

focus on

transition and passport



delivering success through partnerships

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Driving forward: The 5 Passport students with their access:cars certificates of completion

recognising partnership working

Access to Industry (AI) was delighted to be recognised alongside major public-private sector advertising campaigns, and household charity names, when it made it to the final stages of the 2009 Third Force News Charity Awards.

AI- Passport made it to the final of the partnership category, with judges recognising the various partners and creativity of work involved in bringing about the success of Passport's work with looked after young people and young offenders moving on from Polmont.

One of the most successful partnerships for young people has been the access:cars course, a unique partnership between AI and the Glasgow Training Group (GTG) in Edinburgh, which provides young Passport students with the opportunity to gain City and Guilds Qualifications, and guaranteed interviews with employers upon course completion.

5 Passport students have recently completed the third access:cars trainee mechanics course with GTG and as a result all 5 have been interviewed for jobs with Arnold Clark!

Frazer (18), who completed the course and has now secured a work trial with Arnold Clark said:

"I always wanted to be a car mechanic and when my Passport worker told me about access:cars, it sounded perfect. The staff at GTG were very helpful and used good teaching methods. I found the course very rewarding and everyone at Passport has been brilliant."

The excellent partnership working with HMYOI Polmont, was also recognised, with the judging panel praising the innovative through care model adopted to move young offenders on to education and work.

In April 2009, one Polmont leaver Grant (19) showed just what was possible with the right support when he beat over 70 other applicants to get a place on the Edinburgh Youthbuild programme. The programme is aimed at young people disadvantaged from the jobs market who want to gain entry to the construction sector. Grant now has various construction certificates under his belt, and is currently on a work placement with a local scaffolding firm.

Thanks to Jewel & Esk College, the City of Edinburgh Council, Glasgow Training Group, the Scottish Prison Service, Scottish Business in the Community, and all the other partners involved with Passport, which enables this excellent work to continue.

heather has the winning touch

March 2009 saw Passport worker Heather awarded a 2009 National Youth Worker of the Year Award by YouthLink Scotland.

The nomination was supported by Passport's partner, the City of Edinburgh Council Through Care and Aftercare Service.

Over the last two years, Heather has worked alongside the City of Edinburgh Council to shape and develop the Passport looked after young people's service, and the award is testament to her passion in supporting

and motivating her students to move on to employment, training, and education.

Nick Newlands, Senior Throughcare and Aftercare Officer commented:

"Heather has a wealth of knowledge on the diversity of opportunities available to young people and is always looking to expand on this. She is a valued member of this team and I look forward to continued working with her and Access to Industry-Passport."

another leap in the right direction!

Scott (33) is one of the latest in a long line of graduates from the NHS Lothian LEAP programme, who has taken advantage of the programme's partnership with Transition to move on in his life through education.

Coming to Transition in August 2008, and getting used to a life free of substances, Scott knew he needed to get back into work, but he needed a strong focus to help him get there. Transition classes were the best option for Scott and he wasted no time in completing 4 SQA qualifications in Transition's mini college environment delivered in partnership with Jewel & Esk College.

When Scott moved into new accommodation in December 2008, homeless agencies Bethany Homemaker and Fresh Start provided him with a starter pack and appliances to make the move as stress free as possible.

Scott was eager to get a trade behind him for the future, and in February 2009, he gained a place on the Entry to Construction course at Jewel & Esk College. He has already secured a place on the NQ 2 Plumbing course to continue with his training in September 2009.

Scott said:

"The people at Transition have kept me focused on my long term goals. They believed in me from the very start, which is one of the reasons that I have achieved so much in a very short space of time."



Scott working towards his qualifications through the AI Transition Project

passport and transition vital stats: 1st feb - 6th july 2009

Referrals	485
Starts	238
Qualifications gained	179
Further education	49
Employability training	42
Jobs	27



AI students and staff with their certificates

driving forward partnership working

In May 2009, a total of 9 certificates were presented to AI students by Scotland's Learning Partnership, in recognition of their achievements in moving back into employment through learning.

The proud recipients included:

- The LEAP-Transition Partnership group which recognised the achievements of 48 graduates from the NHS Lothian LEAP rehabilitation programme who worked with Transition to achieve 31 further education, training, and work outcomes.
- Passport student Robert (21), who worked with Passport to overcome barriers to move on to AI's access:drama course, progressing to an NC in Musical Drama at Edinburgh's Telford College.
- Transition student Steven (45), recognised for overcoming a 10 year alcohol addiction, achieving 7 SQA qualifications through the Transition Project, and moving into employment in April 2009.

- The AI Extreme Makeover course, in which 7 vulnerable women successfully overcame barriers in order to complete beauty therapy training delivered by Jewel & Esk College.
- AI course student Tom (59), who managed a number of physical disabilities to complete an AI design course, using this as a platform to successfully gain a place on an HND in Visual Communication in 2008.

Steven and the LEAP-Transition partnership group also beat hundreds of other nominations to reach the final of the prestigious Scotland's Learning Partnership Awards which will be held in September 2009.

Commenting on his learning journey, Steven said:

“When I have had to ask for support from Transition, they have shown me the right path. Since I started work, it's a great feeling to know what has changed in my life. If you put the effort in you will gain the reward.”

bridging the gap

In April 2009, looked after young people caseworker Claire began working in partnership with the Hillside Residential School in Life to support boys with a number of emotional and behavioural difficulties who were returning to live in Edinburgh.

There are currently 3 young people from Hillside working with Passport towards their SQA level 1 qualification. One student has started on Passport's access:cars course, and another has started a work placement with the Royal Mail. The partnership and communication between Passport and the teaching and care staff at Hillside has been key to successful work with the boys.

Mike Greenshields the Head of Care at Hillside commented that:

“This aspect of the programme for the 4th year group has been a joy to watch and the feedback from young people and staff has been excellent. The staff from Passport are excellent ambassadors for their organisation and I just wish their work could be extended further across the country to help other young people.”

HOT support!

At a complete loss about her next step, Michelle (22) jumped at the chance to find out more about Passport when she was referred by the City of Edinburgh Council's Housing Options Team in August 2008. Michelle was clear about her goals. She wanted to gain work experience, to improve her employability, and to gain employment.

Within 3 months, Michelle had already gained her REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene certificate, and First Aid certificate through Passport, and in January 2009, she decided to pursue her career plans in Care by completing the Social Care Academy as well as a Counselling course at Stevenson College.

In the meantime, Michelle organised a voluntary position at CLAN, to help people improve their literacy skills.

Motivated to move even further forward, Michelle signed up to volunteering for the Autism Initiative, a project supporting autistic adults in Edinburgh.

Michelle's hard work and commitment helped her gain a part time job as a Support Worker with the Autism Initiative, and with the help of the Housing Options Team she is now about to move into her own tenancy.

Michelle said:

“Before coming to Passport, I had lost motivation and had really low self esteem. The staff at the project were very understanding, providing practical help and enough emotional support for me to again have faith in my own abilities. As well as my job, I'm also working towards my social work qualification and I see myself continuing to work in this sector for the foreseeable future.”



Michelle has moved on through Passport's partnership working approach.

get in touch

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