



EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

SCHOOLS VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (LEARNING, POLICY AND RESOURCES)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the panel about the success of the Schools Vocational Programme Hard Landscaping Course at Stoneyburn Junior Football Club.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the panel note the progress made in supporting young people to gain skills and qualifications which will support them into a positive post school destination.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Percentage of school leavers entering a positive destination.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The Council's More Choices More Chances core budget along with funding from the European Social Fund and Scottish Government, Scottish Whiskey Action Fund, SRUC Oatridge and Stoneyburn and Bents Future Vision.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	11 February 2020

D. TERMS OF REPORT

This report outlines the success of the Schools Vocational Programme Hard Landscaping Course at Stoneyburn Junior Football Club. The students who attend the School Vocational Programme are young people who benefit from additional experience and skills prior to leaving school. The courses are offered to these students during their final 12 months of school.

The courses vary in their timing and duration with some running for one day through to 12 week courses and others running for the full academic year. Students self-travel to these courses, and are expected to catch up on any school work which they miss in their own time.

The courses are designed to help young people develop skills such as communication, working with others, problem solving and ICT. In addition they develop practical skills which help them to move on from school into training, or employment.

The Schools Vocational Programme as well as helping to deliver skills, confidence and experience which are invaluable for a young person leaving school also provides them with additional qualifications. These range from SQA qualifications, industry recognised qualifications to in-house certificates.

- D.1** The Stoneyburn and Bents Hard Landscaping Course has allowed just under 60 young people to gain skills and experience in Hard Landscaping, Ground Work and Gardening. This project has been a joint venture between Stoneyburn and Bents Future Vision, West Lothian Council CLD Youth Services and Oatridge College. The young people have been working at Stoneyburn Juniors Football Club to upgrade the grounds, access path, fences, stairs, terraces and stadium. The young people involved have gained a wide variety of skills and experience from painting, manual handling, laying slabs, mono-blocking, mixing, pouring and levelling concrete. The cohort of young people all come from the MCMC group of young people and as a result of the project gain invaluable employability skills and experience which will help them to progress into their future career areas. A celebration event was organised on Thursday 31st Oct 2019 with the project funders, Elected Members, Head of Service, invited guests and the young people.

The project has now concluded at Stoneyburn Juniors Football Club due to the funding ending.

As this project was so successful both West Lothian Council CLD Youth Services and SRUC Oatridge have agreed to continue the project jointly funded by both partners. The project will start in the spring of 2020 at Crofthead Farm in Livingston. Initial planning has taken place and the first task is to lay a path round the community Garden to allow access by the bike library and people with mobility issues.

E. CONCLUSION

The Hard Landscaping Project at Stoneyburn Junior Football Club has given just under 60 young people the opportunity to gain skills and experience in Hard Landscaping, Ground Work and Gardening as well as additional qualifications. This was a very good example of partnership work with young people giving back to the local community.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Stuart McKay, Education Development Officer
Email: stuart.mckay@westlothian.gov.uk
Telephone: 01506 283311

James Cameron
Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

Date of meeting: 11 February 2020