

Highland Children and Young People's Forum May 2021 Bulletin

Competition for 2021

After the success of the Letters from Lockdown competition last year, we are announcing a new competition:

“Notes for a New Normal”

Life is beginning to return to something akin to normal.

We have a new parliament in Scotland.

Children's Rights are now fully incorporated in law.

We have a great opportunity (as well as duty) to listen to our children and young people as we go forward. What are their 'Notes for a New Normal' that we should pay attention to in order to build back better? Click here for flyers, [entry forms and more information](#)

Any Highland child or young person under the age of 18 can take part using any media– e.g. writing, art work, video or photos, mind maps, sticky notes – all are welcome. Entries to be received by **end of June** and prize winners will be announced in August. The notes will contribute to the Highland Chat 4 Change conversation that will help shape the children's service plan.

First and second prizes for each age group – vouchers to enjoy reopened Highland activities. Please share widely.



Other Forum News

The Forum has been delighted to go through a process of reviewing and developing its purpose and practice to identify our priorities moving forward: to inform our rebranding and to draw up our future funding strategy. The planned relaunch of the Forum will be announced soon.

The two wonderful digital interns continue to increase our capacity to deliver as well as helping us develop our new way forward.

Participation Work Update

The imaginative infographic below gives some idea of the many different projects and work streams the Inspire Highland young members are working on.



Check out their progress on [Facebook](#) and [You Tube](#)

Project Work Update



Healthy Minds Highland Seminar no. 1 was held.

The first of 4 six-monthly Healthy Minds Seminar bringing young people together with adult decision makers was held on April 28th. Bruce Adamson, Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People, provided the keynote address. All 100+ delegates were asked to pledge an action towards building a happier, healthier Highland. Information covered in the event will be shared and others invited to get involved. Watch this space to find out more.



Chat 4 Change is an opportunity for children and young people across Highland to have a voice in the development of policy and practice in Highland and will operate as a channel of communication between the children and young people of Highland and decision makers. Contributions and ideas from young people are welcome for the 3-year duration of the initiative.

See <https://hcyph.org/chat4change> for more details.

Digital Design Project

Digital Design Project, this partnership project with Day 1 Mentoring and UHI Digital Health, funded by Alliance Scotland, is at the exciting stage of showing young people what their design ideas have created so far.

Young people will be able to try out the digital safe social space; Mentor Matcher App; virtual safe space and explore how young people could tell their story, in their way.



Caithness Cares is a pathfinder project listening to children, young people and those who care or work with them across the local community to seek to understand and plan to meet the mental health needs of children and young people. HCYPF is supporting the engagement work plan for children and young people in this project.

"Build Back Better Blethers" digital engagement process with primary age children is getting off the ground. Watch this space for more news.

Policy Work Update

The Policy Lead continues to raise the voice of young people and the need to hear it to various levels of decision making across Highland.

The Policy Lead represents young voices at the **Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)** and contributed to the recent consultation on the proposed new Integrated Services Lead Agency agreement. The short timescale for the consultation meant that wider consultation was not possible. The Forum continues to express concern about areas of service that run NHS Highland and the Highland Council:

- those with complex needs in transition to adult services
- young carers caring for adults
- parent carers caring for children
- health services for children where there is overlap between the two lead agencies (Neurodevelopmental Assessment Service and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; rare and complex genetic conditions).

Integrated Children's Services Board and sub-groups: The Policy Lead continues to develop the Chat 4 Change participation framework and agenda as the participation plan for children's services. This is a slowly evolving process.

Education Committee: Policy Lead remains the elected Third Sector Representative at the Education Committee. This involves seeking views from across the third sector on papers that may be relevant to them. Next Education Committee is 20th May, the Children and Young People Summer of Hope paper is very welcome.

NHS Highland Children's Health Commissioner continues to work with the Policy Lead in developing participation of children and young people within NHS Highland.

Third Sector Groups: Policy Lead, as a Third Sector representative, is involved in Highland Third Sector Interface Children's Services meetings. She also sits on the Keeping Children Safe committee and the Thriving Families Board – collaboration across the third sector to build community resilience and recovery.

Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments: The Policy Lead continues to promote an accessible method of carrying out Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments, now a duty for all new policy development that may have an impact on children and young people.