



From left to right: Community Passport Project caseworker Keira Morrison, Access to Industry Chief Executive Sian Fiddimore, Ed Balls MP, and Robert Wilson Activities Manager, HMYOI Polmont.

passport recognised for breaking the cycle

The Community Passport Project - a partnership between HMYOI Polmont and Access to Industry- was recognised at the 2008 Children and Young People's Services Awards, presented by Ed Balls MP.

The Justice Award recognition highlighted the contribution the partnership has made to improving the life chances of young people who have offended, or are at risk of offending.

Robert Wilson, Activities Manager at HMYOI Polmont commented that:

"I am pleased to say that the Community Passport Project has lived up to its initial key objectives and has also established itself as one of the most successful projects within HMYOI Polmont. The combined efforts of the project team have ensured that prisoners returning

to the Edinburgh area on liberation have their needs not only identified but addressed. I look forward to continued partnership working with a project which provides a service of excellence which is appreciated by its clients."

Liam who has worked with the Community Passport Project said that:

"I always wanted a job, tried to go about it on the outside but there is no help like there is with Passport, who made it possible."

- No. of Young Offenders engaged with in Polmont	144
- No. released	101
- No. engaged post release	81
- No. gaining SQA qualifications	52
- No. moving on to education, training, or employment	51

john means business!

The Access to Industry-Passport and Scottish Business in the Community (SBC) partnership continues to produce impressive results. SBC's relationship with Scottish business makes it ideally placed to broker work placement opportunities for Passport students.

Since November 2006, 45 students have undergone work placements with SBC and 11 students have gone on to be employed by their placement provider.

In one case, a position was created especially in order to be able to keep our student on! John recently completed a 4 week work placement with Royal Mail and impressed them so much that he was kept on as a Christmas temp worker, the busiest time of the year for Royal Mail. He had this to say about his experience:

"I was wary when I first started the work placement, but I soon came out my shell. The people at SBC and Royal Mail were really good, especially my Buddy Carol. When I got the job, I felt amazing, I did all the hours that they could give me.

I've proved to myself that I can do it, and that is what it is all about."



Working hard: John with his SBC ready for work certificate

frank is a salvation!

Effective partnership working is crucial to the success of Passport students. The dedication of staff such as Frank O'Donnell at the Salvation Army Pleasance ensures that the Homeless client group gets the support they need to help them get on to work and training.

Thanks to the efforts of Frank and his colleagues, residents from the Pleasance are focusing on their work aspirations, as well as looking to improve their accommodation.

The Pleasance is currently Passport's most frequent agency referrer, with 25 residents referred in the period between 1st July – 31st December 2008. The hard working students from the Pleasance have utilised the Passport CSCS training in particular, using the sessions as a quick way to getting their safety card for construction work. 3 students have already gained their card through Passport, and are working hard with Passport to secure employment in the construction field.

Frank O'Donnell said that:

"Referring my clients to Transition gives them a chance to do something practical- something real! It gives them direction and a sense of worth."



Just the ticket: Denis, David and Frank, with their CSCS cards.



transition & passport are run by access to industry for more information please contact:

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Sian Fiddimore, Chief Executive of Access to Industry, Margo McDonald MSP, and Howard McKenzie, Principal of Jewel and Esk College at the EMO event.

made over and moving on

On Tuesday 4 November 2008, 7 Access to Industry students on the Extreme Makeover Beauty Therapy course showed off their new skills in eye care for special guests Margot MacDonald MSP, and Jewel and Esk Principal Howard McKenzie.

The Extreme Makeover course has been developed in partnership with Access to Industry, and local FE provider, Jewel and Esk College.

The course has helped 15 vulnerable women gain accredited qualifications, and progress into further education or employment.

Access to Industry student Laura had no idea how she could move out of unemployment,

alana's biggest LEAP yet!

"I did it to show my children that there's more to life than just sitting around. Working is the way forward."

Wise words from Alana, the first LEAP graduate to gain employment through the Transition programme.

The Transition-LEAP partnership continues to go from strength to strength. Between July 2008 and December 2008, 25 LEAP graduates have engaged with Transition, and they continue to improve that marrying treatment with employability training produces fantastic results.

Alana started Transition in August 2008, and started work as a sales assistant the following month. Alana sustained the 12 week temporary contract, and is now looking towards her dream job of a community worker.

She said:

"Getting the job got me back into life in a way, I got to communicate with interesting people, and found the whole experience really positive. I'd recommend it to anyone. With my new found confidence, I'm now starting a community education course through Jewel and Esk College. It fits in with looking after my kids, and means I can get closer to that career that I've always dreamt of."

but has used the course as a perfect stepping stone to a hairdressing course at College.

She said:

"This course helped me bridge the gap between being unemployed and going to college full-time. I've really enjoyed it."

Margo MacDonald MSP commented:

"I expected to be interested in what the women have been doing here, but I didn't expect to have my socks knocked off. The women were incredibly impressive and gave me a lot to take away and think about. I was most impressed, and commend the good work Access to Industry and Jewel & Esk College are doing here."

positive moves at moredun

Passport has become a well-known name at Moredun Young People's Centre.

Since May 2007 staff at the residential unit have referred 5 residents to Passport. In this time 3 young people have completed an SQA level 1 qualification, 4 have started college courses, 2 have completed employability training with the Royal Mail, and 1 has gained a job in the hospitality industry.

Neil Gentleman, manager at Moredun says:

"Passport's support and efforts are helpful in our attempts to achieve a positive outcome for all. Passport has committed time and effort to all these young people. As ever some have been more successful than others but thankfully Passport recognises the need to persevere with young people who find it difficult to engage with services. This "perseverance" is a much respected attribute in partner agencies."

Passport student Michelle says:

"Since working with Passport I have got loads of work experience, completed a beauty course and gained qualifications. I am now confident I will get a job. If Passport and Moredun staff didn't help me I probably wouldn't get out of my bed."

making healthy changes

Transition student Ian knew he wanted to work in healthcare, but didn't know how to get there. The Healthcare Academy run in conjunction with the NHS was his answer.

The Healthcare Academy, which forms part of the Employment Academies in Edinburgh, was a 4 week course which enabled Ian to gain the transferable skills required to apply for a variety of roles in the NHS.

Ian said:

"I wanted to look into different areas of training that I knew nothing about, whilst at the same time, look at what opportunities were available in the NHS. The Healthcare Academy gave me an in depth chance to do so. Lesley Betts (Healthcare Academy Co-ordinator) was fantastic and really helpful, and I can continue to work with her to apply for jobs in the NHS. I'm so glad that my caseworker told me about the opportunity because it's moved me one step closer to the kind of work that I'd love to do."

Lesley Betts said that:

"Ian brought a lot of valuable life skills and experiences to the Healthcare Academy, and the HcA added to these by challenging him in specific clinical aspects ie hands on patient care, hand hygiene, moving & handling, basic life support and many more. This led Ian to grow in confidence and realise his own potential."

another string to our bow!

Mock interviews can make that job a reality for students who have been long term unemployed.

In August 2008, a new exciting partnership was formed between Access to Industry-Passport, and the New York Bank of Mellon, to give our students the very best in mock interview training.

The Bank's 'Bowstring Group' shares their time and skills to support the development needs of disadvantaged people within their community, and since November, volunteers from the Bank have been putting our students through their interview paces.

Daniel went for a mock retail interview with the Bank in December, and it certainly did the trick... he had his real interview that afternoon, and was offered the job!

Michael Allan at NYBM said that:

"We have found it both interesting and challenging to meet people with different career objectives to those we normally encounter. We strongly believe that the students just require a break to get back into the job market or into further education, and we hope that the assistance we are providing through these 'mock' interviews is of some benefit. We are delighted to be able to continue to offer our help."