



## **shmu Employability Support Worker**

Post funded by Big Lottery Recession Fund and Inspiring Scotland to October 2012

### **Background**

Station House Media Unit (SHMU) support and deliver a broad range of training and volunteering opportunities in community media activities across the seven main regeneration areas of the city (Northfield, Cummings Park, Middlefield, Woodside, Tillydrone, Seaton and Torry), the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Aberdeen. SHMU also offers a range of services to other disadvantaged groups and individuals across the city, including HMP Aberdeen.

Since 2009 SHMU has delivered a programme of work directed specifically at young people in the MCMC category with the aim of using the tools available through engagement with the organisation to enable participants to develop their core skills in order to move on successfully on to a positive destination (employment, further education or training). This work, under the *shmu*TRAIN strand of the organisation and funded primarily through Inspiring Scotland, has seen a shift in emphasis for the organisation from outcomes based primarily on community capacity building and active citizenship, towards personal development, life skills and employability.

*shmu*TRAIN offers employability and skills development training through the use of community and digital media. There are 3 key projects under *shmu*TRAIN; Early Interventions, Positive Transitions and *shmu*WORKS.

- Early Interventions work targets 14-16 year olds who are currently in school but have been identified as not having a positive destination to move onto.
- Positive Transitions courses target 16-19 year olds who are not currently in education, employment or training.
- *shmu*WORKS focus on unemployed young people in the 18-25 age range, although the service is also be available to the wider volunteer users group who make use of the services at SHMU (at present over 100 active volunteers a week).

Participation in *shmu*TRAIN improves ability to work as part of a team, improves capacity to take direction and instruction and follow a task through to completion, improves level of understanding of the need for appropriate conduct, language and behavior in a workplace environment, and increases awareness of and level of use of support services and agencies in this area. The employability support will range from personal development and life skills, to direct employability skills including CV writing and interview skills.

Due to the exciting nature of the service, it will attract and appeal to hard to reach individuals who may not already be engaged with mainstream services.

### **The Future**

The funding for this post has been secured until Oct 2012.

We believe this programme will prove to be successful and if so, would wish to see it continue.

If no further funding to support this initiative were available from the existing sources, then we would look to work independently, and with our partners, to secure the resources in order to continue this valuable area of work.