



The Water of Leith Conservation Trust

The Water of Leith Conservation Trust is the first river charity to be established in Scotland and exists to conserve and enhance this 25 mile stretch of water as a haven for biodiversity and an educational and recreational resource for everyone.

Regular volunteer clean ups and habitat creation projects improve the health of the river valley. The interactive Visitor Centre, the Water of Leith Walkway, events, education and group visit programmes mean everyone has the opportunity to discover more about Edinburgh's hidden asset.

The charity was given a £10,000 award in 2013 and is using this to develop its community volunteering programme.



“This funding boost has meant we could tailor make a practical volunteering programme for young people, devise and implement a mid week volunteer hit squad team and create partnerships with other organisations who work with targeted groups such as those with mental and physical disabilities, homeless youth and the elderly. In all 1020 hours have been directly supported by this award in just 6 months – that’s an average of 40 hours per week! We are excited about all we can achieve in the remaining 6 months of the project”.

Helen Brown, Trust Manager

Quarriers

Quarriers is one of Scotland’s most diverse social care charities providing care and support to 17,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged people. This includes care and support to young homeless people, children and families living in poverty, children and adults with disabilities and people living with epilepsy.

The charity was given a £10,000 award in 2013 to help deliver its Next Steps programme which focuses on employability and skills development for 100 young vulnerable and disadvantaged homeless people. Activities included workshops on CV writing, mock interviews, budgeting and support with attending interviews. The young people also took part in workplace visits which included a trip to the Scottish Hydro .

“The young people who’ve taken part in the Next Steps programme have experienced improvements in terms of numeracy and literacy development which has greatly increased their confidence and self esteem. Some young people have gone on to gain voluntary work, sessional work and full time employment. Young people have found their one to one support invaluable which has helped them through crisis points in their lives”

Heather Weir, Project Co-ordinator, Quarriers Learning

