

SEPTEMBER 2022

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

North Ayrshire Community Benefit News



Hello and welcome to the September issue of the Community Benefits newsletter!

It's a new school year and in this issue we'll be looking at the ways that community benefits can support young people as they take the step from education to the world of work through the provision of work experience opportunities.

If you have any questions about your contractual community benefits requirements (or community benefits at North Ayrshire Council in general), please contact communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

**Community Benefits:
Work Experience**

**Community Benefits:
School Projects**

**Spotlight On: Work
Experience Placements**

Wish List: One Year On

Community Benefits: Work Experience

Are you looking to provide work experience for a young person in North Ayrshire before they leave school but not sure where to start? Read on to find out more about our work experience partnership with Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and how you can register your community benefit work experience placements with them.



Step 1: Contact the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce

Send an email to Jenna jfrew@ayrshire-chamber.org or Steven smcblain@ayrshire-chamber.org to let them know you've got an opportunity for a school student in North Ayrshire. You'll be sent out a template form to complete which should detail what the role should involve and your expectations as the employer. You can also select whether the opportunity is open to any school student from North Ayrshire, or only to students at specific schools.

Step 2: Health and Safety

Once your submission has been received, Jenna or Steven will be in touch to arrange a visit to the work placement and complete a health and safety assessment.

Step 3: Work experience advertised

Once signed off, your placement will be uploaded to the Ayrshire Chamber's 'Work It' database. Work It is an online work experience portal, and once uploaded, the placement will be visible to students and teachers in the style of a job advert.

Step 4: Pupil selection

Pupils review the placement opportunities on Work It, selecting their top three preferences to discuss with their work experience coordinator, who makes the final decision on the placement they will take up.

Other things to know:

- Placements are flexible and can happen at any time during the school term
- Out-of-term opportunities require additional discussion with a student's parent/carer
- You will hear from the Chamber if your placement is accepted; no news means it has not yet been selected.
- You can revise your offer by contacting the Chamber
- Work experience can be offered to S3 students, but is encouraged specifically for S4, S5 and S6 students.



Community Benefits: Delivering Projects in Schools



Working with schools on community benefits projects can often involve far more than the offer of work experience for a small selection of pupils.

Many contractors are also keen to organise visits to local schools near a project site, particularly if there is significant infrastructure development taking place in the local area. Involving pupils in the work happening locally does more than serve as a community engagement exercise; it's also an opportunity to spark an interest in concepts, sectors and opportunities that may be new to the students, and could have the potential to open a whole set of doors for their future.

Arranging a talk, workshop or other project in a North Ayrshire school is again organised in partnership with Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce, following a similar process to arranging a work experience placement for a young person.

Step 1: Contact the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce

Send an email to [Ellie etait@ayrshire-chamber.org](mailto:Ellie.etait@ayrshire-chamber.org) to share your proposal for a school event

Step 2: Discuss the offer

A meeting (usually via Microsoft Teams) will be set up, where you can discuss the offer you've made with staff from the Chamber and iron out the details, such as how many schools you would like to work with, accommodation requirements, and the number of pupils who can participate.

Step 3: School sign off

The Chamber will usually be the main point of contact with the school and liaise between the business and the school to make the final arrangements. In some cases, you will be provided with the contact details for the school directly, but usually the Chamber will play a coordinating role.



Spotlight on: Work Experience Placements

In this issue, we're sharing two recent work experience reports from our contractors, showcasing the kind of opportunities that pupils from across North Ayrshire have access to through the community benefit work experience route.



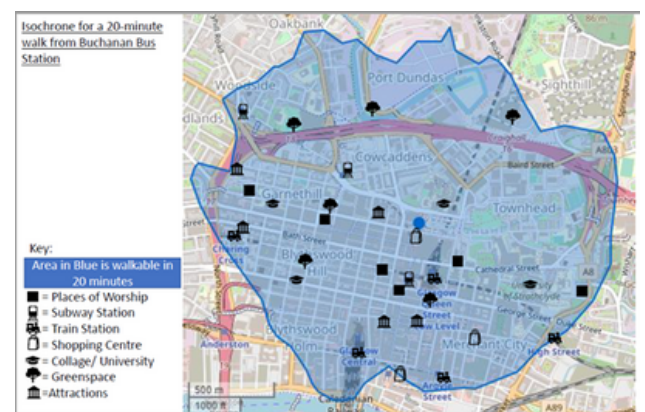
Jimmy Murray, Ardrossan Academy

Jimmy spent 5 days with Civic Engineers on a work experience placement in August, based on his interest in engineering and associated career options.

He worked with the engineering team to look at the designs completed on the King's Arms project in Irvine to date and understand the principles of the refurbishment.

Jimmy had expressed an interest in civil engineering and had the opportunity as part of his placement to undertake an exercise developing a typical street using the new Cycling by Design regulations. He also created a walking Isochrone for the city centre to understand the 20-minute neighbourhood concept.

Jimmy said: "Things I learned on my work experience week were what it is like to work in a proper office environment, how decisions are made in street design and about how to implement street designs in a way specified by the government."



Left: Jimmy with a staff member from Civic Engineering; right: an isochrone Jimmy produced during his placement

Spotlight on: Work Experience Placements

Bailey Arneill, Greenwood Academy

Bailey spent a week with McLaughlin Construction as he was interested in the opportunities of a trade career within the construction industry.

Over the course of a very busy 5 days, Bailey was able to participate in admin tasks including a sample of works and door measurement schedule.

Bailey was also able to go on a site visit to Millport Town Hall, a significant regeneration project that McLaughlin are supporting and see a mixture of refurbishment and rebuilding works. He was also able to prepare a signage pack for the Site Manager, and help complete a Bill of Quantities to produce a final cost for a project.

Bailey has learned lots in just one week, including "what a Joiner [does] on site...and how to build a timber partition", in addition to shadowing the Site Manager and an electrician, who was able to talk Bailey through a technical drawing and explain what everything meant in practice.

In Bailey's end of placement report, he told McLaughlin that his future career plans were either a job in construction or in social work, and we're very pleased to report that he's just accepted a role as a Youth Work Modern Apprentice with North Ayrshire Council with all his experience from his placement standing him in great stead for his new job.



Left: Bailey hard at work on admin; right: Bailey on a site visit with McLaughlin's staff



The Community Benefits Wish List Turns One!



In October we'll be celebrating one year of our Community Benefits Wish List, which we launched alongside the first issue of this newsletter last year. Since we opened the Wish List, over 50 groups from across North Ayrshire have registered their requests for support and to date, 24 wishes (everything from roof surveys to carpets to arts materials) have been delivered by our contractors. We want to say a big thank you to everyone who has been supporting our community and Third Sector organisations so far, and we look forward to seeing which projects are ticked off the list in the year to come.

There are a few groups on the list who have been looking for support for around a year, and we're highlighting them in this issue to see if anyone might have the skills, expertise or time to be able to support some of the things they're looking for. If you might be able to support any of these organisations, please drop us an email at communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

- **West Kilbride Environmental Group:** looking for support (donations of materials, time or money as appropriate) with their wide range of environmental and growing projects across West Kilbride. This includes paving and building materials, park, chippings and compost.
- **Kilwinning Community Events:** a range of opportunities are available, from sponsorship of community events such as fireworks to some help fixing up locks on the public toilets managed by the group.
- **Turning Point Scotland:** have a community garden hosted at Eglinton which supports their clients on their mental health journey. Any support with time or donations of materials or plants is warmly welcomed, particularly as part of their plans to develop a garden for reflection.
- **25 Group Royal Observer Corps Association:** manage Skelmorlie Secret Bunker and are keen to speak with anyone who could support with some maintenance projects on site, such as the repair of fences and levelling off access ramps.
- **Garnock Valley Youth Forum:** a group of young people volunteering from across the Garnock Valley communities who are finding ways to support their peers. Their successful school uniform Swap Shop is looking for some help, through donations of any items that help to reduce the cost of the school day (school supplies, uniforms, PE kit etc), as well as some help to freshen up the space that hosts the swap shop.
- **Vineburgh Community Centre:** a busy community centre based in Irvine, looking for some help with their toilet renovation project through donations of time, materials or money.
- **Arran Community Land Initiative:** a voluntary group using old farmland above Whiting Bay for a variety of community growing and education projects. They are looking for any donations of gardening or growing equipment (particularly materials for constructing raised beds, polytunnels and fruit cages), and support with hedge cutting, ditch and drainage improvement.