



EVOLVE PERSONAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



BACKGROUND

Renfrewshire Council's Youth Services was one of seven Local Authorities to launch a successful bid for Cash Back for Communities Funding in 2020 for a three year pilot to deliver youth work in partnership to young people at risk or living in disadvantaged communities. Online planning meetings were held initially during Covid with potential partners - Schools and Social Work, which led to face to face youth work outdoors and then indoors when the restrictions were lifted.

A relevant and flexible personal and social development programme was negotiated with young people who were at a transitional stage of their lives P7, S1, S3 and S4, as well as young people who had experienced care or had settled as refugees in Renfrewshire. The success of the programme led to more groups of vulnerable or care experienced young people being targeted and referred to the programme by partners, and ultimately financed through Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) at the end of the three year period. YouthLink Scotland and Education Scotland subsequently led on Collaborative Enquiries nationally with Schools and Youth Work and this helped to strengthen partnerships.

WHAT HAPPENED

The Evolve programme was designed for vulnerable or at risk young people as a result of funding available through Cashback for Communities for a three year pilot. This allowed for the time and space to have discussions with partners and to be able to purchase appropriate resources. This programme was negotiated with the targeted young people who were referred by partners. As a result, young people in transitional stages at school and who had care experience or were settlers in this country were engaged in this flexible programme. Learning activities took place both indoors and outdoors and were delivered usually once a week for two school periods within one of our local youth venues in the community. The young people negotiated the activities based on their needs.

AT A GLANCE

- Over **150 young people** in transitional stage engaged in the programme and were targeted through partnership working
- A relevant and flexible Personal & Social Development Programme developed in negotiation with young people
- A programme that offers personal and social development, also social action and is underpinned by **mental health and well being**
- Various accreditation routes available to young people
- Barriers removed through relationship building and discussion with young people
- Partners involved in planning, evaluation and review of the programme through a Collaborative Enquiry

YOUTH SERVICES

We are Renfrewshire Council's Youth Work team. Our aim is to empower Renfrewshire's young people.

Get in touch with us:

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WHAT HAPPENED CONT.

The programme objectives were to improve health and wellbeing, overcome barriers to learning and develop skills, including interpersonal skills.

The young people participated in the personal and social development programme and identified issues within their community that they would like to improve by using nationally recognised toolkits such as Place Standard and Place Changers Toolkits and became more aware of how to improve mental health and wellbeing through the Feels FM toolkit, an online platform derived from the SeeMe Scotland campaign.

This community facility allowed young people varied and relevant learning opportunities including being able to cook meals and plan for and take social action in their local communities. Examples of this include a litter pick and intergenerational work of sharing stories and playing games with residents of the Erskine Veterans Centre, both of which were identified and addressed by the young people. Most of the learning was accredited through national awards and this helped the young people to gain wider achievement. Activities were led by the young people and therefore engaging and achievable due to raised motivation. The range of activities included access to fitness activities and included a free gym membership to improve health, self esteem, reduce isolation and improve social integration.

THE CHALLENGES

- Sustainability of programme as a result of short term funding - however partnership working has continued due to PEF funding and may continue with schools
- Staff capacity led to in-house training and awareness raising with staff previously employed as Apprentices
- Young people were not engaging well in a school setting due to distractions, they were subsequently transported by minibus to Foxbar Youth Drop In, where their participation greatly improved
- Ukrainian pupils had limited English language and an interpreter was made available by the school
- Engaging the young people - the programme was negotiated and provided flexibility to make it more relevant to them
- Partnership Working - having an identified link person in school as contact for the young people and for us as youth workers helped with continuity/quality assurance of the work, relationship building and partnership working



OUTCOMES

- Young people build their health and wellbeing
- Young people develop and manage relationships effectively
- Young people create and apply their learning and describe their skills and achievements
- Young people participate safely and effectively in groups and teams
- Young people consider risk, make reasoned decisions, and take control
- Young people grow as active citizens, expressing their voice and enabling change
- Young people broaden their perspectives through new experiences and thinking

NEXT STEPS

The Evolve programme removed barriers for young people to become engaged in their learning and testified that they loved being involved in the programme. As a result the young people built their confidence, improved their self esteem and felt listened to. The Collaborative Enquiry strengthened the partnership between youth work and schools and led to school cluster groups, as well as further funding (PEF) from schools to continue to deliver the Evolve programme with more groups of young people

Youth Services will continue to raise awareness of the programme and share good practice locally and nationally.



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IMPACT

- Engagement of **13 groups** consisting of more than **150 young people, 26% of which are care experienced**
- **Accreditation** = Over 100 x Hi5 Wider Achievement and Climate Action certificates, Dynamic Youth Awards, Food Health & Hygiene Certificates, Community Empowerment Awards (pilot), Saltire Awards, Duke of Edinburgh Sectional and Expedition Awards
- Young people volunteered and supported other young people on the programme
- A staff member advocated on behalf of the young person to progress on to the First Steps Further Education course
- Young people improved relationships with family, friends and communities through learning how to cook and respecting others
- Young people felt listened to and the programme was negotiated in order for them to practise their faith
- Young people presented as more confident in managing challenges and aspiring to next steps beyond Evolve
- Partnership between Schools and Youth Services improved through Collaborative Enquiry

WHAT OUR PARTNERS SAY

"I LOVE VOLUNTEERING WITH P7'S CAUSE I WANT TO HELP OTHERS AND I WASN'T ACCEPTED INTO 2ND YEAR COLLEGE TO DO SOCIAL CARE,"

THROUGH CARE PARTICIPANT

"I DEVELOPED COOKING SKILLS AND TRIED DIFFERENT FOODS THAT I COULD EAT ON A DAILY BASIS, REAL FOOD." "MUM WANTS ME TO COOK DINNER AND I MADE IT. IT MAKES LIFE EASIER FOR MUM"

S3 PUPIL

"ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE IMPROVED THEIR ATTENDANCE AND FEEL NURTURED BY THE PROGRAMME".

P7 TEACHER

"I'M IMPRESSED HOW THE S3'S HAVE ENGAGED AND IMPROVED THEIR BEHAVIOUR".

DHT S3/S6 HIGH SCHOOL



Read more in the Generation Cash Back Annual Report 2022/23