

CashBack for Communities Youth Work Fund

Project Spotlights

Organisation – AMPED (Aberdeen Motorcycle Project for Educational Development)

CashBack award - £2,275

Area - Aberdeen

1. Tell us about the work of your organisation (100-200 words)

We are under the Umbrella of Aberdeen City Council, and are a joint project between the Youth work Team and Education. Youth work and Education share many resources and operate under the same policies, procedures and legal compliance. We are citywide and work with all young people. The project is staffed by Youth workers, education staff along with support from Police Scotland, SFRS and community learning. We operate from garage space at one of the Aberdeen City Council schools.

2. Tell us about your CashBack project (100-200 words)

The Amped (Aberdeen Motorcycle Project for Educational Development) project was set up in 2007 as a diversionary/employability project for young people across the city who were participating in anti social behaviour, offending or at risk of offending. We have a youth work based approach where we work with young people to develop their interest in vehicle mechanics/engineering, encouraging positive pathways back into education or employment. Our referrals come from Schools, Police, Social Work, Priority Families, and 3rd party organisations such as Bernardos, The Foyer etc.

3. How is it going so far? (100-200 words)

The project has evolved over the past 5 years following feedback from the young people. We have started reducing the size of the groups and have had to customise the programme to suit the educational development levels of the participants. The scope of vehicle mechanics is huge, and can vary from very complex work through to easier to learn tasks, so we now have face to face meetings with every young person before they are placed within a group. This is done to create groups with equal levels of ability and educational understanding and maturity.

4. What impact do you hope it will have? (100-200 words)

The impact of the project is to work with young people on a project which interests them, engages them and encourages them in behavioural change within their lives whether that is

re engaging in learning, encouraging employability goals or improving the lives of those in their communities through a reduction in anti social behaviour or offending.

5. Any highlights that you can share? (100-200 words)

We have many young people who return the project regularly either invited or as a drop in to help out as mentors, sharing their stories with the young people or offering support. We have many young people who quickly realise how important education is to their dreams of working within the vehicle industry and then return to school or college invigorated and enthusiastic about learning.

We had one participant from Northfield Academy who went from 0% school attendance in the year prior to attending Amped , to 80% following his time with us.

6. How important is CashBack funding generally for your work with young people? (100-200 words)

The cashback funding is crucial to the ongoing development and success of the project as cutbacks within the Local Authority are leading to a more self sustaining model for AMPED. At present we have free premises provided by Aberdeen City Council, however this will end in July as the school is being closed and demolished. We are currently looking for new premises, which may have to be paid for in future.