



## Bethany Christian Trust: “Ending homelessness in Scotland one person at a time”: Possilpark, Glasgow: December 2021 Update

### Context:

Possilpark is one of the most deprived areas in Glasgow: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 identifies two Possilpark data zones as being within the top 10 most deprived areas in Glasgow. Perhaps most concerning is that it currently has the lowest life expectancy of all neighbourhoods in Glasgow for both males and females.

The Trusted Executive Charitable Foundation (TTECF) has been supporting Bethany Christian Trust’s community development programme in Possilpark since January 2019 with a series of grants totalling £32,771 (@Aug2021). These grants have helped to support the creation of a community cafe as part of the programme.

### December Update:

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#### Training for life:

A group of Youth Apprentices at the Clay Café have been working hard over the past 8-9 months, with 6 completing their Level 5 Community Achievement Award. This requires 40 hours of volunteering and is equivalent to a Nat 5/GCSE. It also required the Youth Apprentices to identify a milestone for themselves that they wished to achieve during their volunteering hours; most of them chose completing their barista training as their goal. Thanks to the flexible funding from the Trusted Executive Charitable Foundation we were able to not only put every Youth Apprentice through their training but also purchase a good coffee machine for the café where they can practice their skills.

One of the youth apprentices who completed the Level 5 Award is now in paid employment and the remaining 5 are now in the process of completing their Level 6 Community Achievement Award, which is equivalent to a Scottish Higher. This award requires 60 volunteering hours and setting milestones that involve taking personal responsibility for a specific objective.

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#### Investing in others:

The apprentices have chosen to create a community event “*The Board Game Café*”, which is held every Thursday evening at Clay Café. The Youth Apprentices each have their area of responsibility in running it, including menu creation and controlling stock level, social media content, rotas, publicity and displays. With weekly specials like pigs in blankets and nachos, as well as specialty drinks and promotions to win a board game the Youth Apprentices have taken opportunities to try new ideas and have really taken ownership of their area of responsibility. It’s a great evening, which significantly enhances community cohesion with a variety of games to play and the chance to meet with old friends and make new ones too.

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#### Confidence to succeed:

As a result of their success the apprentices have grown in their confidence to make a difference in their own lives as well as in their community. In the future many of the Youth

Apprentices would be keen to undertake Allergen and Food Hygiene Training as additional knowledge and qualifications. Some are also now volunteering with the Youth Café once a month – this is a youth group run by Clay Church, where most of the Youth Apprentices started out and now have a younger set of teenagers joining them. It's encouraging to see that their experiences could already be influencing others into pathways to employment.

These are great examples of Bethany Christian Trust working creatively for greater benefit within the community, demonstrating: the ability to coach, to deliver, and to be consistent (some of the “Nine Habits of Trust” <https://trustedexecutive.com/nine-habits-of-trust>).