



The Children's Centre
Children, Young People and Families First

Date 6th May 2010

Development Through Adventure

Introductory Paragraph

The Children's Centre has this week commenced a 16 week demonstration programme with 8 young people called "Development through Adventure" which is aimed at young people classified as NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) with the hope of assisting them into employment or further education.

Main Body

The programme is aimed at 16 – 24 year olds who are currently not in employment or further training after finishing school. Programmes similar to Development through Adventure have been tried and tested in the UK and The Children's Centre has built upon these to set up a tailor made programme for the Isle of Man utilising the skills of the Mobex and Management teams of The Children's Centre.

The programme aims to engage with young people who might be termed "hard to reach" by using the attractive vehicle of outdoor adventure and other creative mediums. Whilst these enticing mediums are used, the true purpose of the programme is first to: build relationships, trust and respect; and secondly to help guide young people towards more meaningful futures – whatever this may be for each young person.

In the first 7 weeks of the programme, the young people will have their personal boundaries tested as they are taken through a number of outdoor events such as Coasteering, Gorge Walking and Kayaking, which will help with the issues such as self confidence but additionally they will encourage the participants to work as a team. As well as the strenuous outdoor activities they will participate in other teambuilding and leadership activities which will use both their physical and mental



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abilities and will allow individuals to demonstrate and develop their perseverance skills.

In the later sessions they will build upon the skills learnt in the outdoors and apply these to writing their CVs, developing their interview skills and obtaining their First Aid qualification.

The last stage of the programme involves a four week work placement, and it is with thanks to the Freedom to Flourish Champion Companies and Organisations of the Island that these can occur. The participants will be given the opportunity to find out what options there are for them in the workplace during this period.

John Knight, Chief Executive of The Children's Centre said "By the end of the programme it is hoped that all the participants will gain some positive life experience from undertaking Development through Adventure, and hopefully seek employment or further training." John further commented that the aim of The Children's Centre is to run 2 programmes per year, although stated that this is subject to seeking appropriate funding.

Candidates for the programme have been found through the assistance of the Careers Service with the Isle of Man Government. Candidates for the programme have been found through the assistance of the Careers Service with the Isle of Man Government. Geoff Corkish MBE MHK, Member for the Employment and Skills Group at the Department of Economic Development said "The Department for Economic Development welcomes and is fully supportive of this programme, which will offer a great opportunity for 8 young people to develop transferable skills and provides valuable preparation for entry into the workplace. I wish all participants well and trust that they will make the most of this excellent opportunity."

For further information about the "Development through Adventure" programme please contact Lorna Trevethan, Development Manager at The Children's Centre on 676076.

Ends

For further information please contact Lorna Trevethan on 01624 631919



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Notes to Editor

The Children's Centre develops, manages and pioneers a variety of community initiatives and services aimed at enabling children, young people and families to realise their full potential. We are an independent Manx charity – undertaking our own projects and working with others – to put children, young people and families first.

The Children's Centre Ltd
Registered charity number 921

About our Services

As the Isle of Man's leading children's charity, The Children's Centre works directly with over 1,000 children, young people and families each week. We run 15 vital services across the Island, each working to address a different recognised need. We put children and young people first by offering childcare, play, adventure activities, learning opportunities, residential care and support services to enable them to realise their full potential for the future.

For families we offer support to parents from pregnancy through to dealing with the teenage years. Often little attention is paid to preparing people for this vital role, yet parents are key to giving children a happy and stable childhood. We provide first class services that offer practical advice on a wide range of issues such as: divorce; contact; child behaviour and budgeting; whilst at the same time offering a helping hand, and the opportunity to meet other parents.

Safe and progressive communities give everyone the freedom to flourish and are vital to the wellbeing of children and their families. Our work in communities throughout the Isle of Man aims to ensure that the needs of all children, young people and families are put first, regardless of where they live.

Press Enquiries

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