who have completed treatment. Families of veterans receiving our treatment in Scotland now can use our Family Support Service to have their own needs assessed and supported.

Professional referrals can be made directly to the Scotland Service or self-referrals can be made via our **24-hour Helpline which is a free phone number, 0800 138 1619**, and is available to all military veterans and their families for emotional support and guidance.

There are also veteran specific educational resources for common mental health problems on our website www.combatstress.org.uk.

FREE books, scrapbooks and reading journals for all Armed Forces families, including veterans
www.readingforce.org.uk



Calling all Nurseries, Early Years and Pre-school Settings

As part of your support for your Armed Forces families, you can order and give out **FREE Reading Force Early Years Bags**

Each Reading Force tote bag contains:

- a Reading Force scrapbook
- an age-appropriate picture book – books for babies, toddlers and pre-school children
- a Storytime magazine (just stories – no adverts!)
- a leaflet with Hints and Tips for doing the scrapbook
- a 'Sharing Stories and Bonding Over Books' booklet with tips for mums, dads and carers for sharing books with babies, toddlers and young children
- a Reading Force leaflet



Nurseries and Pre-schools who register will also receive FREE books for their libraries!

Schools, Welfare Organisations and other charities can also order and give out scrapbooks (for ages 0-10) and Reading Journals (for age 11+) - families can then order FREE books via the Reading Force website

To find out more about how Reading Force can provide resources to help you to support your families contact Fiona Maxwell, RF Ambassador Scotland:
fiona@readingforce.org.uk or Tel 07548 778 930

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Getting It Right
for Forces
Families Children
and Young People
in Highland

HIVE Information

Supporting the Service Community and their Families



Contact Information

Debs Tulip | HIVE Information Officer

St Aidan's Centre, RAF Lossiemouth, Moray, IV31 6SD

BT: (01343) 817050 | Mil: 95161 7050 | Skype No: +443001682931

Email: LOS-RAFLossiemouthHIVE1@mod.gov.uk



www.raf.mod.uk/serving-families/hive-finder/



[RAF Lossiemouth](https://www.facebook.com/RAFLossiemouth)



[RAF Lossiemouth](https://twitter.com/RAFLossiemouth)



Your Local HIVE is:

Leuchars HIVE

Your Local HIVE Information Support Officer is:

Sarah Stone

RC-Pers-HIVE-Scotland-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Tel: 01334 857649

For more information, or to contact Army HIVE visit:



www.army.mod.uk/hives



www.facebook.com/ArmyHIVE



www.twitter.com/ArmyHIVEinfo




www.armyhiveinfo.blogspot.com



www.instagram.com/ArmyHIVEinfo

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MLG (Education) Newsletter

A great place for sharing Information, Support and Resources

JUST ASK

Do you have a question about the development or wellbeing of a child or young person in

Call us:

Tuesdays or Thursdays, 1–4pm
A health or educational professional will call you back within a few days

[Click Here](#) to view poster



Highland Council’s Psychological Service have made a selection of resources and training materials available on the [Highland Council Psychological Service Blog \(external link\)](#).

07514 120288 info@thrivingfamilies.org.uk



Our goal is to become the 'go to' organisation, known for improving the lives of families living in the Highlands, by giving you confidence, empowering you to know your rights, know what questions to ask and have your voices heard.



Thriving Families
Improving the lives of families in the Highlands



Thriving Families
Improving the lives of families in the Highlands



[bumps to bairns](#)

Early help for Highland children

[Click Here](#) for further information

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Supporting Service Families

Getting It Right
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Families Children
and Young People
in Highland

MLG (Education) Newsletter

Share your Voice

Get Involved

Getting It Right for Forces
Children In Highland
[Click Here](#) for website

Get Involved.
Have Your Say.
Make a Difference.

Your News
Your Views
Your MLG

tell us
what
you think ...

A 3D rendered white figure is shown from the side, holding a red megaphone to its mouth as if shouting or speaking.

Email: louise.kinnear2@highland.gov.uk

If you require an alternative format to suit individual needs please get in touch