



**Private Members' Debate – Cathy Peattie MSP: Young People in the work place
Wednesday 16 January 2008**

Key Issues for NCH Scotland:

- **NCH Scotland welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to provide more choices and more chances for young people in Scotland, particularly those who are vulnerable and difficult to reach;**
- **We believe it is essential that the Scottish Government's strategy should promote high quality opportunities for young people in training, and in education;**
- **NCH Scotland considers that more should be done to ensure that sustainable jobs are developed for young people; and**
- **We believe that innovative models such as NCH Scotland's Youthbuild, which is helping to address the skills shortages in the construction industry by supporting disadvantaged young people get into work, can make an important contribution to the wider economy**

General

NCH is one of the leading children's charities in Scotland, working in partnership to run more than 65 services for more than 7000 of Scotland's most vulnerable and difficult to reach children, young people and their families. Across the UK it runs nearly 500 services. NCH Scotland is aware that Scotland has one of the highest rates in Europe of unemployment among young people. We, therefore, welcome the Scottish Government's commitment to provide more choices and more chances for young people in Scotland, particularly the most excluded and disadvantaged. NCH is working in partnership with a number of local organisations to show how the problem of youth unemployment can be positively addressed for the benefit of the young people concerned, and for the wider economy, through NCH Scotland's Youthbuild projects.

NCH Scotland's Youthbuild model

NCH Scotland's innovative Youthbuild model offers training and employment opportunities in the construction industry for disadvantaged young people. We believe this model offers a better future for disadvantaged young people, while helping to address labour shortages in the construction industry. The young people involved in Youthbuild come from difficult backgrounds, and face multiple challenges in finding work. This can include poor family support, issues around leaving care, homelessness, specific learning difficulties, alcohol/substance misuse, offending and poor social/personal skills. NCH Scotland believes that getting young people into work is vitally important in helping them to move forward in their lives.

The young people we work with require extra support to take the crucial first steps on the employment ladder, and a key aspect of the Youthbuild model is the support provided by NCH Scotland staff to the Youthbuild trainees. Youthbuild provides one-to-one support for young people to help them make the move into work. Key elements of the project focus on induction and preparation, work experience, relevant training, personal support, and core skills and development. NCH Scotland's Youthbuild

projects have already been successful in securing training and employment opportunities in the construction industry for young people. This shows what can be achieved when different agencies work together to help young people take advantage of the opportunities that are out there.

NCH Scotland's Youthbuild projects

NCH Scotland currently runs the Glasgow Great Eastern Youthbuild, the Inverclyde Youthbuild, with other Youthbuild projects currently under development. These projects work with local housing associations, such as the Oak Tree, Cloch, Milnbank, Shettleston and Govanhill housing associations, to give the young people work experience on local sites where they are building homes. Other partners include the Scottish Government's Youth Crime Prevention Fund, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Community and Safety Services, the European Social Fund, Inverclyde Council, Scottish Enterprise and Communities Scotland. We are also actively working with 20 large construction companies.

Glasgow Great Eastern Youthbuild project

NCH Scotland's Glasgow Great Eastern Youthbuild was launched by Adam Ingram MSP, Minister for Children and Early Years. The project is already proving successful in getting young people from the east end of Glasgow – one of the most deprived areas of Scotland – into permanent jobs in the building trade. Nine of the young people on the project have already found permanent jobs and training, with 5 securing apprenticeships, and support is continuing for another 11 who are working towards the same goal. Future work experience will be based around the refurbishment of a landmark building in Glasgow, the B-listed building, the Great Eastern Hotel.

Case Study

Kris Adair joined NCH Youthbuild in February and thanks to the work experience, training and tailored support he received has now been taken on as an apprentice plumber by a leading building firm. His failure to find a job left him isolated and affected his emotional well being. Kris says: "I was going through a bit of a depression, just sitting around the house all day feeling sorry for myself. When I first came to the project I was shy and felt anxious a lot of the time. NCH has helped me come out of my shell. I'm a lot more confident now and I feel I have come a long way. I now have a future to look forward to".

Inverclyde Youthbuild project

NCH Scotland's Inverclyde Youthbuild was launched by Maureen Watt MSP, Minister for Schools and Skills. In its first few months the project has also proved successful in getting young people into permanent jobs in the building trade. The project started in June and is currently working with 13 young people. It provides one-to-one support to help them make the move into work. The training programme is still on-going but, so far, one of the group has already secured an apprenticeship, and four others have been guaranteed full time jobs.

Case Study

Derek McLaughlin, 16, is one of those who is benefiting. He has often been in trouble with the police, mostly due to alcohol. But Derek says the work he has found through Youthbuild is helping put that behind him. "It has straightened me out," he says. Since joining the project, Derek has worked hard and achieved much. He has passed a number of training certificates and achieved a 97% attendance record. There are high hopes of a permanent job when his training is over."

Please contact either Andrew Girvan, NCH Scotland's Director of Children's Services, or Paul Carberry, NCH Scotland Depute Director, on 0141-550-9010, if

you require more information, or would like to discuss any of the issues we have raised further.