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2007-13 Case Studies

“Seed to Soup”



Applicant

Top Service, Pathhead

Contributions

Total Project Cost:	£61,361
Tyneesk LEADER:	£29,299 (48%)

Project Duration

December 2010 to June 2012

Project Aims

- Provide a supportive environment for the Young People accessing Top Service (11 to 16 year olds with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties) to develop horticultural skills contributing to Curriculum for Excellence, qualifications, skills for work and life as well as personal well-being and quality of life.
- Provide an opportunity for local police to work with young people to break down barriers and reduce youth offending.
- Integrate the local community creating a space where different groups could mix.
- Contribute to the wider Midlothian Strategy by producing healthy food and drink and reducing food miles.

Project Detail

This project aimed to build on work previously done with Young People in planning, preparing, cooking and serving food to staff and peers. This project aimed to expand the skill set and opportunities by providing Young People the means to plant, grow and harvest the food they had learned to work with, delivering the benefits highlighted in 'Project Aims'. The longer term aim was to open the garden facilities up to the wider community, creating a welcoming space where different ages and sectors could meet and socialise.

Results

The project was hugely successful in its aims, especially in providing the Young People with skills to enable them to live independently, study and go on to work in related fields. The Young People created a garden, including raised beds and a decking area which they then planted up and cultivated the crops to maturity. This provided a meaningful continuum for their work in preparing and serving lunches and enhanced their enthusiasm doing this, further developing their social and independent living skills. Progress in this was said to be first class. Some also went on to do work placements and study in Landscaping and Hospitality, which has led to full time employment. The aim in using the garden space for the wider community was also met in holding events and celebrations of the project's achievements.

