

improve their skills and give them new opportunities in the world of work

Courtney striving for a career

EL WORKS has supported a Haddington teenager in getting a step closer to her dream career in the Army.

Courtney Buchanan 17, a former Knox Academy pupil, signed up to an Activity Agreement with EL Works, funded by the Scottish Government. An Activity Agreement is a part-time programme designed to assist unemployed young people by developing an action plan with a support worker to help them achieve their goals.

While taking part in the Activity Agreement, an opportunity arose for a one-year paid post as an Adventure and Development Trainee with Community Jobs Scotland and hosted by STRIVE. Courtney will continue to receive EL Works support for six months while she's working with STRIVE.

Courtney said: "Working at STRIVE means a lot to me because when the year is up I will be going to college to do an Army preparation course. STRIVE is helping me to build my muscles due to a lot of physical work. My favourite part of the job is all the outdoor pursuits. Not a lot of people get opportunities like this. I am very fortunate to be working with EL Works and STRIVE."

STRIVE is the Third Sector Interface for East Lothian, providing support, learning and development

opportunities for both individuals and organisations through its Volunteering, Organisational Support, Youth, Adventure and Wellbeing teams. For more information, visit www.strive.me.uk

Stevie Boyle, Head of Service Youth/Adventure at STRIVE, said: "STRIVE Adventure has been delivering personal and social development programmes for young people and adults in East Lothian for 15 years. All our programmes focus on adventure, citizenship, enterprise and skills development. Seven years ago

"I am very fortunate to be working with EL Works"

we started vocational training programmes for people interested in employment in adventure education, youth work, land management and conservation.

"Our programme is for 12 months and trainees are working towards beach/surf lifeguard, stand-up paddleboard instructor and first aid qualifications, gaining experience in youth work, expedition planning and various other activities. Our aim is to give Courtney the broadest range of experience and qualifications base as we can and prepare her for her future career plans."



Lead tutor Sheila Bulloch (left) with June Greig ASN Auxiliary

Childcare courses for young people

EAST Lothian Council has submitted plans to the Scottish Government to double childcare' to 1,140 hours a year by 2020. So there's probably no better time for young people who want to get into childcare as a career.

High school pupils across East Lothian are being given the opportunity to achieve SQA National 4 and 5 qualifications in Early Education and Childcare, through East Lothian Works in partnership with Training for Care. There are various classes available for pupils in S3-S6, which are a choice in addition to the main curriculum and are held

outwith school hours. The classes run on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-6.30pm and a Friday afternoon.

The lead tutor, Sheila Bulloch, co-ordinates the classes. Pupils learn through practical activities, giving them a real hands-on understanding of the childcare workforce.

This is invaluable experience for pupils and with growing employment opportunities in this field, pupils are much better equipped to enter and progress in a profession that is continually growing and offering new and exciting employment prospects.

...ding benefits across whole community

two weeks of on-site training and work experience and provided guaranteed interviews for each of the candidates who completed the programme. To round the programme off, Harts held a Celebration Event where the trainees were presented with their portfolios of training and completion certificates.

Gill Henry, Head of Business Development at Hart Builders, said: "We are delighted to have partnered with East Lothian Council, Job Centre Plus and JB Safesite Training to extend what is proving to be a highly successful employability programme. As the

second largest employer in East Lothian, it is important to Harts to offer training and employment for local people. The four candidates we recruited showed huge commitment and really impressed us during the programme and we were very pleased to welcome them into our team during June and July."

East Lothian Council spends about £140 million on goods, services and works every year. To achieve additional benefit for the community from procurement of these goods and services, EL Works operates a Community Benefit scheme.

The aim of the scheme is to engage with suppliers and contractors to deliver benefits to our residents by providing links with schools, work experience opportunities, training, apprenticeships and assistance with community projects.

Through this scheme, as well as the Harts training project, recent donations have come from George Grigg & Sons, Musselburgh; Allsports, Dalkeith and Musselburgh Roofing. As a direct result of these donations, Ross High School and Preston Lodge have been able to purchase new sports equipment.

Bright Lights start work

THREE young people from East Lothian who took part in a Bright Lights Starting Out course, sponsored by British Land and run through the Fort Kinnaird Recruitment and Skills Centre in partnership with East Lothian Works, all successfully landed jobs just in time for Christmas.

As part of their course Amy Mitchell, 18, and Melissa Ritchie, 21, both from Musselburgh, and Christopher James, 17, from Elphinstone, all undertook retail skills training along with courses in customer service and health and safety in the workplace. For current job vacancies visit www.rscfortkinnaird.co.uk/vacancies

LDP under microscope

THE Local Development Plan (LDP), which sets out proposed allocations for development across East Lothian for the next 10 years, is currently going through a detailed examination process by Reporters on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Preparation of the LDP has followed a statutory process including more than three years of research, technical assessment and public consultation. The examination by the Government Reporters considers the strategy, sites and policies of the LDP, along with the unresolved representations submitted during the final representation period.

Council officers are currently engaged in dealing with any requests for further information from the Reporters. There is the potential for hearings or enquiry sessions during this process but, to date, no requests have been made for this.

It's hoped that the final LDP, as approved by Ministers (including any required modifications), will be adopted by the council by May 2018, to provide a guide for development across East Lothian and as a primary material consideration for future planning decisions, including on housing and employment developments and related infrastructure improvements.

Crossing guides

EAST Lothian Council's School Crossing Guide Service is recruiting. This is a valuable service to the community. There are current vacancies in various locations throughout East Lothian including North Berwick, Dunbar, Musselburgh and Pencaitland (Monday - Friday, between 8-10.5 hours per week).

Applications are welcome from those over 18 and there is no upper age limit. For further information or to apply, please phone Nicola Marr, School Crossing Patrol Supervisor, on 01620 827674.