

# YOUTH WORK AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

## KIRKINTILLOCH HIGH SCHOOL, EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE



### CONTEXT

A full time youth worker joined the team at Kirkintilloch High School in 2021, funded through the Youth Work Education Recovery Fund. This year, 79 young people have accessed support through the youth work programme offered in school.

### WHAT WORK WAS UNDERTAKEN?

Targeted youth work support is offered for care-experienced young people, young people with ASN, and young people at risk of leaving school without a positive destination. The work focuses on raising attainment through wider learning and achievement - e.g. Youth Awards, improving health and wellbeing and developing skills, including interpersonal skills. Support is a combination of 1:1 sessions, small group work and qualifications. The youth worker also networks with other community organisations and builds links with other partner organisations that can provide additional support where appropriate.

### WHAT IMPACT HAS THE WORK HAD?

The work aims to tackle the attainment gap, targeting young people most in need of support. Young people's progress has been measured in relation to their wellbeing, their engagement in learning, their skills development and new qualifications/accreditations gained. The school also looks at tracking data relating to attendance, referrals and attainment, there is a particular focus on positive transitions from primary to secondary school.

### QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK

69% of participating young people developed greater resilience  
68% of participating young people developed team building skills  
67% of participating young people improved their confidence, their communication skills

59% of participating young people built positive relationships  
57% of participating young people improved their decision-making skills  
39% of participating young people developed skills in self-care

### QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

#### Young people

"Got me from attending two classes per day to 4 minimum now, I am also not as late as I used to be, I used to come in at 12pm, now I come in at 9am"

"I feel more positive about my future now"

"I feel more confident going to class"

"I can't imagine school without [the youth worker]. To begin with I was so sad and frightened in school. I cried every day. [The youth worker] helped me to make friends and helped me with strategies for learning"

#### Teachers

"Youth work supports health and wellbeing across the board - it helps young people to feel comfortable and happy in the school - if you're not happy, you can't learn. Once we have happy young people, they can go on to excel."

#### Parents

"I really appreciate the support [youth worker] has given my child and I can see a big change in their attitude"

"My child is happier going to school"

