



# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

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### RECORD-BREAKING NUMBERS ENTER FURTHER EDUCATION WITH HELM SUPPORT

Not content to sit on their laurels back in September when the Employment Team broke all records by helping over 30 young people into colleges around Tayside, now the combined team in the Dundee and Angus centres have assisted a further 10 young people to enter the courses of their choice and helped their career dreams come true.

In January trainees started courses ranging from Business & Accounting, to Travel & Tourism, Health & Social Care, Support for Learning through Sport, and Building & Electrical. Kyle, pictured was just one of the Get Ready for Work trainees who was referred to the Dundee centre back in the summer after he left school and has worked hard while at Helm to gain qualifications and wider vocational skills. In particular Kyle enjoyed working on the allotment site on basic joinery and building during the autumn which helped when he applied for the Dundee College cluster course covering foundation skills in building and electrics.

Caroline Davidson, Employment Liaison Officer is delighted with the results which she puts down to having a strong working relationship with the local colleges, "When a trainee is referred to Helm we discuss all the



Kyle started a Building & Electrics cluster course at Dundee College in January

*options with them right at the beginning as they often haven't considered the full range of courses available to them. Sometimes we will put them onto a placement to give them some experience of what that course will help prepare them for, and then we discuss further with the college staff who are always helpful, especially when additional support is required, like literacy for example."*

Helm Training is delighted to have met all the targets set by Skills Development Scotland for this year.

### CASE STUDY:

#### Placement opens door for Jamie

Even with a good qualification, many young people are struggling to get a foot in the door and that situation is only going to worsen with the tightening employment market. Jamie was in exactly that situation last year with a solid qualification in book-keeping from Dundee College, but struggled to get work. She came along to the Careers Scotland Jobs Fair and following a chat with the Helm Employment Team, started immediately on a placement with the Credit Control division at Brakes.



As she worked hard for two months, showing great potential, she was put forward for an interview with Axis-Shield and she successfully gained a full-time position with the Customer Service department and is now progressing through her SVQ Level 2 in Administration through Quest, a working partner of Helm. Sandra Fisher, Employment Liaison Officer was delighted with the result, "Jamie had all the skills but lacked the confidence and work experience on her CV to get a job but with our help we were able to overcome this and help get her a full-time position. I am delighted for her as she thoroughly deserved to get a job."

#### FRIENDS OF HELM

Again we would like to thank all the local organisations who help us with our work with young people. In particular in this issue we thank... I.B.B. Trust, Bank of England, Busy Bees Nursery, Little Rascals and Tesco Arbroath



## HELM TRAINEES JOIN PILOT VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME

Dundee Volunteers is currently piloting a new 16+ Learning through Volunteering programme called Breakthrough and two Helm trainees are enjoying the benefits from the experiences being offered through the wide-ranging four-week programme.

with others, body language, and other employability skills.

In their final week they will be taking part in a volunteer placement day and receiving their certificate at an award ceremony.

Stephen and Darren are now entering their final week of the course which has seen them take part in Youth Sport, Showcase the Street, the Highwayman and at The Brae where they have been directly helping the Riding for the Disabled volunteers. In addition the trainees have been learning more about volunteering, communication, working



*Steven and Darrell, second and third from left have been helping out at The Brae, the new Riding for the Disabled centre*

## WORKING WONDERS FOR TRAINEES

Working with young children can bring enormous job satisfaction and enjoyment as some of our recent Helm trainees have been finding out on placement. The trainees have been based at Wonderland Nursery, one of Tayside's most established private nurseries which has centres in Dundee, at Ninewells Hospital and in Arbroath. The trainees have been able to experience what it would be like to work in a busy childcare environment and for Elizabeth and Samantha this has recently led to full-time positions in Dundee and Arbroath. They are now both working towards their SVQ Level 2 in Childcare.

The Nursery, which has its own excellent training programme encourages new trainees to develop a project on their own that can be delivered to the children. For Sandy Lee, pictured, one of the current Helm trainees, this meant developing a Christmas show looking at all the creative and organisational elements required. These work experience opportunities have not only led to jobs for some of the trainees but for some it has been the encouragement they needed to return to college and start the Foundation in Care course, which can lead to childcare training in the future.

## HYPE PARTICIPANTS LOOK GLOBAL

Our young parents are currently enjoying a more global experience as part of their weekly literacy session in the Dundee centre with a ten-week programme being run by the One World Centre. The programme which is being run by Helen Patrick and Natasha Alder in partnership with Niina Stahlberg, from the 16-24 Literacy

Project aims to focus on three main themes: exploring the links between the lives of the young parents and those across the globe, tackling understanding on some key global issues – health care, climate change etc. and also to develop a 'campaign' on an issue that relates to their lives.



*Young parents discuss their lives in a global context in their weekly literacy session*

If anyone would like more information on the HYPE project which runs Monday to Thursday afternoons and is aimed at enabling young parents to keep up their skills or learn new ones ready for work, please contact Anthea Coulter, Project Leader on 01382 224464.



*Elizabeth, right is now working full time with Wonderland Nursery and Sandy Lee, left is currently on placement*