



LiveArgyll Community Learning Team – Kintyre Youth Work - Summer Update 2023

Kintyre Youth Action Group

The Kintyre LiveArgyll Youth Work Service facilitates weekly meetings with the Kintyre Youth Action Group (based in Campbeltown and Tarbert). The Action Group carry out local community projects and regularly volunteer and represent young people's views in the area by carrying out weekly meetings which involve regular focus groups and large scale youth consultations on a two yearly basis. The input from the Action Group ensures the local youth work service is entirely youth led by focussing on local youth views, issues and areas the young people would like to develop. Action Group members will provide a verbal update on their activities during the meeting, including their GIVE volunteering activities, summer exchange programme with Bute Youth Action Group, and their involvement in Rainbowfest.



Kintyre Friday Night 'Street Sports' Programme

In response to consultations with local young people and partners, Friday Night 'Street Sports' was delivered during early 2023. Led by LiveArgyll Active Schools and Youth Work, the programme was delivered in partnership with Campbeltown Grammar School, The Hub, Argyll Rugby Development, and Police Scotland. The programme offered a variety of sports activities at the Campbeltown All Weather Pitch between 8pm and 10pm on Friday nights, to encourage young people to engage in positive healthy behaviours at a crucial time of the weekend.

The project engaged mainly P7 pupils who are in the process of transitioning to the Grammar School and this proved a successful transitions activity in developing young people's confidence, health and wellbeing, and allowing them to develop positive relationships with school, youth service, police, and other staff before they made the move up to the Grammar School. Those who completed the programme were then taken to Glasgow for a reward trip which involved visiting Laser Quest and Inflata-Nation to celebrate their successes. Due to its success, it is planned to run this annually as a transition activity for following year's new S1's.



Kintyre Youth Creative Writing Group

The Kintyre Youth Writing group is a youth led writing group based in Campbeltown. The group were supported to learn about different writing styles and techniques and to create their own pieces of creative writing throughout the first half of 2023. They have created micro-fiction, poetry, and short stories in different genres since they began.

Through this experience the group have noted improvements in their communication and team work skills, as well as feeling more confident. They feel creative expression has helped to support their mental wellbeing and intend to continue writing more frequently as they move forward. At the time of writing the group are planning a literary trip to Edinburgh as a celebration of their positive experience where they will do the Harry Potter Walking Tour, as well as other activities.



Kintyre Youth Music Group

The Kintyre Youth Music Group is another youth led project which supported young people from the Kintyre area to learn about general musicianship, song-writing, music recording and production. The group learned about different genres of music and were given some instruction on playing instruments including ukulele, guitar, keyboard and percussion instruments, before writing and creating their own musical pieces using music production software. These have since been shared online.

The group then switched their focus to writing a collective piece from scratch. The group successfully wrote and recorded their own piece together which will soon be released online as a charity single to raise money for the Mairi Semple Cancer Fund.



'Find Your Feet' P7 Transitions Programme

For the second year in succession we delivered 'Find Your Feet' transitions activities to P7 pupils moving up to secondary in local schools (Tarbert Academy, Dalintober and Castlehill).

57 pupils took part in total with the sessions designed to increase young people's confidence for the transition by undertaking activities which demonstrate their already existing strengths and resiliencies, including their support networks, personal strengths and qualities, worries/excitements, and strategies for coping with adversity.

Upcoming Youth Projects before the Next CPP Meeting

- Restarting our Campbeltown Grammar School Employability Support Programme for learning support students in partnership with SDS.
- The launching of an LGBTQ+ Youth Forum.
- Other projects – to be determined by the Action Group and other local young people in response to youth views and issues.

MAKI – Youth and Adult Services Joint Activity



LiveArgyll Community Learning (Adult and Youth Services), in partnership with Oban Pride, hosted the inaugural Rainbowfest event on the 1st of July 2023 in Ardrishaig. It was identified through consultation with partners, young people and adults that there was a need for inclusive events and spaces for LGBTQ+ community members and their allies to celebrate diversity and be themselves in a safe and inclusive space. As such, the family friendly event, which was also supported and attended by young people from local Youth Action Groups and a variety of other partners, was free and open to all and provided information from relevant services, arts and crafts stalls, entertainment including music and dance performances, LGBTQ+ story time, soft play, food and drink, and more, to allow people to come together and celebrate diversity whilst taking part in a range of activities.

The event was a great success and attendance surpassed expectations. The organising partners are now exploring how to replicate the event in different areas across the authority to further support the LGBTQ+ community and better develop forums and support networks across Argyll and Bute over the coming years.

6 NEWS The Argyllshire Advertiser
Friday 21 July 2023

Councillor's Column

JAN BROWN - MID ARGYLL
jan.brown@argyll-bute.gov.uk 

I was at Ardrishaig Village Hall for the live Argyll Community Learning Rainbow Festival, organised in partnership with Oban Pride.

Both adult learning and youth services from Live Argyll were the leaders in the planning and organisation alongside Oban Pride.

This was a very well attended, family-learning day for all ages, an upbeat and very colourful event, aimed at helping to break down barriers between LGBTQ+ communities and promoting acceptance that it's OK to be different.

There was lots of information and help there for kids who are struggling with who they are, and for family and friends not only to help them with this but to understand more about what the issues are.

At the end of the day it's all about acceptance.

There was also a place to have a cuppa and sample the home baking - always a winner at any event.

I then popped into Blarbuie Woodland to the Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT) HUB where I met up with some young folk taking part in the GIVE Programme.

The themes include active travel, upskilling and waste reduction, all parts of the ACT reCycle Scheme funded by Smarter Choices Smarter Places.

When I visited, the group were on their last day of volunteering for a number of hours in the community on different projects, and at the end they have a treat day.

This group had completed a beach clean, spent the afternoon with residents at the local care home, worked with ACT helping to restore old bikes for return to the community and wheelbarrowed loads of wood chips to help upkeep some paths in the woods.

A great initiative run by Community Education to get kids out into the community.

I also attended the Mid Argyll Youth Development Services AGM which is somewhere I have been trying to get to since I was elected. Everywhere I go I hear about the work of this group of dedicated people who I take my hat off to.

They work tirelessly to help improve the lives of our young people in Mid Argyll.

The centre in Lochgilphead offers a wide range of weekly diversionary activities including free swimming, the provision of additional support needs and activities, young carers family swim sessions, JAM group sessions, 5 to 8s in action, youth clubs in both Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig, senior youth drop in, LGBTQ+ drop in, Outreach Street MAYDS and a Young Carers Fun club.

MAYDS also offer tailor-made support services to help and support those most marginalised and in need.

These include respite services for young carers and their families, support for those with additional support needs, counselling services, outreach support via STREET MAYDS and a Drive2work programme.

At present they have more than 100 young carers registered or supported and they have been able to support the whole family and not just the young carer.

With residential two-night, three-day trips to Lochgilphead and help with purchasing essentials for the family home through their hardship fund, they have been able to help families during the cost of living crisis.

They support more than 100 children and young people with one-to-one counselling and support.

They have the only trained counsellor in Argyll and Bute working with young people suffering from eating disorders.

They deliver counselling services in Islay and Tarbert High Schools and have supported around 45 young people into positive destinations through their Workingrite and Young Person's Guarantee programmes, who are now in further training or employment.

Just a youth club? I don't think so. Keep up the good work folk.

As it is the summer, we cannot forget to thank all the volunteers who work away behind the scenes to bring us the gala days, village fairs, coffee mornings, flower shows, music festivals and all the other events that are going on throughout Mid Argyll during the next few weeks.

