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December 18<sup>th</sup> 2012

## Edinburgh Guarantee News

### O2 Bins - recycle to support the Guarantee

November saw the official launch of the O2 Recycling Initiative. Special 'collection bins' have been distributed across all the libraries in the city as well Council offices. Any unwanted mobile phones can be deposited, and all proceeds will go towards the Edinburgh Guarantee's 'Fighting Fund', helping us help our city's young people in creative and supportive ways. The launch was held at the Council's main office at Waverley Court. Ken Shaw, Head of Employability & Skills, along with Council Modern Apprentices got the drive off to a flying start!



Councillor Frank Ross, Convener of the Economy Committee said "The Edinburgh Guarantee is making a big difference to school leavers in the city. By working with O2, we're further helping to support our young people so I would encourage anyone who has an old mobile lying about to think about donating it to this important initiative."

If any of your organisations would like to host one of the bins on our behalf, just let us know and we'll get one to you!

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### Children & Families awards

At the annual Children & Families awards there were two notable wins for the work being done towards delivering a Positive Destination for All. The work done by The Children & Families Activity Agreement Team was formally recognised for its outstanding contribution. The Judges commented that

*"Activity Agreements have made a real impact on young people who find it difficult to engage with services. Most of all they feel that they have hope of getting into education or employment when they didn't have before"*

Also recognised was the work done under the Career Academies banner by Liberton, Tyncastle and Forrester High Schools. Collectively they were chosen as winners of the Convener's Award for Outstanding Achievement. Councillor Paul Godzik commented:

*"A highly innovative and high quality partnership across Children and Families, external organisations and businesses, with a clear impact on pupils. This good practice is being rolled out to other schools in the city."*



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## Career Academy students share their experiences

2/11/12 - A day to remember for students and employers! All 86 Career Academy students from the nine participating Edinburgh secondary schools took part in a work place visit where they heard about the nature of the business and the career pathways within the organisations. Thanks to Apex International Hotel, Change Recruitment, The Clydesdale Bank, Franklin Templeton, Hotel Missoni, Lloyds Banking Group, Scottish Gas and Virgin Money.



In the afternoon the students, business mentors and internship providers gathered together at The Royal High School for a conference 'First Class to World Class' sponsored by The Clydesdale Bank. In addition to inspirational speakers Gavin Oattes, The Tree of Knowledge and Jamie Andrew, Scottish Mountaineer, this was an opportunity for the second year Career Academy students to inspire new students by sharing their experiences and the impact of the Career Academies UK Programme.

To get a flavour of the afternoon conference please view the video here:

[www.edinburghguarantee.org](http://www.edinburghguarantee.org)

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## Cyrenians actively engage retailers

Cyrenians organised an employability event in support of the Fort Kinnard recruitment initiative in October. There are significant opportunities within Retail at this time of year and the focus was on making sure that both employers and young people benefit from the chances. Cyrenians actively engaged retailers in seeking training, work placements and jobs for young people.

Damien Stubbs, Toys 'R' Us, said:

"I felt privileged to be involved in the programme as I'm passionate about giving great people, the opportunity to thrive in a retail environment. I think it's very important that potential employees understand what the recruitment process looks and feels like, giving them a realistic view of what to expect from a major retailer."



## Positive Destinations

### Standard Life interns – take 3

Following the success of their youth employment programme in 2012, Standard Life have announced plans to hire a further 30 young people during 2013 under their Internship programme. The internships will last for 6 months and include structured development in core skills such as communication, customer service and problem solving. The Company have been delighted with the impact the young people have had on their business and intend to further develop their youth employment Strategy and impact into 2013.



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## Recruiting is underway across the city

The City of Edinburgh Council are currently recruiting for several Modern Apprenticeship opportunities. Capital Document Solutions have successfully recruited a Trainee Stores Person, Edinburgh Cyrenians are recruiting for an Administrative Assistant, Ishi Hairdressing for a Modern Apprentice Hairdresser and Thomas and Adamson for a Business Administration Modern Apprentice. Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce has successfully recruited a Modern Apprenticeship Business Administration position and the young person started work on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Our Team continues to work closely with employers to facilitate the recruitment process, working effectively together to offer more positive destinations to Edinburgh School Leavers.

2013 should start with a bang as NHS Lothian are hoping to start their Intern programme early in the new year.



## Events, events, events!

### Scotland's Youth Employment Summit

The Scottish Government, in partnership with the Scottish Youth Parliament and Young Scot delivered Scotland's Youth Employment Summit on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December here in Edinburgh.

The all-Scotland event provided an opportunity for young people from across Scotland to engage with Government Ministers and other senior stakeholders to identify what measures would be most effective in supporting access to employment as well as providing an opportunity to discover some of the opportunities available to them.

Young delegates had the opportunity to talk directly to the Government, including Angela Constance, Minister for Youth Employment and other senior stakeholders from public, voluntary and private sectors.

An official report, pulling together recommendations will follow soon.

For more information, contact Danielle Logan [danielle@youngscot.org](mailto:danielle@youngscot.org)



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## Springboard host showcase event

Springboard Scotland are running a series of employability programmes aimed at unemployed 16 - 24 year olds in Edinburgh and across Scotland. On the 6th November two 'Hospitality Showcase' events were run at the Edinburgh City Chambers with the support of the Council and the industry. Apex Hotels, Historic Scotland, Sodexo Prestige, Fraser Suites, Rabbies and Mercat Tours all participated in a number of demonstrations, talks and insights to the sector. Employers spoke about their own career path, what their organisations look for when recruiting and gave tips and advice for employment. Over 60 unemployed young people attended, got involved and found out more about a career in hospitality and the support available to them. A number of follow-up programmes are underway to help support their journey to employment.



## Edinburgh Guarantee Developments

### Workingrite tie-up

We are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to provide opportunities for young people and we've started a pilot initiative with Workingrite in Leith.

The pilot scheme brings together funding from the Council which is matched by a contribution from employers. Initially it aims to target employers in Leith and match them with young people who have recently left one of the high schools that serve the Leith area. The targeted approach hopes to capitalise on the sense of identity in Leith but is very much part of the Edinburgh Guarantee and if the approach works it's something that can be adapted to other parts of the city.

This pilot hopes to provide 10 places between December and April 2013, although placements may run beyond that. Future places may be available dependent on both the initial success and availability of funding.



### The Thistle Foundation links with Woodlands Special School

The Thistle Foundation is piloting a transition project with Woodlands Special School. This project works with senior pupils who are about to leave. Over the last 6 weeks the young people involved have expressed, through drama, their feelings, hopes and fears about leaving school and going out into the world. In the final session on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, the young people showcased their work to an invited audience.

Thistle will also introduce the work of the Edinburgh Development Group and an approach called the Big Plan. The Big Plan is all about young people and their families coming together to plan a good life after school. This is where the community can help; could you be part of a Big Plan session where your experience could help shape a young person's future, could you act as a mentor? Contact the Thistle Foundation on 0131 661 3366 for more information.



### Working to match supply & demand

As the work of the Guarantee evolves, it's become apparent that we need to closer align the supply and demand channels. Put simply, we have to make sure that the opportunities being created are made available at the right time to guarantee they're available to the people that need them most. It's also crucial that we have people with the right skills to take advantage of the jobs and training that's on offer.

To make sure that we line up the people with the opportunities, work has started to map the provision of training, education and skills across the city. This will help us build better and timelier interventions and help employers understand when and where they should recruit.



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