



youth work changes lives

July 2019

NEWSLETTER

Our Achievements

In the period, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, the service offered a good range of universal and targeted provision contributing to; raising attainment, positive destinations, community safety and improving young people's health and wellbeing and life chances.

Helping Young People Engage (HYPE)

HYPE continues to offer young people in West Lothian most in need of support, a wide range of employability focused learning opportunities; where young people can grow in self – confidence, begin to address the barriers to them moving on to their 'next step' and develop a range of life skills. These courses are delivered through partnership working with local businesses and training providers.

The HYPE Team engage with young people through a youth work approach. Young people can access specialist support to build on their numeracy, literacy

and employability skills. At the end of each course all young people are awarded a HYPE certificate of achievement providing details on the practical skills that they have learned during the course. Their certificate also includes details of the 'soft' skills that they have developed from attending the programme and working as part of a group. All HYPE participants are encouraged to work towards formal accreditation. HYPE courses are closely linked to the labour market supporting young people to learn about careers and gain practical skills with courses such as Café Culture, Gardening and Landscaping and Introduction to Beauty and Customer Service.



Café Culture



Gardening and Landscaping



Beauty and Customer Service

Forestbank Youth Club

Young people who are attending Forestbank Youth Clubs actively engage in planning their youth club programme. Participation in activities is high and the diverse range of learning opportunities helps them to develop their skills and interests.

Youth club members attend the Forestbank Community Centre Management Committee

meetings. These young people know that their opinions are valued, and they are learning about their community, volunteering and possible partnerships. Young people promote the club locally through leaflets and posters that they have designed. The young people continue to make a positive contribution to their community through their projects and activities. They recently organised a successful intergenerational community bingo night to raise funds for the community. Several young people who developed through the club mentoring programme are now regular volunteers, assisting workers to facilitate the club and offering a peer mentoring /buddying service. 16-19 year old participants on the CLD Youth Services Skills Training Programme develop their employability skills through volunteering in this club.



Working on arts project for Dynamic Youth Award



Healthy eating and trying new fruits

Summer Holiday Activity Lunch Clubs

With the support of partners, the service planned and delivered eight summer holiday lunch and activity clubs in the following areas:

- Armadale Partnership Centre
- Bridgend Community Centre
- Forestbank Community Centre
- James Young High School
- Livingston Station Community Centre
- Pumpherston & Uphall Primary School
- Stoneyburn Community Centre
- Winchburgh Community Centre

Children participated in a wide range of activities including day trips, group games, arts and crafts, sports, science, technology, engineering and maths as well as environmental projects.

Feedback from these customers shows 100% satisfaction rate with the booking process. 99.3% rated the activities as good or excellent. The lunches

provided received an 87.8% rating. The average attendance was approximately 363 children per day.

Youth Work in Schools

The Youth Work in Schools Programme has provided a good range of learning opportunities for secondary school pupils focused on employability, health and wellbeing, participation, personal/community safety, and accredited learning. 180 young people benefited from group work which focused on; employability, risk-taking behaviour, self-esteem, building confidence and resilience, communication and managing stress. Pupil representative training was also delivered. 1396 young people participated in the Democracy Challenge programme.

As part of the process of reviewing performance, all 11 mainstream secondary schools were given a proforma asking them to provide a rating on a 5 point scale as to: The extent to which CLD Youth Services, youth work in schools, adds value to young people's educational experience.

All schools gave a rating of 4, good, or 5, excellent.

Performance has improved over the 3 years of gathering information to reach the 100% target.

- 2018/19 performance 100% (11 returns)
- 2017/18 performance 89% (9 returns)
- 2016/17 performance 83% (11 returns).

Democracy Challenge

This year Democracy Challenge was offered to young people in S4 (and a small number who were eligible to register in S3) in all 11 mainstream secondary schools in West Lothian. Young people attending the sessions were offered the opportunity by the Electoral Registration Office staff to check whether or not they were already registered and, if not, to register there and then.

The Democracy Challenge is divided into 4 distinct sections which look at; why young people should get involved in political decision making and how their lives are affected by it, how to register to vote, how to cast their vote and how to get involved in the local participation structure. In an attempt to gauge the impact on young people who attended these sessions, staff asked 4 questions at the end of each session.

At the end of each session, participants were issued with a ballot paper with the following statements:

- As a result of this session I am more likely to vote in the next election.
- As a result of this input, I am more likely to take an interest in my local school pupil council, youth forum, community council and or Scottish Youth Parliament.

They were asked to mark a cross next to the statements that they agreed with before putting their paper in a ballot box. In addition to this, all young people were offered the opportunity to check their status on the register and to have themselves added.

The Democracy Challenge was presented in 10 of the 11 mainstream secondary schools, with a combined roll of 1846 S4 pupils. In total, 1396 young people attended the sessions, 499 checked their status on the register with a further 479 registering. Having completed a ballot paper at the end of the session, 950 young people indicated that as a result of attending, they would be more likely to vote in the next election and 255 indicated that they would be more likely to take an interest locally, e.g. pupil council, community council, local fora and Scottish Youth Parliament.

Schools Vocational Programme



Award Ceremony

The Schools Vocational Programme (SVP) includes a mix of both vocational related skills and personal development opportunities to address barriers to employability. This session 123 places have been offered on the Programme and 101 young people have attended. The options targeted at the MCMC cohort include a variety of programmes running between 8 and 24 weeks and are. This session 8 courses were offered which included Hospitality, Welcome Host,

and Motor Vehicle, (West Lothian College); Hospitality and Barista Training, (Larder Cook School); Multi Trade Programme (Building Services). In addition 2 pilot courses were trialled - Fitness and Healthy Lifestyles (West Lothian College - a course for care experienced young people) and Hard Landscaping - a programme run in conjunction with Stoneyburn and Bents Future Vision to train young people on Hard Landscaping while upgrading Stoneyburn Junior Football grounds.



Hard Landscaping Stoneyburn Junior Football Grounds



Hard Landscaping Stoneyburn Junior Football Grounds



Completed disabled access at Stoneyburn Junior Football Grounds

The evaluations from the young people participating on the programmes are very positive. West Lothian College extended the Hospitality course to June because the young people were working so well and some of them had secured a place on the fulltime course starting next session. There was a similar picture on the other courses. The young people who attended the Schools Vocational Programme achieved a variety of qualifications which included the British Safety Council Entry Level Award, SCQF Level 4 Working in a Professional Kitchen, Welcome Host Certificate, and SCQF Level 4 Introduction to Motor Vehicle.

Additionally the young people ran a pop-up café at Howden Park Centre which catered for up to 30 members of the public at a time and ran for 10 weeks.

Career Ready

Armadale Academy student, Niamh McConnell was awarded 'Scotland Student of the Year' at the Career Ready Programme graduation ceremony on 28 March.

The Career Ready Programme is designed to support secondary school pupils, 15-18 year olds into employment by connecting schools with local employers to open up the world of work to young people. The four key areas of activity include mentoring, internships, masterclasses and workplace visits.

CLD Youth Services co-ordinate the smooth operation of the Career Ready Programme in West Lothian. This session, eight schools have participated in the programme; with 25 year 2 students graduating following time spent with a range of employers.

Niamh was named 'West Lothian Student of the Year' before being announced as the overall national winner and going on to represent Scotland at the UK Career Ready ceremony.



Niamh completed a four-week internship with the Scottish Government in the Cyber Security & Defence team. Her time with the team proved to be a success and she is now undertaking an HND in ICT at West Lothian College, in addition to continuing to work with the Scottish Government team two days per week on a permanent basis.

Niamh said: "The thought of the internship was really daunting but I loved getting work to do and being treated like an adult. It was so different from school. I have now changed my whole career path and am doing something I would have never considered before the programme, IT and Cyber Security. It has been truly life changing"

West Lothian Council's Head of Education, James Cameron said: "Congratulations to Niamh and all of our pupils who took part in Career Ready this year. I was very proud to be invited to present the 2019 Career Ready Scotland Graduation certificates to West Lothian students. The Career Ready programme has been very beneficial for our pupils over the last three sessions in increasing their confidence and networking capabilities to prepare them for the workplace."

Executive Councillor for Education, David Dodds said: "Well done to all the students

who have graduated and in particular, Niamh McConnell. The future is clearly bright for Niamh. We are fully committed to ensuring that our young people are equipped with the knowledge they need to enter further and higher education, training and the employment market. We also have to thank employers who have been involved with this year's programme for providing our young people with the opportunity to gain crucial work experience with them."

Trends and Statistics

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The numbers of young people participating in, and completing the award; who are resident in the 20% most deprived areas of West Lothian increased by 53.8% in comparison to completions in the previous year.

Skills Training Programme

30 young people participated in the Skills Training Programme. 29 young people have left the programme, 26 of whom have progressed to a positive destination (89.5%). This represents a 0.5% improvement in outcomes from the previous year. Of these, 17 young people have progressed into employment, 7 went to college and 2 are engaging in HYPE.

28 young people have completed their Emergency First Aid Certificate, and the British safety Council Safety Award. 7 young people passed their CSCS (Construction

Certificate of Safety) test and were awarded their CSCS Card. This is an essential requirement for any person hoping to work on a building site.

Keyworker Support to Schools and Colleges

222 young people were referred to the Keyworkers supporting schools. During this same time period, 186 young people progressed to a positive destination, and 197 left the service. This equates to a positive outcome of 94.5%, which is a 03.5% drop in performance compared to previous year's outcomes.

Youth Work in Schools Programme

Schools rated the impact of the youth work in schools programme as adding value to young people's educational experience as good or excellent at 100%; this is an improvement of 11% compared to 2017/18 outcomes.

Accredited Learning Opportunities

92% of young people taking up accredited learning opportunities achieved an award. This is a 12% improvement on the previous year.

Positive Destinations

The work of the service contributes to raising attainment as well to supporting young people into a positive destination. The figures for 2017/18 show 94.4% of Senior Phase School Leavers went into a positive destination as recorded in

October 2018. This is a 0.47% increase on last year and a 10.3% increase in West Lothian over the last ten years. This is the highest positive destination figure ever achieved in West Lothian.

Sustained Positive Destinations

The percentage of young people remaining in a positive destination 6 months after leaving the service was 83%, an improvement of 6%.

Customer Satisfaction

94.5% of young people rate the overall quality of service as good or excellent compared to 97% in 2017/18.

93.1% of young people rate service timeliness as good or excellent compared to 93% in 2017/18.

93.5% of young people rate the way the service kept them informed as good or excellent compared to 95% in 2017/18.

98.2% of young people rate staff attitude as good or excellent compared to 97% in 2017/18.

97.3% of young people rate staff professionalism as good or excellent compared to 97% in 2017/18.

99.4% of young people considered they were treated fairly compared to 98% in 2017/18.

95.1% of young people rate the service delivered as good or excellent compared to 94.7% in 2017/18.

Youth Service Strikes Gold for Inclusion



CLD Youth Services team is the first local authority service of its kind in Scotland to achieve the prestigious Gold Chartermark award from LGBT Youth Scotland for youth services.

Deans Community High School in Livingston became the second West Lothian school to achieve the Silver charter award joining Broxburn Academy which was the first school in Scotland to be awarded the silver status in 2016.

Depute Council Leader Kirsteen Sullivan said: “We are delighted that West Lothian Council’s CLD Youth Services team is the first in Scotland to achieve the Gold charter standard. “It’s also fantastic to see Deans Community High School become our second Silver charter recipient after Broxburn which was the first in Scotland.

“We are committed to actively promoting diversity, equality, inclusion and LGBT rights in West Lothian by mainstreaming the agenda into everything that we do as a council, as well as work with our partners to achieve this goal.

“West Lothian Council is already a Stonewall Diversity Champion and is committed to advancing LGBT equality through events such as West Lothian Pride, which is now in its fifth year and is going from strength to strength.”

Working towards the LGBT charter has included proactively involving LGBT people in every aspect of work, protecting staff and providing a high quality service.

At the award ceremony invited guests were treated to presentations by pupils from Deans’ DNA (Definitions Not Applicable) group and the Glitter Cannons LGBT youth group on the actions taken to improve diversity and inclusion at Deans and across West Lothian. Both Bathgate Academy and West Lothian Women’s Aid were also awarded the Bronze charter in 2018. West Lothian College and West Calder High School are currently working towards applying for chartered status.

Youth Work in Schools Case Study

Following a request from one of our schools to deliver group work support focusing on self-esteem, confidence and working together, staff met with the girls involved and the Family Support Worker who would be supporting the work. It was agreed from the outset that the group would have a project focus which would be identified by the participants. In addition to this, staff would design specific exercises, discussions and tasks which would help participants develop the skills required to complete the project. Having identified a project; supporting the Dignity Box situated in a local community facility, something the CLD Worker had shared with them, the group set about planning how they would do this. The first thing they did was to speak to the Head Teacher about their idea and to get permission to visit classes to publicise their idea and to ask pupils and staff for donations of toiletries. Initially when visiting classes, the girls were uncomfortable with standing in front of their peers presenting their project and relied heavily on staff speaking for them. As the project developed and their confidence grew, they became less dependent and more comfortable with presenting it themselves. In addition to visiting classes, the girls also made up a power point slide for the pupil advertiser and for sharing with the community on social media. Some people chose to donate money rather than toiletries which meant that the girls had to go to the supermarket and purchase toiletries to augment what was already donated. The toiletries which had been donated and bought were sorted and packed up ready for taking up to the community facility to be presented by the girls.



The girls were subsequently asked to attend the first meeting of the West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy Group to present their piece of work, which they did and were very well received. In addition to this, they all completed Dynamic Youth Awards alongside the project and have been nominated for a Stellar Award.

Through the offer of universal and targeted provision, CLD Youth Services is making a positive contribution to raising attainment, positive destinations, and improving young people's health and wellbeing and life chances. The service continues to deliver a strong learning offer and effective interventions which are developed in partnership and are supporting young people to acquire the skills for life learning and work.

CLD Youth Services Key Priorities for 2019/20

- ❖ **Increasing accredited learning opportunities and providing appropriate supports for young people to gain accreditation.**
- ❖ **Developing and implementing a new youth participation and engagement model.**
- ❖ **Introducing the Professional Development Award in Youth Work to upskill sessional youth work staff and volunteers. This is a nationally recognised SQA accredited qualification at SCQF Level 6.**
- ❖ **Increasing staff awareness of mental health and wellbeing and resources to support young people through the Scotland Mental Health First Aid Training course.**
- ❖ **Reviewing impact to identify the most effective deployment of resources and partnership working to ensure positive outcomes for young people and communities.**
- ❖ **Further development of employability programmes taking into account 'No One Left Behind' the Scottish Government funding for employability support.**
- ❖ **CLD Partnership Plan 2018-21, facilitation of the CLD Steering Board and coordination of Learning Community Partnerships**
- ❖ **Developing the Young Workforce Improvement Plan 2019-20 and facilitation of the DYW Steering Board.**

A Fond Farewell

This year we bid a fond farewell to colleagues and thank them for the positive contributions that they have made to the service and to young people's learning and progression.

- Rhona Steel – MCMC Keyworker
- Alison Sneddon – MCMC Keyworker
- Yvonne Carson – MCMC Keyworker
- Ian Wood – MCMC Keyworker

Welcome Aboard

We are delighted to welcome new colleagues.

- Lynda Richardson – Senior Youth Development Worker
- Jane Alexander – Community Education Worker
- Laura Donaldson – MCMC Keyworker
- Andrea Smith – MCMC Keyworker