

The Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award

NEWSLETTER | Autumn 2006



Welcome Participation in the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award continues to grow



Judith Scott with some of the young people who received their Leadership for Life Award in May 2006 at the Radisson Hotel, Glasgow.

Building on the success of the Leadership for Life Award in the west of Scotland, the Mark Scott Foundation and the Outward Bound Trust are delighted this year to welcome to the Award more participants from across east and central Scotland. In total, 204 young people will take part in the Award in 2006-07.

Each year we are amazed by the difference the Award makes to the young people who take part in the programme, and by the positive impact the participants have in their own schools and local communities. We know

“We can now show sponsors exactly how and where their input is creating local impact.”

there is a strong need and demand for our programme, and we are delighted that our expansion is going some way to meet the demand.

Of course, this expansion is only possible thanks to the generous support we receive from our funders. Donations of all sizes are critical to our work. We really cannot over-emphasise the tremendous difference that this support makes.

Many funders like to see how their support is deployed in a particular geographical area. The Mark Scott Foundation can now link support from a funder to developing the Award in a specific area, and show sponsors exactly how and where their input is creating local impact. The comments from Jamie Moffat of the Moffat Charitable Trust (see page 7) indicate how one sponsor was able to bring the Award into its own locality, and so involve young people in projects that bear directly on local communities.

I hope that this newsletter will stimulate prospective funders to get in touch with me to discuss how they can help to make the Award more widely available in areas which interest them. Phase 2 of the programme runs for the five years to 2009-10 and will make the Award available to over 1500 young people. Our budget is £2.2 million and so far we have raised just over £1 million towards this total.

Niall Scott, Chairman of Trustees, The Mark Scott Foundation

Taking up the challenge

Senior pupils from three East Lothian secondary schools – Musselburgh Grammar, Ross High and Preston Lodge High – are the first in the east of Scotland to take up the challenge of the Leadership for Life Award

The Award programme, which has run successfully in west of Scotland schools since 1998, brings together groups of youngsters from neighbouring areas with different social, cultural and religious backgrounds. Bonds are formed over a residential week at the Outward Bound centre at Loch Eil, near Fort William. Team building exercises testing brains, brawn and courage form the core of this stage of the programme, but participants also undergo

structured preparation for a community project which they will deliver together on their return to their own localities.

During this second, urban stage of the Award, teams of young people design and implement a project that aims to make a major

positive impact in their local community. All decisions, planning, enterprise and financial decisions will be down to them, with guidance provided by Outward Bound Metro and their school champions, who are of course key figures in promoting the Award in their schools.

“School champions are key figures in promoting the Award in their schools.”



School champion Frank Brown (above, right) pictured with some of the senior pupils from Musselburgh Grammar, Ross High and Preston Lodge High Schools currently taking part in the Leadership for Life Award.



Starting them young

Shirelle Dobbs, an 18-year-old pupil at Eastbank Academy in Shettleston, east Glasgow, explains how her group of Award participants delivered a health and safety education project targeting children at a local nursery school

Our group had six members, taken from three local schools. When we started planning our project we decided that we wanted to do something for younger school children. I contacted all the local nursery schools and found that Elba Lane was keen to be involved. Then we found out about the East End Health Initiative, which, among other things, tries to encourage young kids to get outside more. This gave us the idea of painting a road safety and cycling proficiency track on the playground at Elba Lane Nursery School. The Health Initiative very kindly agreed to help us by buying the paint.

Then we had to raise some funds. We packed shopping bags at Asda, which got us some donations from customers, and we organised a non-uniform day at our schools. We raised £500 in

total. This paid for all our costs, the biggest of which was the hire of a proper road-painting machine.

Doing the painting took three days but it was worth it, because the school is delighted with the results. Knowing that we've done something to help young children in our local area is a great feeling, and I've got a lot out of the experience myself as well. Not just learning about working in a team and planning a project, but also the sense of achievement of having raised all that funding and completed the work, all on our own.

Angela McGregor, head teacher, Elba Lane Nursery School, comments: "This was a project that involved many people in our community. Shirelle, her team and the school consulted with the Active Schools Co-ordinator of

Eastbank Learning Community, who had been involved in creating similar playground designs in the primary school setting, and with our Health Development Officer, Rosalind Ramage. The parents, seeing how

“Knowing that we've done something to help young children in our area is a great feeling.”

excited the children were as they watched the designs unfold, also joined in, to work on road safety with the children. And since shape, number and colour were incorporated in the designs we are now able to work on those with the children too. It's been a very useful resource: all credit goes to Shirelle and her colleagues. They did a great job.”



A life-changing experience

Over the course of a year, participants in the Leadership for Life Award make new connections, test themselves in the great outdoors and then plan and deliver a local community project. Receiving the Award crowns a year of achievement and personal growth

“It pushed me physically, mentally and stretched my comfort zone immensely.”

“It’s a fantastic experience to do Leadership for Life – it’s one of the best things you can do – it’s character building.”

“There is no other programme like it – it’s such an excellent opportunity to develop your team working skills.”

“The feeling you get when you see the reaction of people you help is great – it’s been really good to put something back into the community.”



About the Leadership for Life Award

The Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award is an innovative approach to personal development that brings together young people from different social, religious and cultural backgrounds, and trains and supports them as they plan and deliver a community-based project.

The idea for the Mark Scott

Foundation came in part from the school friends of Mark Scott, the 16-year-old Glasgow schoolboy who was murdered in an unprovoked sectarian attack in 1995. Selected participants aged between 16 and 18 attend a week-long course run by Outward Bound at Loch Eil, near Fort William. Here they acquire skills and confidence that will help them work

together for between four and seven months to complete a project in their local community.

This innovative combination of outdoor activities and urban community-based project work helps young people to develop their talents while at the same time breaking down traditional barriers and benefiting local communities.



Law firm pledges continued support



McGrigors LLP, the UK-wide law firm in which Niall Scott is a partner, has supported the Mark Scott Foundation and the Leadership for Life Award since their inception. Cathie Higgins, a PA in the law firm, acts as administrator to the

Foundation as part of her role within McGrigors. The firm also provides access to other administrative resources as part of its support, and participates in the Foundation's fundraising events and activities.

As **Kirk Murdoch** (pictured), McGrigors' senior partner, Scotland, explains, "McGrigors is very pleased to host the day-to-day administration of the Foundation and the Leadership for Life Award. Their aims of creating opportunities for young people to extend their skills

and experience in ways which help both them and their communities fit closely with those of Horizons, McGrigors' corporate social responsibility programme. McGrigors Horizons encourages all our people, in each of the five cities in which our firm operates, to volunteer their time in support of local and national good causes. We support the objectives of the Leadership for Life Award one hundred per cent, and are delighted to commit our support for the foreseeable future."

North Lanarkshire schools extend participation

The Policy Unit in North Lanarkshire Council's Education Department sent 12 pupils from Wishaw schools on the Leadership for Life Award programme in 2005. The experiment was so successful that the initiative will now be extended to cover another 12 pupils in Coatbridge. Anne-Marie Bready, of North Lanarkshire Council's Education Department, explains

The Mark Scott Foundation has a carefully worked-out plan to roll out across Scotland over the next four years. North Lanarkshire was not scheduled to come on board until 2007-08, but having worked with Outward Bound on other projects and found these to be extremely successful, we were keen to become involved with the Mark Scott Foundation's work as soon as possible.

There's always an element of uncertainty when you try a new project like this, but we were simply delighted with the results. Even after the participants' first week together at the residential course, we saw that new friendships had formed and barriers had been broken.

The two groups chose quite different projects. One worked with special needs children in the Motherwell area. The other went to local primary schools and held 'transition

workshops' to prepare the pupils there for the move to secondary school. Not only were all of these schools very grateful, but when we contacted the heads of the three Wishaw schools that had provided the participants, they told us that they had seen a real change in the participants who had taken part. They were all very keen to continue with the initiative.

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This encouraged us to extend the programme to three schools in Coatbridge. We're looking forward to finding out what new projects these participants come up with during their week at Loch Eil.



Local impact

Jamie Moffat, Trustee, the Moffat Charitable Trust

The Moffat Charitable Trust has supported the Mark Scott Foundation since 2002 and I have been impressed with the success achieved by their Leadership for Life Award programme.

However, I was very conscious that Ayrshire had not yet been included and felt this would be an area where the Award would be extremely beneficial.

As the Moffat Charitable Trust is Ayrshire-based and allocates a significant proportion of our funds to the county, it encouraged the Mark Scott Foundation to set up an Award in this area. The trustees were delighted to be able to assist the Foundation by providing funding to support their work with young people.

Join us at the Radisson Hotel

Can you help us to extend the Leadership for Life opportunity to other young people in Scotland?

The Leadership for Life Award, with its emphasis on taking young people out of their familiar environments, encouraging friendships that cross traditional social and cultural barriers and supporting young people as they plan and deliver socially valuable community projects, has received enthusiastic support from businesses, other charitable organisations and individuals. Our major costs are the fees paid by the Mark Scott Foundation to Outward Bound for services provided at Loch Eil and in the urban settings where the Award participants deliver local community projects. The cost is currently around £1400 for

each Award participant.

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

This year's participants will meet at the Radisson Hotel, Glasgow, next summer for the 2006-07 Annual Awards ceremony. Please contact us if you are interested in attending.

New DVD launched

To help improve our promotion of the Leadership for Life Award to young people in participating schools, we have a new DVD. Produced by the Learning Centre at Bellshill Academy, the DVD will support Outward Bound instructors when making presentations in schools. A PowerPoint presentation explaining the Award programme in more detail has also been produced.

Participating schools who would like to view the DVD are invited to get in touch with Martin Davidson or Steve McKenzie at Outward Bound Metro, on 0141 423 1020.

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We are also extremely grateful to many other funders for their generous support.

The Mark Scott Foundation is registered as a charity in Scotland No. SC0 25254. To find out more about the Leadership for Life Award, visit www.themarkscottfoundation.org You can also telephone Niall Scott / Cathie Higgins on 0141 567 9222 or Martin Davidson of The Outward Bound Trust on 0141 423 1020, or write to us at the following address. To support the Leadership for Life Award financially, please send a cheque payable to the Mark Scott Foundation, Pacific House, 70 Wellington Street, Glasgow G2 6SB.