

A Fife Approach – Strengthening Fife’s Future

On Tuesday the 3rd of October Fife Gingerbread’s Making it Work project hosted a special event in the Benarty Centre, Ballingry, showcasing its successful delivery of a new approach to employability.

Making it Work brings partners together from Fife Gingerbread, Fife Council Client Action Team, One Parent Families Scotland and Citizens Advice and Rights Fife to support lone parents towards employment. It focusses not only on those who are ‘job ready’, but also those who need extra help to enter or re-enter the work place.

The event, which attracted one hundred delegates from the local area, highlighted how this approach of collaboration, co-production and partnership working is an effective way of delivering not only employability support, but can be applied to other social and economic challenges in Fife.

Keynote speaker Dr Colin Lindsay from University of Strathclyde, an expert on employability, presented the findings of his research into Making it Work, calling the partnership project ‘the complete model for effective employability support’. Carolyn Walker from NHS Fife gave a presentation on Social Prescribing detailing how it improves both mental and emotional health, as well as developing social networks in the local community.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the unveiling of the art installation designed and created by children whose family has been supported by Making it Work. Rosie Gibson, a local independent art professional, worked with the children over several weeks to help them produce pieces of art that represented the impact Making it Work has had on themselves and their family.

Roger Mullin, MP for Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath, was on hand to present each of the children with a certificate and a goody bag for their fantastic work on the art installation.

Wanda Kostka and Claire Graham spoke passionately to the audience about the very different support they have received from Making it Work. Wanda, who took part in the art project with her two sons, talked about opportunities to work together with her children and take part in family activities has given her a huge amount of confidence and a new lease of life. Claire, a fully qualified gas engineer, spoke about how Making it Work helped her to find employment which suited her particular skills, something not always offered by statutory services.

Claire Neill, the Making it Work project manager, said “I’m delighted that this event was able to bring together so many workers, professionals, councillors and MP’s from the local community, and allowed Making it Work to show that by working together we can strengthen Fife’s future”.

Making it Work delivers support to lone parents in Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes, Levenmouth and South West Fife areas. For more information, contact Fife Gingerbread on 01333 303124.

ENDS

Attached:

1. Roger Mullin MP, Rosie Gibson, Gingey and the children in front of the art installation
2. One of the children helping his little brother see inside the art installation

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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Fife Gingerbread projects and services:

Making it Work is an employability partnership project funded by Big Lottery Fund and European Social Fund, which focusses on helping lone parents into work. Partners from Fife Gingerbread, Fife Council Client Action Team, One Parent Families Scotland and Citizens Advice and Rights Fife have come together to design and deliver a holistic model of support to help those at all stages of the employability pathway. Since its launch in August 2013, Making it Work has progressed almost 100 lone parents into employment, and supported many more into education, work placements and volunteering. It is currently available in the Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath Levenmouth, Glenrothes and South West Fife area.

Making it Work



Fife Teen Parent Project provides vital support to teenage parents and pregnant teens no matter their circumstance. Funded by Big Lottery Fund and Fife Council, teen parents are given the tools they require to effectively nurture and interact with their child, giving both the best chance of an improved future. Group work is central to the project, allowing teen parents to meet others in the same position as them, and overcome the stigma that many young parents face.

The Gateway is an early intervention partnership project funded by Big Lottery Fund, which provides family mentoring and family learning opportunities to families in Levenmouth who's oldest child is aged between 5 and 10. Operating in all primary schools in Levenmouth, The Gateway works closely with the family as a whole; supporting both parents and children in order to ensure that the needs of each family are both fully established, and fully supported.



Volunteering is fundamental to Fife Gingerbread; each project has a core of volunteers who work closely with support workers. Volunteers also provide buddy support to parents all over Fife who face isolation and other issues. Many of our volunteers have received support from Fife Gingerbread in the past, meaning they are knowledgeable and have positive experiences of the organisation.

Fife Gingerbread Helpline gives over the phone advice to lone parents all over Fife. This provision allows Fife Gingerbread to continue delivering general support to lone parents, something it has done for over 25 years.

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Fife Gingerbread main funders:

