



SURF
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice



Overcoming barriers to employability facing Scotland's young people: SURF Awards Shared Learning Workshop – 15th May 2019

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 Glasgow Women's Library, Bridgeton, Glasgow on 15th May** provides an opportunity to explore successful approaches towards tackling barriers to employability facing young people in Scotland. The winning and highly commended projects from the 'Youth Employability' category highlighted in the 2018 SURF Awards process will provide comment on their experiences and transferable learning.



(l-r): Pathfinder, Kingdom Works and Pathway to Success

Workshop guests will firstly hear from a project representative from the 'Youth Employability' category winner the DRC Youth Project and WorkingRite **Pathfinder Programme**. The project aims to remove labour market disconnects for young people by taking a collaborative approach, rooted in the strengths of each individual, to support them into sustained employment.

This will be followed by input from the 'Youth Employability' highly commended **Kingdom Works** project. The project aims to remove barriers to employment for unemployed individuals aged between 16-29 while supporting the delivery of community benefits through public contracts.

Guests will then hear from the second of the 'Youth Employability' highly commended projects Young Enterprise Scotland's **Pathway to Success** project. The project looks to inspire and support disengaged 15-21 year olds from disadvantaged communities into formal education or employment by providing a comprehensive 150 hour employability programme.

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 **Scottish Government Employability Team** looking at the role they play in developing employability policy and delivery of services in Scotland. 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, Link Group Ltd, Responsible Finance and the Third Sector Employability Forum – were particularly impressed by the commitment to engaging with disconnected young people and the flexibility of the approaches taken by the projects to meet the needs of each individual.

Programme

10:00am Welcome and Coffee

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

10:40am Presentation, Pathfinder Programme: **Arthur McNeaney**, DRC Youth Project and **Scott Christie**, WorkingRite

10:55am Presentation, Kingdom Works: **Lynne Dunn**, Kingdom Works

11:05am Presentation, Pathway to Success: **Emily Bennett**, Young Enterprise Scotland

11:15am Open Discussion, Questions and Comments with representatives from the projects

11:35am Presentation, Skills Development Scotland: **Michelle Gibson**, Skills Development Scotland

11:45am Presentation, Scottish Government: **Steven Turnbull**, Employability Team

11.55pm Open Discussion on National Policy

12:25pm Summary, Thanks and What's Next: **Andy Milne** and **Emma Scott**, Information, Communications & Events Officer, SURF

12:35pm Networking Lunch

About the SURF Awards

Please visit www.surf.scot for more information on the SURF Awards and the outcomes of the 2018 process.

Check back the website or follow us on Twitter @SURFscot or Facebook – SURF for information on how to apply for the 2019 SURF Awards, which launch on Thursday 6th June and close for applications at 5pm on Monday 2nd September.