



SURF
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice



New approaches towards tackling barriers to employability: SURF Awards Shared Learning Workshop – 3rd May 2018

Background

SURF and the Scottish Government work together to identify and highlight excellence and innovation in initiatives that address social and economic challenges in disadvantaged communities through the annual SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration.

This **free half-day SURF Awards workshop event in the Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh on 3 May** provides an opportunity to explore successful new approaches towards tackling barriers to employability. The winning and highly commended projects from the 'Youth Employability' category and the winner of the 'Community Led Regeneration' category highlighted in the 2017 SURF Awards process will provide comment on their experiences and transferable learning.



(l-r): LinkLiving, DIWC, Creative Pathways and DRC Youth Project

Workshop guests will firstly hear from a project representative from the 'Youth Employability' category winner **LinkLiving**. The project works with young people in Edinburgh, Falkirk and Fife and supports them in seeking employment, education and training by helping identify goals and removing barriers to progress

The second presentation will be given by the 'Community Led Regeneration' category winner **Dundee International Women's Centre**. DIWC's vision is to provide a space where women and girls from black and

minority ethnic (BME) communities achieve their personal goals, reach their full potential, and prosper in their community.

This will be followed by input from the 'Youth Employability' highly commended **Creative Pathways: Barrhead** project. The project is delivered in partnership by community arts charity Impact Arts and Barrhead Housing Association. It delivers an employability programme that uses the power of arts and creativity to inspire and motivate young people who are not in employment, education or training.

Guests will then hear from the second of the 'Youth Employability' highly commended projects the **DRC Youth Project**. The service is run by DRC Youth Project, a voluntary organisation that provides a range of support for socially excluded young people in various wards across north west Glasgow including Yoker, Scotstoun and Whiteinch.

The event will close with **Skills Development Scotland** providing detail on their current priorities towards supporting individuals and organisations to help people enter or return back into training and employment. It will then open up to a discussion on National Policy.

The SURF Awards 'Youth Employability' judging panel team – comprising representatives of Skills Development Scotland, Resilient Scotland, Forth Sector and the Third Sector Employability Forum – were particularly impressed by the commitment to engaging with disconnected young people using a variety of creative approaches. The SURF Awards 'Community Led Regeneration' judging panel team – comprising of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Govan Community Council, Corra Foundation and the Scottish Community Development Centre – strongly felt that the impact of DIWC goes beyond the individual to the rest of the family, and plays a key role in enabling wider integration.

Programme

10:00am Welcome and Coffee

10:30am Introduction: **Andy Milne**, Chief Executive, SURF

10:40am Presentation, LinkLiving: **Nicky Paton and Grant Alexander**, LinkLiving

10:55am Presentation, Dundee International Women's Centre: **Fatima Ramzan and Vaqar Salimi**, DIWC

11:10am Presentation, Creative Pathways: Barrhead: **Fiona Doring**, Impact Arts and **Bryan Dando**, Barrhead HA

11:20am Presentation, DRC Youth Project: **Arthur McNeaney and Gerard Espie**, DRC Youth Project

11:30am Open Discussion, Questions and Comments with representatives from the projects

11:50am Presentation, Skills Development Scotland: **Michelle Gibson**, Skills Development Scotland

12.00pm Open Discussion on National Policy

12:25pm Summary and Thanks: Andy Milne

12:30pm Networking Lunch

About the SURF Awards

Please visit www.surf.scot for more information on the SURF Awards and the outcomes of the 2017 process.

Check back the website or follow us on Twitter @SURFscot or Facebook – SURF for information on how to apply for the 2018 **20th Anniversary** SURF Awards.