

Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

Proposal to allocate funding for a 5 day RUTS Project for Knox Academy Pupils

Background

RUTS (Rural and Urban Training Scheme) was established in 1981, by a group of enthusiastic motor-cycling youth workers to provide activity based group work projects for young people. These projects used off-road motorcycling as an activity which took the interest of the young people involved and encouraged involvement, but at the same time provided opportunities for useful growth experiences such as team-work and taking instruction.

RUTS aims to equip young people with the confidence and skills required to achieve their highest potential and raise their aspirations. This is achieved through motorcycle and bicycle based programmes that are tailored to the individual needs of clients. Through this a positive difference is made to young peoples' lives and the communities they live in. The activities are an extremely successful model of excellence for moving young people into positive destinations. Their programmes enable the acquisition of skills and qualifications producing more confident and assured transitions towards employment for vulnerable 14-19 year olds on the margins of society.

For more info please see www.ruts.org.uk/

Proposal

The ELC Safer Communities Team wish to run the RUTS "Use and Care of handtools " course for 8 young people during the week 12-16th Oct 2015 (School holidays) and are proposing to do this outside the Corn Exchange in Haddington using a collapsible workshop tent, where two motorbikes are used to work on. The course programme consists of 4 days workshop and tool handling modules followed by a final day of off-road motor biking at Lamancha in the Borders. Participants will also have the opportunity to gain a qualification accredited to SCQF Level 4. This has already been run very successfully in Prestonpans and Wallyford.

The aim is to identify 8 young people who currently attend Knox Academy (through discussions with the school) and selection will be focussed on those who are currently experiencing behavioural difficulties as well as those who lack confidence. **This links to the Draft Area Plan through STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 / PRIORITY 1 – "Supporting our Young People to fulfil their potential within the Community".**

The course is being offered at a total cost of £200.00 – a considerable saving on the normal cost of £500. With refreshments and meals **the Safer Communities Team are therefore seeking a total of £400.00 from the H&L Area Partnership.**