

Right Track Scotland Limited Closes Doors after 41 years

It is with a very heavy heart, and significant frustration, that the Board of Directors confirm the permanent closure of Right Track Scotland Limited.

Since our launch in 1983, Right Track has supported young people, aged 12-18, with the most challenging of difficulties to overcome in order that they can participate positively in Employment, Training or Further Education.

Operating in Central Scotland's most socially and economically deprived areas our ambition has always been to try to broaden horizons, raise aspiration and arm the young people we support with some tools to help them break what might otherwise be a perpetual cycle of disadvantage, depravation and hopelessness.

Having fallen out of reach of "the mainstream" most often due to chaotic family circumstances, abuse, behavioural difficulties, drug abuse, and family history of offending and imprisonment, the future for these young people, often through no direct fault of theirs is bleak. Finding a "way back" is a basic human right and Right Track has been proud to play our part supporting approximately **27,000 young people at greatest risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment, Training)**. **Seeing 76%** of those who join a programme progress positively.

We are proud of each and every participant who has come to us and seized their opportunity to make a difference in their life as well as to contribute positively to society.

Our **gratitude goes to** all of the staff, supporters, donor's, volunteers, employers large and small, and our landlords who have stood behind our ambition, our ethos and our work for 4 decades. Too many to name, but each and every one should be celebrated for the incredible contribution they have made.

Our **anxiety, frustration, and our warning** on what lies ahead must be directed to those who represent our society through local, National and UK Government:

- The need we have fulfilled over the last 40 years is not going away – if anything it will worsen.
- The capability to avoid exclusion from the mainstream will be weaker and not stronger.
- The ability to "bring them back" when they fall outside will disappear.

Bureaucracy, political self interest and "soundbites" like No One Left Behind do not meet the needs of these most vulnerable members of our society. Focus and action are needed. Timely award of contracts, and timely payment on these contracts are critical for the planning, survival and continued work of hand to mouth Charitable Bodies like Right Track.

Whilst too late for Right Track Scotland Limited, perhaps bringing the flawed and unworkable system under scrutiny of those that can influence and can make a difference we very sincerely hope, that in some way, the needs of the community we have served will be still met without us.

END (Notes to Editors on page 2)

Note to Editors:

- Right Track Scotland Ltd (Registered Charity SCO17314)
- The company was founded in 1983.
 - We have worked with over 27,000 young people aged 14- 18 years, all of whom had “additional support needs”, at greatest risk of becoming long-term NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
 - Over 95% say we have helped them change their lives for the better.
 - Over 22,500 have secured Jobs, Apprenticeships, Training Places and College places, or progressed to higher level Training
 - Over 23,500 young people say we have made them feel happier, more confident and more positive about the future.
 - Over 86% have achieved a broad range of Core Skill, Personal Development, Digital/ IT and Employability, SQA and City Guilds Awards with us
 - Over 70% have come from postcodes deemed “most deprived” via the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
 - Over 76% have consistently progressed positively from our Programmes to mainstream, Training, Education and Employment
- Board of Right Track Scotland Limited placed the Company into insolvency in March 2024. William Duncan have been appointed as Liquidator
- Funding disruption has meant the shrinking of services and geographical coverage in recent years (previously Edinburgh and Glasgow, most recently Glasgow only)
- Our staffing has had to cut in recent years as we sought to manage uncertainty of contract award and payment.
- At time of our closure **20** staff have been made redundant
- At the time of our closure our client profile was:
 - In care – 12%
 - Long-term health conditions – 18%
 - Mental Health Difficulties – 21%
 - Autistic spectrum disorders – 23%
 - Caring Responsibilities – 24%
 - From families with mental health difficulties – 19%
 - Unhappy at school – 67%
 - Literacy / Numeracy difficulties – 64%
 - Previously bullied (young person definition) – 28%
 - Homeless – 15%
 - Resident with someone other than a parent – 24%
 - Single parent household – 68%
 - Very depressed (young person definition) – 57%
 - History of self-harm – 27%
 - No Qualifications – 59%
 - No Work Experience – 79%
 - Workless households – 69%
- Questions or comments should be directed to Veronica Ferguson (Chair of Board), veronicaferguson@hotmail.com