

FEI PARTNERSHIP FUND PROJECT REPORT

FEI Project code: 2005/133Sc05

PROJECT SUMMARY

Abriachan Forest Trust hosted the Forest School Training Company Ltd, from Devon, as training providers facilitating Highland FEI increase its number of available local Forest School leaders. Training was provided for the Forest School Practitioners Award, Level 3, initial training. 14 people participated and 13 completed the training. This included sessions held in Abriachan Forest, a residential week in Devon, and the organisation of coursework completion and assessments, which continued for some into the following year.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project Title	Highland: Forest School Practitioners Award, Level 3 initial training
Key words	Highland, Forest School Practitioners Award, Level 3, Abriachan
Project start & finish dates	September 2005 – March 2006 Coursework & assessments continued to spring 2007
Project location/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abriachan Village Hall and in Abriachan Forest, near Inverness ▪ Residential in Devon – Forest School Training Company centre
Lead organiser/ organisation	Highland FEI
Other people/ organisations involved (non-funding)	Abriachan Forest Trust – owners of hall and forest Fiona MacInnes – SDS, Careers Scotland
Other useful contacts/links	Skills Development Scotland - Careers Scotland Independent Learning Accounts

PROJECT FUNDING

Project funding	TOTAL INCOME: £10,800 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ grants: £7,300 [£2,300 HIE; £2,300 HC; £2,700 FEIPF] ▪ Participant contributions (£250pp): £3,500 ▪ in kind: [time: Careers Scotland & FEI coord] [£1,500 equivalent]
Key funding partners/sources	Highlands and Islands Enterprise Highland Council (Determined to Succeed) FEI Partnership Fund
Contract partners (if any)	Forest School Training Company Ltd, 1 Middle Henstill Cottages, Sandford, Devon EX17 4ES admin@forestschoolltraining.co.uk

Expenditure profile	TOTAL: £10 005 Forest School Training Co Ltd 95% (facilitation/training & assessment) Venue & catering (19-23 Sept 2005) 5% *Travel & accommodation costs in Devon paid by participants
PROJECT OUTLINE	
Target audience	Potential Forest School leaders – recruited from Highland schools/teachers and others. 1 trainee left part way – 13 continued.
Purpose	To provide financial support for the initial training of 14 trainees from across Highland - to increase the pool of practitioners available to support Forest School programmes across the Highland area.
Detail of activities	As required by FS Practitioner's Award, Level 3
Outputs	Completed training and assessment as required by participants.
Resources produced	13 fully assessed Level 3 Forest School Practitioners (2007)
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expectation that the benefits of the project will develop and increase year on year. Most course participants are already contributing to the work of existing Forest Schools and many are expected to go on to establish new Forest Schools throughout the Highland area. ▪ An increase in Forest School delivery as a result of this project will have lasting benefit for the children participating, and wider social benefits in the Highland Community. ▪ A network of Forest Schools set up in Highland by trained practitioners with the knowledge to recognise and support the many children who benefit from curriculum enhancement, or an alternative curriculum. Ongoing research and evaluation from a variety of sources is showing positive benefits in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing exclusion and assisting re-integration. • Improving behaviour and motivation to learn. • Raising achievement. • Developing deeper understanding about the natural world. • Developing positive attitudes towards citizenship • Increasing parental involvement in their children's education.
Evaluation	<p>The project was evaluated as being successful due to significantly increasing the number of Level 3 Forest School Practitioners in the Highland area.</p> <p>Further measures of success will be an increase in Forest School capacity in Highland through expansion of existing Forest Schools, and establishment of new ones. This in turn will lead to a raised awareness of the benefits of Forest School, both to individual children and in the wider community.</p>

Key actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish the need for trained FS practitioners. ▪ Set up committed Working Group to manage the project – liaison, coordination, promotion etc. ▪ Source funding from potential partners. ▪ Recruit suitable course participants. ▪ Engage qualified and experienced training providers and course assessors. ▪ Identify suitable local training venue. ▪ Support course participants through training journey to assessment, and to FS delivery. ▪ Facilitate establishment of a support network for course participants e.g buddy system. ▪ Continue to raise profile of FS and highlight benefits to schools/ parents/teachers.
Advice to others	<p>The role of Course Coordinator (liaising with the Training Company, promoting the course, dealing with bookings, liaison with trainees throughout training etc.) is extremely demanding - the amount of time involved was not fully appreciated, or bid for. If the project is repeated, ways of spreading the workload between two or three individuals would be adopted.</p>
RESOURCES	
Image Library	No
Media Library	No
Press Library	No
Project Report	No