

Site

Midlothian Children and Families Service

Name of project / initiative

"Bounce" Project

Overview

Bounce is a diversionary youth work service for those at risk of becoming engaged with the criminal justice system. It is delivered in partnership between Midlothian Council's Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability, and Early and Effective Intervention teams, together with Police Scotland, with support from a range of other partner organisations. Each referred young person is allocated a keyworker who works closely with them, their family, and support agencies, on an agreed action plan developing a blend of both practical skills and personal development outcomes. Activities include skills sessions on topics like cooking, brickwork, car mechanics and bike safety, some of which lead to vocational qualifications. There are also personal development sessions including conflict resolution and No Knives Better Lives, team building activities to support the formation of new and positive relationships with young people from their own communities and other parts of Midlothian, and a strong focus on family engagement.

Longevity

Since April 2021.

Benefits

The young people clearly noted that having a focus and 'something to do' meant that they were less likely to re-offend – and it's voluntary so the fact they engage shows they value it. Since its inception the project has had 15 individuals referred in, with 13 of those having engaged, out of which 10 have not reoffended and three have found employment with the support of the service.

Uniqueness

We believe this is an example of best practice among diversionary programmes of its type.

Applicability

This sort of approach could be taken in any youth justice setting.

Requirements

Fully implementing this approach does have cost implications so would require funding, and it also needs strong relationships with the community and local partners.

For more information:

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