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MENTORING SERVICE FOR TEENAGERS IS HONOURED

Highland youth charity in dual awards success

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A Highland charity has scooped two awards for its work helping young people.

Inverness-based Day1, which offers a one-to-one mentoring service to teenagers, picked up the National Employment Project of the Year award from the national agency, the Scottish Mentoring Network.

And mentor Craig Urquhart, who was one of the first young people to enrol on the Day1 programme, has collected the accolade of Highly Commended Mentor Award.

Day1 co-ordinator Corrin Henderson received the awards at the national conference in Edinburgh on Tuesday.

Mr Henderson said: "It's a real privilege to work with the young people of the Highlands and help them to set their mind on creating a positive future for themselves, with particular regard to sustainable employment.

"Day1 exists to address the very real needs with which many of our young people need help."

Mr Urquhart, 19, of Windsor Place, Conon Bridge, joined the programme in 2006 and is now three years into an apprenticeship with Ross-shire Engineering.

He said: "I was going absolutely nowhere at school. I was pretty badly behaved and I just didn't want to be there.

"The best thing about Day1 is that they don't see you as a bad person who's going nowhere – they try and see the good side of you.

"I don't want to imagine what would have happened to me without their help."

The young volunteer added that he was delighted to win the award and that the work of the charity had been recognised.



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