



Lewis – age 13

TANNAHILL CENTRE

Finding Focus

I started coming to the youth club when I was 11 and when I was 12, I started volunteering: planning and putting on community events. I got involved because I was interested in trying something new and I thought it was a good thing to put on events and entertainment – it was something that young people in the community needed. I like that we get to say what we want to do – we're not made to do anything.

I learned to trust my youth worker – I could always rely on her to be there for me. I was out of school for a while, but I still came along to the centre to volunteer. It was good to have that focus. It took my mind off other things. I was able to make new friends and it showed me work could be enjoyable and I was able to work for awards like the Hi 5, Dynamic Youth and Saltire. I like that I can go back and look at my awards – it makes me proud and reminds me I can achieve something that I didn't think I could.

I've developed a lot of skills as a volunteer: organising and planning and making decisions, especially working in a team and making group decisions. I'm more confident to say my opinions, but I've also got better at negotiating and stepping back before I get into an argument.

As a volunteer you have to get your head into things and focus and you have to take responsibility and make an effort. I'm back in school now and knowing I'm able to apply that focus in school. Knowing that I can focus when I work at it has given me the motivation to work hard to catch up with school work.

Youth Scotland supported Tannahill to develop their offer to Young Leaders through their Generation CashBack programme which provides capacity building support to Youth Scotland members.