

**15.11.16**

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## **Briefing Note: GIVE Summer youth volunteering programme**

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This briefing relates to activities which fall under SOA Outcome 3: Education, skills and training maximises opportunities for all.

The activities are ongoing.

### **Summary**

Helensburgh and Lomond's GIVE summer programme ran from 4th July to 9th August 2016, and was delivered by Argyll and Bute Youth Services staff in partnership with Helensburgh and Lomond TSI, and a variety of other organisations.

The aim of the programme was to provide opportunities for young people to engage in volunteering and have that recognised and rewarded. They gained points that were exchanged for free outings e.g. to Edinburgh Zoo. They also earned Saltire award hours (Saltire is the Scottish Government youth volunteering award scheme).

Helensburgh and Lomond Youth Forum were involved in the creation of the summer programme from an early stage, helping to plan how it would work and what kinds of volunteering activities could be offered. The volunteering activities included: a Food bank donation day, chopping down an 8ft hedge in Hermitage Park, skills training and community photography.

The programme saw a total of 52 individual young people take part across the range of activities offered - double the expected uptake. There was an age range of 12-17 years old, and included young people in the transitional period between P7 and S1.

Out of the 52 young people involved the breakdown was as follows: 24 males, 28 females; 10 young people come from the outlying villages of Clynder, Rosneath, Rhu and Cardross; 9 young people live in the SIMD area of Kirkmichael. 4 young people who engage with an Alternatives to Care worker were involved.

522 hours of volunteering were collectively contributed. A total of 85 certificates were awarded at a presentation evening at Victoria Halls in September. These included: Saltire awards, Dementia Friendly certificates and Heartstart awards.

Due to the success of the summer programme we have now launched a year-round pilot GIVE programme where we will offer at least one volunteer activity a month with rewards at Christmas and Easter to go alongside Saltire volunteer awards.

Further information is available on Helensburgh and Lomond GIVE Summer Programme 2016 on <https://hlyouthforum.wordpress.com>

## **Key Points for Consideration**

- **There is a desire among young people to get involved in volunteering in their community but they often don't know how to start. The GIVE programme offers them a variety of taster opportunities that gets them over the first hurdle to volunteering.**
- **There are barriers to young people volunteering including: concerns from Third Sector organisations about for example insurance, perceived obstacles to supporting young people under 16 eg Disclosure checking.**
- **By working in partnership with the TSI and youth services Third Sector organisations can start to overcome the barriers to involving young people.**
- **One of the reasons the GIVE summer programme was so successful was that it involved opportunities that may not be seen as traditional volunteering but were about building life skills that will benefit the community eg Dementia Friends and Heartstart training.**
- **A lot of work was put in to promoting the GIVE programme using a variety of methods and platforms.**
- **There was a lot of positive feedback from both young people and their families about the GIVE programme. This has led us to run a year-round pilot to build on its success.**

## **Recommendations**

- **We would encourage all CPG partners to support the GIVE programme by working with youth services and the TSI to offer a youth volunteering opportunity and/or reward.**
- **We would encourage all CPG partners to promote the GIVE programme and discuss with youth services and the TSI any new avenues, ideas or opportunities.**

## **Key Points for Discussion**

- **What are the barriers within your organisation to supporting youth volunteering?**
- **How can we work together to overcome these barriers?**

**For further information please contact:**

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