Transitions to Learning and Work

Youth work approaches to engage and support young people.
Overview

The Transitions to Learning and Work Programme is a full-time programme delivered by Glasgow Kelvin College. Part-time options can also be negotiated to meet the needs of the individual.

The programme is delivered on a daytime and term-time basis from Glasgow Kelvin College's Easterhouse Campus. Young people are offered an initial one year on the programme, with a further offer made as required.

The programme uses youth work approaches to engage and support young people, primarily from a care experienced background, to sustain participation in a positive educational experience.

The curriculum focusses on personal and social development and developing the skills and abilities needed to thrive in adult environments. The students are supported by Community Learning and Development Workers to set their own milestones and targets and achieve a variety of awards and certificates which reflect both the nature of the activity and the level of responsibility taken.

The programme also introduces young people to a range of vocational taster options, offers opportunities to achieve SQA units and seeks to help them achieve positive educational outcomes through progression into further education, employment or training.
“There should be more courses like this. They help you mix with other people.”

17 year old male
The below provides an outline of a 'typical year' on Transitions, although the programme is tailored to the interests of the learners and, as such may vary in content. Learners enrolling later in the year will always start with the Block 1 programme to introduce them to a college environment through informal engagement with youth workers, who lead the activities. Young people are introduced to mainstream teaching experiences at a stage appropriate to their personal development.

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**Criteria and Referral**

Young people aged between 15 and 19 can be referred by Social Work services, Education services or other appropriate agencies. The programme targets young people who are:

- care experienced (looked after at home, in residential units, in kinship care or looked after in the community);
- excluded from or at risk of exclusion from school;
- in, or at risk of early entry into the Youth Justice System;
- least likely to access or sustain a positive destination post school
To discuss potential referrals or request a referral form, you should in the first instance contact:

**Fiona Templeton** (Senior Community Development Worker)
Email: Ftempleton@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk
Mob: 07775 586 225; or

**Barbie Jordan** (Curriculum Manager)
Email: bjordan@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

The referral form provides essential background information and should where possible be supplemented by the young person’s Wellbeing Assessment and Plan.

Subsequent to referral a meeting will be arranged so that the young person and supporting adult can discuss the programme content and how it can be structured to meet their individual needs and aspirations.

There are opportunities to join the programme throughout the academic year, which operates as 3 x 12 week blocks, with new intakes usually considered to start in August, November and February. Each block offers the learner progressive involvement in their learning journey and opportunities to work towards and achieve higher levels of attainment and accreditation.
Youth Work

Throughout the programme there is a strong focus on working with others, development of independent living skills and one-to-one support and guidance.

Activities usually include:

- issue-based workshops;
- planning trips – research, budgeting, risk assessment, travel planning;
- fundraising activities;
- YouthBank applications and interviews;
- Fire Reach course (delivered by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service); and
- College certification (benchmarked at SCQF level 3)

e.g.

- Introduction to Word Processing
- Introduction to Internet;
- Introduction to Social Networking;
- Introduction to 3D Modelling Using TinkerCAD
- Introduction to Graphics Software Using Sumopaint
- Certificate in Internet Safety Awareness;
- Certificate in Alcohol Awareness.
Learners are given the opportunity to participate in a range of vocational tasters, usually a half day per week in a diverse range of subjects drawn from across the College vocational and academic curriculum. Teaching staff from each of the faculties work closely with the Curriculum Manager to design and deliver a practical class. These tasters provide learners the opportunity to gain SQA units at levels 2 to 5 as well as developing positive working relationships with faculty staff who they are likely to encounter again if they progress into a mainstream course in that area.

Vocational Tasters

Tasters have included:

- Care of Children
- Teamwork through Sport
- Food, Health & Wellbeing – Preparation of food
- Practical Experiences in Construction
- Beauty Skills: An Introduction
- Employability
- PX2
The Enhanced Vocational Improvement Programme (EVIP) is an alternative education provision run by Glasgow City Council. It is available as a part time option in S3 and as a full time option in S4. Young people are referred by their Learning Community Joint Support Team which has representatives from Education, Social Work and Psychological Services.

The Transitions to Learning and Work Programme at Glasgow Kelvin College in partnership with EVIP have developed a hybrid programme called EVIP+, which aims to support the most vulnerable young people by combining aspects of both programmes to create a varied and dynamic curriculum offer. This programme aims to engage with young people who have been referred to EVIP but are thought likely to struggle to sustain the main programme. These young people will normally also fit the criteria for the Transitions programme and benefit from smaller group sizes and the regular support of both an EVIP vocational coach and college CLD worker.

Recruitment for this programme is usually once a year in August and enrolls learners for one academic year until June.
Brian was referred to the Transitions to Learning and Work programme by his school guidance teacher at age 15 as his poor concentration, lack of focus and often disruptive behaviour in class had led to risk of exclusion from school.

Soon after starting College he was temporarily excluded due to ongoing behavioural concerns at which time he was able to identify he was struggling with grief following his father’s death. He requested counselling to support him. Brian has a keen interest in Sport/Outdoor Education shown through:

- participation in Outdoor Education vocational taster during Transitions;
- signed up as an Active Champion with support from Active East (a community based voluntary organisation);
- volunteered with Metro Outdoor programme at Spring Break;
- volunteer placement coaching at Shettleston Juniors Football Club; and
- volunteer Placement at PEEK (a local youth arts project) helping at event days and street play sessions

Achievements have included:

- over 300 hours volunteering achieving Saltire Award;
- achieved Bronze Youth Achievement Award (SCQF4);
- close to achieving Silver Youth Achievement Award (SCQF5); and
- achieved Bronze level Trinity College London Arts Award (QCF1)

He has now successfully completed a Sports course at Glasgow Clyde College, Cardonald Campus, to which he travelled independently 4 days per week. Brian continues to receive employability support from a key worker at Glasgow Clyde College.
Jessica enrolled on the Transitions to Learning and Work Programme in 2014. Jessica had disengaged from school and presented with low self-esteem. She struggled to manage her sleep pattern and attributed this to stress in coping with a long-term health condition. During her 2 years on the programme she has achieved:

- Employability Group Award (SCQF4)
- Play in Early Education and Childcare SQA unit (SCQF4)
- Beauty Skills: An Introduction (SCQF4)
- Food, Health & Wellbeing – Preparation of food (SCQF2)
- Leave No Trace Certificate for Outdoor Ethics
- Bronze Arts Award (QCF1)
- Introduction to Word Processing (benchmarked at SCQF3)
- Introduction to Social Media (benchmarked at SCQF3)

Jessica has accepted a place on Women in Construction, City and Guilds at City of Glasgow College beginning September 2016. On successful completion of this course she will receive an Extended Certificate in Construction Skills at SCQF level 3 and can progress to SCQF level 4.
"This course helps you get into college earlier and learn things you like."

"There should be more courses like this. They help you mix with other people."

"I hated school and was hardly ever there but I've got perfect attendance at college. Although I need to improve my timekeeping."

"This is better than school because you're treated like an adult."

"I really enjoyed the vocational tasters."

"My attendance at college has been good, not like at school and I've learned that I'm good at construction."