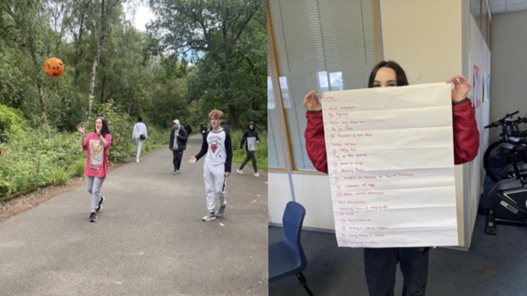
**Welcome**

The Summer period has brought us some lovely weather, which our young people have benefitted from! Expenditure on suntan lotion has certainly increased! There have been some full immersions in our local waterways alongside other great work being undertaken in our Lift Off, Accelerate, Launchpad and Touchdown Programmes! This month has seen more Jobs and successful Applications to College, which is great for the individual young people but also for their peers who see the achievements and progressions being made. We also look forward to seeing some of the young people previously on our Lift Off Programme progress to our Pre-Neet Launchpad Programme as they get closer to their official school leaving date. No pressure, but we expect these 100% attendance levels to be continued – well done to all the young people who have achieved this.

In July we also finally say Goodbye to the Employability Fund as our last tranche of young people complete their Programmes. EF has been with us a long time, so we look forward to seeing more Local Authorities contracting out No One Left Behind provision to replace this old friend and enhance our offer to the young people we work with.


In the July Newsletter we hope you will enjoy reading the following;

1. **“Accelerate” to Success**
2. **An introduction to the REACH Project**
3. **Lydia Orr – a Touchdown trainee**
4. **Touchdown Success**
5. **Overcoming Literacy/ Numeracy Challenges**
6. **Some Bridgeton Successes**
7. **Hall of Fame**

**“Accelerate” to Success!**

**“Chris”**

Chris was a non-attender at Airdrie Academy. He had fallen behind in 2nd year and after the COVID lockdowns had never really caught up. When Chris joined us, he was apprehensive and very shy, rarely communicating unless spoken to, he was also lacking Qualifications. Chris thought he might be interested in Construction but had no Work Experience or Employability skills.

Chris joined the first Accelerate group on the 21/3/22, it was a small group and they quickly gelled. At first Chris was unsure about the outdoor activities and when we were discussing these he was very negative. Chris lives with his Gran and most of his time was spent at home. Our main aim was to build his confidence and bring him out of his shell. In Centre we had ice breaker sessions so that everyone could get to know each other. Chris was part of a really nice group of boys, and he soon built friendships. Soon Chris was joining the group on outdoor activities, some of these included: Paddle boarding at Aberfoyle, Racing at Knockhill, Exploring Loch Lomond and BBQ skills. Chris also ended up out on the mountain bikes, something he did not want to do at the beginning of the programme. He also helped change tyres and check bike safety.

In Centre we worked with Chris and helped him look at various job roles, he got the chance to visit a number of different workplaces in local industrial estates, he worked on a CV and learned where to look for suitable vacancies and how to apply. Chris had shown an interest in College, so he was supported to apply for a Construction Course at Cumbernauld College. He also had the chance to use our VR suite to look at different workplaces and had training on Digital Skills. During Personal Development sessions Chris covered: Mental Health, Personal Banking, Fundraising for Ukraine, Support Networks and Health and Fitness culminating in a 5 mile walk with his group. Chris is now actively involved in sessions and able to give feedback to the group.

During all of this Chris also worked on his Core ICT at Level 4.

Chris has been very successful on the Accelerate programme, his attendance sits at 100%. His application for Cumbernauld College was successful and he has been offered a start for August on a City & Guilds Joinery and Decorating course. Chris recently achieved his Core ICT Level 4 and is looking forward to adding more qualifications to this. Overall, Chris has become a more confident individual and has found a voice and the motivation to pursue outdoor activities. He has a plan now going forward and we are still supporting him to source part- time work to fit around his College Course and with his bursary forms.

**“Steve”**

Steve was referred to us by the Headmaster of Buchanan High which is a local Additional Support Needs school.

Steve’s attendance had started slipping due to getting into trouble with teachers. Steve had few boundaries at home and was sitting up all night playing on the computer which made him angry and tired in classes. Steve has Global Learning Delay which causes him to struggle with communicating socially and he has trouble understanding learning, boundaries, and rules. He constantly used bad language and had serious Literacy problems which meant he required a scribe.

On Steve’s first day he sat outside the Centre on the railings with his hood up. There was no eye contact at all and no response to staff. On my second attempt I brought him into centre to do his Induction. Eventually he started to answer me, but his barriers were up. Steve joined a group of nine young people who were all strangers to him. It was clear that he was very nervous and apprehensive. That first week Steve only spoke a little, but this was mainly bravado as he was trying to show off to the other boys. At the end of the first week Steve went to Knockhill racing with his group, this is something that he did enjoy, and it broke the ice with the rest of the boys. From then on Steve has grown from week to week and the transformation has been incredible.

In centre Steve has been involved in Fundraising for Ukraine, Arts and Crafts, IT and VR Experiences. At present Steve still struggles to grasp aspects of Employability, he will require further support and Work Experience with a supportive Employer before he is ready for Employment however he has been helped to make a CV and always tries to get involved in Employability discussions. Staff have even taught him to make toasties which he loves! Prior to this, Steve had not made any hot food at home.

Steve’s forte is the outward-bound trips, he has taken part in Cliff Jumping and Canoeing and after some apprehension a number of trips out on the Mountain Bikes.

What is amazing is that Steve is supported by not only staff but also by members of his group, they sense he needs support and are always on hand to help and encourage him. Steve has learned not to take everything so seriously and he is now able to make jokes. Steve no longer feels the need to show off as he is accepted for himself.

Over the months Steve has been working on his vocabulary so that he can reduce the swear words which has been successful, Steve can now speak out in a group and contribute to activities. We have not seen any major anger outbursts and he is respectful to staff. Steve also has attendance of 96.08 % which is amazing. We continue to support Steve with one-to-one support when required.

Steve’s favourite part of the programme was doing activities with his new friends.

Quote from Steve; “Don’t be shy because Right Track is the best thing ever. School felt like jail for me, there were too many people, and I didn’t like it. The staff in Right Track are nice and they help you.”

**“John”**

John was referred to us by Caldervale High School. John moved to Scotland in 2020 with his mum and siblings. John became unsettled during COVID and stopped attending school. He had been in trouble with friends and had been reported missing for 2 days. John has poor mental health and has ADHD, he also requires support with reading/writing to some extent. John had been referred to CAMHS (Mental Health support) but failed to engage with them. When the family moved here, they had no settled status so had to rely on foodbanks and clothing banks as they had very little money.

John started on Accelerate on 21/3/22 and it was immediately clear that he was an intelligent and helpful young man. He had some Qualifications from the little time he spent at Caldervale High and was interested in becoming a mechanic however if he felt stressed, he would retreat and use headphones to listen to music as way of controlling his ADHD.

John threw himself into the Accelerate Programme, especially the outdoor activities including No Limits Motivation Day with Breathing and Cold Water Therapy, Boxercise, Canoeing, Knockhill Go Carts, and Mountain biking. John is always so appreciative of being part of the activities, but his most admirable feature is the fact that he supports one of our other trainees who has additional support needs.

In centre John has covered Personal Development sessions covering Crime and Punishment, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Employability Skills, Mental Health, Consent, Internet Safety and ICT/Digital Skills Training.

John recently had an interview for a job in a Garage, he has also had support to apply for a College Course. Whilst here John has achieved his Core ICT Level 4 and has excelled in his knowledge of our VR equipment. John’s attendance has been 100% and his commitment has been unquestionable. John is now in a position to move forward with a more positive frame of mind, he continues to gain our full support.

John’s favourite part of the Accelerate Programme was the outdoor activities in particular the racing at Knockhill.

Quote from John: “Right Track’s a great place, I got a qualification and help to make a CV. The staff are very supportive, and you get paid to learn which is amazing.”

**An Introduction to the REACH Programme**

During the Covid pandemic Right Track staff recognised a significant increase in mental health difficulties among the young people we were already working with on various Programmes, and those referred to us.

During the pandemic we responded by introducing 7 day a week contact and crisis phone lines, we delivered food boxes and helped parents/ guardians access emergency grants and organised online diversionary activities for young people. This increase in mental health issues has continued over the past two years. Until recently, we have tried to support these young people and their parents/ guardians within our existing Programmes however we are now receiving Referrals from Schools, Social Work, Careers service and Parents/ Guardians for young people who have such serious mental health difficulties that they could not possibly flourish within even our most basic entry level Personal Development Programmes.

These young people are often “non-verbal”, are completely withdrawn, have issues with self-harm, body dysmorphia, gender identification, they struggle to leave the house, have attempted suicide, have undiagnosed learning difficulties or autistic spectrum disorders, are suffering from extreme grief following loss of a loved one, or are just young people with an expectation of failure and absolutely no understanding or acceptance of self-worth. In general, they see no future and no place for themselves in any form of success.

With waiting lists for mental health support locally in excess of one year and with input from key partners we have designed the REACH Mental Health Support Group.

The overriding aim of the Project is to support the young people described above to feel better about themselves and their future, as a result of highly supportive REACH provision. Staff describe REACH as “a big hug” and indeed this is an apt description.

Through REACH support we want young people to feel listened to, cared for, understood, supported, encouraged, and nurtured.

Through REACH support we want them to attend the Project, communicate and make friends, open up, and learn coping skills.

Ultimately however we want them to feel better, happier, included and more positive.

REACH is largely groupwork enhanced by one-to-one support and activities aimed at confidence building and developing communication, self-esteem and personal resilience, alongside challenging barriers and trying something new. REACH is a small pilot. For further information, please see the attached leaflet.

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**Lydia Orr – Happy Birthday!**

Touchdown trainees hosted a surprise celebration for one of our Touchdown Trainees – Lydia Orr, On her 18th Birthday this month. All of the other trainees took part in decorating the room, wishing her well and enjoying her Birthday Cake!

Lydia had shared with the group that she was getting a kitten for her birthday and that she planned to save up for a cat tower, so as a Birthday gift from the group, we decided to get together and make a cat tower for her as a surprise! This was an epic team effort and Lydia was really delighted with the epic result!

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**Touchdown Success**

One of our Touchdown trainees – Oliver McCreanor, came into Centre before his interview at JST Electronics in Coatbridge for an apprenticeship in I.T.

This is certainly how to make a good first impression when attending a formal interview and show the Employer that you have made an effort. 😊

I am delighted to say that Oliver was successful at his interview and will take up employment on Monday 8th August.

We all wish him every success in his new career and will continue to offer Oliver our Aftercare service for as long as he wants us to.

What a boy! What an impression he made!

A picture containing indoor, appliance

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**First Aid Qualifications**

We want to Congratulate Louise Weir and Ryan Sneddon on successful completion of their on line First Aid Certificated Training.  Louise and Ryan are fairly new to the Touchdown programme and will be able to add this to their CV to enhance their job prospects, it is also a life skill that is valuable to all in everyday situations.

Well done to you both.  😊😊

**Overcoming Literacy and Numeracy Challenges**

**“**Damon” was referred to Right Track by an Additional Support Needs School with the help of “Mary” his Careers Officer. “Damon” did not want to continue with School as he did not enjoy it. “Damon” had a foster parent who was very supportive but had a lack of experience of the world of work.

“Damon” joined us on the Employability Fund Stage 2 Programme on 07/02/2022. He was quiet and introverted, with limited communication. “Damon” struggled with handwriting and with numbers. He managed to complete our Initial Assessment which showed us that his Core Skill Level was around Access Level 2 so we discussed with him that we could do to support him and why these skills were important.

“Damon” joined a lovely wee group of trainees, and Trainer, Maria, took him under her wing. “Damon” was embarrassed by his written work so we let him use the laptop when he could. “Damon” also saw many of his peers struggling which eased the pressure. One to one support was provided with written work however as the group got to know each other they began to support each other. “Damon” became a little more confident over the next few months. He completed an SQA Personal Development Award and was practicing his Numeracy a bit at a time. Maria often read out material and would give “Damon” the chance to write answers, if “Damon” was struggling, Maria would scribe so that “Damon” did not get upset or frustrated. During this time staff helped “Damon” apply for his Young Scots Card and the free travel that came with it.

Despite real progress, “Damon” was not ready for Work Experience, so we moved him to the Accelerate Programme on 01/07/2022, where he has been looking at career options.

“Damon” is not as concerned about his handwriting as he was when he started with us as he knows how to make more use of word documents and spell check. Over 6 months “Damon” has become much more confident in the centre and smiles a lot more. He has made some good friends and has been on outdoor activities and trips. In centre “Damon” achieved his SQA Numeracy Award at Level 4 by taking one task at a time. Some Months ago, “Damon” got help to apply for a College Course and he has been offered a place. “Damon” has been truthful with the College about his ongoing support needs as he is now more able to discuss these without embarrassment. We will support “Damon” into college, even taking him on his first day if he would like us to do this. “Damon” has achieved so much in 6 months; his attendance was excellent as was his time keeping. “Damon” has also learned some new and useful skills he can use in the future.

**Some Bridgeton Successes!**

**The following young people have taken part in the Launchpad Programme at our Bridgeton Centre**

**Ali**

Ali is a refugee from Pakistan who arrived in Britain when he was 13 years old. English is not Ali’s first language, so he found it difficult to source support. He was referred to Launchpad by his Work Coach from Skills Development Scotland.

Ali was a shy boy with impeccable manners. He wanted to learn about Law when he was older to help other refugees. He lives in a jobless household with a single mum and three siblings. Sadly, his father was killed in Pakistan when he was 13 years old. Ali was low skilled and wanting to improve on this.

Ali told us he would love to make friends and the Launchpad Programme was the best opportunity for him to do this. The programme has outdoor activities, and the learners must support one another through various tasks. Ali soon bonded with some boys in his group. He now has friends who take the time to listen to him and enjoy his company.

Ali had no National Insurance number so the Project Manager started the process to get this for him so he could eventually gain some work experience. After a lot of phone calls, we managed to get an appointment for Ali with DWP. The only office he was allowed to attend was in Edinburgh due to his status. A staff member escorted him on the day but due to the pandemic he could not enter the office with him. We had prepared Ali for all possibilities and the staff member waited outside the doors in case he had any problem. This was a successful meeting and Ali would be sent out a National Insurance number in “15 weeks” but at least we knew it was coming.

Ali worked on his Communication, Numeracy, and Literacy SQA Awards throughout his time on Launchpad. He registered with job sites and My World of Work. He gained some practical work experience, and this was a terrific experience for him as it was with refugee agency in Glasgow who make up food packages and offer other supports. Ali still had that dream of College and Further Education, so we sourced a College Course - an application for an Introductory Course in Law, very basic however the start of a journey for him. Ali attended this interview on his own. We looked at his bus route worked out time etc and the journey he would take on the day. He attended his interview and impressed the staff member with his dreams and aspirations. Ali was successful and so proud of himself, as he should be. He left us at the end of his time to take up his College Course. Ali was an absolute pleasure to work with and all at Right Track wish him well in his future journey.

**Kieran**

Kieran was referred from School to the Launchpad Programme due to his non-attendance and behaviour. He came with anger issues and had been in trouble with the Police on a regular basis at the weekend. He was low skilled but thought that he could just walk into an Apprenticeship.

Kieran had a very supportive mum and dad who were very worried and in contact with the Launchpad team on a regular basis. Once we started working with Kieran, you soon realised he had the kindest soul but repeated patterns of poor behaviour.

When working with Kieran to highlight his barriers he worked well with a member of staff and seemed to open up more about his feelings and frustrations. Kieran was very insular to begin with and could not keep eye contact with staff or other participants. He was easily angered, however we soon worked out that praise was something he responded very well to. When we had issues with Kieran started to talk to staff instead of storm out if he did not like what he was told. The staff team took great care to highlight to Kieran all his positive attributes, he was particularly a great support to his peers, and this made him realise he had more to offer if he was less disruptive.

Kieran was very keen to work and the activities he undertook during Launchpad helped his confidence, so we started work on his Vocational Skills; he was supported to create a CV as he had worked helping his dad. His interaction with peers during outdoor activities was great. He went from zero attendance at school to 99.5% at Launchpad. Working on Qualifications was hard for Kieran but with some extra one to one support he achieved an SQA IT Award at Level 4, and he was so proud.

Kieran was now starting to talk to other staff members when he entered the Centre in the morning. He could now see the benefit of Launchpad and the lessons he was learning. Kieran continued to work on his attitude, behaviour, and his attendance on the course. His personality started to shine through, and it was a great thing to see improve daily.

Tiling was one Vocational area Kieran showed an interest in. We gathered all the information together for College and a Course that offered him his CSCS Card and various Certificates relevant to the Construction industry. He applied for the Course at College for Tiling and was successful. As the Course did not start till August we referred him on to a Course first that would give him his REHIS Health & Safety - SCQF Level 5 · CSCS Test & Green Labourer Card · UKATA Asbestos Awareness · Vehicle Reversing Marshall -Electrical Safety - Abrasive Wheels as Kieran was also interested in Garage work. Kieran enjoyed the Course and has achieved all the Qualifications. He still has his college place for August but in the meantime he is working with an Agency for Construction jobs and enjoying his journey. What a personality and an exceptional journey for Kieran, so proud of him.

**Hall of Fame - July**

Declan Burke- Information and Communication Technology

Tjay Burns – PD Self and Work

Arron Fagan - Information and Communication Technology

Matthew Gray- Information and Communication Technology

Nikolai Jaskiewicz – Information and Communication Technology

Paige Kennedy – Information and Communication Technology

Andrew Mackenzie – PD Self and Work

Kyle McDonald – Information and Communication Technology

Kacey McMillan – PD Self and Work

Thomas Miller – PD Self and Work

Rhiannon Murning – Information and Communication Technology

Leah Sweeney – Information and Communication Technology

Leah Denholm- Information and Communication Technology and Practical Abilities, Self and Work

James Lafferty- Numeracy, PD Practical Abilities, PD Self-Awareness

Derek Gavin- Communication, Numeracy, PD Practical Abilities.

Dylan Oliver – Employability Award

Shona Redmond- Employability Award

Shannon Oliver– Communication, Information and Communication Technology and PD Practical Abilities.



**There is a single common fact about every person who has ever achieved something worthwhile…. they have had to work hard for their success.**

**Well done all.**

**This project is part funded by the UK Government through the**

**UK Community Renewal Fund**

*The UK Community Renewal Fund is a UK Government programme for 2021/22. This aims to support people and communities in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches to prepare the UK for the Shared Prosperity Fund. It invests in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people in employment. For more information, visit* [*https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus)





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