

Tuesday 8 November

Briefing Note: HELP (Argyll and Bute) Limited

This briefing relates to activities which fall under SOA Outcome

OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE START

OUTCOME 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING MAXIMISES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

The activities are on going

Summary

HELP are currently providing support over 100 young people in Bute and Cowal. Our activities fall into four themes all of which related to outcome 3 or 4.

Activities include –

Housing Support – HELP provide support to young people who are homeless, in threat of homelessness or coming out of care. Support includes: Setting up home, Cleaning, Budgeting, Form filing, Cooking, neighbourhood tasks. *151 young people were supporting in year end Dec 2016.*

Employment and Training – HELP are currently running their 12 week programme on Bute which includes: What are your options? Creating a CV, Interview skills, A residential team building experience, Volunteering, Gaining qualifications in Food Hygiene, Health and Safety, Customer care, and Moving and Handling. The programme will begin in Dunoon before Christmas. - *51 young people into employment/training in year end December 2015*

Health and Wellbeing – Our activities are designed to give young people the opportunity to engage in physical activity while linking to local community groups. Activities include: Shinty, linking to Dunoon Camanachd, Football, linking to Street Soccer and the Homeless World Cup, Tennis, linking to Cowal Tennis Club, Golf, linking to Innellan Golf Club, Music, linking to Cowal Community Orchestra, and cooking and photography. *95.65% young people said they feel more involved in their local community. 95.65% young people said their employability skills have improved.*

We are also running a Parenting Group for young parents, and working in partnership with Dunoon Grammar School to run a parenting group for parents of teenagers.

Information and Advice – HELP also provide a drop in for information and advice both for young people and parents. Information and advice includes: Budgeting, welfare benefits, and housing options. *Young people where support to access over £250,000 last year in grants and benefits.* We also provide a drop in at Dunoon Grammar School.

Further information is available on www.help ltd.org.uk

Key Points for Consideration

HELP Community taskforce – HELP have been successful in gaining funding initially to employ three young people and this has now been extended to five young people who will form part of a community taskforce, supervised by our lottery funded post. The taskforce will take on a number of environmental improvement projects around the area and have already completed works at Moir Street, Thom a mhoid Road and are working on the Innellan War memorial site. Suggestions of any other sites both indoor or outdoor that support the community or community groups are welcomed.

Links with Bute Fabric and Dumfries House – HELP on Bute have linked with Dumfries house and Bute Fabric and this has opened up a number of work experience and training opportunities.

Football links with Street soccer – HELP are working in partnership with Street Soccer and three young people were involved in the Homeless World cup held this year at George Square in Glasgow.

Lukasz – One young person who was volunteering on the Moir Street project was awarded the Bute and Cowal local hero award at this years Argyll and Bute Volunteer Awards ceremony in Oban.

Community Ambassadors.- HELP will be launching our community Ambassador initiative to help us to link with all sectors of the local community. The initiative will be looking to recruit between 8 and 12 people across all sectors of the local community who will meet quarterly for updates on what's happening within our service. The community ambassadors will serve for one year, and could become volunteers, mentors or provide presentations on our work.

Recommendations

HELP would ask that the group note the activities of HELP and our commitment both to young people and to our local area.

Key Points for Discussion

Any Questions and discussions around the Community Taskforce or the Community Ambassador Initiative

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