



## **STRANRAER FOYER - EMPLOYER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **Q: What is a youth foyer?**

**A:** A youth foyer provides supported accommodation for young people, in order to combat those who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Foyers are recognised as international best practice and operate throughout the world, including the UK and Europe. There is currently only one foyer in Scotland (in Aberdeen).

The Stranraer foyer, which is expected to be complete in summer 2019 on the site of the former Garrick Hospital, will cater for twelve 16 -25 year olds at risk of homelessness, giving them a stable, secure affordable environment and support from trained staff. They will also have access to education, training and employment services, and an opportunity to develop independent living skills.

### **Q: Why are you looking to partner with local employers?**

The development of the Stranraer Foyer represents a significant and innovative opportunity to improve the lives of young people in the west of the region as well as the wider community of Wigtownshire.

Loreburn Housing Association is committed to providing opportunities for young people to have access to secure accommodation, education, training, employment pathways and volunteering options.

We know that we cannot do this alone – we need to form new and effective partnerships with local employers to support the young people who will live at the Foyer into sustainable employment. We want to work together with local businesses to co-design highly supported training and employment pathways that will help make this happen.

### **Q. As a local employer, what can I do to help?**

We are looking for local employers to participate in this innovative model by:

- Contributing to the design of a tailored training/employment pathway
- Providing work placements for young people living at the Foyer that, if successfully completed, could lead to a longer-term job
- Providing feedback and contributing to the development of best practice demand-led employment programmes.

**Q: I'm only a small business - can I help?**

No business is too large or small to have a positive impact on the life of a young person. If you feel you can help, we want to hear from you.

**Q: How will my business benefit?**

The partnership between the Stranraer Foyer and local businesses will be an innovative, first of its kind partnership in Scotland and is likely to draw the attention of both the Scottish Government and the media, leading to positive PR for your organisation.

This is also a unique chance to provide a "step up" for a young person, providing meaning full employment opportunities, while positioning your business at the forefront of innovative recruitment practices.

It will also allow you to create or extend demand-led programs into reliable training, support and recruitment pipelines, and increase the diversity of your workforce.

**Q: What are the timescales for this partnership scheme starting?** It is anticipated that the Foyer accommodation will be completed by late summer 2019 and that young people will

**Q: Does my business need to be in Stranraer/Wigtownshire?** No, your business, can be local, national or international with a footprint in the region.

**Q: Are any colleges/FE establishments supporting this scheme?** Loreburn will be working in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway College. The Foyer is within easy walking distance of the Stranraer campus and offers a unique opportunity to grow local young talent.

**ENDS**