

**TD1  
YOUTH  
HUB**



**TD1 YOUTH HUB**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023**

**2024**



# STAFF TEAM

## Douglas Ormston

Chief Executive

## Debi Webster

Office Manager

## Jason Mackinnon

Youth Development Coordinator (Groups)

## Kevin Ross

Project Lead (Streetwork)

## Stephanie Anderson

Project Lead (Stepping Stones)

## Eddie Smeaton

Youth Development Worker (School)

## Abby Ross

Project Lead (Early Steps)

## Rachael Scott

Youth Development Worker (Participation)

## Logan Yorke

Youth Development Worker (School)

## Coz Harrison

Project Lead (Engage)

## Brandon Murray

Youth Worker

## Chas Cowan

Youth Worker

## Natasha MacAuley

Youth Worker

## Justin Kelly

Youth Worker

## Rosie Mitchell

Youth Worker

## Naommi Pearson

Youth Worker

## Ethan Painter

Youth Worker

## John Baxter

Youth Worker

## Keira Sutherland

Youth Worker

## DIRECTORS

### Peter Croan

Chair

### Stewart Bell

Director

### Elizabeth Pope

Company Secretary

### Anne Bain

Director

### Huntley Wells

Treasurer

### Garry Brown

Director



## COMPANY INFORMATION

### Eildon West Youth Hub

(Trading as TD1 Youth Hub)

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Company Limited by Guarantee : 207926



# TRUSTEE REPORT – Peter Croan

Having now celebrated 10 years of TD1 Youth Hub, it gives me great pleasure to present this annual report that so sharply demonstrates the enormous impact that TD1 Youth Hub has had in this year, but it is indicative of every year. The organisation is incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated and passionate staff team who have once again excelled and went above and beyond on a number of occasions.

The board were absolutely delighted to see the organisation win Community Youth Work Project of the Year at Youthlink Scotland's National Youth Work Awards, winning this in our tenth anniversary year was wonderful and deserved recognition of the hard work that has went in over this time developing the organisation from the staff, volunteers, fellow trustees and of course the young people themselves over this period.

I am delighted to report that this has been a strong year for TD1, financially (year end June 2023) we reported our largest ever yearly income, however this was matched by our largest ever yearly expenditure! However a small surplus was positive in the current challenging financial and funding climate. It goes without saying that our range of funders from a range of people and organisations, all donations, large or small are absolutely imperative in our sector and gratefully received.

The financial demand is linked to the increased demand we see for our services throughout all our projects, where this year we have seen an increase of around 20% in the number of young people we have worked with meaning over 350 young people this year. This is fantastic to see we are reaching more young people than ever before, however with that increased demand comes the need to have the resources to meet that need.

Looking ahead the trustees are developing plans with the chief executive for 2024 that will see a new strategy and business plan launched which will ensure TD1 remains rooted in its mission to be a young person centred organisation that respects, values and engages with young people to address their needs by offering support, guidance and opportunities to shape their own futures. The trustees are also developing a plan towards developing a robust reserves policy, building up our reserves to ensure the long term stability of the organisation to withstand any challenges in the future.

However the trustees and I are confident that we have the right people in place with the right skills throughout the organisation who have shared values to ensure we support the lives of young people in the Eildon West locality.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the sad and unexpected loss of our Community Police Officer PC Sean Wright who built a terrific rapport with young people and staff, we have been honoured to have worked closely with Sean's family over the last year in a number of celebration walks in his memory. The outdoors was something Sean was passionate about and seeing dozens of young people undertake walks in his honour along with Sean's family and friends we hope has brought some comfort to them.





# CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT – Douglas Ormston

2023 marked a significant milestone for TD1 Youth Hub – our 10th anniversary! It was a moment of immense pride, reflecting on the thousands of young people we've empowered.

From an organisation that was in a dormant state in January 2013, with no staff, no young people, no partners and only a couple of funders we have come a long way when you consider 2023 we have a staff team of 18, worked with over 330 young people, work with a long line of partner agencies and last year were supported by over 30 different funders and grant givers, a thriving organisation.

On a personal level having led TD1 Youth Hub from its formation it was a moment of great pride but also recognition of the staff team who have supported me and the organisation during this time, as without the right team TD1 Youth Hub wouldn't have achieved what it has achieved.

This made winning Community Youth Project of the Year at the National Youth Work Awards in May 2023 particularly special as it was recognition of the overall projects and individuals involved that demonstrated the high quality of the work delivered.

10 years is also a significant achievement in that as a charity we have survived throughout this period and all the geo-political scenarios in this time, but we couldn't do this without the kind support of 100s of different funders and donations over this time. We are always grateful to all our funders and supporters however special mention for some of those who have funded us for a significant chunk of these ten years including Scottish Borders Council, BBC Children in Need, The Robertson Trust and National Lottery Community Fund. We are indebted to all those

listed later in this report who have kindly donated in the last year.

Youth work isn't always easy. There are challenging moments – a drop-in session with low turnout, a difficult one-on-one encounter, or a group session that requires creative problem-solving. But this is where our resilience shines.

However we believe in building trust and relationships with young people. We work alongside them through difficulties, never giving up. We reset, adapt, and find solutions together. This dedication is what truly sets TD1 apart.

We develop those skills and those relationships and this means when it finally clicks the work that is highlighted in this report comes to fruition. At the heart of what we do is about relationships and we are in a privileged position to have these trusted relationships with young people and to be involved in their lives.

Moving forward we have a role as a vital part of young people's lives in our community. We will continue to develop our work to ensure it is responsive to young people's needs, that we work collaboratively with others who have common goals, to support our community and to provide the resources our staff need to deliver positive outcomes for young people.

We know from our work with partners that in the face of increasing pressures and demands that partnership work is absolutely vital to the supporting our most vulnerable young people. At TD1 Youth Hub we will always be a willing and leading partner in changing young people's lives.

*Here's to the next ten years.*







## SCHOOL YOUTH WORK – Eddie Smeaton & Logan Yorke

We have been working in partnership with Galashiels Academy for over 8 years and throughout that time we have developed a really strong partnership and working tirelessly to improve the lives of the young people we work with. In Galashiels Academy we have a partner who like us are brave enough to be imaginative, to be bold in trialing new approaches and who always put young people first.

Whilst working in Galashiels Academy this year, there has been a mix of challenges and accomplishments. Despite the hurdles, we've made strides in supporting pupils development and constantly exploring new strategies to provide support for pupils.

Our goal as Youth Workers within Galashiels Academy is to assist and involve young people in succeeding in mainstream education, particularly those facing significant challenges. Through our efforts at TD1 we continuously enhance our connections with young people by providing drop in sessions, trips, extra curricular activities, residential, as well as many other projects. This serves us well when working within the Academy as it fosters and deepens positive relationships.

The significance of youth workers based in the Academy cannot be overstated due to the impactful relationships we have with many pupils within school.

A significant proportion of our work in school is providing 1-1 support to students which allows us to address the individual needs and concerns of a pupils. Whilst doing this and working closely with Pastoral Teachers and Senior Management we are able to provide and make changes to get it right for students.

In addition to 1-1 support, we attend classes for certain young people who may need some individualised support, behavioural guidance etc. Dropping into classes throughout the day to provide regular encouragement and support which can help pupils stay motivated and engaged in their learning and ultimately empowers pupils to overcome challenges and achieve their academic goals.

A large part of the success of our youth work in school offering is recognising that achievement happens in many different settings and for some pupils being able to help support them to achieve outwith a classroom setting yet still accredit their learning is vitally important. An innovative way in which we have managed to do that this year is working in partnership with Community Learning & Development Worker, Mark Smith, on our Thrive programme. This was put a course choice for S4 pupils who historically had poor engagement or attendance. By delivering a bespoke programme based around achieving the SQA Nat. 4 Mental Health & Well-Being Award we have been able to positively re-engage these pupils to think broader about their learning.





## ENGAGE PROJECT – Coz Harrison

After a few months of planning and building relationships, the Engage Project launched in October 2023. We developed a referral programme where partner organisations could refer young people aged Primary 6 or 7 towards the program. Young people could be referred to for whatever reason. This might be that they are struggling with anxiety and have low self esteem or they have been disruptive and bullying in the classroom. The referral data gave us the information that we needed to see a picture of the issues raised with the children presented. From here we began shaping our 7-10 week programmes, working alongside our fantastic Mentors who are young people aged 14-18 year old. Our mentors gave us some great ideas like journaling, pasta making and writing song lyrics.

Across the months we witnessed some great moments for both the mentors and the young people. We were able to see the mentors step into roles where they had a new responsibility and younger ones were now able to look up to them and ask them LOTS of questions. The mentors had a unique position where they could respond to the Primary 7s in a way that we could not. Whilst playing pool they could ask them, 'When I get to high school how do I get a girlfriend?'. The Primary 7s were also very reflective and one shared with us that as a young man, he often struggled to talk about his problems in front of other boys. Through our sessions, we opened up a narrative that talking was ok.

We covered lots of topics that were led by the young people or the mentors. An interesting discussion around social media showed us that they all had very different relationships with it. Whilst we expected some of them to be very interested in it, it appeared that many of them were still very weary about it. The mentors were able to chat to them about ways to stay safe online or what to do at school if someone takes a photo without your consent. We talked about when to walk away and when to get involved. One of the mentors gave the advice of 'Just don't cause drama'. In another session, we talked about consequences. We designed a series of scenarios that included 'What would you do if you saw someone stealing a chocolate bar from Tesco'. Some of the children said how they would immediately report it or chase them away but others dug a little deeper and said that maybe they didn't know the reasons for them stealing so they might reconsider their actions.

The young people have given us lots of positive feedback. One comment included, 'I like being able to come to TD1 and chat to the workers. In school, I didn't really like doing Art but being here, I have learnt that I am actually good at Art'. Having built those relationships with the young people during our sessions, we can now be available to them in their journeys. The option to keep offering pop up sessions and bringing them back to TD1 is something we will continue to do for them, as well as being on hand whenever they would like to chat (with a spray paint can in their hands or not).



# DETACHED STREETWORK – Kevin Ross

Through funding support we have continued to deliver three sessions of street-based youth work in and around Galashiels over the last year. This has mainly been around the town centre, outlying estates of Langlee, Melrose Gait, Tweedbank and the parks and wooded areas throughout the town – Public, Victoria and Scott Street Parks; Boleside and The Policies.

We have also been around during Braw Lads events, The Sevens and other events delivered in the community, as 'a well kent face' for young people, offering support, advice and youth workers that can be chatted with.

Continuing to have Brandon and Naomi in my team, has supported us to present consistency for young people, where trusting relationships can be formed and maintained with, at times, vulnerable young people aged 12-20 years old.

Throughout this year we have also acted upon research carried out with young people on the street in 2022-23. Funded through Scottish Borders Alcohol Drug Partnership, we were able to gather information that has shaped our service delivery, supporting further, on average, 50 individual young people we are working with monthly through the programme.

Still addressing in the moment issues and concerns, we are also speaking to young people about college, jobs, training, benefits, housing, mental health, relationships, home, family and many other issues that they are facing, and feel our team can offer support, information and advice with.

This year, we have also shared what we do with others throughout Scotland. In November 2023 at YouthLink Scotland's National Youth Work Conference, we delivered a workshop on the research we had carried out through the support of the Scottish Borders ADP. Supporting youth workers and organisations around Scotland to view and understand the research carried out and how this has shaped our programme on the street moving forward.

During March and April of 2024, through Youth Scotland, we delivered Detached Streetwork training sessions for youth workers throughout Scotland, looking to receive support and information about delivering street-based youth work in their communities.

Attended by 30 youth workers, from 24 organisations, the training which is now in its fourth round of delivery, has been receiving positive feedback, and there remains a desire for youth workers to receive more, and even look to form a network of street-based staff, where practice, information and tips can be shared. Which we at TD1 are supporting, and looking forward to it being established.



# PARTICIPATION & AWARDS – Rachael Scott

Over the last year I have been working at establishing strong trustworthy relationships with our young people.

I provide opportunities to learn new skills and try out different things to not only help build confidence and self-esteem but also allowing our young people to be recognised for their hard work and achievements which therefore will help moving onto further education, college, jobs etc.

I look forward to continuing to work with our young people and further develop their skills and attributes and allowing them to reach their full potential.



## Dynamic Youth Awards (DYA)

From June 2023 20 young people have completed 158 hours of Dynamic Youth Awards which totals over 50 young people to completing 432 hours of Dynamic Youth Award work in the last 18 months.

DYAs allow young people to set themselves a challenge and personal targets, think about and comment on their achievements, and gather evidence of their participation. This helps them to build confidence and self-esteem, and the completed certificate gives them a record of their achievements and gives tariff points

**A few examples of our Young Peoples Work which gained them an award are,**

- Learning cooking skills and preparing and making meals for others.
- Participating in a photography and animation workshop led by artist Julia Parks through a project Art'n about in Gala run by transform arts CIC.
- Work on their problem solving and team building skills through challenge sessions with competitive fun and games.
- Volunteering at our coding Group on Friday.
- Taking part in mental health challenges on 1-1 sessions
- Planning and preparing events/drop-in activities.

## Saltire Awards

Saltire Awards are Scotland's way of celebrating, recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and achievements of young people in Scotland.

We have supported 42 young people between the ages of 12-25 years of age to complete a total of 1,070 hours of Saltire Award work.

**Some examples of our young people's volunteering work this Year have been,**

- Young People Mentoring Primary age children through TD1's Engage project.
- Planning activities within TD1 Youth Hub drop In, Movie theme nights, Baking, planning and preparing Parties and Crafting activities etc.
- Young people Helping with housekeeping around TD1 Youth Hub.
- Young people taking part in the Girls Toilet Project at the Academy revamping them with own designs and art
- Our young people attended a local primary school Fayre and. helped the school raise money by providing tattoos, face painting and hair braids whilst also raising awareness of TD1 and what support and services we provide.
- Community volunteering within McDonalds to raise money towards Ronald Mcdonald House charities providing art activities and face painting whilst giving the community the opportunity to hear more information about TD1 Youth hub.
- Volunteering at our Tweedbank Youth Club working with primary age children.



# EARLY STEPS – Abby Ross

Early Steps is a group of young parents ages 16-26 years old. They come together for socialisation, supporting and learning from each other. This can be through sharing their own experiences of rearing and nurturing their child or their life experiences. The programme offers activities and topics of discussion based on the expressed needs of the parents, for their own development and well-being. We have 34 young parents engaged with the programme at different times.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- 10 of the young parents are working part time, making sure that they can still attend the group sessions.
- 3 of the parents already have jobs waiting for them when their child goes to nursery.
- Another Mum is going back to college after summer.
- 2 parents availed the learning to drive programme through the support of Parental Employability Services (PES)
- Parents raise funds for summer activities and trips. They were able to raise £939.00 and catered to 35 adults & 51 children. Some 3 adults & 4 kids (non-TD1) also joined us in this summer programme.
- Planning of activities is now owned by the parents. Most of the activities they planned are low-cost or no cost activities, as the idea is they can do it with their children at home.
- Exchange visits with other parents group in Langlee is being finalised.
- Job Centre Youth team, Multiply team and PND Borders are the newest partners of the programme.
- The programme offers placements for students & modern apprentices.
- Received referrals from social workers & family nurses

## SOME QUOTATIONS FROM PARENTS:

“

*“I was very nervous to come in, but you (Abby) made me feel so welcomed & my child really came out of her shell”*

“

*“TD1 Early Steps programme had immensely helped me with my postpartum depression. It's got me out of the house and I'm now more confident. My daughter loves the sensory room”.*

“

*“I was having too much fun doing arts and crafts, didn't even go out for a fag!”*

“

*“My boy loves coming to TD1, every session is different so offers a great variety of activities to suit every child. We also spend a lot of time playing in the sensory room. Which I love too! So far on our TD1 journey my boy absolutely lit up when Santa came to visit and he was especially delighted he even got an early gift!*

# STEPPING STONES – Stephanie Anderson

Now in its 6th Year the Stepping Stones Project, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, is a partnership youth work project that supports young people aged 10-18 years with the aim of improving their emotional health and wellbeing, and life chances. Young people are supported based on their personal needs, helping them to achieve their full potential and to develop skills through non-formal educational activities within a universal youth work setting. In my role as a Stepping Stones Project Lead at TD1 Youth Hub Galashiels my focus is primarily with Young People ranging from Primary 7- S3 (10-14 years).



## 1:1s

The Stepping Stones referral programme currently sees me meet with 10 young people regularly on a 1:1 basis. They are primarily S1-S3, and we meet on a weekly basis in the Support Hub (within Galashiels Academy), where we spend time exploring not only longer term and underlying issues but also those that arise at given moments which impact aspects of their current daily life. We also go for outings in the local community which allows the opportunity to bring an awareness to their behaviours, build their self confidence and social awareness while doing everyday tasks. The 1:1 support provides a chance to talk openly and freely, in a safe environment, where the Young People are supported, and not judged. Furthermore, with the 1:1's being held in the Support Hub it also provides an opportunity for the Stepping Stones Young People to interact with and encounter other Young People, in small groups, in a controlled environment, which for a number of them provides important strides for their personal social progression and awareness. This year has led to me supporting some of these young people in class which has allowed me to guide them in their social interactions, and reactions with their peers in real time, while also providing them an opportunity to support them with their learning. This has proven to be invaluable to a number of them, with self confidence notably increasing and relationships with teachers and peers improving. The close working relationship with the school is not only beneficial to the young people but also enriches the relationship with multi agency partners with a clear level of respect given to our relationships with and knowledge and understanding of these young people as we work together to best support them.

The Young People who I am currently working with at the Academy have a variety of issues which they need supported with and include: long term non attendance at school, risk taking behaviours in the community, family issues/lifestyles which impact significantly on their life, lack of opportunities socially. These Young People have also been supported with small group trips specifically chosen to support them in not only enriching their life but also to gradually push them out of their comfort zones with trips to the local Christmas pantomime, Edinburgh pantomime, Cinema, shopping trips and taking part in community projects such as an engagement project with residents at Gala Hill House and being involved in our school Transition Programme. Work experience has also been organised for some in local Primary schools. Young People are supported during term time, when they are in school and out, and during holidays.

While the requirement for regular 1:1 support undoubtedly can come to a natural conclusion, as testament to the strong established relationship, the Young People generally maintain contact and reach out when the need arises.





## TRANSITION WORK

Group work is also undertaken with a number of local primary schools in the Galashiels area, with small numbers of Primary 7 pupils being supported through our Community Transition Programme which has been developed to support them as they move from Primary to Secondary school as they naturally start to experience more independence and exploring their community. Primary 7 is also the stage where they are allowed to attend TD1 drop ins! The connection with TD1, and staff, as they make this move is important for a number of the Young People and undoubtedly helps them during such an important stage of their life. The presence of TD1 in the latter stage of Primary and as they progress onwards onto their secondary education at Galashiels Academy supports this greatly, providing connection and support.

The group work being undertaken is to support small groups of pupils who have been identified as requiring enhanced transition support as they move from Primary to Secondary. They have primarily been identified having expressed anxiety and personal concerns to teachers around this move. I have developed a programme where in the small groups pupils talk about their feelings and concerns and together discuss coping strategies. This is achieved by a variety of means where the young people are encouraged and supported to express themselves in an open and safe environment. With 2 of the groups (2 separate primaries, 11 children in total) who I have worked with for a considerable time, we are at the stage of the programme where we go out and explore the local community – not only regularly walking to, from, and getting familiar with the Academy and surrounding area, but also going out and about in the local community. These outings are not only important to them to help build their confidence and awareness as they become more independent but also to help them to consider options and raise awareness as they begin to navigate a stage of life where they will have more freedom and choice.

With 2 of the Primary schools we have organised a school time visit to TD1 Youth Hub where the whole class can have freedom to experience what drop in has to offer, with familiar people around them. This is definitely a highlight for them all!



Through firmly established connections with a number of Primary Schools, along with the local Live Borders Active Schools Co-ordinator, I have continued to support the schools in holding weekly Netball sessions. This has allowed me not only to enable children to learn a new sport and play a game which I believe is a great leveller regardless of sporting ability (and a lot of fun) but has also allowed me to meet and connect with a huge number of Young people (just over 40 across 3 schools) who TD1 otherwise wouldn't have directly accessed.

After the success of the introduction of our Netball Participation Centre in January 2023, the first in the Borders region, we brought this back again for the 2nd year. The Participation Centre is overseen by Liver Borders but run by myself and another coach who see us hold weekly Netball session for all Galashiels cluster Primary 6/7 pupils. The sessions have consistently had approximately 25 young people attend every week, which is testament to the fun they are having. They have clearly had opportunity to develop their skill and playing ability but also, more notably, the opportunity to develop friendships with other young people that they will be attending Secondary school with. Due to the success of this programme other areas within the Live Borders area have now rolled out their own participation centres. This provided opportunity for the teams to play against each other, in a friendly yet competitive environment, and widen personal connections, which they all loved!

# COMMUNITY BASED YOUTH-WORK

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

TD1 got involved in a fundraising campaign for a defibrillator to be installed centrally within the town. This project not only raised awareness and training about saving a life, but also gave our young people a great opportunity to make a difference to their community.

After its introduction in 2022 we were delighted to be able to offer the TD1 Summer Swim & Water Safety programme again. This is a programme which at its heart sees the importance of not only providing an opportunity for all children to learn to swim and gain confidence in the water, but also, due to locality, make them aware of dangers of water and open water swimming. 10 Primary 7 pupils from the Galashiels cluster Primaries signed up for this free 3 week programme which saw them undertake 2 weeks of daily swimming lessons, and a whole group week of daily lifesaving input. The goal was to improve confidence, ability and knowledge in and out the water. Galashiels Swimming Pool (Live Borders) supported us in the delivery of lessons, along with input from Galashiels Community Fire Station (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) who delivered a programme on water safety.



Our relationship with the local Fire Station and crews has continued to go from strength to strength with a monthly input from them where they either attend a Drop In or a small group of us attend the Fire Station. The inputs are not only important for developing respectful relationships with our emergency services and for making us all feel part of the community, but also as an educational tool, not only to appreciate what the Fire Brigade all do, but discuss essential topics such as antisocial behaviour, firework and fire safety, water safety etc.

Summer 2023 saw the reintroduction of the Fireskills course, delivered by the Community Action Team at Galashiels Fire Station. The course saw 8 young people undertake a week long course where they were put through rigorous fire drills, team building and problem solving exercises along with a number of appropriate inputs as regards what the Fire Brigade all deal with.

## DROP INs

Our drop-ins are open Monday to Friday 6pm to 8:30pm (9:30pm on a Friday) alongside an afternoon session of Fridays 2pm to 4pm, these are open access for young people to attend, have the chance to be in a safe place with their friends, have access to youth worker support and have fun by doing the activities such as pool, xbox, cooking, etc. Typically this year we have averaged around 30 young people each evening, with the average age being 14 year old. This year we have begun to offer afternoon lunch time drop-ins twice a week which have been successful in providing young people a space to access free food for lunch.





## SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES

We provide activities for young people over the 4 main school holiday periods of Easter, Summer, October and Christmas. During these periods we run 3 activities a week during the weeks they are off school, these are a range of different activities which give them new opportunities and the chance to go places they wouldn't ordinarily get to go. In summer 2023 we provided over 100 young people with access to our summer programme, running throughout the summer holidays alongside our normal programme of activities.



## CODING GROUP – Jason Mackinnon

The coding group has been designed to develop new skills and spark an interest in coding. The coding group allows young people to get creative, develop their computational thinking and coding skills using MIT's scratch program and the industry standard "Python" to become better equipped to take advantage of the opportunities in a world that is becoming digital-by-default.

The group meets on a Friday afternoon and is open to young people from school years P7 – S6. We have developed this group as an introduction to coding using the medium of Raspberry Pi, which is a small computer developed specifically for learning coding.

The group has expanded hugely in terms of the level that it operates, moving from GUI (graphical user interface) based coding to involve physical integration into electronics with the participants achieving significant progress in not only writing and creating Python based programming but also the programming of integrated circuits at an impressive level to where we are now building a semi- autonomous robot which has been coded entirely by the group participants.





## THE TUESDAY GROUP – Jason Mackinnon

The Tuesday group is now into its 5th year at TD1 Youth Hub and is a safe low sensory environment for young people who are care experienced, young carers or neurodiverse. We provide 1:1 support, STEM projects and fun activities and dinner in a safe and nurturing environment that allows the young people to be themselves. Additionally, we are also able to provide 1:1 support to those young people with issues that are affecting or worrying them.

We meet on a Tuesday at TD1 Youth Hub, as with all the opportunities we provide, there is no cost to attend. The group works with the most isolated and vulnerable young people who may be reluctant to attend other provision and the group allows those young people to be themselves in a fun and safe environment without feeling intimidated or judged.

The group is supported by two TD1 youth workers who plan activities weekly to build new and existing skills, there is also a volunteer who assists with the delivery of the activities program, and it is worth noting that the volunteer was himself a regular attendee of the LAAC group in previous years.

We have seen the participants blossom, where some of the young people were very reticent to take part in any activity, we now have an eagerness as to what we will be doing in the next weeks, we have seen their confidence grow in both their own abilities but also with regard to their social interaction with their peers. Parents, carers and professionals have also spoke about how the group --has had a very positive impact on the young people.



## FOOTBALL

We offer weekly football sessions for those in S3 or S4 at Galashiels Academy, these run weekly at the 3G Astro and as it is a non competitive space for people to come and enjoy playing football we have a wide level of ability, however the focus is very much on participation and enjoyment. Working with the local high school we took the S3 and S4 football teams for the Scottish Cup, which was a great experience for many of these young people they don't get the chance to play in a team.





## SEAN WALKS

2023 sadly saw the sudden and unexpected passing of PC Sean Wright. While only in his Community Officer role at Galashiels Police Station for a short while he made great strides building positive relationships with our young people. He was determined to work with us to improve young peoples lives in our area and make sure they had opportunities and experiences which would help them develop. Together we made plans to support this. With his passing we felt it important that as a community we came together to remember Sean, and no better way to do this than with regular walks in our beautiful countryside - a place which Sean got great solace, doing an activity the kids said they wanted to do more of! The Hike & Bike Hub Galashiels have been a great support in planning and facilitating our "Sean Walks" which take place generally on a school Monday holiday. We haven't been blessed with brilliant weather - but people have turned out in their droves to support and remember. Seans family, friends and former colleagues have joined a large number of TD1 young people on 4 walks now where we have remembered, reflected, enjoyed and benefitted from being together.

2024 will also see us have a partnership walk as part of the Galashiels Walking Festival and also sees us unveil our inaugural memorial Sean Walk on Monday 6 May, together with the PC Sean Wright Memorial Award.





# FUNDERS



THE HUGH FRASER  
FOUNDATION

