

How to encourage young people to get involved in their community life?

And in which sectors is young peoples guidance and involvement vital?

John Erskine

The Highland Youth Convener



Scottish Company: SC407011
Scottish Charity: SC042593

About the Highland Project

- Highland High Life is an arms length organisation established by The Highland Council
- Employee a full time Youth Representative to sit on all relevant Highland Council committees and chair the Highland Youth Parliament as the Highland Youth Convener.
- Unique post in the United Kingdom and possibly Europe.
- Essential due to Highlands rural populations and mountainous geography and large landmass.

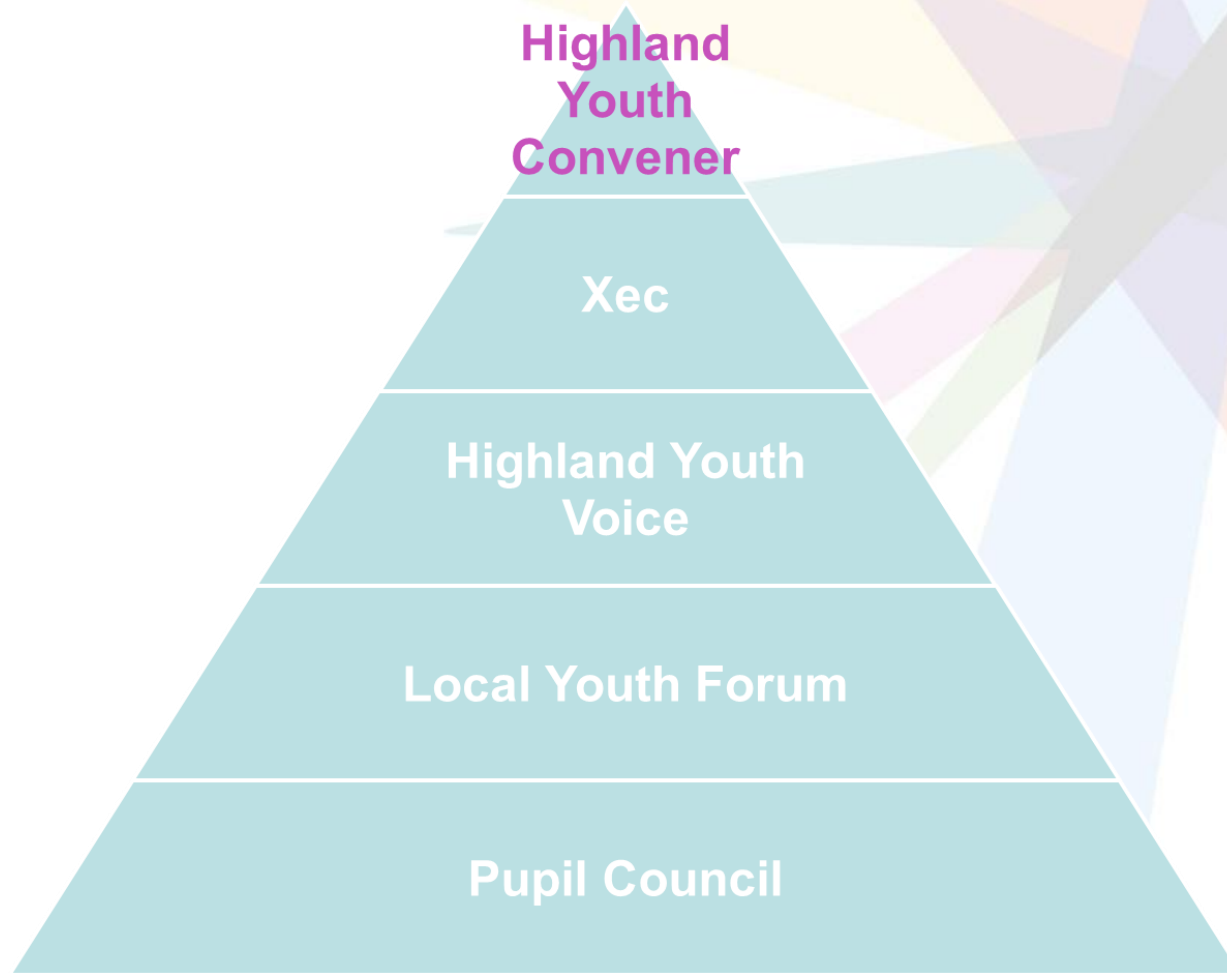


Highland Youth Voice



- Highland Youth Voice is an elected parliament of around 100 young people from all over the Highlands.
- Meets twice a year for sittings over three days at different locations across the Highlands.
- Each conference has a theme – for example transport or youth unemployment.
- Aim of the conference is to allow young people to voice their views to senior officials and elected members and to influence policy.

Structure of Youth Participation in Highland



Has the project been successful?

- Highland Youth Voice and Youth Convener role has made a difference to young peoples relationships with Highland Council.
- Value placed on the youth parliament is high amongst council officials and leadership
- However – Engaging young people in politics and elections both local and national is difficult.
- Council are reacting to this issues – focusing on public engagement and involvement in their programme as they realise it's a real issue.

In which sectors are young peoples guidance and involvement is vital?

- Highland Youth Voice engagement started in Schools and education and has become closely involved with Youth Work
- External organisations place value on seeking young peoples views through executive committee and Youth Voice conference – through this close links with NHS, Police and Highland Council Services has developed.
- Areas for further development include – Further and Higher Education, Environmental and Natural Heritage groups as well as charity and third sector groups.
- Vital that young people have a say in any aspect of life that affects them – move to intergenerational working.

The Highlands and Hedmark

Similarities:

- Close links with local council
- Regular Executive Meetings (Board Meeting)
- Speaking Rights at Council Meeting
- Political Neutrality
- Potential to develop future leaders and politicians
- Twice yearly meetings of full youth parliament.

Differences:

- Full time (paid) Youth Convener position
- Voting rights on council committees
- Specialist Committee Structure – Unsuccessful in Highlands

John Erskine
The Highland Youth Convener
High Life Highland
12-13 Ardross Street
Inverness
IV3 5NS

Tel: 01463 663827
youth.convener@highlifehighland.com
www.highlifehighland.com



Scottish Company: SC407011
Scottish Charity: SC042593