



New research project for Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters launched

NEWS RELEASE – For immediate release: Monday 12 August 2019

Ahead of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters in 2020, YouthLink Scotland are launching 'On Our Wave Length'. The project will support young people to research the impact of climate change in their coastal communities, alongside a nationwide campaign.

The initiative is a partnership between YouthLink Scotland and Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Young people from Argyll and Bute, Fife, North Berwick, South Ayrshire and the Western Isles will be supported to investigate the environmental consequences along the beaches and waters of their coastal areas. The Young Heritage Researchers will have complete freedom to explore the issues that matter most to them and their communities, whether this be climate change, industry, pollution, impacts on wildlife or oceans. They will be supported by youth workers and experts, including: Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion (SCAPE).

At the beginning of the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020, the project will be launching a youth-led national campaign to highlight the damaging environmental and social impacts on our coastal communities.

Amy Calder, Senior Policy and Research Officer, YouthLink Scotland said:

"Watching Greta Thunberg and young people across the world marching through the streets to fight for a sustainable future, showing adults that climate change is real and needs tackling now, has been extremely inspiring. It also highlights the power of youth voice in holding adults to account for actions that will affect them and future generations."

Lesley Kay, Project Director,

One of those involved in the initiative is North Berwick Youth Project, their Project Director, Lesley Kay believes youngsters in coastal areas often witness the impact of climate change more acutely:

"Young people are passionately interested in environmental issues and it's fantastic that through this new project, they will be supported by youth workers and environmentalists to investigate the impacts of pollution and global warming right on their doorstep. As a coastal community there are a variety of environmental consequences for young people to consider, including coastal erosion, the predicted rise in sea levels, the need for marine conservation in the light of climate change and the effect of litter, in particular single use plastics."

The Young Heritage Researchers findings will be shared at a national event in the Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh in July 2020.

Amy Calder of YouthLink Scotland added: "It's fitting the research report is unveiled at the centre, as it is through the stories of first-hand accounts of damage to our coasts and waters that will bring communities together to fight against climate change."

Ends.

Picture info – from left to right

Pic 1 -Erin Robertson, Faye Penny, Robyn Moffat and Abbie Hay.

Pic 2 – Olivia McCulloch and Charley Alcock.

Pic 3 – Charley Alcock, Faye Penny and Daniel Mckay

For interview and media enquiries contact Sarah Paterson, Communications and Public Affairs Manager at YouthLink Scotland on 07804 603762 or 0131 313 2488 and at spaterson@youthlinkscotland.org

Notes to editors

Information about Heritage Lottery

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. www.hlf.org.uk

Information about On Our Wave Length

Additional information: <https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/news/blogs/august-2019/making-waves-with-young-climate-researchers/>

Information about YouthLink Scotland

- YouthLink Scotland is the national agency for youth work. It is the voice of the youth work sector in Scotland.
- It is a membership organisation and is in the unique position of representing the interests and aspirations of the whole of the sector both voluntary and statutory.
- YouthLink Scotland champions the role and value of the youth work sector, challenging government at national and local levels to invest in the development of the sector.
- YouthLink Scotland represents over 100 organisations, including the 32 Local Authority Youth Work Services and all major national voluntary youth work organisations, which support over 300,000 young people in achieving their potential.

- YouthLink Scotland promotes a positive image of Scotland's young people and seeks to promote their value to communities and society.