

Momentum

Investing in People, Changing Perspectives

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Strathclyde Momentum Programme Opens for Business

A new initiative designed to help nearly a thousand disabled people across Strathclyde find jobs over the next three years has been officially launched.

The Strathclyde Momentum Programme has been set up thanks to approximately £1 million in funding from the Big Lottery Fund's Investing in Communities initiative, with the aim of assisting disabled people to find meaningful employment and reduce their risk of social exclusion.

Based in Paisley – but operating across Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire – the programme aims to put 900 disabled people in touch with job-seeking services over the three years of the project.

George Adam, MSP for Paisley, who launched the initiative at a ceremony at the programme's headquarters, said, "This will tackle the problem of exclusion which many people experience when they are looking for employment. The objective of providing the right support for 900 people with disabilities across Strathclyde is admirable and I wish this programme every success."

The Strathclyde Momentum Programme is targeted at people who are furthest away from the jobs market, and who are usually referred by JobCentre Plus and the NHS.

George Waddell, programme manager, Momentum Skills, said, "The aim is to promote social inclusion by improving self-confidence, self-respect and self-esteem while enabling employers to understand the barriers faced by individuals in the workplace."

For more information about the Strathclyde Momentum Programme, contact George Waddell on 0141 813 7012 or email gwaddell@momentumskills.org

Haven Sponsors Para Athlete of the Year Award

Social enterprise firm Haven was the proud sponsor of the Para Athlete of the Year Award at this year's Scottish Athletics awards dinner.

The winner of the prestigious title was Libby Clegg who has picked up silver medals at the last two Paralympics – and now has the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games as her next medal target.

The sprinter was named Haven Para Athlete of the Year at the annual awards ceremony - with David Weir, who won four gold medals at London 2012, making the presentation.

Clegg won a silver medal in the T12 100m in London in September, competing with guide runner Mikhail Huggins.

Libby said, "I am pleased Haven sponsored the award. I know they are a company who employ people with a disability in Inverness and Glasgow.

"It is good they are giving people an opportunity just as we must give athletes with a disability an opportunity."

For more information about the Para Athlete of the Year award, contact Shonaid Bowie on 01463 238 211 or email shonaid.bowie@havenproducts.co.uk

Momentum Skills' Pathways Clients Take to the Airwaves

The people who attend an Aberdeen-based brain injuries centre took to the airwaves recently to publicise the good work done by Momentum Skills in the city.

Momentum Skills' Pathways vocational rehabilitation programme for people with an acquired brain injury, which is part-funded by the European Social Fund, was the subject of the *Over the Rainbow* magazine show on local community radio station Shmu FM.

Pathways is a project that supports individuals to move closer to employment, further education and other personal development opportunities.

Those attending the centre invested a lot of time in ensuring the show was a success – putting into action a lot of the skills that they are working to develop such as communication, team-work, planning, organising, and, most importantly, self-confidence.

Liz Howarth, tutor with the Pathways programme, said, "It can be quite a daunting experience for many people to take part in a radio show, but for our participants it took extra courage to go on air and talk openly about their experiences and the difficulties that they have faced following their injuries.

"The hope is that their stories will be able to inspire others who may be in an earlier stage of rehabilitation following a brain injury.

“The aim is to let them know that they are not alone and that they can come to Momentum to get the support and help that they need when they are ready to go back to work.”

For more information about Momentum Skills’ Pathways programme in Aberdeen, contact Liz Howarth on 01224 625580 or email lhowarth@momentumskills.org

About Momentum

Momentum is a leading not-for-profit organisation providing rehabilitation, training and care services for disabled and socially-excluded people throughout the UK. Momentum comprises Momentum Skills, Momentum Care and Haven.

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