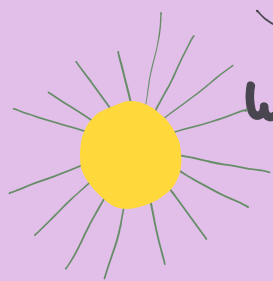


YOUTH WORK AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP



WEST PRIMARY AND CASTLEHEAD HIGH SCHOOL, RENFREWSHIRE

CONTEXT

The Evolve programme was established in 2020. Around 66 young people per year participate, in both primary and secondary school settings. The work is funded through the Cashback programme.

WHAT WORK WAS UNDERTAKEN?

The Evolve programme provides targeted support for primary school transitions - P7s and also additional targeted support for a small group of S2/S3s, with some follow up evaluations with P7s transitioned to S1. It is a personal and social development programme, underpinned by health and wellbeing activities. Young people work together to identify issues within their community that they would like to positively change and share ideas on how to action this. The programme is co-designed with young people and flexible to suit need. Each small primary school group has access to support over an 8 week period. The programme runs throughout the academic year for S3 pupils. Funding allowed the space and time for the partnership between West Primary, Castlehead High and the youth work team to come together and plan, buy creative resources and really invest in relationships.

WHAT IMPACT HAS THE WORK HAD?

This work is integral to the schools raising attainment initiative - as well as young people who present with challenging behaviour, the school also includes young people who go under the radar. Young people's progress has been measured in relation to their wellbeing, their engagement in learning, their skills development and new qualifications/accreditations gained.

QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK

From May 2021 to October 2022, 66 young people had access to the Evolve programme across both schools. Quantitative impact data is available for 38 of these young people (all primary school pupils). All of these became more confident, developed their relationships and communication skills, demonstrated improved resilience, improved their decision making, problem-solving and leadership skills.

QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

Young person

"I feel more confident - I have developed cooking skills and other skills; I like being in a smaller group because it means that I can talk more with others and also able to ask questions"

Youth Worker

"Building relationships with young people over time can have a huge impact. For example, we are working with 'through care young people'. They have been with us for some time. They been volunteering with P7s and have achieved their Saltire Award. One built confidence for college interview... another wanted to do social care at college - didn't get in first time around but has since moved into part time employment and keeps in touch. Another young person who had achieved a Saltire Award attended a college interview - college told the youth worker that the young person had done well but wasn't yet ready for college. The youth worker advocated on behalf of the young person, highlighting their achievements despite multiple challenges. The young person was offered a place on the course and is doing well, and developing more as a result."

Teacher

"This programme can help to create the spark again for school"

