



Fast Forward – LANDED Case Study

Since 2016, Fast Forward has delivered free Gambling Education Training to practitioners working with young people across Scotland. In November 2017 we launched our Gambling Education Toolkit, which can be accessed for free on our website.

In summer 2018 Fast Forward has secured £750,000 to further develop this project and create the Scottish Gambling Education Hub. The programme adopts a training the trainers' approach, while developing resources that professionals can use in a range of education and health settings. In the next 3 years the project will develop tailored approaches to the informal education sector, the youth employability sector, secondary schools, the further and higher education sector, as well as services supporting parents and carers.

One organisation that we have worked with in 2016 is LANDED Peer Education Service, based in North Lanarkshire. Read on to hear more from Mairi Roberts, Support Officer at LANDED.

Can you tell us a bit about what your organisation does?

We are a peer education charity based in Wishaw who recruit young people aged 16-22 to come on board as peer educators. We train them on various health topics such as drugs, alcohol, sexual health and tobacco, and they will then use their new-found knowledge to pass on harm reduction messages to other young people in the area in the form of workshops. We also develop resources such as games, booklets, DVD's and YouTube film clips. We use social media to reach a wide range of young people and the majority of our volunteers are from vulnerable, hard to reach backgrounds.

Why did you decide to attend a Gambling Education Training?

I attended the training as I felt gambling – particularly problem gambling – was becoming more of an issue with young people. I felt the topic tied in nicely to the topics LANDED already covered, mainly alcohol and drugs. I thought it would be interesting to find out more about gambling as it was something I knew very little about.

How have the Gambling Education Training and the resources of the Toolkit integrated with the work that you already deliver?

After the training, I used the toolkit and put together and delivered a short workshop about gambling to the young people I work with. They all seemed to really enjoy it and were keen to know more. Recently I have been working on developing it more and turning it into a full input that can be delivered not only to the volunteers, but also young people outwith LANDED too. To date I have delivered it four times to St Phillips Secure Unit in Airdire, and they have recently asked for further inputs for their pupils starting in

August. I plan to deliver it again to the volunteers and potentially teach it to them so that they can help deliver it externally. This means that they would become peer educators for another topic within LANDED. Feedback from the workshops delivered so far has been really positive, and participants stated they learned a lot about gambling and it made them think about the topic in more depth.

What did you particularly like about the training sessions?

I enjoyed the training, it made me think about gambling and the detrimental effects that can happen for problem gamblers. The training was delivered very well and covered a lot of topics.

What did you find especially useful about the Gambling Education Toolkit?

I used a lot of the exercises within the toolkit, but have adapted some of them slightly to suit the target audience of the vulnerable young people we work with. I used the toolkit as a base to develop the workshop further and it formed my thinking and gave me lots of ideas.

What sort of impact do you think the training and the toolkit have had on your work and the young people that you support?

All the feedback and evaluations so far have been very positive, the young people enjoyed the games and exercises and asked relevant questions. It prompted discussion within the groups and got them thinking about gambling and its consequences. It has helped me develop my role within LANDED and further my developmental and delivery skills.

Would you recommend the Gambling Education Toolkit and Training Session to another organisation?

Absolutely would recommend. The toolkit is very easy to use and exercises can be easily adapted if need be. The training opens your eyes to the consequences of problem gambling. Many people think of older men when they hear the word gambling but in fact it is becoming more and more of an issue for young people today - which the training helped me realise.

Any other comment?

Thank you so much for the training and the toolkit!

Find out more about Going Forward.

To find out more about the Gambling Education Hub, or discuss ways in which Fast Forward could support your organisation with free information, advice and resource tailored to the specific needs of the young people that you work with, simply e-mail us or give us a call:

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