

++++++ **IT ALL ADDS UP** +++++++
++++++ +++++++
++++++ +++++++

A CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS IN WESTERN SCOTLAND

Project Title **St Stephen's Enterprise Centre (Capital and Revenue)**
Project Sponsor **Inverclyde Council**

PROJECT ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

On recognising the value Education for Work and Enterprise activities and events have on a persons attitude to learning, the Learning Business Partnership had a vision for a dedicated family learning centre to serve the local community of Port Glasgow and engage business partners in the process. The idea was initially developed in early 2001 and following on from many consultations initiated partner agencies, local residents and the business community. Following the decision mid 2001 to create the Centre, match-funding was secured from public and private agencies and Inverclyde Council were successful in securing funding from the Clyde Waterfront URBAN II Programme 2000-2006.

The project was a true public and private partnership venture between Inverclyde Council, Scottish Executive, Scottish Enterprise Renfrewshire, Careers Scotland and private partners including IBM, National Semi-Conductor (UK) Ltd, T-Mobile and Pink Rolade.

St Stephen's Enterprise Centre consists of the following facilities:

- 400 square metres of learning space
- IT training suite
- Interview areas
- Meeting space/conferencing facilities
- Cybercafe
- Boardroom area
- Resource/library facility.

In addition the Centre is staffed by:

- one Centre Manager
- one Receptionist/Administrator
- one Trainer/Tutor.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Centre were to:

- promote, stimulate and enable lifelong learning in the community of Port Glasgow through development of a community facility that encourages self-directed learning, positive learning behaviours, team working and core skills utilising ICT as a learning medium
- help the residents of Port Glasgow develop the skills necessary to gain and sustain a place in the employment market through a number of interventions specifically focused on employability

- to increase engagement with the local business community, encourage businesses to support community initiatives centred on employability eg job placement schemes for adults
- Reduce exclusion and inequality.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

St Stephen's Enterprise Centre is a state of the art family learning centre which provides a friendly, welcoming environment in Port Glasgow, attracting people to lifelong learning through the medium of ICT and will help remove any notion of learning and education as a forbidding institution associated with failure.

The project served to changed the way we teach and learn with a strong focus on business led delivery and virtual workplace environments. The Centre has a strong focus on:

- employability via multi-media delivery
- online learning
- IT familiarisation and upskilling
- experimental learning
- open learning
- job placement schemes
- develop an entrepreneurial culture
- job search
- core skills
- enterprise clubs
- study clubs.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

The project was monitored and directed via a Steering Group that has representation from all key agencies, private sector and community representation. The Steering Group met approximately every six weeks to ensure that the project has a strategic fit and had set realistic targets.

The project team delivered the main aspects of the project. The Centre Manager was be responsible for project development, continual evaluation, co-ordination and delivery of activities. The trainer was responsible for the delivery of ICT and learning initiatives and development. The administrator was responsible for all administrative duties, frontline client services and data collection.

Local partners provided in-kind contributions in terms of:

- Guidance (Community Guidance Network & Careers Scotland)
- Employability (Centre staff, JobCentre Plus)
- Further Education options (James Watt College)
- Family Learning Plans - (New Community School Initiative)

PROJECT FINANCE (Capital and Revenue)

Funding Partners Public partners: Inverclyde Council, Scottish Enterprise
Renfrewshire, Scottish Executive,
Careers Scotland, New Community School Project

Private partners: IBM, National Semi-Conductor (UK) Ltd,
T-Mobile

Eligible Costs (£) £919,531
 ERDF/ESF Support (£) £459,765 ERDF
 Priority/Measure Clyde Waterfront URBAN II Programme - Priority 2
 - Creating Opportunities through brownfield
 development, Measure 2.1 - Living & Learning

PROJECT PERFORMANCE

Indicator	Target	Achievement	% Target Achieved
Sqm of training/learning facilities created in areas of most need	400	400	100.00%
No of training spaces provided in areas of most need	30	30	100.00%
No of individuals receiving guidance/advice	4145	1289	31.10%
No of instances of guidance/advice to individuals	2230	702	31.48%