



Community Learning Services LiveArgyll Update

Youth Work Cowal

Friday night football - the programme ran for 7 weeks 17/2-31/3 at the Black Park cages in Dunoon 8pm-10pm as a diversionary activity in partnership with Police Scotland and Football Development. It also allowed Youth Services and Police Scotland to build positive relationships with young people in a less formal environment. Over 100 young people S1-S6 took part over the course of the 7 weeks, improving their health and wellbeing, creating a friendly atmosphere and a sense of camaraderie. Evaluations have been very positive and almost all would like the programme to continue. Discussions with Police Scotland will take place in the coming weeks on moving forward with the programme.

GIVE Programme – 38 young people 11-16 took part in the Easter GIVE Programme. The 2 volunteering days were held with Inspiring Innellan, building dens for the preschool children at the Yellow Chipped Road and planting flowers and laying bark at the school garden. The reward trips were to lazertag and 10 pin bowling at Braehead and Dunoon Cinema.

School Programmes – working with DGS on 2 programmes. 1 on employability which will start when the timetable changes on 9 May for the full academic year with pupils working towards SQA units in Preparation for Employment and Personal Development as well as undertaking work placements. The other will be a short term alternative timetable group which will see the group out in the community working with community organisations while working teamwork, communication and problem solving skills.

Scottish Youth Parliament Elections – The election will take place in November of this year. Any young person over 14 can stand as a candidate for Argyll & Bute for a 2 year term. Registration for any young person interested opens on 15 May. Youth Services staff will be promoting the upcoming election in schools from this week to generate interest. I will be coordinating the election process with Scottish Youth Parliament and Young Scot and attending training sessions and planning meetings from May until the end of October.

SAWA New Scots/Refugee - Bute

Mentoring – volunteers continue to meet separately with New Scots/refugees on a one to one throughout the week with ongoing mentoring support.

On Tuesday of each week – An English language class for Beginners continues to run (face to face) and tutored by a Volunteer also continuing on Tuesday afternoons will be the book maintenance class at the library of Mount Stuart.

Men's Group meets every Thursday morning, and New Scots/ refugees and locals welcome.

Bike repair group meets every Friday morning ten previously abandoned bicycles have now been repaired and given out mostly to the New Scots/refugees in addition the members have gone to the

local secondary school, Rothesay Academy, to repair bikes , a constituted group has now been set up called 'Positive Pedals'

Events – fundraiser for earthquakes in Turkey and Syria took place at the Bank of Ideas which raised £1,022 donated to the official UNICEF charity- also a special meal for Ramadan took place at the Greentree Café with food prepared by the Syrian and Sudanese communities- attended by New Scots /refugees and locals of all communities.

Art Launch –an art launch took place at Dunoon Burgh Hall for an exhibition organised by SAWA for Ukrainian artist Volodymyr Durytski a bus took New Scots/ refugees and locals over from Rothesay to Dunoon the launch was well attended, the exhibition will continue for the next two months.