



Mid Argyll Youth Development Services  
Providing Information and Accessible Youth Friendly Services

Registered Charity: SC022931

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2017



THE KILFINAN TRUST



## INTRODUCTION

2017 has been a busy and exciting year for everyone at MAYDS. The purchase of our own properties has opened so many possibilities for our future security and development. We are working with more children, young people and families than ever before, seeing around 250 individual young people per week accessing our diversionary services and much more through our tailor made support and education programs. We are working with increased numbers of young people from the outlying areas, often providing transport to bring them into activities and clubs. This review will give you an overview of this work and the programs MAYDS are committed to delivering.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the funders who have supported us financially in helping deliver all these projects and programs and to all Partner organizations for their constant encouragement and support in the services we deliver. Huge thanks goes to our board of directors who continue to support and help direct the vision of MAYDS, particularly in this exiting time of change and development. To all the staff for their continued hard work and the volunteers for their commitment and time which is highly valued. Finally I would like to give a special mention to all the children, young people and families who continue to participate and have input into the project and everyday make our jobs worthwhile.

I hope you enjoy the review of our year. For other information go to our website at [www.mayds.org.uk](http://www.mayds.org.uk)

Regards

*Fiona K. Alache*

MAYDS Manager (January 2018).

## THANKS TO FUNDERS

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



The MacRobert Trust

Scottish Land Fund

Iomhas Fearainn Na H-Alba

Delivered by



Funded by



## FUNDERS IN 2017

The Henry Smith Charity, for Manager's Salary

Awards for All, for Still Cooking and Caring Program (kitchen upgrade and horse-riding).

Argyll and Bute ADP, for School Education Program.

Argyll and Bute ADP, towards Sessional Staff and Diversionary Programs.

The Gannochy Trust, for Youth Training.

The Tudor Trust, towards Core Costs.

Shared Care Scotland, for Young Carers Respite.

The Scottish Land Fund, for purchasing of 3 properties.

Youth Scotland, for Big Music Project.

The MacRobert trust, towards sessional staff.

Cashback for Communities, for Boys only swimming.

The Kilfinan Trust, for Tenancy Support Program.

The Kilfinan Trust, towards Core Costs.

Substance Misuse Forum, towards Counseling Training.

Coop Funding, towards football coaching.

The Scotch Whiskey Action Fund, for Detached Youth Work.

Foundation Scotland A'Cruach Infinis Fund, towards staffing.

MacLeod Construction, donation.

Integrated Care Fund, towards young Carers program.



# Building for the FUTURE

This year MAYDS received a Scottish Land Fund Award. This grant has allowed us to purchase the building in which we run our current services and also 2 adjacent pieces of land. Not only does this provide security for the future of MAYDS but it also allows us to develop and create some new services and facilities that young people have been campaigning for locally for a number of years. Working closely with young people, local partners, the general community and our architect, we have come up with amazing plans and proposals for the new development which include a full undercover skate/wheel park, a new hall that will facilitate climbing walls and a roller disco, a youth play area, allotments etc. With the sale of the land now finalized and plans underway, 2018 will see us concentrating on obtaining funding for the new sites and continued funding to run our current services.

As part of the Scottish Land Fund Award, MAYDS Manager and some of the young people whom had been campaigning for the skate park were part of a documentary filmed by HIE around strengthening communities, to see the short film go to -:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLNFEK90RfY> or visit our website at [www.mayds.org.uk](http://www.mayds.org.uk)



*The 3 plots/bldgs we purchased through SLF, the grey building (you can slightly see right of picture) is the building we currently deliver our services from, the old Builders Yard (in middle of picture) and an empty plot to left of picture (unseen in this image).*



*Initial artist's impressions. Play area (not seen) to far left of picture. Under cover skate/wheel park, new hall for roller disco, climbing wall activities and to the right of the picture the original building from where we deliver our current services which will stay as is but incorporate a café area.*

# Still Cooking and CARING

This year we were grateful to receive a grant from Awards for All which allowed us to extend and refurbish our old and tired kitchen and also run horse riding sessions as part of a respite program for young carers.

Being able to upgrade and extend our kitchen has made a huge difference to the young people and community groups using our premises. It has given a boost to everyone going from a small, old, tired room to a bigger bright and colorful area. As well as the refurbishment, the grant allowed us to buy all new electrical appliances and crockery etc. The young people now have a great time cooking and baking regularly.



*Construction is underway.*



*Our new bright kitchen*

The horse riding program for young carers proved a huge success and the young people on the program benefited greatly from getting out and having some free time away from their caring roles. As part of the program the young people not only got to go out horse riding but also learnt things such as stable management, horse grooming etc., allowing them to earn badges and certificates as they progressed. This project was made such a difference to the young carers we work with and that, if funding permits, we will run it again this year.



*Some of our young riders.*

# Sports NOT on the Green 2017



*Water Walker Fun*

2017 saw us host our Annual Sports NOT on the Green event. Once again this was a busy evening and packed with fun sports sessions and activities all free of charge. In addition to sports such as football, rugby, athletics etc., we also had a professional stunt man, mobile skate park, water walkerz and archery for everyone to enjoy on the evening. This year we were able to bring along our own local mobile skate park courtesy of Mid Argyll Youth Forum. As always there were plenty of free giveaways for everyone as well as hot dogs, refreshments, face painting etc.



*Stunt antics*

# S3 Health Drama

This year we worked alongside NHS Highland and various other partner agencies to support the delivery of a Health Drama to all S3 students across Argyll and Bute Schools. MAYDS attended and were part of a question and answer panel at the shows on Islay, Campbeltown, Tarbert and Lochgilphead. The show was developed and performed by Raenbow Productions and while it had comedy elements it was very powerful and emotional touching on subjects such as suicide, smoking, drinking, mental health, sexual health and LGBT. At the end of each performance students had the opportunity to post questions anonymously and those questions were then answered by a panel of professionals.

## COOL 2 TALK



This year staff from MAYDS were involved in the promotion and delivery of the Cool2talk project. Cool2talk is the new interactive service for young people aged 12-18 years in Argyll and Bute. The website – <http://www.cool2talk.org/> – offers confidential health advice and information online from trained health professionals, to young people. Young people can post a question anonymously and it will be guaranteed to be answered within a 24 hour period, offering the young person advice and signposting them to both local and national organizations that can support them further. The site also offers young people 121 online counseling services 2 evenings per week. The program was launched across all Argyll and Bute schools earlier this year.

# Boys ACTIVE Day



On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May MAYDS participated in running a boys active day (for 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year boys) at the local Lochgilphead Joint Campus. As part of the day MAYDS took along the mobile skate facilities and ran two sessions of skate/BMX activities. Over the two sessions a total of 49 boys participated and it proved to be a popular activity. All involved, including the teaching staff, were keen that a wheel park become a permanent fixture in Lochgilphead and excited about MAYDS new proposals.

## Unit 23



Picking up on the success of Boys Active Day and the continuing popularity of skateboards, scooters and BMX bike locally we decided to take a group to Unit 23 (Scotland's largest indoor wheel park). 18 young people attended the day and had a fantastic time on the ramps, grind rails and foam pit.



# Making a house a Home

*Chef Fisher helping Kieran with his chicken.*



*The finished meal (soup, chicken and pasta).*



*Hannah getting cooking.*



*The boys learning the basics of cooking.*

Thanks to continued funding from the Kilfinan Trust we ran two rounds of our 10 week Tenancy Support program again this year, one at the start of the year and one towards the end of the year. There were between 8-10 young people on each course. Once again the course proved to be valuable in assisting and preparing young people to either gain their own tenancies or better manage their existing tenancies. As well as getting their basic First aid and Food Hygiene Certificates the young people learnt many lifeskills like budgeting, health eating, employability, energy saving, debt management, advocacy, signposting to local support agencies and much more. We even helped a few access their benefits and get their driver's provisional license and passports. One of the young boys even went on to an apprenticeship as a result of the support and signposting he received during the course. As part of the second course the young people were treated to 'cooking on a budget' classes with professional chef John Fisher. Here they made cheap and simple meals such as soups, stews, pastas etc., at the end of each session they were able to eat their meals together and have some social time which led to new friendships and support networks being formed.

# Young Parents Support

*Fun on the bouncy castle.*



This year our young parents support group has continued to flourish. Still running on a Monday from 12-3pm young parents and their children enjoyed a safe space to socialize, get free advice and information on a range of subjects and of course a free hot lunch every week. Visitors this year included baby massage, messy play, book bug, citizens advice, local housing team etc. There were also trips and outings to soft play in Oban, the sea life center in Balloch, Kilmory woodlands and picnics at Blarbuie. Once again Santa came to the groups Christmas party with gifts for all the children. The group will continue to run in the New Year and kick off with a visit from Rosie Cheeks mobile soft play.

*Playing at the group.*



# Drug and Alcohol Education and Support Program



*Heidi the police drug dog with her handler.*

We have continued to be busy at the schools this year (Lochgilphead Joint Campus, Tarbert Academy and Islay High School) delivering our Drug and Alcohol, Education Program. This program entails delivering age appropriate, tailor made sessions with all year groups, S1 to S6, during the academic year. As part of the zero tolerance program at Lochgilphead joint Campus, S3 and S4 students had a visit from Heidi, the police drug dog. The classes learnt about the powers of the police to search for drugs and about the risks of associating with drugs or drug users. In addition to the class education program, we have also been providing support for young people and their families on a 1 to 1 basis. Numbers have increased greatly this year in terms of the 1 to 1 work we are delivering with referrals coming from education, health and social work. Both the Drug and Alcohol Education and support programs will continue to run in 2018.



*Police at one of the education sessions.*

# #continuing to make Music#



*Some of our champions selecting their workshops.*

This was our 4<sup>th</sup> year as part of Youth Scotland's Big Music Project. Once again, during the year our music champions and their mentor took part in residential trips, workshops, music projects and met some Industry professionals. The year kicked off with a stay in Stirling to attend a live event where our champions played in front of other hubs. Then in October they attended a residential in Glasgow at the Scottish Youth Theatre where they met up with other champions, had a tour of Glasgow's music hotspots and attended a number of music workshops. The champions also organized and played at this year's Christmas lights switch on event. The next event for them will be in January 2018 when they will receive bespoke workshops from semi-professional band James Edwyn and the Borrowed Band.

*Some of the group arriving in Glasgow.*



# NEW LOOK MAYDS



*Bright and Bold colors.*



*Funky sofas.*



*Custom wall art.*

As a result of an accidental small fire, which caused extensive smoke damage, MAYDS had to get a full hall refurbishment from flooring and paint to furniture and accessories. This meant we were closed for a couple of months but, thanks to our insurance, the majority of costs were covered and we now have a bright, modern hall for the young people and the community to use. With the hall and kitchen both being updated this year we go into 2018 with a funky new look.

# Christmas Switch on and SLF Celebration



*Mid Argyll Pipe Band playing for the switch on.*



*Waiting for Santa to arrive.*

It was a double celebration in December this year, not only did MAYDS host the official Lochgilphead Christmas Lights Switch on but with a donation from the Scottish Land Fund they were also able to host a celebratory event for being awarded there SLF grant. We decided to run these as a joint event and it was a fantastic night all round. There was music, free hot rolls and refreshments, free Christmas giveaways and a present for all from Santa who arrived during the evening. We had our very own large cake and 100 cupcakes made and designed by local business Sharry's Cakes and Bakes, which went down a treat with everyone. At the official light switch on, MAYDS lit up their buildings and also managed to get an inflatable 6 foot penguin and Santa on the roof. Our plans for the new development were on display during the evening for community comments. This was a brilliant event with most of the community turning out to offer their support.

*Our custom made large celebratory cake.*



*Some of the 100 cupcakes made for the event.*



# Training and Employability

This year was busier than ever under our training and employability program. In addition to working closely with workingrite to support young people into employability and apprenticeship programs, we also delivered many training programs. Over the course of the year we ran several training courses that young people could access for free of charge these included a First Aid and Food Hygiene (12 young people) Course, First Aid at Work Course (12 young people), Fire Marshal Training (12 young people), Cooking on a Budget Block Training (10 young people), a Strimming course (6 young people), a Chainsaw course (4 young people), CSCS Card (2 young people), Child Protection Training (10 young people), Youth Achievement Awards (12 young people), dynamic Youth Awards (12 young people) and a Life Skills Course (10 young people). All of which were run with the aim of equipping these young people with basic lifeskills as well as enhancing their CV for work opportunities. Staff also undertook a number of training programs including Mental health first Aid, Emotional Health in Yong People, Resilience Training, NPS and sexual Health to name a few.



*Staff, volunteers and young people undertaking First Aid Training.*

## Still Swimming



*Girls on the Move.*

2017 saw the continuation of our much loved Girls on the Move Program. This program has been running for a number of years and offers young girls 8-16 years old free swimming sessions every Tuesday evening from 7-8pm. During the sessions there are lots of fun activities from aqua aerobics and disco music to water sports and using the large floats. This year the program has been the busiest it ever has with over 40 young girls attending any given session. On the back of the success of the girls free swimming and thanks to funding from Cashback for Communities, 2017 allowed us to introduce our boys only free swimming program. Boys in Action offers free swimming for boys 8-16 years old every Friday evening from 7-8pm. Again this program has proved to be very popular and will continue running in 2018.



*Boy's in Action.*



# Clubs and Out and about

*Outdoor fun at Ardrishaig Primary drop in.*



*Jack and the Beanstalk tickets ready and waiting.*



2017 has seen our program of diversionary activities; trips and clubs continue to grow. Weekly groups such as Just about Music (J.A.M), Five Alive Club, 6-8's in Action, Ardrishaig Drop In and S1 and up Chill Out now have increased numbers attending. These groups provide a safe and welcoming environment for children and young people to come along, have fun with peers and participate in a wide variety of activities including outdoor games, arts and crafts, sound production, music, discos, baking and much more. In addition to our weekly clubs we also had several trips and outings during the year with visits to RYZE trampoline park, Rock and Roller, roller disco, Unit 23, skate park, cinema etc. As per other years we also attended the annual Christmas Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. This year tickets were given to families so they could have a festive outing together free of charge. All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the day and we have already booked for next year's show which will be Cinderella. In November 2017 we received funding from the Scotch Whisky Action fund for our new STREET MAYDS detached Youth work program. This will see our staff out and about in Lochgilphead and the outlying areas on Friday and Saturday evenings, at times taking the mobile skatepark with them. This program will continue to November 2018 so you will be fully updated on this on our website during the coming months and in 2018 annual review.

*Baking at Ardrishaig Primary Drop In.*





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