



Orkney Young Carers

welcome to our world.....

Newsletter 2010 - 2011

Welcome

We are coming to the end of another year in the Orkney Young Carers Service. It has been a hectic but exciting year with lots of new developments!

This newsletter is to give you an idea of the support that the service has been able to offer throughout the year, as well as some of the things that have been going on behind the scenes.

We would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions or queries about the service or if there is anything you think we should be doing to improve our service.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Celia Clark
Young Carers Support Worker

Activities

We have had a great year of monthly activity sessions for both the Junior (primary) and Senior (secondary) groups.

Some of the activities enjoyed by the Junior group have been a RSPB Wildlife Explorers, Folk Festival concert, pampering sessions, beach picnic and land art competition, an inflatables session at the pool and craft days.

The Senior group enjoyed a BBQ at the beach, archery, the Young Carers Festival (more about that later...), Trampolining, Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings, recording young carer stories, the Cinema and more.

We have got plenty planned for the next 12 months but if there is anything you think we should be doing then let us know!

Schools Resource

Our schools resource 'Supporting Young Carers - A Resource for Schools' is nearing completion.

Edition I of this resource is for all those involved in developing and implementing school policy. Edition II is for all teaching and support staff in Primary Schools and all staff in Secondary involved in guidance and the delivery of PSE lessons.

The resource is an important tool in educating schools of the simple but very effective measures they could be putting in place to ensure the correct support for their young carers is available. Raising awareness and understanding of young carers and the difficulties they may face is key to ensuring that they are identified and therefore able to receive support.

We have many young carers in Orkney who undertake much more than their peers and it is crucial that schools are able to play their part in supporting these incredible young people to become the best that they can be despite the pressures they face.

We are planning an official launch event to which head teachers will be invited to 'pledge' their commitment to supporting young carers within their individual schools.

The resource will be printed with funding from Carers Information Strategy Fund. All relevant school staff will have their own copy and it will also be available online at

www.orkneyyoungcarers.org

Young Carers Festival Trip

After receiving another generous donation of £980 from the Ronald F Slater Trust (managed by Lows Solicitors) and financial assistance from the festival organisers, we were able to travel with our Senior group (all boys this year!) to attend the third Scottish Young Carers Festival in West Linton, just south of Edinburgh.

Our three day trip was fantastic and the Festival was packed with activities from animation workshops, cake decorating, face painting, street dance, football with the Scottish Football Association, talent show and silent disco. The group made friends with other Young Carers and were given the opportunity to comment on many Young Carer issues which were passed to visiting Politicians and decision makers for discussion in front of an audience of Young Carers and Support Workers.

As well as giving the Young Carers a break from their caring role the three day trip greatly strengthened friendships and peer group support and helped increase confidence in many of our young carers.

We have already managed to secure further funding so we can attend again this August!

Parent/Guardian Feedback

We regularly ask our Young Carers to let us know what they think of the service and the support they get but we recently sent out our first parent/guardian evaluations with very positive results.

Although we are still waiting on a few more forms to be returned all so far were very satisfied with many aspects of the service from the initial meetings, support given to their son/daughter, support given to the family, the activities offered, the frequency and the quality.

As a result of input from the service most felt that there had been improvements in the personal development (confidence, self esteem etc), the skills (personal and social, communication and practical) and the health and wellbeing of their son/daughter as a result of input from the service.

'It has given my son an opportunity to share his feelings and thoughts and enabled him to support others in the same situation, building his confidence and making him feel a valued member of Orkney Young Carers.'

Funding

We have secured various successful grants as well as receiving much needed funding from local groups. We would like to give a big THANKYOU! to those who have given so generously.

Ronald F Slater Trust £980
Festival Trip (2010)

PRTC £550
Festival Trip (2010)

YC Fundraising £183
Activity Costs

Ork Aid £500
Donation

OIC £70
Christmas Donation

Carer Info Strategy Fund £3000
Resource for Schools
Festival Trip (2011)

We would like to give special thanks to Orkney Islands Council who core fund the Young Carer Support Worker post (12 hrs/wk) which is managed by Crossroads (Orkney).

Contact

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