

Agenda Item	4
Report No	RC/020/18

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Ross and Cromarty

Date: 15 August 2018

Report Title: **Year of Young People Update**

Report By: Derek Martin, Area Care and Learning Manager

1. **Purpose/Executive Summary**

1.1 This paper provides an update to members of the variety of activities undertaken within Mid Area of Care and Learning to support The Year of Young People.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Note the report and the presentation by High Life Highland.

3.0 Introduction

3.1 Year of Young People 2018 (YOYP) is an opportunity for generations to come together and celebrate our nation's young people. It is a platform for our young people (8-26). It will give them a stronger voice on issues which affect their lives, showcase their ideas and talents and, ultimately, aim to challenge status quo and create a more positive perception of them in society.

3.2 It was agreed that YOYP Highland would prioritise the themes of Rights and Participation, and Equalities and 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.

3.3 Events and Engagement

3.4 The young people have decided that social media is an important method for sharing and encouraging participation in YOYP 2018. Supported by High Life Highland, there are a number of Facebook pages which showcase some of the activities underway. These include:

- Alness Youth Development
- Black Isle Youth Development
- Dingwall Youth development
- Invergordon Youth Development
- Tain Youth Development
- YOYP Highland

3.5 Highlights include taking part in the young people's rights review for Member of The Scottish Young People Craig MacAulay's speech in Edinburgh; bringing colour and taking over Alness Parkrun; defibrillator training in Fortrose; celebration of the Lord Lieutenant's Youth Award in Dingwall; and young people from our area taking part in apprentice day with Highland Council and High Life Highland. Highland ambassadors (young people who are supporting YOYP 2018 events), are linking the importance of sexual health (working alongside the charity Wave) with the need to review personal and social education within our schools.

3.6 The community partnerships of Mid and Easter Ross have developed their children's plans with mental health, and personal and social education being priorities for young people. The children's plan - a multi-agency plan for children and young people - is led by officers from Care and Learning, who are engaging with a number of youth forums to further develop the plans in a child friendly manner. These groups include pupil councils from primary, secondary and special schools, youth forums and specific interest groups for gender and sexual health.

- 3.7 A key event was “What Matters to You Day?” It encouraged and supported more meaningful conversations between people who provide health and social care and the people, families and carers who receive these services. A number of workshops for primary and secondary age pupils will be led by the primary mental health team, following on from a conversation stall set up for the day itself on the 6 June at Dingwall Academy.
- 3.8 The outstanding success of our young people in Mid Area with Rock Challenge and JRock is notable, and sits well with the identified priorities of rights, participation, equality and discrimination. This performing arts event, promoting healthy lifestyles and choices, reflects the personalities, concerns, hopes, dreams and interests of the young people. It is well supported through our schools with the following schools in Mid Area receiving awards:
- Coulhill Primary
 - Dingwall Primary
 - Bridgend Primary
 - Ben Wyvis Primary
 - Hilton of Cadboll Primary
 - Resolis Primary
 - Culbokie Primary
- 3.9 Ten teams competed in the Rock Challenge® Scottish Finals. Out of the 5 Scottish finalists placed, 4 were from Highland, who were pipped at the post by Kinross High School.
- **5th place- Invergordon Academy**
 - 4th place- Thurso High School
 - **3rd place- Alness Academy**
 - **2nd place- Dingwall Academy**

4. Implications

- 4.1 Resource - There are no additional resource implications to The Highland Council.
- 4.2 Legal - None
- 4.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) - Improved opportunities for young people to be involved in local decision making.
- 4.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - There are no climate change/carbon clever implications.
- 4.5 Risk - None
- 4.6 Gaelic - None

Designation: Area Care and Learning Manager

Date: 18/4/18

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