


# **Business Bulletin**

## **Education, Children and Families Committee**

**10.00am, Tuesday, 15 November 2022**

## Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Joan Griffiths</p> 	<p>Councillor Joan Griffiths (Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Key Councillor Kumar Councillor Mattos Coelho Councillor Walker Councillor Young Councillor Burgess Councillor O'Neill Councillor Cowdy Councillor Jones Councillor Davidson</p> <p><b>Added Members for Education Matters</b></p> <p><b>Religious Representatives</b> Mrs Fiona Beveridge</p> <p>Angela Campbell</p> <p>Dr May Ruhiyyih Parris</p> <p><b>Parent Representatives</b> Alexander Ramage secondary sector parent representative</p> <p>Primary sector parent representatives will be confirmed at the Education, Children and Families Committee meeting 15 November 2022.</p>	<p>Nickey Boyle, Executive Support 0131 469 5725</p>

### Edinburgh's Promise

#### [Edinburgh's Children Loved, Safe and Respected](#)



Work continues Edinburgh's Promise 2021-2023 plan. Over the summer several areas of this work has been taken forward, especially connected to Whole Family Support, school's-based Love, Safe and Respected focus, and continuing work to update our corporate parenting offer. There will be a rolling programme of events coming out shortly that will allow colleagues to be connected to and understand the work involved in keeping the Promise in Edinburgh by 2030. Colleagues are encouraged to use the hyperlink above to Edinburgh's Promise pages and access the resources which are available there. We need everyone to identify with the work of Edinburgh's Promise, as it will take all of us to keep the Promise.

### Supporting the most vulnerable with rehabilitation



Colleagues in justice services have partnered with voluntary sector charitable organisation Change Grow Live (CGL) to support vulnerable people to rehabilitate into their community following a period in custody. Many people leaving prison lack basic essentials to help them adjust to life outside prison so to address this, justice partners provide winter liberation packs for CGL colleagues to distribute to those in greatest need during the colder months of the year. Items available for the backpacks include mobile phone, hat, gloves, torch, diary, notebook, useful telephone numbers for supports, wipes, deodorant, and water bottle/flask. Additionally, some of the most vulnerable who have no means of making contact with friends, family, or

services, have been issued with a basic mobile phone to keep them connected with support networks to help them live crime free lives, and advance digital inclusion.

### All of Us Campaign Drop in Session

The All of Us Edinburgh campaign organised a Fun Family Drop-in session at the McDonald Road Library on 23 July. All of Us was set up to help people find out where to get advice and support with parenting or other worries about family life and where to turn to if they have concerns about a child. There were stalls at the event from NSPCC Scotland, Home Start, Children's Health Scotland, Venture Scotland, Education, Children and Families Committee –15 November 2022



Edinburgh, and Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC) and the Junction. There were arts and crafts from Polymorphics, a Bookbug session, snacks, a face painter, and balloon animals. This event was attended by over 165 people.

### **Justice Services garden project**

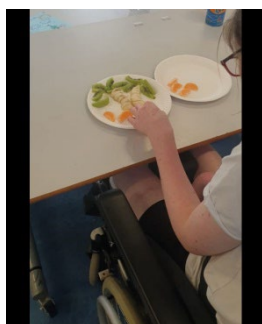
We know that for some crimes, short term sentences are ineffective and don't address the needs of those who have committed offences or the communities in which they live. Justice services has been exploring innovative ways to support those who have committed offences to repay the community for their crime while at the same time, giving them the opportunity to learn valuable skills, work as part of a team, and support the environment through gardening project placements. Justice services has teamed up with Cyrenians to launch the Royal Edinburgh Community Hospital Garden project. Those carrying out unpaid work in the community will be



maintaining the Hospital woodland, orchard, and garden, including landscaping, planting, pruning, clear ups, and other key garden activities over winter, preparing for the spring and summer months of full bloom. The project will be managed by Cyrenians and offer weekend sessions to accommodate as many participants as possible. The garden is open to the public providing an opportunity for people to see the work carried out by the team.

### **ASN Holiday Club – going from strength to strength**

During the summer holidays, 533 families received holiday hub support. Families were pleased to see the increase in provision and the high quality of care provided.



Young people enjoyed a range of activities including getting creative, going swimming, cooking and visiting local attractions. Positive feedback from carers and young people, noted that the support was essential for both keeping young people active and allowing families and carers some respite. Since the start of the new school year, we have helped families by making them aware of the holiday support available in advance. So far, 480 families have applied for holiday support for the full academic year and already know their



allocation.

### **The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: The Risk Factory**

The Risk Factory (TRF) was originally set up through the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership to deliver experiential safety education / life skills to Primary 7 pupils as they prepare for transition to secondary school. Based in a purpose-built warehouse behind the Corn Exchange with stage like sets covering ten scenarios including home, road, water,

electrical and rail safety. The programme is delivered by two staff, a team of volunteers and a rota of fire safety officers from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

TRF reopened following COVID closure in late May 2022 to prepare the building for returning volunteers and schools groups. Following refresher training with our volunteers two sessions were conducted in June with Murrayburn and Stenhouse Primary Schools to check processes worked for the new academic year.

Since the start of the 2022/23 academic year, we have had 23 school groups visit with 756 pupils and 84 staff / parent helpers. This breaks down as:

Local Authority	Schools	Visitor Numbers
City of Edinburgh	14	464 pupils and 50 staff / parent helpers
Midlothian	8	266 pupils and 31 staff / parent helpers
East Lothian	1	26 pupils and 3 staff / parent helpers

At this time, we have 107 school bookings for the remainder of the academic year (broken down by local authority below) with more anticipated.

Local Authority	Schools
City of Edinburgh	54
Midlothian	15
East Lothian	16
West Lothian	16
Independent	5
Non-Lothian	1

Unfortunately, some of our volunteers decided not to return after such an extended closure and we are working to build this up. Adverts in the Volunteer Centres have been refreshed, posters distributed, and a second staff member from Volunteer Edinburgh (the Employability Work Coach) is due to meet with us late October to see what volunteering at The Risk Factory involves. We hope this will help channel further volunteers towards us as well as providing transferrable skills for those going on to seek employment.

Volunteer numbers currently stand at 33 fully trained, with three currently undergoing PVG checks and training, with a further two prospective volunteers due to start in November.

Key contact:

Caroline.Wilson@edinburgh.gov.uk

## **A New Approach for Community Sport Hubs (CSHs) in Edinburgh.**

The Community Sport Hub (CSH) programme was **sportscotland's** contribution to the legacy of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Initially, CSHs focused on supporting and developing local clubs and sport organisations and were traditionally based in facilities such as schools or local sports centres. Clubs came together, shared best practice and solved problems in their local CSH network.

Over time the role of CSHs in Scotland has evolved which will bring about change to our CSHs in Edinburgh. Fast forward to today and CSHs are a key pillar in **sportscotland's** 'changing lives' movement. This movement is about using sport and physical activity to intentionally bring about positive change for people and communities. It will see sport and physical activity delivering intentional outcomes in areas such as health, education, community development and social cohesion, with EDI (equality, diversity & inclusion) underpinning everything we do.

CSHs will achieve this by taking an approach to support and empower local stakeholders (non-sporting and sporting) to improve sport & physical activity in communities and ensure equal opportunity. It starts with understanding the needs of a community and then collaborating with key community stakeholders (community police, youth work groups and others) to facilitate and deliver high quality activities and interventions which are appropriate and will make the biggest positive difference.

We have developed a new 18-month plan which will focus our resources in 5 areas in Edinburgh. This plan can be found attached. The plan details how we align to 'Edinburgh Learns for Life' and how we will resource our work over this period.

Should you wish to hear more please contact Community Sport Hub Manager, Adam Szymoszkowskyj: [Adam.Szymoszkowskyj@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Adam.Szymoszkowskyj@ea.edin.sch.uk)

## **Volunteer Amy Makes Her Mark**

Active Schools volunteer 17-year-old Amy McEwan first came into contact with Active Schools after participating in our Disability Sports Camp in 2021. Following the camp, due to her passion for sport and interest in working with children Amy got in touch with us expressing a wish to volunteer.

During her journey with Active Schools Amy has been mentored by Jill Coleman, Active Schools Coordinator Special Schools Cluster. She has embraced opportunities to develop her skills and knowledge and attended the Active Schools Leadership Academy 2021/22 which gave her the opportunity to gain certificates in Introduction to Coaching Children, UK Disability and Inclusion Training to name a few as well as enjoy social sports sessions with other Leadership Academy attendees.

Amy has been particularly interested in working with those with additional support needs and shown a great strength in this area. It has been great to see her confidence grow within the range of settings she has volunteered which have included Disability Sports Summer Camp 2022, Braidburn School/Thistle Foundation cycling and Redhall School Bikeability Level 1. Amy has also supported Basic Skills sessions at Juniper Green Primary School.



We think Amy's pretty brilliant and a really positive role model for her peers. Well done Amy and thank you for all the work you do!

*'Volunteering with Active Schools is really great and is a happy experience for me I'd really recommend it ...I love the things I've had a chance to do and all the people I've met'* Amy



### Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit:

#### Benmore and Lagganlia Outdoor Centres

The Council's Benmore and Lagganlia outdoor centres undertook a prompt restart of residential school visits in Autumn 2021. This sector-leading approach was recognised nationally and included significant partnership working with Health Protection Lothian.

Council school and centre staff worked tirelessly and with great skill to ensure our young people undertook safe and high-quality visits. During the 21/22 academic year, a total of **5773 young people** visited Benmore and Lagganlia last year, including the delivery of a whopping **69,726 meals**; a superb team effort by all involved!



This prompt and sustained restart was achieved because the Council operates its own centres and was able to manage all aspects of safety and quality of provision.

The development of resources to minimise infection and transmission risks was shared nationally. The Council is rightfully proud of its achievements, and this is very much recognised nationally.

Feedback from schools continues to be excellent and reflects the close and excellent relationships between the schools and centre staff. They are all Council staff and can therefore liaise in-depth to maximise attendance and support many different needs; this is another benefit of the Council investing in its own centres. Some examples of feedback from Edinburgh schools:

- *There are too many examples of outstanding practice to list them all, but they [staff] all took so much time and care to make sure that each and every pupil felt valued and included. The activities were so fantastically run, and the instructors so knowledgeable, that my role was reduced to just having to enjoy my time with the class. I have been on a number of school residentials with different providers and have never returned feeling so fulfilled! Visiting teacher.*
- *From the planning and preparation, through to the week itself, it was a hugely positive experience for staff and pupils. All the instructors provided fun, safe and memorable experiences with plenty of opportunities to develop teamwork skills and provide individual challenge for pupils. With patience and understanding, staff felt that all pupils were very well supported. Visiting teacher.*
- *All the instructors did an amazing job of providing the children with a week that they will never forget. As always, the food was brilliant and I haven't seen a group eat so well during a residential for a while and that is all down to the quality of the food on offer. And of course a big thank you to yourself for taking the time to speak to us before the trip about our children who need support, making sure that the correct support was in place for our visit and being around to support us when we were at the centre. Visiting teacher.*

Additionally, Benmore delivered an innovative 2022 residential summer holiday programme via the Summer Holiday Food and Childcare Funding. SOLU, locality youth work and third sector staff and volunteers worked together to design and deliver provision, which included full board and a wide range of adventurous activity. **60 young people** benefitted via a total of **6408 childcare hours**. Evaluations involved locality youth work and third sector staff, and families. This demonstrated significant outcomes and very high satisfaction rates. A selection of quotes:

- *Everything was so perfect, all I will say is thanks to everyone who has made it possible for the journey to Benmore to be successful. My children were so excited and made new friends. Parent/carer.*
- *It was very well planned with a variety of outdoor and indoor activities to help children be independent, stay active and be with peers. Parent/carer.*
- *It was my first experience on a residential and an amazing experience, I liked it all. Child.*
- *Through the participation in the residential trip we were able to support the continuation of our youth strategy project. Locality youth work staff member.*



- *Benmore staff were brilliant, outdoor learning team were brilliant resulting in requests to repeat by young people. Locality youth work staff member.*



The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit staff are currently updating guidance and support to assist with the ongoing priority of reducing the cost of the school day. This will include planned workshops with schools during the Autumn, involving existing good practice on how to maximise attendance on residential. SOLU is continuing to liaise with schools to record and monitor attendance to support training and provision. Updated results will

be included in a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee planned for early 2023.

Key contacts:

[Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk) (Principal Officer Outdoor Learning)

[Graeme.Adams@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Graeme.Adams@edinburgh.gov.uk) (Benmore Outdoor Centre Operations Manager)

[Nick.March@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Nick.March@edinburgh.gov.uk) (Lagganlia Outdoor Centre Operations Manager)

<https://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk/> Experience Outdoors is part of the Council's Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit.

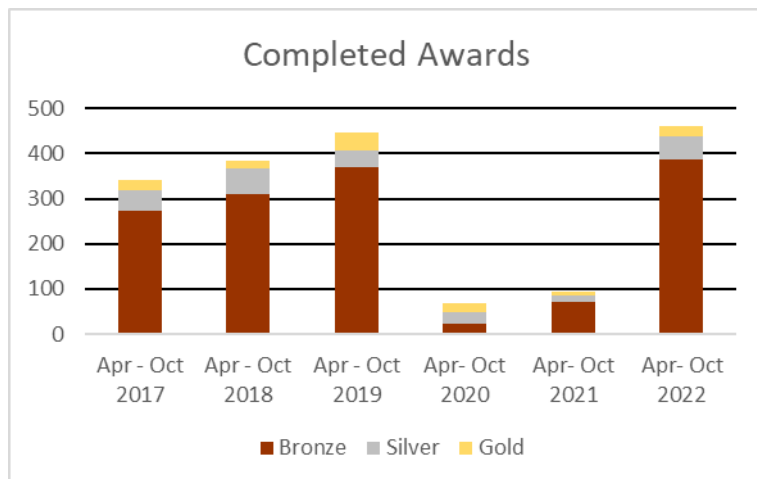
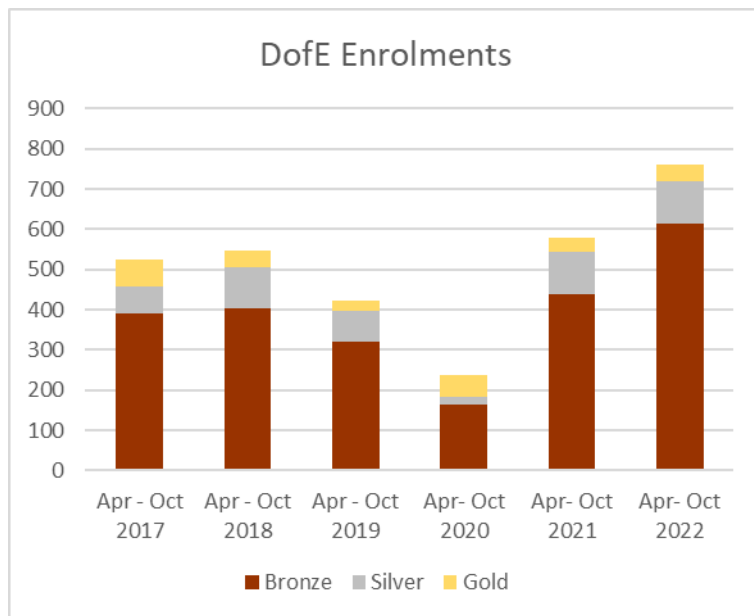
### **Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit:**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme is continuing to benefit many young people in the city. Programme coordination is led by the Council's Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) via staff at the city's Bangholm Outdoor Centre.



Council staff and volunteers have and continue to be focused on delivering a strong pandemic recovery so that young people can access high quality provision and opportunities. This has been supported by the UK-wide [flexible arrangements](#). SOLU can report an impressive performance with the number of overall DofE enrolments (starters) and completions across all levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold combined) returning to pre-COVID levels and continuing to rise. **Well done and thank you to all the young people and leaders taking and supporting the DofE challenge in Edinburgh.**



Volunteering is a key part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. SOLU is delighted to report that DofE Scotland has recently estimated that our young people undertaking their award with this Council spent an estimated **9,685 hours** volunteering in just one year. This equates to a social value of **£44,745** within their local communities.

**The Council and DofE are immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement of our young people making an impact in their community.**

The city's developments continue, including ensuring all young people can access this award. Recent examples include collaborative work between SOLU and locality youth work staff to start a new DofE community group based at the Wester Hailes library; and the Broughton University (UP) Programme. The latter involves a collaboration between teachers, learners, parents/carers and local university partners to deliver an ambitious targeted intervention initiative, which has recently introduced DofE to its programme. A thank you to locality youth work and Broughton HS staff for their great skill and dedication, plus the many partners who play such a critical role.

The DofE is a wonderful way for young people to get involved in their communities; improve their wellbeing through physical activity; develop life skills; and learn the skills to walk and navigate in the countryside.

Key contact: [Fraser.Robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Fraser.Robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk)

<https://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk/duke-of-edinburgh>

### **Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit and Additional Support for Learning Service (ASLS):**

New ASL Outdoor Learning instructor

The Council has recently employed a new ASL Outdoor Learning Instructor who is working with a range of young people, often including those with complex needs. Each engagement package involves adventurous activity and is bespoke to the young people. Programmes will typically run between 3 and 12 months, potentially with more engagement after.

This innovative post is being delivered in partnership between the Additional Support for Learning Service (ASLS) and the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU). This is a good example of different services working together to meet the needs of our young people.

The aim is to allow each young person to develop in an environment where they can thrive. Developing confidence and a sense of achievement are gained early on and these are further developed in different contexts and may involve wider achievement awards. Risk management and problem solving within a team are encouraged and developed; essential and relevant to everyday life.

All programmes delivered via this role feature a progression in personal skills; encouraging talking to others and empowering self-belief via the context of adventurous activity to create meaningful change.

Key contact:

[Richard.NootDavies@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Richard.NootDavies@ea.edin.sch.uk) (ASLS Outdoor Learning Instructor)

## **Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit:**

### **Bangholm Outdoor Centre / Scottish Cycle Repair Scheme**

The Bangholm Outdoor Centre is pleased to announce it received a further grant from Cycling UK under the Scottish Cycle Repair Scheme.

After two previous grants, Cycling UK were keen to extend the partnership with the Council/SOLU. Bangholm staff working in collaboration with other Council officers have successfully targeted support to families who would not normally be able to get their bikes repaired.

Bangholm Outdoor Centre is offering a mobile repair service which takes the mechanic and tools to the customer.

### **What does the Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme (SCRS) provide?**

The Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme provides free cycle repairs and maintenance work, up to the value of £50 per person (non-standard cycles e.g., trikes, tandems or recumbent bikes excluding standard upright e-bikes are eligible for up to £100 repairs under SCRS).

Basic service and mechanical repairs are covered by the scheme i.e., repairs that are necessary to make the cycle roadworthy and fit for purpose. The following repairs are covered by the scheme:

- repairing or replacing tyres, tubes, wheels and related components.
- adjusting, repairing or replacing braking system components.
- adjusting, repairing or replacing transmission system components; and
- repairing or replacing other essential components which prevent safe use of the cycle e.g., deteriorated grips or saddle.

Cliff Smith (Bangholm Outdoor Centre/SOLU staff member) completing repairs to adaptive bikes at St Crispin's Special School:



Key contact:

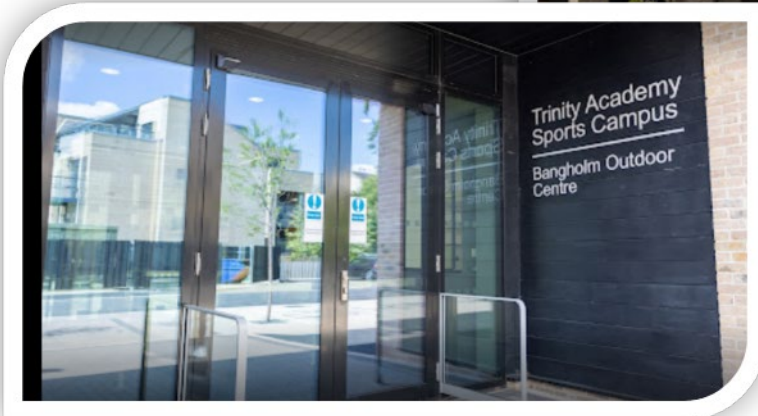
[Cliff.Smith@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Cliff.Smith@edinburgh.gov.uk)



## Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit:

Trinity Academy Sports Campus / Bangholm Outdoor Centre and new delivery

The Bangholm Outdoor Centre has recently opened and is shared with Trinity Academy.



Edinburgh based SOLU staff are based onsite and responsible for delivering a range of outdoor learning training; excursions support; related wider achievement awards and the delivery of adventurous activity and general outdoor learning provision. The site includes an office and bespoke annexe allowing SOLU to organise, store and maintain a wide range of general and specialist kit to support outdoor learning across the city and beyond. The new site and surrounding area provide many opportunities to enrich and deliver high quality outdoor learning.

The Bangholm Outdoor Centre staff are currently working in collaboration with local primary and secondary schools to design and deliver additional innovative outdoor learning provision for local Ukrainian pupils. This will include onsite activity focusing on the lagoon and bushcraft area and extending to local resources such as biking on Edinburgh's extensive cycle routes to explore and become more familiar with Edinburgh. SOLU is currently planning to work with outdoor learning partners to build capacity and extend provision. Direct outdoor learning delivery for Ukrainian families by SOLU staff across the city is likely to equate to approximately 3 days a week from November 2022.

Key contacts:

[Andrew.Bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk) (interim Operations Manager – Bangholm Outdoor Centre).

[Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk) (Principal Officer Outdoor Learning)



## Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Epic Adventures

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit has built upon the highly successful 2021 Epic Days (e.g. [CEC News](#) and the [Edinburgh Reporter](#)). This 2021 provision was originally introduced to support outdoor learning during the pandemic and was delivered by the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) via the Bonaly Scout Centre and the adjoining Pentland Hills Regional Park.

The Council's exciting and innovative partnership with the South-East Scotland Scouts/Bonaly Scout Centre continues and the 2022 programme was entitled; **Epic Adventures**. This was a much more targeted programme to support specific groups of learners and young people and has recently concluded for this year (October 2022).



SOLU staff provided approximately **3500 hrs** of instructor delivery with **2470 pupils** benefitting from the programmes. Pupils ranged from P5 – S6 and provision included 'school day' visits, extended days and 2-night stays. SOLU has piloted transition/induction activities and residential progression models, including a night-time star-watching walk for a class who have been learning the constellations. Epic Adventures instructors have also been deployed offsite delivering cycling days using 2-wheel, 3-wheel and adaptive bikes at five of our special school (2-days in each school).

The innovative Epics business plan and collaboration with Bonaly Scout Centre has also allowed SOLU to support wider Council initiatives including offsite and onsite holiday Discover! provision; cycling projects; and Edinburgh's Job, Education and Training (JET) Programme.

SOLU is currently working on a business plan for 2023 and beyond (phase 3 of SOLU's 'Epic' brand development), which will commit towards a longer-term plan and partnership. Demand is significant on top of existing provision and opportunities. 2023+ work will focus again on targeted provision and complement SOLU's existing portfolio of work. Epic Adventures provision is designed to supplement and complement existing work. It cannot and is not designed to replace existing provision. It will support a wide range of Council initiatives so that all young people can engage with and benefit from the great outdoors!

Key contacts: [Andrew.Bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk) (Interim Operations Manager – Bangholm Outdoor Centre). [Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk) (Principal Officer Outdoor Learning)

## Rugby Returns to Queensferry Cluster!



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***I love watching Scotland play at Murrayfield so I was really excited to try touch rugby at school and it was lots of fun to play in the festival at the end of the block***



Rugby has made a comeback thanks to a fresh connection between Linlithgow Rugby Club and Active Schools!

All P7 pupils received 4 weeks of brilliant taster sessions delivered by LRC Rugby Manager Dougie Thomson and his fantastic team! Although there is some rugby delivered in the PE curriculum, the children really embraced the opportunity to be back having delivery from external providers and focus on learning skills and rules of the game

This culminated in a giant Touch Rugby festival for all 180 of them at Queensferry High where they put their learnings into practice, all expertly refereed by 14 QHS Sports Leaders! The sun shone, the children smiled throughout and importantly made new friendships ahead of their next adventure transitioning to high school together

Next steps are a satellite club, promoting LRC for families to watch club games so children see the progression and hopefully join 'Tartan Touch'!

Week after week the pupils grew in confidence and engaged in the challenge of learning a new sport especially after such a long covid break. The joy of being active again as well as working in a team was clear to see and many were excited when the coaches told them about the forthcoming festival and opportunities at the Rugby Club, especially their summer camp - it will be very interesting to discover just how many went along to that and join the club, but this project was certainly a highlight of the P7's year and the partnership are keen to build on this going forward

It was so satisfying to see that this new project and partnership between Active Schools, Linlithgow Rugby Club and The Schools ran so smoothly for the first time. P7 were targeted as that is where the club had capacity and it would be great to keep that momentum going each year and develop into delivery for more year groups once the local satellite club and coaching staff are established. Four weeks of delivery was ideal for the pupils to grasp enough to ensure they had a beneficial festival experience

## 60 pupils graduate from Active Schools Leadership Academy

It's been another successful year with the Active Schools Leadership Academy with senior pupils involved from across the city of Edinburgh. Over 60 pupils engaged in the programme this year and there was even a return to in person meetings! The Leadership Academy compliments the SportScotland Young Ambassador programme with pupils gaining experience in leadership in sport, sports coaching and promoting sport opportunities in their school and community.

The senior pupils meet several times during the school year to learn and share their knowledge of motivating and inspiring others to get involved in sport. This was the first year that an SQA unit had been added to the programme with participants being offered the opportunity to undertake the 'Assisting an Activity' unit and 8 completed this. This will hopefully be progressed with more SQA units offered next year. Along with this SQA unit participants also had the chance to complete SportScotland Introduction to Coaching Children Qualification with 48 completing this, Scottish Sport Futures Mental Health and Well Being Training and 13 of them also completed their Scottish Disability Sport UK Disability and Inclusion Training.

The Leadership Academy ensures young people are equipped with the right knowledge and confidence to take on any opportunity in the sporting world. Many participants who signed up to the programme completed at least 10 hours of voluntary delivery with Active Schools Edinburgh.

Outcomes of the programme were;

- Increased confidence in delivering sport
- New relationships developed
- Increased knowledge of sports coaching
- Improved understanding of Inclusion

"It's been great to be involved in the Leadership Academy! I've met lots of people from other schools and it's given me the confidence to start coaching"



## **From Screen Education Edinburgh (SEE), Arts & Creative Learning Team**

### **Recent SEE activity:**

***Making Sense of a Changing World***, funded by Creative Scotland, developed young people most affected by the pandemic. Screen Education Edinburgh worked with two organisations, youth homelessness charity Rock Trust and Fife Young Carers.

At Rock Trust young people made documentary 'Awareness' focused on living with schizophrenia, and short drama 'Lost Time' focused on mental health and a new way of living due to covid.

At Fife Young Carers dramas 'Understanding Rachel' and 'Ellie's Story' focused on the life challenges of being a young carer, and documentary 'It's Not That I'm Weird' giving an insight into being one.

### ***Careers talks in Schools***

In partnership with Film Edinburgh and funded by Creative Edinburgh, SEE has delivered a series of careers talks in schools. Focused on growing opportunities in Film & TV, pupils heard from industry professionals in tech, production, and construction depts, covering skills and knowledge required, related schools subjects, educational and workplace journeys of each professional, and entering the workplace, with pupils having their questions answered as part of a Q&A session to end.

To date, talks have taken place at Boroughmuir High School, Gracemount High School, Liberton High School, Leith Academy, Royal High School, St Augustines RC High School, and St Thomas of Aquins RC High School, with hundreds of pupils taking part.

### ***BFI Film Academy***

SEE's BFI Film Academy Edinburgh programme taking place from October 2022 until January 2023, funded by the British Film institute and Screen Scotland, has begun with an intensive week based at Leith Theatre. 20 young people from Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland will learn all areas of filmmaking, make short films, learn about the film value chain and employment opportunities, engage in industry masterclasses, and gain the BFI/Screen Skills Preparing to Work in the Film Industry level 5 qualification.

### ***Screen Scotland Strategic partnership***

SEE have entered into a strategic partnership with Screen Scotland's film education team, with funding received for the Set the Scene – Filmmaking for Teachers and Pupils programme. From October 2022 to July 2023 two strands of the programme will take place in Edinburgh schools.

First, two groups of teachers at primary and secondary level will take part in Scotland's first General Teaching Council for Scotland accredited programme in film 'Using Filmmaking to Develop Your Teaching Practice', whilst teachers and pupils will take part in a pilot rollout of Film Line Scotland, a unique online learning platform for pupils at all curriculum levels to learn and progress through each stage of animation, drama, or documentary filmmaking in the classroom.

## **Pupils and teachers attend the inaugural Saroj Lal Award for City of Edinburgh Schools Awards Ceremony**



On Tuesday 11 October at City Chambers, the winners of the first ever edition of the *Saroj Lal Award for City of Edinburgh Schools* were announced at a ceremony of award judges, pupil/teacher nominees and their families, along with Council colleagues and other invited guests.

Saroj Lal was one of the first BAME women to teach in a Scottish primary school when she began her role at South Morningside Primary School in 1970. Her many successes included being at the forefront of race relations during a period of immense political and social change, delivering anti-racism training and starting the first local authority interpreting and translating service in Edinburgh. Following her death in 2020, Saroj's many achievements in equality, women's rights, education and community work are being formally recognised.

All City of Edinburgh schools were invited to nominate pupil work relating to any aspect of equalities, in any artform. Headteachers were also invited to nominate staff, whose collaborative work around equalities has taken a creative approach and had an impact. All nominated work will be used to start building a resource bank for schools. There were 9 schools who nominated, with 13 pupil / pupil group nominations and 4 teacher nominations submitted.

All work submitted was considered by a panel of judges, including Saroj Lal's son Vineet Lal, Debora Kayembe (Rector of The University of Edinburgh), Theo Ogbhemhe (teacher in Orkney who was winner of the first GTCS Saroj Lal Award), and young person, Alanah Walker.



## **Aims of The Saroj Lal Award for City of Edinburgh Schools**

- Mark the important legacy of Saroj Lal's life and work.
- Inspire action and promote equalities work in the widest sense.
- Ensure pupils' views, ideas and experiences are central and communicated widely through creative approaches.
- Create a bank of resources for schools to use and share.
- Challenge perceptions, remove stigma and celebrate diversity.

The award categories were as follows:

- ***Proud to be Me***: Communicates the young person's personal expression of pride their heritage, in their own culture and/or identity.
- ***How Prejudice Makes Me Feel***: Expresses young people's feelings about any form prejudice inflicted on themselves or others.
- ***Artivism***: Art expresses their views on social justice and challenges others to change and/or act differently.

All the nominated work was celebrated at the ceremony hosted by Councillor Joan Griffiths, Education, Children and Families Convener.

The student winner for the *Proud to be Me* category was Anum Shezad of The Royal High School.

In the *How Prejudice Makes Me Feel* category the winner was Freya Wilson of The Flora Stevenson Primary School.

For the *Artivism* category the winner was the Rights Respecting Schools Group, comprising four senior pupils at Firrhill High School.

The staff winner was Mr Rory Murray, again of Firrhill High School, with the Judges' Commendation going to Jane O'Thy, of Boroughmuir High School.

*Councillor Joan Griffiths, Education, Children and Families Convener said:*

"I am incredibly proud to oversee the inaugural Saroj Lal Award for City of Edinburgh Schools as Education, Children and Families Convener. These pupils and their achievements are a testament to the rich legacy that Saroj Lal left in her decades of pioneering work in Edinburgh and beyond. This award provides an opportunity to reflect not only on the life on a pioneering and inspiring woman in Saroj Lal but an opportunity to look ahead to the future with pupils across the Capital showing their passion for equality, diversity and social justice"

*Vineet Lal, son of Saroj Lal, and one of the Award judges said:*

“I have been blown away by the sheer creativity and depth of thought demonstrated by all those pupils and staff nominated for the inaugural Saroj Lal Award for Schools. I have been truly amazed by the variety and originality with which they have embraced the spirit of equality and diversity and captured that spirit so beautifully in their submissions. Saroj was a pioneering force in the struggle for justice and fairness for all, and I think she would have been very proud indeed that her trailblazing work in the City of Edinburgh and beyond should inspire new generations to champion those same values.”

## **Connecting Scotland**

Connecting Scotland invited Local Authority Resettlement and Education Teams to apply for devices, internet connections and mobile phone SIM cards to support digitally excluded refugees (adults as well as children who require devices and/or connectivity for school work).

It is anticipated that the majority of this support will be for people from the Ukraine, but recent refugee arrivals (within the past 3 months) from other countries are also eligible. This is intended to meet immediate need, and up to 3,000 devices and internet connections are available for distribution across Scotland’s local authority areas.

The City of Edinburgh Council were successfully awarded, 250 Chrome Books, 20 iPads, 300 Sim Cards and 270 MiFi Units which we delivered to MS Victoria today.

Already 200 teenagers on board MS Victoria have been identified as needing ICT equipment and services so this is going to make a huge difference to them, from being able to access educational tools to staying in contact with friends and family.

