



# Dunedin Canmore Youth Projects Give it a Go Programme **Edinburgh**



Dunedin Canmore Youth Projects work in partnership with S4 pupils at Gracemount and Liberton High Schools in Edinburgh to offer their 'Give it a Go' programme. Almost all participating young people live in areas of significant deprivation. Many are school refusers or pupils with very low levels of attendance. Young people on the programme meet at least once a week at a local community centre, to access further support, designed with them to meet their needs, along with Skills for Work training, in conjunction with Skills Development Scotland. The aim of the programme is to give young people alternative options and more opportunities.

### Direct Impact

All 16 young people who participated in the programme in 2019 showed improved health and wellbeing, increased engagement in learning and improvement in school attendance. 90% secured positive destinations

### Unintended outcomes

David Aitchison, Youth Worker

"We saw an increase in our other youth services as the young people become more confident in the centre. We also saw young people volunteering in youth cafes or community events, and feedback from family members stating a marked change in behaviour at home and life in general"

### Accredited awards

All participants attained at least one award: Duke of Edinburgh, Saltire, John Muir and /or Personal Development Award

### Dylan, aged 16, Gracemount High School

"I stopped attending classes as early as second year, didn't think school was for me and wasn't getting on with my teachers. I was offered the chance to go to Give it a Go at Valley Park Community Centre. I used to go to clubs there when I was a kind so I thought I would see what it was like. I felt so much better going to the centre. It was kind of like I was in control and I liked that. I worked my way through the programme and they helped me get some work experience in landscaping... The staff helped me to apply for a job – they helped me get ready for the interview and even took me for some clothes. On the day I was really nervous... I couldn't believe it when I got the call to say I had the job!"

### Lewis Whale Depute Head Teacher, Gracemount High School

"It is testament to the youth workers and the range of pupils that the same pupils who find it so difficult to attend school will often attend Give it a Go on a regular basis... The excellent work that is being done can be clearly reflecting in the impact that it is having on Gracemount High School's leavers' statistics."