

Supporting the Levenmouth Plan – Increasing Employment Opportunities through Training – Community Works & FEAT Trading CIC

Councillors in Levenmouth have stated that one of their main concerns in relation to local planning objectives is the need to ensure that opportunities are made available to local people to enhance their skills to provide the best opportunity to be ready for work. The type and range of skills imparted are important to assist local people to be aspirational in terms of what type of job they would like to do.

The Levenmouth Plan notes that economic development and increasing local employment is a priority for the area.

The Community Works Programme, which has been running in Fife for the last two years, assists in achieving some of the core aims of the Economy, Planning & Employability Services, namely

- Providing a range of training programmes for youths and adults
- Arranging work placements
- Supporting learners to progress into work/training
- Supporting and assisting the development of Community based training organisations

Community Works training squads have ordinarily had a Fife wide remit and have been used to resolve long-standing community concerns around environmental issues, or have assisted in larger developmental projects including the set-up of allotment sites etc. The range and nature of the jobs carried out are important to the success of the programme. Not only is it essential that they meet the diverse and unique aspirations of our communities across Fife, but they also provide real opportunities to enable participants to put into practice a wide range of skills to bring about a solution to a problem, and learn from that process.

This new 6-month pilot project is a dedicated Community Works team that will have a single focus in the Levenmouth area. The local team managed through a partnership arrangement with Fife Employment Access Trust (FEAT Trading) will, in general, be selected from postcodes in this area, therefore mitigating travel time and travel expense. It will also allow participants to have the satisfaction that the work they do will have a positive impact in the communities in which they live.

The team have an anchor point in Levenmouth at Silverburn Park. The Park will provide a range of opportunities for project related work around woodland management, horticulture, watercourse work etc. However, the scope of the work carried out will extend to all parts of Levenmouth. The Area Management team will assist in pulling together a schedule of work with input from other Services, notably Area Services and Housing, as well as partner agencies in Levenmouth.

The team will consist of between 6-10 trainees at any point in time and will be refreshed as required should participants find work elsewhere during the period of involvement with community works. The clients will be referred from a range of sources including Fife Council's employability teams, job clubs, DWP and other local partners. There is a potential for individuals to be on the programme for up to 8 weeks. Initial outcome targets have been

set for the programme with a successful outcome for those participating being:

- Securing a job
- Securing a paid place within the Community works Programme
- Securing a subsidised post within the Fife Youth Jobs Contract
- Moving into further education.

If you have any potential candidates for this project, which initially runs from October 2016 to March 2017, please contact Grant Forsyth at Fife Council on 03451 555555 ext 473539 grant.forsyth@fife.gov.uk or Martin McDonald at FEAT martin@silverburnpark.co.uk Tel 01333 278775