



Highland
Children's
Forum

Highland Children's Forum

Bulletin June 18



Highland Children's Forum News

HCF held its AGM on 19th June to present its Annual Report and Accounts and elect the Management Committee for next year. Several members of the management committee were not standing for re-election and the Chair, Donnie Macleod, Vice Chair, Heather Duncan and long-standing committee member and stand-in treasurer, Anne Watmough were all thanked for their enormous contribution to HCF over the years. They will be sadly missed. Kirsty Hunter, Judith and Stephen Hope and Bec Nicholson stood for re-election. A new full Management Committee was elected and we are delighted to welcome Rachael Hatfield, a Youth Ambassador for the Year of Young People 18, to join the Management Committee. This gives HCF two Committee members who are also within our constituency of young people aged between 0 and 25 with additional support needs.

HCF is also delighted to welcome the election of Gaener Rodger, Non-Exec NHS Highland Board Member and the full election of previously co-opted members: Sarah Fowler, Chief Officer CHIP; Clair Nichols, Chief Officer of Youth Highland; Rebecca Raynes, Senior Operations Officer North for Duke of Edinburgh and Linda Munro, Councillor and previous Children's Champion. The election of Office Bearers was postponed until the first Management Committee meeting. Two resolutions were also presented to members and passed for HCF to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and for HCF to develop a new constitution to allow this to happen. Once a new constitution has been drafted and shared with members for comment, a Special General Meeting will be held later in the year to begin the process of becoming a SCIO.



Redesign and the way forward for HCF

HCF has begun the process of its own redesign journey. The Management Committee met for a development-planning day in April to consider the way forward. The work undertaken by HCF between 2000 and 2018 was considered against [Hart's Participation Ladder](#). There was a desire to move onto the next steps of participation and develop two advisory groups for the Management Committee, one of primary age children with additional support needs and one of young people with additional support needs. These two advisory groups will receive training and support to develop their understanding of rights and participation. The children and young people will then lead the way forward for those groups as well as influence the direction of the HCF Management Committee. It is envisaged that outcomes such as peer mentoring, professional training developed and delivered by young people, peer participation promoters or other opportunities might develop as led by children and young people. So watch this space. We are excited to see what might develop.

HCF will be developing a funding strategy to support the participation work going forward. If you would like to support the work of HCF as it develops the active participation of children and young people with Additional Support Needs, a small donation or monthly contribution of £5 can make a difference to our work. Please contact Gillian Newman, if you would like to contribute in this way.
policy@highlandchildrensforum.org



Third Sector Collaboration

Closer collaboration with other third sector organisations continues. HCF is a member of Voluntary Youth Network and looks forward to working with them and Highlife Highland on the development of the Youth Work Strategy for Highland.

HCF is also working with other voluntary organisations with Service Level Agreements with The Highland Council, whose funding is being reviewed under the Highland Council Redesign Board. The sector recognises the need for significant savings and plans to work together to maximise the delivery of valuable early intervention and prevention work within the budgetary constraints likely to be imposed.



Consultation Work

The Sexual Health and Relationship Education (SHARE) for Additional Support Needs consultation report is at its final draft stage. This piece of work is feeding directly into the national review and will influence the development of the new SHARE for ASN programme.

The mainstream SHARE evaluation is still at the stage of data input and analysis. Both reports will be published before the end of the year.

Over the summer, the Consultation Lead will focus on consultation with a small group of children and young people across the age and ability range of our constituency in consideration of the new advisory groups to be developed and to inform funding applications for this new direction of work. Further consultation is being carried out to develop tools as recommended in the Not in Full Time Education (NIFTE) reports to use with children, young people and parent/carers when a

difficulty with accessing full time education is identified. These tools will fit with the Highland Practice Model and help schools ensure full involvement of children and their families in the planning around part-time timetables or potential exclusion. The formal launch of the NIFTE reports has been delayed until these tools are developed.



Policy Work

The Policy Lead continues to be involved with the development of the new Promoting Positive Relationships (PPR) Policy. Neuroscience has deepened the understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the potential impact of risk and resilience factors in a child's life. The PPR Policy contains a bank of information and training for professionals to enable them to better recognise and respond to stress in children. There is also a range of programmes available to schools that provide opportunities for children to build resilience.

My World of Wellbeing is a new programme, developed and piloted in Highland. This programme seeks to develop children's understanding of wellbeing and rights and of how these interconnect to provide the foundation for the child's world of personal growth and development, family life and living in community. HCF carried out the "Are we there yet?" 2005-2008 consultation with children about wellbeing and is delighted to see this programme developed to enable children's "ownership" of their wellbeing.

This work would feed into the HCF proposal for the development of a Google App for use on the Google Chrome tablets being rolled out across schools. The proposal was for an app that also allowed children/young people to "own" their own wellbeing and development: their achievements; their interests; their support needs; their next steps; their plans. This proposal was in part to replace the much loved interactive

“My World Triangle” tool, developed by HCF but which is no longer compatible with current internet browsers. It was also in response to the HCF report “My Child’s Plan: My Views” 2014 where children had pointed out it did not feel like “My Child’s Plan” when the format was inaccessible to children. They wanted a version that belonged to them and where they could identify achievements and progress. This is a proposal that HCF will look at again in light of this new programme.



Promoting Participation and Rights

Both the Consultation Lead and Policy Lead continue to work with partners to promote meaningful, rights-based participation of children and young people with ASN in personal planning, school development planning, community planning and service development.

HCF is working with The Highland Council, NHS Highland, Year of Young People Ambassadors and Youth Work Improvement Group to involve children and young people in the development of a Participation Strategy for Highland.

The Consultation Lead has supported work on:

- UNICEF’s “Rights Respecting School Award”
- Equality and Diversity programme in schools
- Involvement of children and young people with ASN in Pupil Councils
- Community Engagement by Community Partnerships
- Youth Development Officers and their work with ASN
- Highland Youth Parliament and inclusion of young people with ASN

HCF is working on the redevelopment of the HCF Participation Toolbox to promote and enable participation across sectors. As the HCF children and youth advisory groups develop, this work can grow and be led by children and young people.