

South Perth
Community
Partnership and
Perth High School
IT group

Report following
2015/16 pilot project.

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Aims and objectives:

The project was set up with the following aims:

Perth High School pupils and members of the South Perth community will engage in a project and share relevant skills. With regards to the school pupils this would be sharing knowledge relating to new technologies, social media and IT. With regards to the community members this would be sharing skills in baking and craft making.

Perth High School pupils will lead their sessions and become more successful learners, responsible citizens, effective contributors and confident individuals.

The project was set up to build bridges between the local secondary school and the local community. It is hoped that in time this will assist in challenging isolation for certain community members. The long term plan is to run this project with school pupils every academic year. Obviously the hope is that this will result in many positives including challenging stereotypes between older and younger people and promoting positive images of people of all ages.

As this is the first time this has been done in the South Perth area with Perth High School the project this year will be a 'pilot' and is being evaluated accordingly.

The young people and older people are planning to link in to a South Perth intergenerational quiz proposed for March 2016.

Success and achievements:

The community members have links to a local church and the worker connected to the project has said *"From the feedback I have had the intergenerational IT group has been a huge success. Every one of the folks from Craigie and Moncreiffe has spoken very highly of their experience and don't really want to stop".* One of the community members has said *"Emma galvanized me". "It was quite a learning experience"; "There was a lot of learning from this experience".*

One of the pupils said *"I think it's a great idea to have young people working with elderly people to try to get rid of assumptions and stereotypes about both generations. The IT side of it allows elderly people to learn things that are second nature to us, and allows us to learn from their experiences and gain experience ourselves working with other people and improving our social skills."* Another said *"I feel as though we have shown that elderly people's stereotypes aren't always accurate",* she also said that *"It has made me realise that working with community is important".* Another said she felt more confident *"working in a group and being able to lead a session".*

Another community member said that she enjoyed *"Working and learning with the students",* another said he enjoyed *"Being more informed about modern IT and learning more about it from the pupils".*

The pupils and community members have met to evaluate the project together. This was done through individual evaluation sheets and a focus group discussion. Recommendations have been made for the development of this project for academic year 2016/17. The school pupils involved are

taking a lead on designing worksheets, 'Step by Step' guides and relevant paperwork for 2016/17. One of the community members will be assisting with delivery of training for pupils in 2016/17.

All young people involved have taken part in intergenerational work training and were also nominated for a 'Perth and Kinross Spirit of Youth Award' 2015 for their input into this project.

Project has been nominated for a 'Generations Working Together' intergenerational award.

Outcomes for participants, changes observed in participants, indications of progress

As mentioned above the feedback has been great and relates to some of the outcomes being met. With regards to observations the pupils in particular have had to deal with a few different situations which they have all done very thoughtfully. If required the pupils have talked through 'difficult' issues with the CLD worker facilitating the project.

Positive and constructive feedback has been given by pupils and community members which will aid the development of the work undertaken in this project in the next academic year.

All pupils are referencing their involvement in the project on various mediums which relate to their personal development and route to positive destinations; CVs, UCAS forms, etc.

One of the main successes has been the fantastic atmosphere when the pupils and the community members are working together. The relationships that have been built already appear very strong. One of the community members has had such a positive experience she has donated money to Perth High School for the pupils to co-ordinate how it is used.

What lessons have been learned?

The pupils and community members have met to evaluate the project together. This was done through individual evaluation sheets and a focus group discussion. Recommendations have been made for the development of this project for academic year 2016/17. These include:

- Pupils could devise 'Step by Step' guides for various topics
- Project could be set up as a 12 week programme which will include training, planning, 12 week sessions, evaluation and promotion for the next academic year.
- Notes could be made at the end of each weekly session of what the participants have done
- Go over the last block at the start of the new block; looking at what has happened, how things worked, what could be changed for the new block
- Pupils could help write up the evaluation sheet for next year (2016/17)
- All participants would ideally be offered 1:1
- Ideal size of group(s) would be 5:5
- Make better links with the computing department in Perth High School
- Make better links with business department

- Link with school staff who may work with pupils who want to go into social work, CLD, teaching, etc.
- Link more with guidance teachers who may know pupils who may benefit from being involved in this project
- Promote next year's project more in the 'Introduction to options'.
- Find out about similar pieces of work (Perth College, PKC adult learning, etc.)

Proposal for 2016/17

Feb/March/April – current 6th years involved produce:

- 'Step by step' guides for next year focusing on relevant topics
- Individual logs for participants
- Registration forms
- Evaluation forms

May/June/July 2016: promotion of project to 5th year pupils going into 6th year (supported by current 6th year pupils involved in the project when relevant).

May/June/July 2016: Promotion of project to potential community members who could be involved.

May/June/July 2016: Links are made with relevant school staff including Mr Mackie (Computing) and Miss Slaven (Business). Links are also made with all Perth high School guidance teachers re this project. Links are made with Perth College, PKC adult learning.

August /Sep 2016: Training with Perth High School pupils

Sep-Dec: Main 12 weeks of project including 2/3 weeks of community members sharing skills with pupils

Jan 2017: Evaluate project