

News Drop 14th April 2020

Hello Friends,

Here's the latest from the wider network during this difficult Lockdown time.

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Youth Highland's Rhiannon Elder wrote this great guide to Digital Youth Work - enjoy!

http://www.youthhighland.org.uk/downloadable_content/DigitalYouthWorkGuidance.pdf



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Tesco is offering help for community groups who are offering support to vulnerable groups:

<https://tescobagsofhelp.org.uk/>

Ullapool Sea Savers shared this with you all

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
HARD WORK



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Inclusion Scotland -

We are all experiencing unprecedented challenges to our health and wellbeing in the face of the COVID-19 public health crisis. For those unfamiliar with the Inclusion Scotland we are a Disabled People's Organisation funded to act a national intermediary to Scottish Government. We have had a presence in Highland since 2016. Amongst other functions the Highland Office act as a regional intermediary for Highland disabled people and their allied organisations - strengthening connections between Highland disabled people and their allied organisations with local and national government, community partnerships, public bodies and elected representatives.

- **We have distributed a COVID-19 Newsflash for the Highland Region, which highlights resources that you all have been part of developing to ensure our communities are as resilient as they can be in light of COVID-19. Please help us to highlight your resources with as many Highland disabled people as possible by sharing the below links to through your networks.**

<https://bit.ly/COVID-10HighlandNewflash>

<https://bit.ly/COVID19NewsflashPost>

- Share details of our [Coronavirus Third Sector Information Hub](#) with your contacts and networks. You can do that by simple sharing this bulletin, or [downloading these images to add to your website](#) and social media assets.
- Let others know about our [Coronavirus Stakeholder Network](#) – we especially want to reach the people who are responsible for communicating with your members and networks
- Encourage organisations to [sign up for our Coronavirus Third Sector Bulletin for updates](#)

News from Youth Scotland



[View this email in your browser](#)



The Ponton House Trust support the Youth Scotland Action Fund



A further boost for youth groups during Covid-19 pandemic

In addition to last week's fantastic announcement that **The Gannochy Trust** have joined **STV Children's Appeal** and **The Robertson Trust** in supporting the Youth Scotland Action Fund, The [Ponton House Trust](#) have generously agreed to offer additional support for community **youth groups operating in Edinburgh and the Lothians**. The Ponton House Trust support young people by looking after a charitable fund that awards to groups in that region.

The Youth Scotland Action Fund has [made an immediate impact for youth groups](#) who are doing their best to support young people through the most difficult of times.

Applications to the fund are still open, with groups able to apply for up to £500 for support in maintaining youth work provision during the Covid-19 pandemic. For more details and an application form, click the link below!

[Click here to apply](#)

Do a Dynamic Youth Award at home!

Following our announcement of the [Hi5 at Home challenge sheets and free toolkit](#) last week, we are delighted to also be offering the same opportunity to **complete a Dynamic Youth Award (DYA) at home** too!

As with the Hi5 at Home, orders will receive a pack including printable and editable versions of our popular DYA challenge sheets. Orders can still choose to receive and use our free toolkit for the Hi5 at Home and mix and match DYA and Hi5 products.

Remember: **youth clubs that are Youth Scotland member groups** can claim 10 challenge sheets for free as part of their membership package! This can be a mix of Hi5 and DYA challenge sheets.

[Order now](#)



A Youth Scotland network update on COVID-19

Meeting changing needs

Our aim over the coming period will be to support youth workers to be able to engage with young people in new ways to mitigate the risks of loneliness and isolation in the coming months. This will be based around:

- Reassuring young people and youth groups by promoting essential information to manage their health and wellbeing during this crisis period.
- Creating new tools, resources and training to enable youth workers to re-scope their provision to embrace digital delivery opportunities and – government guidance permitting – hyper-local provision in the short-term.
- Deploying staff resources to support youth groups and their communities to take social action and meet the needs of the most vulnerable, when it is safe to do so, following all appropriate guidance from national and local Government on health and safety.
- Resourcing, developing and up-skilling workers in the ‘downtime’ so they are Ready to relaunch their youth groups once this crisis is over with improved and more sustainable provision.

During this period of uncertainty, young people will look for advice and guidance, support and reassurance. Under any other circumstances, youth workers, as trusted adults in their lives, would be their first port of call. Our work would focus on enabling this to continue, albeit through alternatives to face-to-face contact.

Specifically, our activities will include:

- On-line training and capacity building for youth workers and volunteers so they can learn new ways of supporting young people both during this period and in the future. Our ‘Trusted Adult’ training programme includes a range of relevant modules which will help youth workers to support young people such as conflict resolution, managing your mental health and Young People & Social Media/ Internet Safety
- Creating new resources which make best use of digital tools and can therefore reach young people who are isolated at home. Examples of

work we are already planning are 'How to structure your day', which is an essential way to managing mental health under these trying circumstances. Given the growing levels of anxiety we will also be making available our financial capability and awareness resources online to work with young people.

- Identifying youth groups across Scotland that have a vital role to play in providing services to mitigate the impacts of the negative consequences of school closures on young people, e.g. providing healthy meals, providing access to data, providing funds, supplying technology and resources and actively supporting and promoting their operations.
- Working with youth groups to support them in developing and implementing contingency plans, including how our support can help them to deliver on their funded projects wherever possible and whilst maintaining good practice in relation to safeguarding and GDPR.
- Organisational development support to enable youth groups to make use of non-contact time to build their longer-term capacity through e.g. support to write funding applications, write development plans, developing new resources and planning future programmes.
- Expanding and developing a suite of digital resources for young people linked to our wider programmes and suite of youth awards. These will enable young people to undertake self-directed learning and fun challenges which promote skills and personal development, health and well-being. This will be accompanied with online training to support youth workers to use these online resources with young people. This work will be vital if local youth projects are to show they are still able to meaningfully engage young people if not face-to-face and where young people are at home. This will also contribute to a future digital youth worker resource bank.

In addition to these actions, we will be **updating our website** next week with **specific information**, support and resources for members, including legal advice and membership insurance advice.

A message from Waverly Care:

Due to coronavirus, we have now **extended our live chat** service while in-person support services are suspended. That means people who need support or advice with HIV, hepatitis C or sexual health, can now speak to our live chat advisors:

- From 9am – 5pm
- Monday to Friday
- At www.waverlycare.org

As such, please find attached:

- A flier promoting the service
- Twitter sized social media graphics for your use

We have also launched a live chat service through SX. That means gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men can now speak to our live chat advisors:

- From 10am – 4pm
- Monday to Friday
- At www.s-x.scot

Please feel free to ***circulate this information to your contacts***, to people you support and through social media.

Additionally, we are now adding information relevant to people who need support with HIV, hepatitis C and sexual health across Scotland to our website. This is updated on a daily basis, and you can [find this here](#).

Please note: our website also includes an [accessibility function](#). That means people who have a disability, poor literacy or whose first language is not English, can access the information on our website in a way that works best for them. If you are supporting someone who needs information about coronavirus and HIV/hepatitis C/sexual health, please advise them that they can stay up to date using our website.

As ever, if you have anything to share with the wider VYN network - just let me know and I'll pop it in the next news drop. 😊

In the meantime, why not consider joining the Highland Voluntary Youth Network Face Book Private Group to stay up to date with what other youth workers are finding out and to better support each other and young people. Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1870010136591381/>

Warmest regards,

Jacque Steel

Network Support Officer, Youth Highland

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I respect your personal data and will store it according to GDPR rules.

If you want to be removed from my contact list, just let me know.