



Tales from the TSI Network

Supporting Volunteering For All

All across Scotland

tackling inequalities in Aberdeen – Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations



Lewis Bannerman is a 16-year-old from Northfield in Aberdeen.

Lewis volunteers with local adult disability and volunteer-led charity Future Choices, as he was keen to help disabled people.

He has been working with ACVO TSI's Volunteer Co-ordinator Mike Melvin, who has helped mentor him through his volunteering journey.

This young lad who, like many of his peers, lacked confidence and motivation, turned to volunteering to improve his life skills and chances.

How ACVO has helped Lewis

Recognising that volunteering can make a positive impact on communities, ACVO co-ordinates volunteers and maximises opportunities. It believes there has never been a better time to volunteer in the city. ACVO works with local adult disability and volunteer-led charity, Future Choices, which it supported during its set up in 2008.

When Lewis came on board as a volunteer with the charity in 2017 aged 14, it quickly recognised his tremendous contribution and put him in touch with Mike as an ideal candidate for the Saltire Awards. These Scottish Government national youth volunteer awards (co-ordinated by ACVO in Aberdeen) recognise, celebrate and reward the commitment and achievements of young volunteers aged 12 to 25 years in Scotland.

Through Saltire ACVO has inspired and supported young people just like Lewis into volunteering, helping to break down barriers, build confidence and skills, to the benefit of the individual and wider community.



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Lewis, mentored by David Forbes, Chairperson of Future Choices and supported by Mike through the Saltire process, has not only achieved his 100-hour Saltire Ascent Award – a milestone he marked by raising and donating £100 to the local foodbank earlier this year. He has now achieved his 200 hour award which will be presented to him during a visit to the Scottish Parliament in June 2018. Lewis has also been successful in achieving the Year of Young People Participation Certificate.

Thanks to its positive experience with Lewis, Future Choices is keen to involve more young people in the charity. With ACVO's full support, volunteering has proved great grounding in life for this lad and others like him. It has had a profound impact on Lewis, who continues to inspire his peers, not least of all young brother Ryan.

The 12-year-old has also embarked on volunteering by helping the homeless. Lewis's school saw a great difference in his confidence, attendance, motivation and learning. Since recently leaving school Lewis is now looking forward to joining the AMPED programme in June to learn more about motorbikes and mechanics. He continues to inspire others to volunteer and is buddying new volunteers at Future Choices. Lewis is a great advocate for volunteering and the work of ACVO, especially pertinent in this Year of Young People 2018.



ACVO is the place for
volunteering in Aberdeen
acvo.org.uk

Find out more about Lewis on
the Future Choices
[YouTube Channel](#)

Find out more about
Volunteer's Week
volunteersweek.org

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Voluntary Action Scotland is the national
network of Third Sector Interfaces
www.vascotland.org