
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	07 September 2010
Report By:	Corporate Director Education & Communities	Report No:	EDUC58/10/MP
Contact Officer:	John Arthur	Contact No:	01475 712761
Subject:	St Stephen's Enterprise Centre		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the Work of the Enterprise Centre and to advise of planned developments for the future.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since its opening in March 2004, the Enterprise Centre has continued to grow both in terms of learning opportunities and use of facilities. This is illustrated by the number of participants and the number and range of programmes provided.
- 2.2 Proposals have been developed to shape the future work of the Centre. These focus on:
- Alignment with Community Learning and Development (CLD) programme planning
 - Developing support to area regeneration in Port Glasgow

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- Note the progress made at the Enterprise Centre
 - Endorse the proposals for shaping the future work of the Centre.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director Education & Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The result of an innovative, collaborative approach to learning and enterprise between Inverclyde Council, Scottish Executive, the former Scottish Enterprise, European Funds (URBAN II) and most importantly private sector business partners (IBM, T-Mobile, National Semi-Conductor (UK) Ltd), the Enterprise Centre was officially opened in March 2004 by then DFM Jim Wallace. The initial partnership funding package of £350,304 Capital and £404,226 Revenue was to fund the Centre to March 2005, however, further funding packages and close financial management saw the partner funding finance the Centre until June 2008.

The Centre was established to serve the wider community of Port Glasgow, however, it was not long before the Centre had exceeded the initial project targets in terms of number of users, registered learners, and support to job search clients and the service was made available to anyone living and/or working in Inverclyde.

As well as the provision for community use the Centre also provides the schools of Port Glasgow with access to the facilities and delivers programmes such as “Virtual Work Experience” to pupils in St Stephen’s and Port Glasgow High School annually,

Detailed below are the latest figures from March 2004 to July 2010:

Number of Centre Users/Visitors	13,803
Total Number of Learners	6,984
Registered Learners (Adults)	531
Adults assisted to become labour market participants	592
Number assisted to positive transition (FTE or Work)	70
Number of Pupils participating in Virtual Work Experience	970

- 4.2 The Centre has continually developed by harnessing a positive ethos to partnership working, engaging key partners in activity and services. These partners include Jobcentre Plus, James Watt College, Reid Kerr College, Careers Scotland, WorkAble, Haven, Adult Literacies, Inverclyde Employability Project, Remploy, SAMH Gateway and Institute of Chartered Management.

A number of companies and organisations (including most Council Services) utilise the Centre including T-Mobile, Careers Scotland, BAA, IBM, Riverclyde Homes, Riverside Inverclyde, Scottish Enterprise, PSYBT, Social Work, Community Education, Schools of Ambition, Education Services, Personnel, Economic Development, Community Learning and Development, Foster Carers etc, etc.

- 4.3 Centre usage continues to grow both in terms of learning opportunities and use of facilities. There are currently 8 Adult Learning classes running each week with approximately 10 in each class. Learners are currently participating in Basic Computing, Intermediate Computing, Digital Photography, Web Design, Internet & E-mail, Desktop Publishing, PC Passport and ECDL. In addition to these “formal” classes the Centre continues to offer a “drop in” facility where learners can pop in and use hot desks to continue their work.

The Centre also plays a key part in the continual development of Enterprise in Education (DTS) work being undertaken across the Authority.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The Centre is keen to explore ways to further engage learners and to provide a broader range of learning and development opportunities. Synergies associated with the recent restructuring of the Council have led to the development of proposals for shaping the future work of the Centre.

5.2 Alignment with Community Learning and Development (CLD) programme planning

The Centre already forms part of the Port Glasgow Learning Community for HMle purposes. There is scope to enhance the promotion of learning opportunities and expand the range of programmes available through closer alignment with the main CLD programme planning process, including the work associated with Job Centre + in Port Glasgow.

5.3 Developing support to area regeneration in Port Glasgow

The Centre already contributes to the economic regeneration of the area through its support for school to work transitions and job search activities with adults. There is scope to develop this further and to explore the potential to support community and social enterprise in the area.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance: none

6.2 Legal: none

6.3 Personnel: none

6.4 Equalities: none

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.