



Mid Argyll Youth Development Services

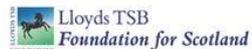
Providing Information and Accessible Youth Friendly Services

Registered Charity: SC022931

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2016



THE KILFINAN TRUST



## INTRODUCTION



MAYDS Chair

*Peter Hogbin*

This is my fourth year as Chairman for the Mid Argyll Youth Development Service and I am delighted to be a part of this voluntary organisation that provides so much guidance, support and opportunities for children, young people and their families in the local community. Many thanks go to Fiona Kalache (Services Manager) and all the Project Staff who work hard on a daily basis to deliver a first class service. I thank all the funders, volunteers and partner organisations whom continue to support us and make the work we do possible. Recognition must also go to the young people and their families who never fail to support all the projects, clubs and services.



MAYDS Manager

*Fiona Kalache*

2016 has been a great year for the Mid Argyll Youth Development Services and we have seen a further increase in the number of services we deliver and young people we have helped. We have expanded our training opportunities and continue to work with younger ages to provide earlier intervention and better opportunities. We now work more closely with local schools delivering both drug and alcohol education and flexible learning plans. Thanks go to all the funders who have supported us financially in helping deliver all these projects and programs. I also want to mention and recognise all the hard work and input the project staff have contributed over the past year. Also the partner organisations we work with for their constant encouragement and support into the services we deliver and the Trustees for their hours of voluntary work in helping run the service. Most of all I would like to give a special mention to all the young people who continue to participate and have input into the project and everyday make our jobs worthwhile. Finally, in 2016 I officially graduated with my Masters Degree in Health and Wellbeing. After years of hard work and study, I have crossed the finish line so I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank all those whom have supported me through the years.

## THANKS TO FUNDERS

The Mid Argyll Youth Development Services would like to begin with individually recognising and thanking all the funders without whom none of what we do would be possible.



## FUNDERS IN 2016

The Henry Smith Charity for Manager's Salary

Big Lottery Young Start towards Sessional Staff, Training and Trips for 'The Weekend Continues Here' Program

Awards for All for Equipment etc.

The Robertson Trust towards Sessional Staff and Core Costs.

Argyll and Bute Drugs Partnership Resources and MAYDS Ardrishaig

Argyll and Bute Drugs Partnership towards school education Program

Mid Argyll Substance Misuse Forum Cyber Cafe

Tudor Trust towards core costs

Lloyds TSB towards Young Parents Support Group

The Robertson and Kilfennan Trust towards Housing Support Program

Kilfinan Trust towards Core Costs

Argyll and Bute Council towards MAYDS Ardrishaig

Youth Scotland, Big Lottery and Capital FM towards Music Hub

Better Breaks for Young Carers Project

MacLeod's Construction Donation



# Sports NOT on the Green 2016

Our annual Sports on the Green event took place as usual on the last Friday in June. As it was such a success at the Sports Centre last year we decided to run it there again, hence the name change, Sports NOT on the Green. For the first time, the local MAC pool brought their Water Walkerz along and they proved to be very popular among all the young people. The pool staff were kept busy all evening as were the local fire fighters who gave up their time to get rid of the huge amounts of water at the end of the night. Our special guest for the evening was stuntman Dominic Kinnaird. Dom came along and carried out workshops teaching young people stunts from movies etc. He has worked on some famous movies such as Marvel's new Wonder Woman so everyone was very impressed by his skills. As usual, we welcomed back various local sports organisations who gave taster sessions in football, Karate, Rugby, Athletics, Yoga etc. Our dance group UNIEK was once again on hand to provide entertainment for the crowds carrying out several dance displays during the evening. The ever popular UNIT 23 mobile skate park were back, this time also bringing along their giant inflatable stunt back. As usual they were busy all evening keeping the young people entertained. This year we also had Artmap along screen printing and the local Mid Argyll Water Sports showcasing their Kayaks. Around 350 people attended the event and, continuing the tradition, there was live music and plenty of free giveaways for all attending.



**Fun on the Water Walkerz**



**Unit 23 Skate Park**



**Stunt Training**



**Face Painting**

# EVERYBODY'S SURFING NOW

This year we introduced a new sport to our diversionary program, surfing. Feedback from young people stated they were interested in trying surfing, so over the course of several weekends we took groups of 8 young people to Pete's Surf School. Based just outside Campbeltown the young people had a 2 hour surf lesson, covering everything from the basics of safety around water to surfing tips and techniques. Many of our young people took to it really well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Pete was a great instructor and we look to return in 2017 as part of our program.



**In the Water**



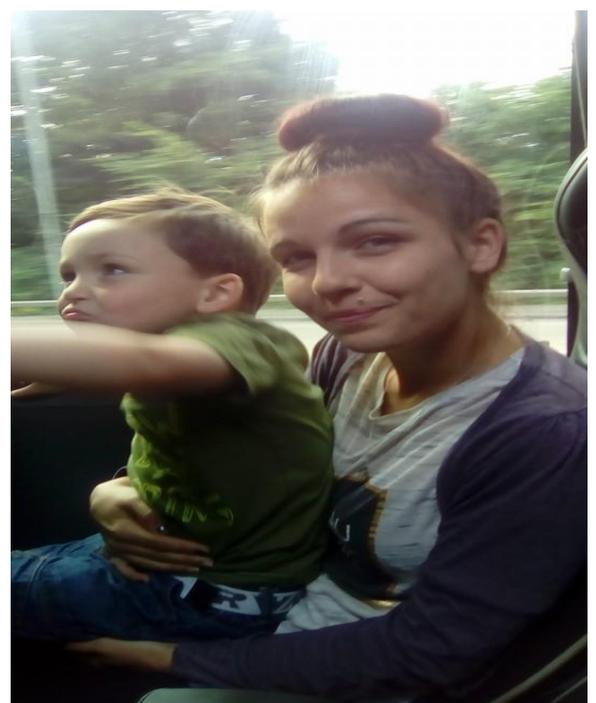
**All ready to go.**

# A SAFE HOME IS A HAPPY HOME

Once again, thanks to funding from the Kilfinan and Robertson Trusts, in 2016 we were able to run two Tenancy Support Programs. During the course of these programs young people struggling in their tenancies or about to embark into new tenancies attended a 12 week course. The course covered everything from budgeting, cooking on a budget and home safety to employability, health, being a good neighbour, drugs and alcohol etc. At the end of each course those in attendance got their first aid and food hygiene training. Those attending this year's course varied from young parents to those with additional support needs and care leavers. All the young people attending found the course invaluable in teaching them new skills, widening their network circles and meeting new peers they will continue to connect with in the future.



**Our young accordion player attended this year's tenancy program.**



**One of our young parents who attended the course.**

# HORSING AROUND



**Some young people learning to horse-ride.**

Thanks to funding from Better Breaks we were able to run a specific horse riding program for young people with disabilities and additional support needs. This program allowed the children and young people and their carers to get respite from the home on a regular basis. The program saw the participants take part in the national pony club, which meant they got riding lessons, took part in stable management and earned badges as the weeks went on. The program was a great success and allowed some young people to identify skills they did not know they had while also getting out and about with peers on a regular basis.



**Some of our budding riders.**



# #MAKINGMUSIC#

For the third year in a row, MAYDS was once again selected as one of only a handful of organisations Scotland Wide to participate in The Big Music Project. This program is run by Youth Scotland and funded by the Big Lottery, Global FM and UK Youth. The Project allows us to select 10 music champions, age 14+, whom for the next two years will work with professionals and music industry specialists to develop their music skills and abilities, as well as developing some community based projects and undertaking their Youth Achievement Awards. For the first time this year we were also able to bring back a couple of last year's Champions to work as mentors alongside the new champions. The program was kick started with an overnight in Glasgow to attend a development day. Here the champions participated in workshops, saw some live musicians and had question and answer sessions with a music industry panel. We were also delighted to announce that this year one of our previous champions, Sean Doogan, was selected as only one of 3 people Scotland Wide to be a Music Ambassador for the Big Music Project. This allows him to have input into how the project should be run and represent the young people from Scotland at events etc. in England. He travelled to Doncaster in November for a weekend residential to undertake the beginning of his ambassador role.



**Our Music Ambassador (with cap) at the Development Day Panel.**



**Some of our Music Champions.**

# ANIMANIA



**Creating Music**

This year, in conjunction with Mid Argyll Arts Association, we were delighted to invite several guests to the centre to deliver different workshops for the young people. These ranged from music workshops where professional musicians taught the young people composition etc., to visits from artmap carrying out workshops on screen printing, glass etching and painting. In November we were also delighted to have a visit from a professional animator who delivered a workshop where young people could make their own animations. The final animations, which had a Looney Tune Theme, were shown later for the public at the jazz festival to celebrate bonfire night.



# YOUNG PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP



Some of our Young Parents at Blarbuie Picnic.



This year our Young Parents Support Group went from strength to strength. With new and existing members we undertook a wide range of activities and interactive sessions. There were visits from the Citizens Advice, Housing Support, Homestart, BookBugs, Health Visitor etc. There were plenty of cooking and lifeskills sessions, along with Christmas and Halloween parties. We had trips and outings to the timecapsule, soft play, park, swimming pool and Blarbuie Woodlands.

Young Parents Halloween Party.

# LIGHTING UP THE LOCH

At the beginning of December we were delighted to be asked to perform at the local Christmas light switch on. Members of our JAM music group, our Big Music Champions and UNIEK dance group all performed throughout the evening. With plenty of music from Christmas favourites to golden oldies the local community came out in force to support the young people and see the lights get switched on. Even I (MAYDS Manager) was convinced by the young people to get on the stage to give a rendition of “Rocking around the Christmas Tree”. The young people did a great job and the night was a success all round. We look forward to performing again next year.



**UNIEK Performing for the crowd**



**Some of our JAMMERS getting ready to perform.**

# TRAINING AND EMPLOYABILITY



This year we delivered and provided plenty of free training opportunities for both the young people and our staff. This included courses from Food Hygiene and First Aid to Chainsaw Courses, Youth Achievement Awards and training around illegal Highs, Substance Misuse, and Child Protection. Our staff also attended the Chinwag Residential which allowed them to network with other youth agencies and have a weekend packed with training, workshops etc. We also supported young people into modern apprenticeships and workingrite employability placements. We worked closely with the local high school to provide flexible learning plans for those not fully engaging in education. We continued to run and develop our volunteer program; especially encouraging young people to get involved.

**2 of our young parents with their certificates.**

## C CARD

In 2016 we were one of only 3 areas across Argyll and Bute to participate in the C CARD pilot. This is a trail initiative, run by NHS, for 13-25 year olds where young people can sign up within our centre to get advice on sexual health and access to free condoms. Young people 16 to 25 can sign up at MAYDS where they will be issued with a card. Young people 13-16 initially have to sign up with the school nurse but there after can present their card at our centre and access free condoms. All staff within MAYDS are trained C CARD administrators. The official C CARD launch will take place in Lochgilphead Joint Campus in January 2017 where we will deliver workshops with all senior pupils. If you want any further information on this initiative visit [www.ab-wish.org](http://www.ab-wish.org)



# SUMMER FUN



This year we joined forces with Argyll and Bute Council Youth Services and the local Mid Argyll Youth Forum to run a four week summer program. In order to promote volunteering within the local community we developed the “JUST GIVE” summer initiative. Through this program we set up volunteering days where young people would, for example, help tidy the gardens of the local community centre etc. Those who participated in these giving days could then participate in the summer trips and activities free of charge. This year’s trips and activities included go karting, roller blading, Ryze Trampoline Centre, golfing, photography classes etc. This initiative was a huge success and taught the young people the importance of giving something back to the local community.



**Volunteering**



**Go Karting**

## OUT AND ABOUT

In 2016, we continued our free trips and outings programs for both young carers and children and young people in general. These trips allowed young carers a chance of respite from the home and other young people with barriers to getting away (such as travel, finance) the opportunity to participate in fun outings. This year we visited the timecapsule, Escape, Aladdin pantomime, Cinema, horse-riding and surfing. We also undertook some day trips to Oban and Dumbarton. This program will continue in 2017.



# ALCOHOL AND DRUGS EDUCATION

2016 saw MAYDS undertake the commissioning work for the Drug and Alcohol Education Program within 3 secondary schools in Argyll and Bute, Islay High School, Lochgilphead Joint Campus and Tarbert Academy. During the course of the year, we have worked within the three schools to provide a robust and age appropriate program for junior through to senior years. We cover topics such as units, dangers of drinking, safety, responsible drinking, law regarding drugs and alcohol, smoking, energy drinks, peer pressure etc. Thanks to funding from the ADP we were able to purchase a selection of interactive resources to use when educating young people about drugs and alcohol. These resources allow the young people to get more involved in the sessions. Through this program we can also provide one on one support if and when required. We will continue this work in 2017.

## SATURDAY CYBER AND CLUBS

Through popular demand 2016 saw MAYDS introduce our Saturday Cyber café. Many young people reported having nothing to do and nowhere to go on Saturday afternoons so we trialled a lunchtime café/club where young people could chill out and get a bite to eat. Mainly young people come along and watch movies or use the gaming machines. During the week our regular clubs continue and are as busy as ever these include S1 Chill Out, Five Alive Club, 6-8's in Action, JAM etc. On Friday evening our MAYDS Ardrishaig program is underway and proving to be really busy and popular with the young people. Our 'girls only' swimming continues on a Tuesday evening and we are still seeing 25+ access this program which is fantastic, as it has now been running for around 5 years. UNIEK dance continues to run on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Enable still run their E.G.G.S program on a Tuesday evening. This is a fun night filled with games and activities for those with disabilities and special needs. On a Thursday HEAD UP now use the premises for their weekly peer support program for people with addictions and mental health issues. During the course of a week we are still seeing around 230+ individual accessing our services and this is not including those accessing tailor made support services or the school education program, making us the busiest we have been.

### 6 to 8's in Action



# WEEKLY TIMETABLE

## MONDAY

- 9 – 5pm Office Open (General support, Business Support, Work Placements etc.)  
12 – 3pm Young Parents Support Group

## TUESDAY

- 9 – 5pm Office Open (General support, Business Support, Work Placements etc.)  
6.30 – 9.30pm E.G.G.S (Enable get together social club)  
7 – 8pm GIRLS ON THE MOVE (Girls only free swimming 8-18yrs)  
Fortnightly Drug and Alcohol education sessions

## WEDNESDAY

- 4 – 5pm DIVESIONARY DANCE (Senior's UNIEK 9-18yrs)  
7 – 10pm J.A.M (Just about music)  
7 – 10pm Big Music Project  
Fortnightly Drug and Alcohol education sessions

## THURSDAY

- 9 – 5pm Office Open (General support, Business Support, Work Placements etc.)  
10 – 12pm The workshop (employment, cvs etc.)  
11 – 2pm Heads Up (Peer Support group for those with addictions and mental health issues)  
5.45 – 7.15pm 6 to 8's IN ACTION (Youth Club for 6-8 year olds)  
7.30 – 9pm Five Alive and P6 and 7 Transitional Youth Club

## FRIDAY

- 10 – 2pm Tenancy Support Program  
4 – 5pm DIVESIONARY DANCE (Senior's UNIEK 9-18yrs)  
6.30 – 9pm S1 Chill Out  
6.30 – 8.30pm MAYDS Ardrishaig

## SATURDAY

- 10 – 12pm SATURDAY SOCCER  
2 – 4pm CYBER CAFE  
12 – 4pm Movie MAJIC (monthly)  
Monthly, full Saturday or Sunday Trips and Outings to various shows, events etc.