

Social Justice programme

Open Grants scheme



Inspiring Scotland

Young people learn motorcycle mechanics with support from Rural and Urban Training Scheme (RUTS), one of Inspiring Scotland's 14:19 Fund ventures.

The Social Justice Open Grants scheme aims to help integrate marginalised individuals and communities. We see integration as a two-way process in which society at large and specific communities adapt, understand and benefit.

We want to support younger people up to the age of 30 who are at a time of transition because of their circumstance (such as leaving care or prison or settling into a new community) or changes to the cultural environment in which they live (such as established communities in refugee dispersal areas).

The Open Grants scheme focuses on arts and learning activities that enable marginalised young people to have their voices heard and ensure their fuller participation in society.

If possible, the outcomes of funded activities should also build strong relationships within and between communities and foster respect for, and understanding of, the differences between communities.

Grant awarded in 2012/13

1625 Independent People
£149,620 over three years

This is a new grant to transform the way a Bristol-based organisation, 1625 Independent People, works with young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Chief executive Dom Wood explains the issue: "Homeless young people and those leaving care and custody have experienced trauma and conflict. This can lead them to display challenging behaviour, including excessive risk taking, substance misuse and antisocial or aggressive behaviour. In turn, this can lead to eviction and a return to homelessness. It is often difficult to implement plans for homeless young people as they have generally not formed trusting, appropriate relationships which the rest of us often take for granted."

Our grant will help the charity to expand its peer and community mentoring service, as well as providing one-to-one mental health support for young people. It is also planned to influence the practice of seven local partner organisations including Barnardo's, Brook and the Prince's Trust.

He says that staff in youth services often have a range of expertise but are not aware of how complex trauma affects behaviour. To address this, 1625 Independent People has chosen a new, experimental approach by working with



Bounce Back

Recently released prisoners working in painting and decorating, using skills developed inside prison as part of a programme to reduce re-offending rates.



Leave to Remain

A still from the film 'Leave to Remain' which tells the stories of young Afghan refugees in the UK. The film, due for release during 2013, stars professional actors (including Toby Jones, pictured right) with young people from refugee communities.

Psychologically Informed Environment framework (PIE). It is a model of working with victims of trauma that encourages young people to take ownership and control over their emotions and behaviour.

The PIE approach was originally developed by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and has been used by various homelessness organisations. Working within a therapeutic framework, staff develop clear and consistent responses to young people who may be chaotic, distressed or lacking confidence. Young people are encouraged to make informed choices about their behaviour, engage with support workers and take positive steps. It also supports staff to reduce the risk of burn-out.

The aims of the project include increasing the wellbeing and engagement of 60 young people, training 30 peer educators and community mentors to improve their understanding of young people's behaviour and supporting members of staff to feel more confident in supporting young people. Other outcomes will also be measured, such as maintaining tenancies, attendance and engagement, educational achievements and decreases in arrests.

"The project will help take PIE, peer and community support to another level in supporting young people to make changes in their lives," says Dom. "We are all very excited by the impact and the learning it will bring."

Bounce Back 1,000 over three years

Bounce Back Foundation reduces re-offending from the national average of 65 per cent to 10 per cent. It does this by working with offenders before they are released from prison, training them to become painters and decorators. On release, the ex-offenders gain qualifications and obtain work as self-employed decorators. They work for Bounce Back, which operates as a social enterprise, gaining contracts for domestic and commercial decorating, or for construction companies, or set up their own businesses.

The grant has provided essential funding over the next two years to enable Bounce Back to employ the staff it needs to develop its project. "The money will enable us to work in more prisons, engage with more people and broaden our training programme to encompass NVQ Levels 1 and 2," says chief executive, Francesca Findlater. "PHF is also working with us to enhance the evaluation of our new programme, so that we can help shape policy and practice in this area."

"Until I met Bounce Back, I had no confidence and no skills. They found me in prison and have supported me ever since – I owe them everything – and I even pay tax now!"

Frank, Bounce Back participant

Bounce Back now helps ex-offenders from Wandsworth, Brixton, Wormwood Scrubs and High Down prisons. It has also established a painting and decorating team of over 40 participants working in paid employment around London and the Home Counties. All the Bounce Back decorating teams are supervised.

Frank has been in and out of prison for the last 18 years. He also had a serious substance misuse problem and was homeless. He has now been on Bounce Back's programme for a year and has trained to be a competent painter and decorator. He is also developing his skills and confidence in other ways, writing an article for the Big Issue magazine and contributing to Bounce Back's blog.

"I had no motivation or desire to do anything," he says. "Until I met Bounce Back, I had no confidence and no skills. They found me in prison and have supported me ever since – I owe them everything – and I even pay tax now!"

The project has helped him to stabilise his life to such an extent that he has recently been welcomed back into his family for the first time in ten years.

"This clearly shows that our work is not just having impact on the ex-offenders we support, but also on their families and the wider community," adds Francesca. "We hope that the PHF grant will help to ensure that the key successes of our programme can be captured and shared on a much wider level."