

**MVP Scotland**

**Accreditation Pathway Document**

**1st Edition**

**Background**

MVP Scotland is a partnership between Scottish Government, The Scottish Violence Reduction Unit and Education Scotland. Despite continued reductions in the levels of violence in Scotland, it is clear that violence remains an issue across Scotland. The Mentors in Violence Prevention programme provides excellent opportunities to discuss a range of issues related to violence, in particular gender based violence, within an educational framework where positive relationships and Health and Wellbeing are key.

MVP Scotland has grown from strength to strength since it was introduced to this country in 2011. With support from partners, MVP Scotland is now a well-established educational violence prevention resource serving both the needs of schools and community safety in Scotland.

This programme offers schools and community partners an ideal opportunity to formally recognise the work undertaken by the young people of Scotland. This document features a variety of accreditation pathways which ‘Mentor Support Teams’ can use to support this work.

This paper has been created with support from Youth Scotland and Inverclyde Community Learning and Development. By working in partnership, we have worked hard to make this information as clear and concise as possible.

**Dynamic Youth- Case Study**

Paul is a S2 student at an MVP school and has recently achieved his Bronze Award. He shares his thoughts on this process below.

‘Last year, we took part in 4 MVP sessions. The S6’s came in and delivered the scenarios. Afterwards, we were asked by our teacher to write down what the messages of the lesson were and also what we enjoyed. It was good at the end of the year when we were given our certificates for taking part and I also learned a lot from the older pupils.’

Thomas, who is part of the MVP support team explains:

‘As the Dynamic Youth Awards are aimed at those aged 10-14, it is a great opportunity for our school to recognise the contribution of the participants of MVP sessions. At first it was a challenge to find the time to document their participation, but as a staff we were determined to imbed this in our program to value the inputs of all those involved with MVP.’

**Youth Achievement- Case Study**

Sinead, 17, is a mentor in her school and has recently achieved a Silver Youth Achievement Award for her involvement in MVP.

‘I first got involved with MVP because I wanted to help the younger people in my school and also gain more confidence in presenting. It was great that I also got this award; as I know that I can write about this in my CV and people will understand all of the work I have done to get this. I am proud that I am an MVP mentor and I can see a real difference when people think about violence in my school.’

Youth Achievement Awards are used by many schools to accredit their mentors. Those who use this form of accreditation ensure that adequate time is given to each mentor to collect evidence and reflect on their experiences. It is common practice for 1 or 2 members of the Mentor Support Team to lead on this aspect of MVP.

**SQA Leadership Case Study**

St Paul’s High in Glasgow are using the SQA Module in Leadership to accredit their MVP mentors. In 2016-17 they have 14 candidates; who are all S5 pupils. They are delivering their MVP sessions to S2 classes and are supported through this process by teaching staff and also Greg Leighton; who is … He explains that:

*“The Leadership Award is now embedded within the MVP in St Paul’s and we have seen a change in attitude from the pupils even as early as we have been involved. Hopefully this continues!”*

To enable the mentors the opportunity to complete the necessary paperwork for this award , they are each invited to meet monthly with Greg. This is in small groups and has resulted in each participant receiving the support required to reflect and document their experiences.

**DoE Case Study**

Lisa was in S5 when she started working towards her Silver DoE Award. She took part in DoE as she felt it gave her the opportunity to develop her skills and teamwork, be more active within her community and enhance her CV.

She was able to achieve the Volunteering section by delivering MVP sessions to S1 classes, lead on MVP Assemblies, participate in Transition sessions in the local primary school, speak at national conferences and support a lunch time drop-in at school.

“Being an MVP Mentor has been great for improving my confidence and giving me the opportunity to develop leadership and presentation skills. It has been hard work but I have enjoyed the challenge of working with the S1’s!”

**Diana Award**

Doon Academy won the Anti-Bullying Champion category of the Diana Award. The winning of the award recognises not only the tremendous work of the mentors but also the commitment of the staff and partners who support the Mentors.

The MVP Mentor team at Doon also worked with local the primary schools. The Mentors carried out a number of sessions to combat bullying behaviour. This is the first time that the MVP material has been used within the primary schools in the Doon Valley.

Feedback from the schools was positive with all young people engaging in the sessions. The campus police officer who was part of the team commented “ It is inspiring to see the senior pupils taking on such a positive role as peer mentors within their schools and communities”.