

EAC/SAC BRIEFING PAPER

WHY?

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a UK charity that makes a difference to young people's lives. Over 275,000 young people a year from every possible background take part in the nationally and internationally recognised Award programme to broaden their horizons, develop their leadership skills, learn to work with others, volunteer in their local communities, increase their employability, and prove to themselves they can succeed at a serious challenge. Sometimes it completely change the direction of their lives.

The Award is a voluntary, non-competitive, flexible personal development programme of activities for young people. Anyone aged between 14 and 24 can do a programme at one of the three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There are four sections at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold.

Volunteering: undertaking service to individuals or the community.

Physical: improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.

Skills: developing practical and social skills and personal interests.

Expedition: planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.

Residential: at Gold level only, involves staying and working away from home doing shared activity.

Independent Impact Research by The University of Northampton found that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to offer a successful personal development programme of skills for life for young people: 81% reported increased motivation, 84% felt that they have become a more responsible person, 84% had developed the ability to stick at tasks until completed, 77% participants problem solving skills improved, 84% developed decision-making skills, 90% valued opportunities to help others and 93% developed teamwork skills. Regarding skills for work and post school destinations 58% believed that having achieved an Award had helped them in their job/career – the most helpful section was Volunteering and 64% believed that having an Award helped them gain their most recent/ current job.

1 in 6 young people aged 15 in Scotland currently undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, by contrast 125 award participants in EAC are SIMD1&2.

WHAT?

An EAC Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator post has been created to address this lack of equity and opportunity for some young people in East Ayrshire. The role supports school Duke of Edinburgh's Award centres to develop infrastructure and a leader base to enable equitable participation across centres in the following years. The Coordinator can work across all school Award centres providing direct delivery and staff support for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme to increase participation and award completions of targeted young people.

WHO?

Tim McArthur Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator Attainment East Ayrshire Council
Learning Outdoors Support Team, St Joseph's Campus, Grassyards Road, Kilmarnock, KA37SL

Tim.mcarthur@dofe.org

