



**SURF**  
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice



## **New approaches towards tackling youth employability challenges: SURF Awards Shared Learning Workshop**

### **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 Teacher Building, Glasgow on 4 May** provides an opportunity to explore successful new approaches towards tackling youth employability challenges. The winning and highly commended projects from the 'Youth Employability' category highlighted in the 2016 SURF Awards process will provide comment on their experiences and transferable learning.



(l-r): Street League, Rathbone's X-CEED programme and ENABLE Scotland's Stepping Up

Workshop guests will firstly hear from a project representative from the 'Youth Employability' category winner **Street League**. Operating across 21 delivery locations across Scotland Street League deliver a combined sport and employability programme that assists out-of-work young people into sustainable employment, education and training.

This will be followed by input from the highly commended **X-CEED** project. Managed by Rathbone X-CEED (Extra Coaching to Exceed and Expand Development) operates in Edinburgh and the Lothians

to support vulnerable young people into positive destinations by using a personalised approach to improve their social and employability skills.

Guests will then hear from the second of the highly commended projects **Stepping Up**. Managed by ENABLE Scotland Stepping Up is delivered in more than 70 schools in 11 local authority areas across Scotland to help young people with learning disabilities remove any barriers that impede their progress into employment, further education or training.

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. Followed by a short input from the **Third Sector Employability Forum** looking at the role they play in developing the capacity of the sector in relation to both employability policy development and delivery of services in Scotland. It will then open up to a discussion on National Policy.

The SURF Awards 'Employability' judging panel team – comprising representatives of Skills Development Scotland, Resilient Scotland, Third Sector Employability Forum and West and Central Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network – were particularly enthused by the impressive youth employability support services provided within all three shortlisted projects in this category. The judges will be participating in the workshop, which also features a discussion session and networking lunch, to help draw out transferable lessons from the participating projects.

## Programme

- 10:00am Welcome and Coffee
- 10:30am Introduction: **Andy Milne**, Chief Executive, SURF
- 10:40am Presentation, Street League: **Chris Caldwell**, Street League
- 10:55am Presentation, X-CEED: **Amy Dunn**, Rathbone (Scotland)
- 11:05am Presentation, Stepping Up: **Ashley Ryan**, ENABLE Scotland
- 11:15am Open Discussion, Questions and Comments with representatives from the projects
- 11:40am Presentation, Skills Development Scotland: **John Lindsay**, Skills Development Scotland
- 11:50am Presentation, Third Sector Employability Forum: **Blyth Deans**, TSEF
- 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](http://www.surf.scot) for more information on the SURF Awards and the outcomes of the 2016 process. Check back the website or follow us on Twitter @SURFscot or Facebook – SURF for information on how to apply for the 2017 SURF Awards.

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