



## **Education, Leisure and Housing**

### **Achievements in the Service February 2019**

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# Education

## Shapinsay Primary School

### New Climbing Wall

Shapinsay Primary School are really pleased they have a new climbing wall which will be used by the school pupils and community groups.

Below are photos of the new Climbing wall and Freedom Climber which was installed in the Shapinsay Community School hall. The photos show the adults who took part in the training, and the primary children in front of the wall.

The traverse panels allow for children and adults to climb using different colour routes, while the freedom climber rotates as you climb. One revolution is the equivalent of 6m.

The climbing wall project forms part of the Shapinsay 2020 project, which aims to improve facilities for play and fitness for those of all ages. The funding for this part of the project came from the Garfield Weston Anniversary Fund. It is hoped that the traverse wall and freedom climber will be used by all ages, from the youngest children up to adults. The Community Association put together a grant application to update the playpark, add an outside toilet and to get the climbing wall and new wallbars in the hall.



## Primary Science Teacher Award

Anita Angier from Shapinsay School has been given an outstanding primary science teacher award by the Primary Science Teachers Trust. This is a national award, and Anita is the only award winner from Scotland this year. To obtain the award Anita was nominated by the staff and pupils at Shapinsay School and was visited by the judges from the Primary Science Teaching Trust. Anita is now a member of the Trust and will be able to receive additional training, meet with other award winners and will be able to visit other schools to help develop science further.



## Orphir Primary School

Orphir Community School put on Disney's The Jungle Book 'Kids' in December for their biennial school production. With a cast of the all the children in the school and the nursery, the production was a colourful, extravagant affair. With the key performers 'miked up' all the dialogue could be heard throughout the hall. The children moved, acted, sang and danced really well throughout. There was great community support for both performances and the parents combined with the children to help with props, face painting, setting up and clearing away afterwards. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event and it was used as a curricular topic throughout the term. The bonus of having the two performances was that it gave the children a chance to overcome their nerves from the first time to improve and relax a little second time round. Thanks to one of our grandparents, Doug Houghton, who took some photos of the performance for us.





## Orkney Schools Concert Band.

In their debut Scottish Concert Band Festival adjudication, Orkney Schools Concert Band achieved a gold certificate and will progress to the National finals held in Perth in March 2019.

The Band is comprised of pupils from Stromness Academy, Westray Junior High, Sanday Community School, Papdale Primary and KGS, and was established in August this year.

The Band is run by OIC's Instrumental Music Service with financial support from Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative, which funds the transport costs of isles pupils who fly in to attend evening rehearsals.



## Rotary Young Musician Competition.

KGS clarinetist Euan Harcus won the Rotary Young Musician Orkney Heat in November and progresses to their District Heat held in Perth in March. The runner up was tenor horn player Iona Seator from Stromness Academy. Both Euan and Iona are taught through OIC's Instrumental Music Service.



## **Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Examination**

Congratulations to Stromness Academy S5 pupil William Omand who passed ABRSM Grade 8 Trumpet in November.

Grade 8 is the standard required for entry to Music Colleges/Conservatoires and is the highest of the practical exams before diploma level.

William started trumpet in Primary 5 at Stromness Primary and has been taught throughout by Instrumental Music Instructor Brian Jones.



William pictured playing The Last Post at the Stromness War Memorial

## **Orkney College**

### **New Principal and Assistant Principal at Orkney College.**

Orkney College UHI have a new Principal. Professor Edward Abbot-Halpin took up the post on the 7 January, following Bill Ross in the role. Professor Abbott-Halpin joins us from Leeds Beckett University where he has held a number of senior management and leadership roles, as well as being an active researcher. Edward is an Expert Panel Member of the Cambridge Governance Labs, at Cambridge University, and Visiting Professor to the Open University, as well as having worked in places as diverse as Afghanistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan during his career.

Commenting on becoming Principal, Professor Abbott-Halpin stated that it was a pleasure to be joining such a successful team at Orkney College UHI and OIC. He hopes that he can contribute to developing strong partnerships that serve the social and economic benefits of Orkney. He also shared good news relating to the College resulting from the work of his predecessor and the hard work of the staff, which has been published in recent weeks. In the Evaluative Report and Enhancement Plan 2018, as endorsed by Education Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council, the College was rated as very good. He also revealed that statistics published in the Scottish Funding Council's college performance indicators report this week that 75% of full-time students at the College successfully completed their studies in 2017 to 2018, considerably above the national average of 66.1%.



**Edward Abbot-Halpin**  
**Principal**



**Tom Duff**  
**Assistant Principal**

Tom Duff joined Orkney Island Council in late 2018 as Assistant Principal of Orkney College UHI. Tom is a trained teacher and worked as a Lecturer and Head of IT at Glasgow College of Building and Printing in the 90's.

In the last 20 years he worked at University of Paisley, University of The West of Scotland in the Schools of ICT, Computing and as Academic Practice Lead in the Centre for Academic Practice and Learning Development. Tom successfully managed the opening and operation of UWS London Campus retiring in 2017. Tom has recently worked as an Educational Consultant for the past few years developing digital literacy and active learning pedagogies for UK and European institutions.

Tom's passion is developing innovative pedagogies, using appropriate technology to create active learning spaces both F2F and online. He led the development of active learning and digital table classrooms and a single unified online MBA that now hosts 600 UWS students across the globe.

Tom enjoys golf and has joined Orkney Golf Club and keep fit as an Active Life member at the Pickaquooy Centre.

## Sports and Leisure

### Stromness Community Centre

Saturday, 15 December, saw the annual Christmas Grotto in Stromness Community Centre.

On the day, which was incredibly windy, over 60 children braved the storm to see Santa and his elves, showing how the Grotto has over the years become an integral and important event in the Stromness Calendar.



Members of the West Mainland Youth Achievement Group worked over the weeks prior to the 15 December, painting scenery, the themes for this year being Small Foot and Moana.

Collectively, the youth achievement group and adult volunteers amassed 223.5 hours of volunteering, setting up and running the event.

# Community Learning and Development

## Sexual Health Training



On Thursday 22 November CLD ran a Sexual Health training session in Kirkwall, in partnership with Youth Scotland.

This values-based workshop explored how to work with young people around sexual health with an opportunity to reflect on our own values regarding sexual health. The workshop's main aim was to raise awareness of the issues young people face and for the participants to have increased knowledge of where to access further help and support both locally and nationally.

14 people from 8 different organisations across Orkney participated and fed back very positively on the training.

Following this training a new healthy relationships resource 'Peaches & Aubergines' was launched by Youth Borders, a network of third sector youth organisations in the Scottish Borders representing over 3,500 young people, and the resource shared with those attending the training. This resource looks at the important matters relevant to young people around healthy relationships, consent and respect.

We received very positive evaluations of the session including:

"I thoroughly enjoyed the course and benefitted from working with a range of people outwith education. It is always helpful to work in this way"

"I can better discuss the relationship side of sexual health with young people"

"Very much increased confidence to address sexual issues directly with both pupils and when delivering training"

"Thanks particularly for the materials which you have shared - as I mentioned this morning, I have already shared them with my team!"

## The 'Spirit of Young People'

Ten inspirational young people from Orkney attended a Parliamentary reception in Holyrood in December to mark the Year of Young People.



They were joined by peers from Shetland and the Western Isles. They travelled to Edinburgh onboard a specially chartered aircraft provided by Loganair as part of the airline's partnership in support of the Year of Young People, alongside Shetland Island Council. Earlier this year, Loganair officially named the Saab 340 aircraft the 'Spirit of Young People', carrying the initiative's logo.

Each of the participants from Orkney, ranging from 12-18 years represented 'The Spirit of Young People' in their local communities, nominated by their communities and selected by a judging panel composed of representatives from the island's Local Authorities, Holyrood and Loganair.

Kay Ryan, Commercial Director at Loganair said: "We've been honoured to support Scotland's 'Year of Young People', a fantastic initiative which should inspire a whole generation.

"Congratulations to each of the attendees and I hope the experience was enjoyable as well as valuable."

Attributes such as excelling in sport, arts or culture, helping the environment, fundraising, promoting physical health and championing diversity were considered, helping the judges to choose 10 individuals from each island region.



The young people were joined by Orkney MSP Liam McArthur, Shetland MSP Tavish Scott and Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan. They were also joined by local MSYP's Calum McArthur and Jack Norquoy who told the stories of each Orkney young person.



On the Friday evening they 'dressed to impress' for attending the national Young Scot Awards in Glasgow's SEC. An experience which they thoroughly enjoyed!

Kerry Spence, Orkney Islands Council's Community Learning and Development Team Manager said "We're grateful to Loganair and colleagues in Shetland Islands Council for devising this fantastic opportunity for young people in the county to meet their peers from Scotland's other island communities, and to attend Scotland's premier youth awards event.

“It’s a highly valuable chance for them to learn about challenges young people are facing elsewhere, to have their good work recognised and applauded by our national politicians, and to gain a greater understanding of youth work on a national scale and the workings of the Scottish Parliament - and how these link into their own ambitions and achievements.”

Orkney MSP Liam McArthur, Shetland MSP Tavish Scott MSP & Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan said in a joint statement: “We were delighted to sponsor this event bringing together inspirational young people from across the isles. It was a privilege to meet them and to hear about their achievements in their communities and across Scotland. They really are fantastic ambassadors for the Year of Young People.”

All of the participants also had an educational trip to Glasgow’s Science Centre while they were there. Cheryl Rafferty, Community Learning Officer said “It was an amazing experience for all of the young people involved, some who had never been to Edinburgh and Glasgow before. From all the feedback and positive comments, I think they certainly enjoyed themselves and it will certainly be an experience to remember. I would like to thank Shetland Islands Council for organising the initial trip and also to Orkney Children’s and Young People’s Partnership for the funding provided towards this fantastic opportunity.”



## **Stromness Young Achievers Rewarded**

Members of the Stromness Youth Achievement Group were delighted to welcome special guest, James Linklater, Managing Director of the Pickaquoy Centre along to their Christmas party on Thursday 20th December at Stromness Community Centre. James attended the party to present four of the young people from the group with their youth achievement reward certificates for completing 100 hours for their Dynamic Youth Awards. The four young people presented with Awards were, Jordan Gunn, Annie Spence, Ashley Flynn and Erin Sutherland.

In working towards his hours Jordan attended the Pier to Pier training in Kirkwall, young ambassador training in Shetland and Stirling and more recently Big Ideas training at Stirling University. Also helping at numerous charity events. He has achieved 633 hours in just over 2 years. He has now started his Bronze Youth Achievement

Annie achieved 196 hours by Helping the Gold Youth Achievers organise the Christmas Grotto and joining a choir to perform at St Peter’s, The Eventide Club and Rae’s Close. She has also attended induction training in Stirling to be a young ambassador for Year of the Young people.

Ashley has been Leading Childminding activities. Rehearsed and performed with Stromness Drama Club as well as helping out locally at voluntary events and has achieved 211 hours over the year.

Erin helped the Gold Youth Achievers with their events and took part in Badminton training various competitions. She has certificates adding up to 217 hours over the past two years

As well as receiving their certificates, James presented each of these young achievers with a pass for 2 visits to the cinema and the swimming pool at the Plickaquooy Centre.

James commented: I was very pleased to be invited to attend on the night and to present each of these young people with their certificates and passes which in my opinion were very well deserved. Each of these young people have put in 100 hours of their own time into our community and I think it's important that we recognize that, particularly in the year of young people.

Walter Gorman CLD officer with Orkney Island's Council added. I'd like to thank James for coming along on the night and presenting our young people with their rewards and hope to continue this valuable and worthwhile partnership with the Plickaquooy Centre in recognizing young people's achievements in the years to come.



## **Young People Travel to Islands Deal Discussions and Attend #YOYP2018 Voices Event.**

Seven young people from Orkney travelled to Glasgow during December for discussions with young people from Shetland on what they'd like to see included in 'Islands Deal' proposals – agreements with Scottish and UK governments about investment in their island communities.

The discussions came as the three Island Councils in Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles work together on proposals for an ambitious 'Islands Deal' to mirror City Region deals that have already been agreed by the two Governments, including for Inverness and the Highlands and for Aberdeen.



Leader of Orkney Islands Council, James Stockan said: “We’re delighted that these young people, who’ve all shown a keen interest in being involved in taking young people’s voices to decision makers in government, have this opportunity to feed into such a significant mission.

“Working together as three Councils, our aim is to win support from the UK and Scottish Governments and secure an Islands Deal that will bring transformational investment into the economies and communities of the islands, on a scale seen through the City Region Deals.

“It’s crucial that when we are looking to secure a prosperous future for the people of the islands, that our young people have a chance to inject their energy, passion and pride for their islands into those proposals.”



The seven young people from Orkney were accompanied by Community Learning Officers Cheryl Rafferty and Walter Gorman, with travel and accommodation expenses covered by the Scottish Government as part of their commitment to Year of the Young People.

While in Glasgow, the participants also met with young people from across Scotland at the '#YOYP2018 Voices' event – a Scottish Government event aimed at bringing young people together from across the country to be inspired by their peers and empowered to use their voice beyond 2018. They were also delighted to be addressed by First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

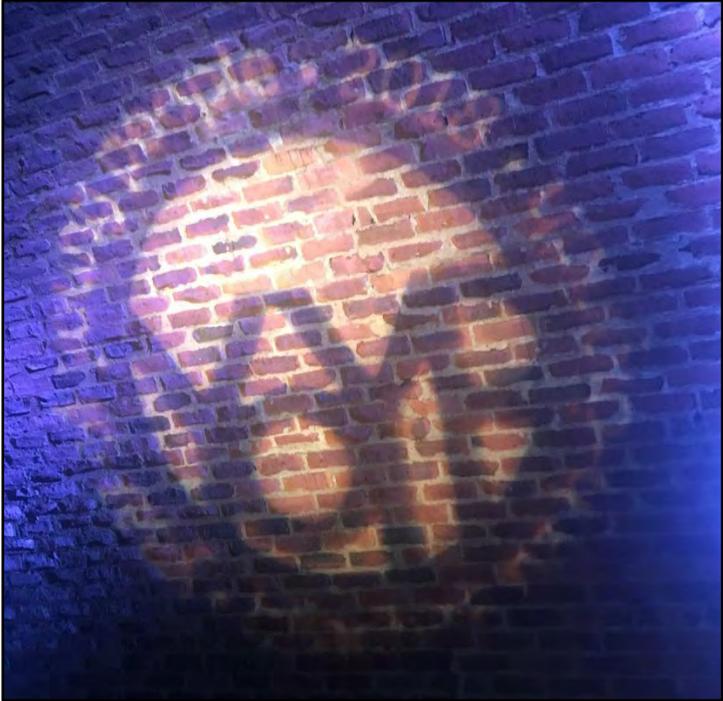
Emma Glass, one of the participants said “The Islands Deal conference was not only just an informative event into the future of the islands but was also a momentous development in the furthering of Young People’s voices being heard and appreciated in Orkney and out with our local community.”



Community Learning Officer Cheryl Rafferty said “This trip was an excellent experience for the young people, both to meet with young people from across Scotland towards the end of what was an incredible year for young people in Scotland, and then to be involved in meaningful discussion, alongside young people from Shetland on how they can be part of shaping the ‘Islands Deal’.

### **Year of Young People: A Year to Remember.**

2018 marked the Scottish Governments themed year ‘Year of Young People’, and within Orkney it was certainly that!





Throughout the year we celebrated young people's achievements by valuing their contributions and giving them an opportunity to have their say and display their talents. Championed and led by the Community Learning and Development Team, we've had a calendar packed with events including Orkney's Got Young Talent – a showcase of skills including dancing, singing and gymnastics; Shark Attack (or better known as Dragons Den), a financial education project giving groups access to funding to run their 'money based' projects; the Viking Roadshow – visiting some of Orkney's North and south Isles to have a fun filled days of Viking themed activities; The Spirit of Young People Trip – which saw 10 inspirational young people from Orkney board a Loganair plane with peers from Shetland and the Western Isles to attend a parliamentary reception in Holyrood and attend the National Young Scot Awards Ceremony; and finally attend the #YOYPVoices event in Glasgow Organised by the Scottish Government, amongst other things.

Cheryl Rafferty, Community Learning Officer said “2018 has certainly been a year to remember. We have really tried to encourage as many people in Orkney to get involved in celebrating the Year of Young People and I think we have done that through providing a range of opportunities for young people, their families and the wider community to engage in. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in any aspect of making 2018 the Year of Young People. It was a busy year of events celebrating the contribution that young people make to our community and we as a team will certainly continue to support this and will continue to work with young people across Orkney.”



## Outdoor Education

The Schools Outdoor Education 'Residential Adventure Activity Programme' has been offered to all local Orkney schools for over 18 years. The tried, tested and continued format offers 3 different levels of programme with the emphasis on learning personal, team, environmental and adventure activity-based skills. The target age range is from P4 through to S2 age groups. The programme duration offered to all schools was from 1 day through to 5 days.

The key educational aims (within all programmes) for participants (and teaching staff) is to explore, discover, play, learn and reflect outdoors using adventure activities as the means of interacting and learning alongside their peers in the outdoor environment. Through an instructor led and positive outdoor interaction, the key aims, goals and learning outcomes are discussed with participants prior, during and after each activity.



The 2018 Outdoor Education Programme was offered to all schools based solely from Hoy during the summer and autumn term times. The focus of the service provision is to offer all participants a practical educational experience comprising outdoor adventure activities and a residential experience away from home and the school environment.

Additional outdoor programmes which supplement the core outdoor programme included day visits to schools on the Orkney Mainland and activities offered to youth groups, charities and Orkney based children groups using Active Schools funding during the Summer holiday period.



A full range of environmental topics and practical activities were offered and available to all schools by the RSPB / Orkney Field Teacher throughout the year. Projects were based within the school classroom, outdoor grounds and further afield within the school community and covered a wide variety of topics and areas of special interest (playground, beaches, moorland and woodlands)

Other bespoke activity packages were also delivered to private individuals and youth/activity groups on the Orkney Mainland. Activities included archery, bush-craft, stand up paddle-boarding and the mobile climbing wall.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award was offered in 3 Secondary schools and was supported by the Outdoor Education Service by offering Bronze Expedition training workshops and Expedition Leader training and assessment days.

The Outdoor Education Advisor is the only full-time post currently employed to manage, instruct and organise the Outdoor Education Programme. Throughout the year (depending on demand), there are up to 3 sub-contracted instructors working alongside the Outdoor Education Advisor.

# Active Schools

## Sunday Mail sportscotland Scottish Sports Awards

On Sunday 18 November, Shapinsay Primary School was announced as a finalist in the Sunday Mail **sportscotland** Scottish Sports Awards in the School Sport Award category. Head teacher Emma Clements, PE teacher Leanne Bews, and Active Schools Coordinator Kirsty Spence travelled down to attend the black-tie event which was held on Thursday 6 December at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Glasgow.

The school was nominated for the award by **sportscotland** following their success earlier this year in achieving their **sportscotland** Gold School Sports Award and they were up against three other schools from the Scottish mainland for the distinction.

Kirsty said: "Shapinsay have worked tirelessly this past year to improve their PE and school sport for all.

"The commitment from pupils, staff and volunteers have been invaluable to increasing school and club participation on the island, as well continuing to develop club links on the mainland.

"Gaining the first **sportscotland** Gold School Sport Award by a primary school in Orkney is amazing - being selected as a finalist in this national awards ceremony was the cherry on the top.

"We had a fabulous night celebrating Scotland's top sporting achievements of 2018 and feel very honoured that Shapinsay got to be part of it all! We have to say congratulations to North Queensferry Primary School who took home the accolade.

"Also, thanks to the Shapinsay Community Council, Parent Council, and Shapinsay Development Trust who all kindly funded our travel and accommodation."



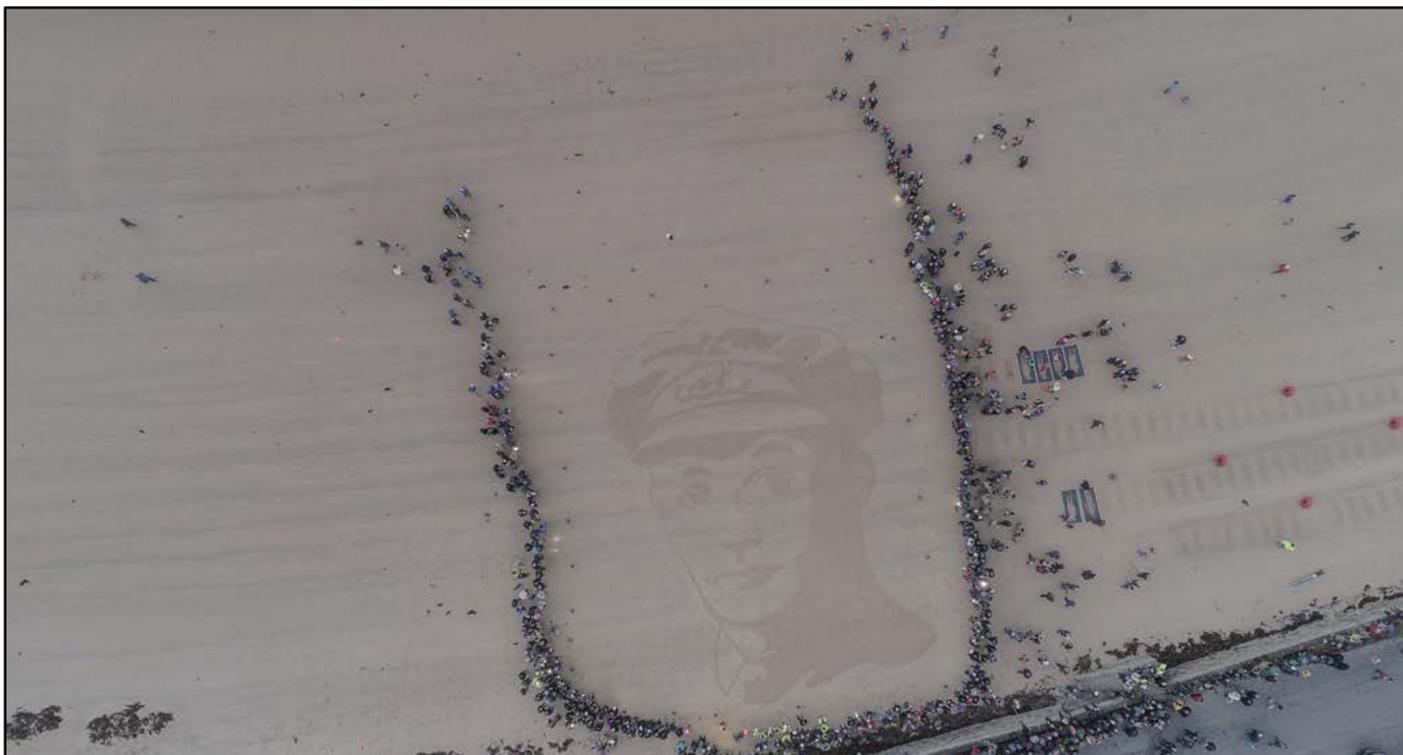
## Museums and Heritage

### WW1 Armistice Commemorations Review.

November 11, 2018 marked the centenary of the armistice that brought to an end the hostilities of the Great War. We witnessed an unprecedented public response to the many projects and events that took place in the county during the lead up to and on Remembrance Sunday itself. A full review of these events has been compiled and can be viewed at

[http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Files/Community-Life-and-Leisure/Arts/WW1\\_Armistice\\_Commemorations\\_Review.pdf](http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Files/Community-Life-and-Leisure/Arts/WW1_Armistice_Commemorations_Review.pdf)

Planning is now underway to mark the centenary of the scuttling of the German Fleet in Scapa Flow on the 21 June 1919.



# Orkney Library and Archives

## New Library layout

The new layout came about from the initial idea by one of the staff, for a self-contained junior room. However, it became obvious in the early planning stage, that any changes being made for the Junior Library would have a domino effect across the whole Library. The staff faced this huge task, with their usual positive attitude, and with everyone pitching in, completed the changes in 3 days. We believe we have made the Library more welcoming, user friendly, relaxed and safer for children. This has been borne out in the many positive comments received since we reopened after the holidays on the 5 of January.



## Housing

Since 2008 the Housing Service has held accreditation in the “Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers”. The Scottish Legal Aid Board have recently undertaken a peer review and audit of our services and we are pleased to announce that we have received accreditation again for another 4 years. This accreditation certifies that staff within the Homelessness & Advice Team can offer housing advice over a range of competences which include but is not limited to, security of tenure, homelessness, housing options, eviction, anti-social behaviour, relationship breakdown and harassment & illegal eviction.

The main purpose of the standards is to encourage agencies to adopt a culture of continuous improvement for their advice work. Accreditation also demonstrates to the public and funders that the advice service is well managed and provides good quality advice. Accreditation is voluntary, and a limited number of councils hold the accreditation.

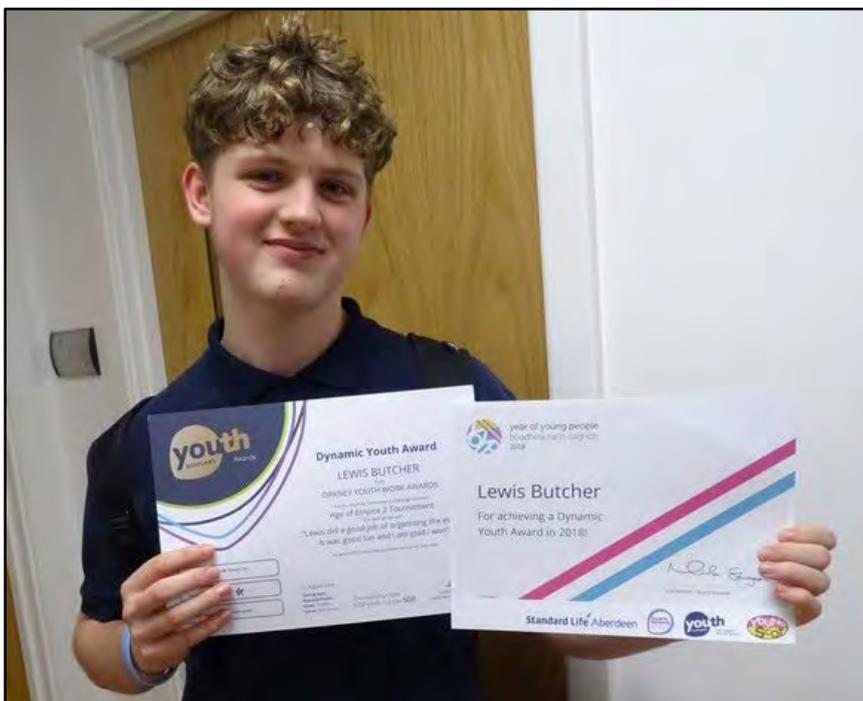
## Papdale Halls of Residence.

### Dynamic Youth and Youth Achievement.

We have several residents working on various dynamic and youth achievement awards.

The Youth Achievement Awards are individual learning Awards that provide a framework to support quality work with young people aged 14+. The Dynamic Youth is for young people aged 10-14. They offer formal recognition and accreditation for young peoples' achievements through SQA. Papdale Halls have made the award system available to all our residents.

We are thrilled to have Lewis Butcher who was recently awarded his dynamic youth certificate. Lewis planned and organised an Age of Empires Tournament for other residents and was awarded 15 hours, well done Lewis.



## Christmas Dinner at Papdale Halls of Residence.

We held our Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 12 December. Susan, Angela and Evelyn in the kitchen prepared a fantastic meal which was enjoyed by everybody. After the meal staff and residents all joined in with singing some Christmas carols.



## Anti Bullying Week: Respect me, Choose Respect Campaign.

The first stage of the Choose Respect campaign is about encouraging young people to reflect on who they are as individuals, the factors that influence how they behave and the impact their behaviour can have on others. During the week of the 12 November in Supported study there was a focus on Self-Reflection there were four activities' one for each night of the week. These included my iceberg identity, circles of influence and acceptable or unacceptable. We celebrated Odd Socks day by colouring in individual socks and hanging them up on a "washing Line" at Reception.



## Staff Training.

Staff have been busy with training this term. Training allows staff to support the young people in the best way. Staff have attended training on Child Protection, First Aid, Preventing abuse and Exploitation, Child Trauma, Child Sexual Exploitation, Sign Language, Gender variant children and Adolescents and Deaf awareness modules, Mindfulness, PDA in Youth Work and Understanding Mental Health.