

Five-year expansion programme launched with £500,000 grant

Over the next five years, the number of young people taking part in the Leadership for Life Award each year will rise to 500, and the catchment area will expand to take in the whole of central Scotland, Edinburgh and the Lothians.

The Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award, the innovative approach to personal development that brings together young people from different social, religious and cultural backgrounds, and trains and supports them as they deliver a community-based project, has received a major boost in the form of a £500,000 donation from the Four Acre Trust, an organisation dedicated to supporting

charities that help individuals, mainly children and young people, to make the most of their lives.

More than 450 young people from the west of Scotland participated in Phase 1 of the Award, which ran from 1999 to 2005. Now, following a recent positive external review, the Trustees of the Mark Scott Foundation are poised to deliver Phase 2 of the Award, which will run for the next five years.

Key targets for Phase 2 will be to make the Award available to more than 1,500 young people located across the whole of central Scotland, including Edinburgh and the Lothians, and to involve 500 participants a year by 2010.

You can find out more about the Leadership for Life Award and the benefits it brings to young people and their communities in the rest of this newsletter.

Phase 2 is budgeted to cost £2.3m. Please give your support by making a donation. Details of how to do that are shown at the end of this newsletter.

About the Leadership for Life Award

The Mark Scott Foundation was formed in 1996 in memory of Mark Scott, the 16-year-old Glasgow schoolboy who was murdered in an unprovoked sectarian attack. The idea for the Foundation came in part from Mark's school friends, with the aim of providing opportunities for people aged 16 to 25 to fulfil their personal potential. The Foundation achieved charitable status in 1996.

The Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award was formed in 1998 as a unique approach to personal development for young people from different religious and cultural backgrounds. Selected participants aged between 16 and 18 attend a five-day residential course run by Outward Bound at Loch Eil, near Fort William. Here they acquire the skills and confidence to complete a six-month project

conducted in their local community (see over page).

Niall Scott, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mark Scott Foundation, believes the aims of the Foundation are unique. "The thing that makes the Leadership for Life Award different is its innovative combination of outdoor activities and urban, community-based projects," he says. "The Award develops young people's talents for use in the world of work, and addresses sectarian issues in a subtle way, while benefiting local communities."

Participants and the Award organisers agree that the challenges of the Award bring direct benefits to those taking part. "The projects require the team members to take responsibility for planning, budgeting, marketing and team-working in a very real, practical

environment," Niall Scott explains. "The Award offers young people with unrealised talent, who might not otherwise have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, a chance to do this and to gain in confidence and self-esteem as a direct result. It also brings real benefits to schools and communities"

Below: The Loch Eil experience is both enjoyable and challenging. Bottom: Delivering a community project – Pupils from St Thomas Aquinas Secondary School show off their poster designs.





The Leadership for Life Award – developing skills and confidence

Training in the outdoors leads to success in an urban project

The Leadership for Life Award has developed strong links with the Outward Bound Trust, a registered charity which aims to inspire young people through powerful outdoor experiences. Outward Bound provides our Award candidates with a five-day activity course at its Loch Eil Centre, near Fort William. This gives a foundation for the community project work that will follow.

The Outward Bound centre is a former highland shooting lodge, set in its own extensive grounds on the foreshore of Loch Eil. Here, dynamic outdoor experiences give experience of real teamwork and personal challenge. Classroom sessions are also provided, teaching transferable business skills such as making presentations, project management and finance.

Mixed teams are formed, drawn from three or four schools with different religious affiliations or social backgrounds. Teamwork, leadership and developing values of trust, compassion and self-esteem are at the heart of the process.

Back in the community, the second stage of the Award begins. The teams begin to define and plan out their projects, helped and overseen by Outward Bound and their school champions.

Each team must cost the project and raise the funds required. You can read about some recent projects below.

The Award culminates in a high profile ceremony held in the City Chambers in Glasgow, compèred by Fred Macaulay, at which the Lord Provost of Glasgow has



Making a splash: the 'run and dip' challenge at Loch Eil

welcomed a large audience of families and friends and publicly recognised the Award-winners' achievements.



Championing our 'school champions'

The Leadership for Life Award would not be possible without the enthusiasm of our school champions

Each school participating in the Leadership for Life Award has one staff member who takes on the role of school champion and forms the vital link between the Award organisers, Outward Bound instructors, participants and their families.

School champions facilitate speakers going into schools to promote the project, and help to ensure that the young people who stand to gain most from the Award are offered places. They then support participants throughout the year, to help them get the most from the experience.

The role calls for considerable effort, but school champions can find the experience as rewarding as the participants themselves. John Dowds (above), the school champion at St Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, remembers "listening to Award participants recount their adventures on and off rafts, in the bothy and up trees" and realising that "the relationships between rival schools have become friendships, the tentative first steps become firm decisions,



and the pupils grow in confidence and maturity before your eyes."

Next year, 60 schools will be involved in the Award, and an induction and training process for new school champions will be introduced. We hope that every school will enjoy the benefits that participation can bring; as John Dowds comments, "Many 17-year-olds can be hard to convince, and capturing their imagination is not easy. Finding a programme like the Leadership for Life Award is almost like heaven."

Accredit where it's due

The Mark Scott Foundation and Outward Bound are in discussions with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) about formal accreditation of the Leadership for Life Award.

Outward Bound manager Martin Davidson, who is leading the initiative for the Award organisers, says, "From early discussions we are optimistic. This could add real value to the Award."

The focus of discussions will be the skills acquired by participants and the effort and commitment they bring to the Award activities.

Chief Executive of the SQA, Anton Colella commented: "We are delighted to work with Outward Bound and the Mark Scott Foundation to explore ways to accredit the Leadership for Life Award and see how it may match with other qualifications in the system. We need to go through due process, but I am personally very supportive of the Award."

Success stories

A few examples of Award projects in 2005



Breaking down barriers

A team from St Andrew's Academy, Paisley Grammar School and Gleniffer High School brought first-year pupils together from different schools to break down barriers, create friendships and raise awareness of sectarianism. Three days at a local community centre included talks, workshops, African drumming sessions and team games. Renfrewshire Council plans to print and display anti-sectarian posters designed by the pupils at local schools.

Jillian May (above centre), from Gleniffer High School said: "Having to organise things and make sure they got done definitely made me more responsible. I also made friends with people that I would never normally have mixed with."

Bonding

International and Scottish primary school pupils bonded when a team from Hyndland, Knightswood and St Thomas Aquinas Secondary Schools fostered friendship through



"The teachers couldn't believe we could hold the children's attention the whole way through. But it was brilliant – it all came together." Abdullah Springher



team building games, ten-pin bowling and a visit to the Tall Ship. Wilma McDonald, head teacher at Dowanhill Primary, one of the schools involved in the team's project, commented: "It has been so worthwhile for all concerned, for the young people organising the project and for the primary children who looked up to them. It has transformed integration with international students at our school."

Asylum

Raising awareness and acceptance of asylum-seekers was the focus of a team selected from Bearsden Academy, Douglas Academy and Drumchapel High School. They ran workshops with five primary schools to look at the reasons people come to live in Scotland. The workshops included drama, group work and discussions, and made use of a BBC video that featured two of the team members.

Abdullah Springher (above) from Drumchapel High School remembers the project was



"The project has transformed integration with international students at our school."

Wilma McDonald, head teacher, Dowanhill Primary School

controversial at first. "Some of the group weren't sure about the idea," he said. "But after watching the video, they were all convinced: the video spoke for itself."

Abdullah had appeared in a programme called 'Fish Out of Water' as part of a BBC Scotland series. "I remember a pupil and a teacher actually crying as they watched it," he recalls.

The most rewarding aspects of the project for Abdullah were making friends and the commitment everyone showed in getting behind the project.

"Sometimes people would disagree," he said, "but we just had to decide what was the best idea for the team as a whole. We were committed to getting our



message across."

The primary school children enjoyed taking part in the workshops. "The teachers couldn't believe we could hold the children's attention the whole way through. It was hard work, but it was brilliant when it all came together," Abdullah said.

Abdullah personally gained a lot: "Before the Award, I got really nervous talking to a big group, but now my confidence has improved I plan to go to college to study International Business Law," he said.

A life-changing experience

Victoria Renton's decision to take part in the Leadership for Life Award changed her entire outlook and gave her a new direction in life.



Victoria Renton reflects on a quote from the founder of Outward Bound:

"We are all better than we know. If only we can be brought to realise this, we may never again be prepared to settle for anything less."

"I have gone from being a very shy person with fairly low self-esteem, to a confident young woman who thrives on a challenge," she said.

Before the week-long training course with Outward Bound at Loch Eil, Victoria was dreading the 'run and dip' into a freezing cold loch at dawn – "enough to scare any city girl," as she put it. As it turned out, raft building, rock climbing and hill walking provided the adventure she had been looking for. "Even the 'run and dip' wasn't so bad, because we did it together," she said.

Victoria learnt to map-read well enough to lead her team to the correct meeting point despite getting lost on an expedition: "It was at that moment that I started to believe in myself," she said.

Victoria returned to Glasgow to start her community project – a photographic exhibition showing similarities and differences

between life in Glasgow and South Africa. After months of work, the team's exhibition was displayed at Glasgow Airport.

Victoria's experience with the Leadership for Life Award was so positive that she accepted a gap-year-trainee instructor position with Outward Bound. She now hopes that more young people can benefit from the Leadership for Life experience.

"I will never forget the courses I have been on and the people I have met," Victoria said. "I am humbled by the amount of support I received and am extremely grateful to the people who funded me to participate in the Award. Without them I wouldn't be the person that I am today."

Glowing report

An external review has concluded that the Leadership for Life Award brings significant benefits for participants, schools and local communities

After six years of running the Leadership for Life Award, the trustees of the Mark Scott Foundation commissioned an external review of the structure and delivery of the Award.

The review was conducted by John Dalgety, former Director of Corporate Strategy for Scottish & Newcastle plc. Questionnaires were sent to 29 school champions and 209 past participants.

John Dalgety's report concluded that the Award "brings significant benefits to participants, schools and the wider community". Participants consistently reported that gaining the Award had

increased their confidence, self-awareness, maturity and sense of responsibility. Teachers and families also recognised improvements in team working, leadership and interpersonal skills.

The projects conducted by the Award participants proved to be genuinely beneficial to local communities. The schools involved were valued more highly by participants, and positive expectations were established in younger pupils who learned about the Award and were motivated to take part as they moved up the school.

Finally, friendships that cross religious and

social barriers were forged as a direct result of taking part in the Award, confirming that the Award does indeed provide an effective way to address sectarianism.

Niall Scott, chairman of the Trustees, commented: "This report provides a very solid basis from which to conclude that the Award is indeed delivering excellent results. The urban, community content of the Award has been shown to be particularly beneficial. This has encouraged us to go ahead and expand the Award further."

Development Plan 2005-2010

Year	Participants	Areas covered by the Award	Cost (Delivery and Development)
2005/06	132	Glasgow, Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire West Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire	£193,620
2006/07	200	as above plus: Edinburgh, East Lothian West Lothian and Midlothian	£285,822
2007/08	300	as above plus: Inverclyde and East Renfrewshire	£440,782
2008/09	400	as above plus: North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire	£610,252
2009/10	500	as above plus: Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire	£783,983



"The Stanley Morrison Trust has supported the Award for five years. In this time I have been immensely impressed by the verve, talent and potential of the young people who have taken part. Phase 1 has demonstrated the value and robustness of the Award, and I look forward to its continued growth in Phase 2." Tim Morrison (left), the Stanley Morrison Trust

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Being part of it

Can you help us to extend this opportunity to other young people in Scotland?

The major costs of the Leadership for Life Award are the fees paid by the Mark Scott Foundation for the services provided by Outward Bound at Loch Eil and in central Scotland during the project period. The cost is currently around £1,200 for each participant.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we met our 2001 target of raising £380,000 to fund the Award from 2001 to 2005.

Our five-year plan for Phase 2 of the Award will see a major expansion of participation (see table above), for which a budget of £2.3 million has been set.

We have been extremely fortunate in

receiving generous support from a wide variety of organisations and individuals, including a major donation of £500,000 from the Four Acre Trust. We are now seeking further offers of financial help to add to this initial sum.

All but a tiny percentage of our income is spent on the Leadership for Life Award itself; our administrative costs are minimal thanks to the generous donations of their time and services by volunteers and well-wishers. Any donation you make will go directly towards enabling another young person to benefit from the Leadership for Life opportunity.

"We are impressed by the ways in which the Leadership for Life Award brings together young people from all walks of life, and are pleased to lend the Outward Bound Trust and the Mark Scott Foundation our support." Robert Carruthers, the Four Acre Trust