

1. Name of SOA case study

Skillforce (now called Team Moray)

2. What was the local need addressed by this SOA case study?

Assisting young people to return to mainstream classroom either on a full or part time basis to enable them to complete national qualifications and achievement awards

3. What was done – and by which partners?

Under the More Choices More Chances strategy the partners worked with the charity Skillforce. A three-year service level agreement is in place between the Council and Skill Force covering the period to 2011. Skill Force is working in all eight Moray secondary schools to deliver an alternative curricular programme to identified S3 and S4 pupils. This, coupled with strong interpersonal relationships which are built up with the instructors, give these pupils the opportunity to gain a range of awards. The Skill Force team consists of a Team Leader and eight instructors. The instructors work in pairs, attached to each of the eight schools. The programme includes a residential element and a range of awards have been gained by S4 pupils in Moray schools in 2008-2009.

Skill Force have delivered ASDAN silver and bronze awards, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, St. Andrew's First Aid and sports leadership awards.

4. What is the evidence of the benefits for communities – or if the benefits are still to be delivered, what is the timeline for that?

400 pupils that may have had difficulty with mainstream education or have behavioural problems have been taught under this programme. All participants have secured a useful qualification that will assist in gaining employment after education, many are able to return to full-time or part-time mainstream education either at the school or college. The programme is the most successful in the UK in terms of helping young people at risk of exclusion either stay in mainstream education, or go on to take advantages of employment opportunities. In most cases the students are better equipped to contribute to their local community as a result of the programme.

5. What added value has the SOA process brought to the delivery of these benefits?

The More Choices More Chances strategy through the partnership identified the need to provide a wider range of choices for pupils whose needs are not currently being met through mainstream curriculum. National outcome 2 enables the partnership to prioritise this area of work.

6. What next steps are you taking to meet this local need?

Skill Force continue to work with all Moray secondary schools. Evaluations of Skill Force, which include a survey of school staff, parents and pupils, remain very positive. HMIE, as part of the INEA2 Inspection of The Moray Council Educational Services noted that, “ Skill Force had contributed positively to pupils` achievements, particularly in relation to those pupils with social , emotional and behavioural needs.”



Westerton House, Westerton Road
East Mains Industrial Estate
Broxburn EH52 5AU
T. 01506 775558
F. 01506 775566
E. info@improvementservice.org.uk
www.improvementservice.org.uk

In terms of next steps, funding for this initiative is an issue for the future. A substantial part of this comes from the Determined to Succeed ring fenced budget from secondary schools and from Educational Support Services. We now need to look at sustainability in the current financial climate, as it is unlikely that DtS funding will continue to be ring fenced post 2011. A review will be undertaken in 2009-10 to look at how programmes can best be delivered in the future. This will involve a range of partners, including CLD.

Contact details of lead officer.