

Pathways in Partnership

The Development of FARE Scotland's Partnership Programme with Glasgow Schools



In the heart of some of Glasgow's most disadvantaged communities, FARE Scotland is collaborating with communities, schools, employers, colleges and training agencies to develop opportunities for young people.

FARE's partnerships with schools were first established several years ago in Eastbank Academy and St Mungo's Academy in the East End of the city, where the organisation is based. Initially the schools approached FARE for support with family liaison with a particular focus on school attendance. Over time, the partnerships developed: St Mungo's Academy now has a team of six, full-time, youth work staff offering a broad range of support including an alternative curriculum that includes SCQF accredited qualifications, youth awards and work-based qualifications, as well as programmes to support health and wellbeing and tackle issues such as drugs, antisocial behaviour and gang violence.

“ Schools appreciate our ability to offer really creative and inclusive pathways to learning – they trust us to build strong relationships with young people and spark their interest in learning. Our aim is to support them to get out of their comfort zone and build confidence to pick their own journey through life. ”

Paul Humphreys, Attainment & Skills Manager at FARE

Year by year, more Head Teachers in Glasgow have expressed interest working in partnership with FARE Scotland. As the new school year begins, the organisation has 21 staff, including 11 dedicated youth workers, based in a total of 8 secondary schools and 4 primary schools in all corners of the city.

Paul Humphreys explains:

“ Obviously, over time, we've developed a range of support options that we can offer, but each school has its own vision for the partnership, so we work together to clarify objectives, design the programme, and agree how we will measure impact. Even funding is arranged collaboratively – youth work posts are generally funded through school PEF budgets, but some are topped up with grant funding, and FARE covers the cost of accredited awards and qualifications. ”

Over the last school year FARE Scotland youth workers in secondary schools across Glasgow engaged with a total of 1454 young people, aged 11 to 18 with positive results:

- 84% of participating young people experienced improvements in their health and wellbeing
- 89% of participating young people overcame barriers to learning
- 100% of young people developed their skills

Schools also report an improvement in relationships with parents – evidenced in improved attendance at parents' evenings, for example – and clear improvements in attendance and outcomes for young people, for example St Mungo's saw attendance improve for 48% of participating young people and 66% of young people aged 16+ who engaged in the FARE programme at Eastbank moved on to positive destinations.



Teachers recognise and value both the opportunities and the approach that FARE youth workers bring:

“ FARE brings so much joy and energy to the school, they offer such a range of options for young people to participate in that widens their achievements and supports their future opportunities. This plays a huge part in raising attainment. ”

Teacher, Eastbank Academy

“ The in-house provision offered by the FARE staff team is a fantastic resource to have. This is an appropriate and targeted support for young people who may face obstacles to engage in mainstream education. ”

Pastoral Care Teacher, Knightswood Secondary School

Young people also appreciate and enjoy new ways to learn and to see their achievements recognised:

“ It has been good to take part in a fun programme like StreetwYze and get a qualification from my own work. ”

S2 Student, Eastbank Academy

Paul puts the success of the programme down to the professional expertise and local knowledge of the FARE youth workers in each school context:

“ Developing successful partnerships with schools depends on the capacity of youth workers to build effective relationships with the young people and the school staff, and continuously review and adapt the support they offer to meet needs in each school context. We believe it is important that the youth workers are local people – some of them even went to school themselves in the areas where they are now working. So, they understand the challenges that many of the young people face, they can talk from their own experience - and the young people respond to that. ”