



Highland Children and Young People's Forum October 2021 Bulletin

Forum News

We can now announce with great excitement, that the Forum has undergone a Brand Proposition process as part of our strategic plan for the future and to help us find a name that is reflective of that plan, one that: "does what it says on the tin".

We plan to relaunch as "Inspiring Young Voices" at the end of the year. We will have a new website, social media platforms and staff emails.



Inspiring Young Voices

Our brand proposition, or elevator pitch is: "to promote participation by enabling children and young people to have their voices heard where and when they wish; to support and advise them on how to raise awareness and influence positive change in matters they see as important; ensuring their human rights are upheld; creating increased opportunities and a continually improving quality of life and holding people to account."

In Memory of Donald Macleod, one of the founder members of the Forum

Many in Highland will have heard the sad news of Donald Macleod's passing.

Donald Macleod was a founding member of the Forum and was its first chair. He was a gentleman, full of grace and integrity who tirelessly worked on behalf of unpaid carers and those they cared for over the last few decades. Donald could always be relied on to speak truthfully and respectfully, being equally ready to acknowledge and encourage good practice as to challenge practice that fell short.

As an employee of the Forum twice (for seven years as Children's Consultation Worker and now seven years as Policy Lead) I thought I was privileged to have benefited from Donald's mentoring and support. Since his passing, I have learned that many people received the same encouragement from this most humble of men.

His passing is a great loss to Highland. The Forum extends its sympathies to each who mourns him, as we ourselves mourn.

Gillian Newman

An Opportunity to work with us

Children's Participation Project Lead

We are looking for a dynamic and experienced individual who is passionate about empowering the voice and participation of children with additional support needs in Highland. The successful candidate will develop a digital children's participation model of engagement, involving children with additional support needs, including those with communication challenges.

This is a part-time temporary post, approximating to 10 hours per week worked flexibly over 8 months @£16.00 per hour

Are you fun and creative individual, with exceptional communication skills and ability to work independently as well as part of a small dynamic staff team?

[Click here for an application pack.](#)

Application deadline is midnight 14th November. Online interviews will be 25th November.

Project Work

The Digital Project is completing its final participation phase. Some of the participants supported a workshop at the Healthy Minds Seminar to share the developments for safe online Peer Support platform, online mentorship with young people having a choice in who mentors them and in the brave new world of Virtual Reality with young people sharing how equalising and empowering it is to meet with adults for difficult conversations when both are avatars in a virtual space such as around a log fire. The potential for this project is wide reaching and we will continue to work with young people to co-develop the next stage of trial with real mentors.

Chat 4 Change has relaunched the [Notes for a New Normal](#) competition which clashed with the back-to-school busyness before the summer. Children and young people are being asked about fairness as we know that inequality has grown but do not know how that is being experienced by children. Discussion activities around rights, wellbeing and fairness are available.

Participation Work

Inspire Highland held an event at Roller Bowl. Young people enjoyed bowling and catching up with one another but were also involved in mapping out a strategic direction of Inspire Highland for the next three years. They are ambitious for Inspire Highland, wanting to reach more young people across Highland, with a wider range of needs and across a broader age range. They want to keep a blended approach of mostly digital participation but with some face-to-face meetings too.

Inspire Highland's creativity continues:

- Autism Bear is soon to have his own book published.
- The photography project with Chesire House continues.
- A short film and art project have been produced as part of the mental health awareness group.
- Another mental health group continues to work with the Personal and Social Education review team on resources for schools.
- Drama students from UHI are working with the EyeInspire group to develop live theatre pieces to raise awareness of sight loss.

The "Build Back Better Blethers" work in primary will be taken forward by the new Children's Participation Project Lead

Policy Work

The second in the series of Healthy Minds Highland seminars took place on 24th September. The Charter for Children and Young People, led by the Youth Convener Anja Johnson, will develop alongside the seminar series with continued dialogue between young people and those who work with them, following through on pledges made by delegates. This work feeds into the Highland Chat 4 Change communication channel with the Integrated Children's Services Board.

The Policy Lead continues to remind policy makers of the need to carry out Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments and is working with officers in both The Highland Council and NHS Highland to see these implemented.

As a member of the Joint Monitoring Committee, overseeing the Lead Agency Model of Integration between The Highland Council and NHS Highland, the Policy Lead wrote a briefing of concerns about those services which fall between the two Lead Agencies and the challenges this presents to children, young people and their families. The Policy Lead will continue to seek clarity for those families.

The Policy Lead has been a Third Sector Representative on the Education Committee since it separated from the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee. She will now be moving to be a Third Sector Representative on the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee.

The Forum welcomes the return of Children's Champions and looks forward to working closely with them alongside the young people involved in the Charter for Children and Young People.

Other News

There is a consultation on the proposed [Scottish National Care Service](#). Would a National Care Service mean more consistency of practice and a better resourced service, or is this rearranging the deck chairs? The consultation closes on 2nd November. HCYPF will share its response, yet to be finalised, on our website.
