

KINTYRE YOUTH CAFÉ – BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT OUTCOME 4, *CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE START.*

BACKGROUND

- Young people in Kintyre approached a local partnership to ask if they could help to provide facilities for young people to meet at night because at that time there were no dedicated facilities for them. A steering group was formed and young people, parents and other partners were surveyed to find out what was needed. The results indicated young people wanted a dedicated space where there was access to diversionary activities and support when needed and open in the evening when they were out of school. With help from the Princes Trust, a young person's committee was formed with an advisory group consisting of partners from a range of statutory and third sector to oversee the project. Charitable status was granted March 27th 2009.
- Two charities, Kintyre Youth Cafe and South Kintyre Young Carers took on a lease for The Hub in December 2011 – two years after the Kintyre Youth Café received charitable status, and three years after first discussions took place.

ACTIVITIES:

- Kintyre Youth Cafe currently works with young people aged between 12 and 25. We work in partnership with colleagues in Education, Health, Social Work, Police Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Kintyre Health and Wellbeing Network, Kintyre Substance Misuse Forum and Third Sector agencies. We look to improve life situations for young people and families, reduce the negative impact that the misuse of alcohol or drugs has on young people, families and the community and support young people to achieve their potential. We provide a safe supported space for young people to meet where they can access support through a range of initiatives. There are opportunities to train, gain qualifications, volunteer and take part in work experience. After opening, Chief Inspector David Pettigrew directly linked the opening of The Hub with the reduction in Youth Offending by 17%.
- After discussion with the stakeholders it made sense to merge the work of the two groups as their outcomes and aims complimented each other.
- Both charities rely totally on applications for funding and grants as well as local donations to operate the facility 7 evenings per week as we receive no council financial support.
- Some of our success stories are:
 - We participated in and won the Princes Trust first National Moot held at Holyrood, streamed live to the whole of Scotland.
 - Two Young people trained as Princes Trust Ambassadors who went on to promote the good works of the Princes Trust.
 - One young volunteer from Kintyre Youth Cafe was chosen from all young people's organisations in Scotland to be one of a team of eight young people to design, write and edit an issue of the "Wee Issue". This was a project run by the Big Issue to raise the awareness of increasing numbers of homelessness amongst young people. The young person travelled to Glasgow to work at the Big Issue with the

seven other young people with support from journalists and staff which resulted in an amazing production of the magazine which went out to all schools in Scotland as well as through the usual distribution network of the Big Issue.

- The Youth Café Late Night Football projects were delivered in partnership with Police Scotland and Campbeltown and District Juvenile Football Association. On average 45 young people attended each night, stating this would be a time when most would have been misusing substances.
- A summer programme was run over the summer holiday for young people who were receiving support within the school setting. Not only does this provide ongoing monitoring over the summer holiday for young people receiving support through the school, it equips young people better for a return to school
- The development worker attended with staff from Campbeltown Grammar School and thirty two young people 14 – 17 year olds to Columba 1400, a week long leadership programme. Currently the youth cafe are supporting 22 young people to carry out a survey young people's needs. The results of the survey have been collated and have been presented to Kintyre's Children, the local GIRFEC group.
- An ADHD support group for parents has been formed and meets in The Hub where parents and young carers offer peer support and find out about issues that affect them and was identified by parents and carers of young people with ADHD who approached Kintyre Youth Cafe and the Young Carers Group to see if they could help. Parents and Carers said there was little or no support available to them to help improve their quality of life whilst coping with a child who had been diagnosed with ADHD. Parents and Carers are feeding back that this is the first time they have felt listened to and supported and state they feel positive about the future. To date they have had input from Befrienders, Welfare Rights and local Adults with ADHD and their parents. This has highlighted the need for awareness raising to encourage the inclusion of children and young people with ADHD.
- Facilitating workshops and organising a lantern parade to coincide with the Christmas Lights Switch On.
- Training opportunities including ASDAN qualifications, Youth Work SVQs and RYA Dinghy instructor training.

The project we will be discussing is called Choose Wisely.

This is a programme in conjunction with Police Scotland, Education, Health, Young Scot and Youth Services, providing information to 3rd and 4th year initially on the subject of substance misuse.