

Cyrenians

Key to Potential and Key to  
College



# Key to Potential

- Well-established service – started 2012
- KTP work with school leavers to assist onto post-school provision
- Assertive Outreach – home visiting assistance
- Client Group – Long-term school non-attenders with no other support
- Look to build trust with YP and families who may have had negative experiences of school and services in the past
- Provide careers information and guidance on all post-school options
- Look to assist YP at their pace to explore post-school options
- Look to play to YP strengths and family connections introducing and utilising community premises and local projects for their access
- Aimed at school non-attenders coming up to school-leaving ages

We work with clients, without knowledge about post-school options, to break the long-term cycle of unemployment, realise their ambitions and develop resilience to cope with the transition into employment.

# The need

- Seeing a big increase in the need for our service after the pandemic
- Mental health crisis
- Large proportion of clients neurodiverse and/or care experienced
- Research at York University – leaving school without a positive destination on average costs the state £192,000 per person.

The long-term impacts of leaving school without positive destinations can be devastating for individuals and economic productivity. We regularly encounter clients verging on criminal behaviour and we find a positive employability progression helps to forestall entering criminal justice system and improve life chances.

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## The reasons why young people may struggle

- YPs are living in temporary accommodation with family
- YPs are living across the city far away from training
- Some YPs don't have a phone or bank account
- Some YPs who have caring responsibilities
- Some YPs parents work long shifts (no one in house most of the time)
- Some YPs who were bullied, lonely (away from peers and friends)
- Some YPs have additional support needs, English as second language
- Some YPs are living with grand parents, older siblings or parents with addiction or serious health conditions



# The numbers

- Since April 22 we have worked with 127 new young people and *so far* 96 have reached a positive destination.
  - 8 are working
  - 42 moved on to further education
  - 5 re-engaged with school
  - 41 progressed to other provision such as Activity Agreements, Working Rite and Creative Natives



# Key to College

- Key to Potential sister project
- Launched in 2021
- Assertive outreach keywork and practical assistance to young people to navigate college application, funding and enrolment processes.
- These are time sensitive and can be overwhelming to deal with unaided.
- Most of those we support have no history of further education in their families and few role models to mentor or support them as they access college.
- We assist young people in school, predominately living in SIMD areas, who could apply to college but are in danger of not applying, or dropping out early if they have been accepted
- Edinburgh-wide – currently work in 15 of the 20 High Schools in the city



# What we do

- We liaise with schools, families, young people and college staff to ensure successful transitions from school to college for the most disadvantaged young people (Stage 1).
- We build trusted relationships where they are needed most and offer practical one-to-one support including preparatory visits to college, choosing the right college course, help with gaining ID (birth certificates, Young Scot cards, etc) setting up email addresses, bank accounts and funding evidence
- Provision of digital devices (with bespoke training).



# The numbers

- Since April 22 we have worked with 118 new young people and *so far* over 94 have reached a positive destination.
  - 1 started work
  - 77 of those have started college
  - 6 re-engaged with school
  - 10 accessed other provision



*'This would have been amazing for me when I left school, thank you so much'*  
Parent

*"I said he can't leave school unless he has something sorted out and you have sorted him out!"* Parent

*"Thanks for the Laptop, it will be good for college, I have been getting used to it already"* Young Person

*"Thanks for everything, if I feel as if I know so much more about college than my pals"* Young Person

*"Thanks for sending me all that stuff, I do read it and it does sink in"* Young Person

*"Thanks for taking on those referrals some of those boys can be tricky but now they all seem so knowledgeable of what is going to happen at college "* Guidance Teacher

*"He seems really happy now, he was quite down before thinking there was nothing he could do after leaving school, now he knows he does have options"* Grand Parent

*" I'm so glad the funding is done, it makes a big difference getting paid to go to college"* Young Person

*"Can you help my Pal get onto the same course as me, because you did a good job, I have recommended you to him"* Young Person

*'Thanks for all your work, we have never seen the boys (5<sup>th</sup> year Xmas leavers at Liberton college applicants) so enthusiastic for a long time'* PSL Liberton High School