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## KICKSTART SCHEME

The Kickstart Scheme was established by the UK Government in response to unemployment created by the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Scheme provides those aged 16 to 24 with valuable opportunities to gain employment and develop new skills.

The Kickstart Scheme can support employers of any size to cover:

- 100% of the National Minimum Wage (or the National Living Wage depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months (including associated employer National Insurance contributions and minimum automatic enrolment pension contributions) with start dates up until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

Inspiralba is an Argyll based Kickstart Gateway organisation who are dedicated to supporting social enterprises and community based organisations to become involved in the Kickstart Scheme. The scheme is an ideal opportunity for young people and employers alike to benefit and the application process is straightforward.

Caroline Speirs, Chairperson of Calum's Cabin said of the scheme, "The whole process was streamline and timely. There was all the support needed by Inspiralba and The Department of Work and Pensions. I feel the Programme is a real Win/Win for both the employee and the employer."

Through the scheme, employers can find a candidate who will bring valuable skills and knowledge to the role while also providing a young person with work.

Another organisation participating in the Kickstart Scheme is Islay Gaelic College (IGC). Manager of IGC, Niall Woodrow had a positive experience with the scheme, "We were fortunate in having two strong applications and employed an applicant who was particularly well suited to the post. She is an enthusiastic and hardworking young person who quickly agreed a series of projects within our organisation."

For more information about hosting placements please contact Rachel MacPhail at Inspiralba on 07917 606052 or email [rachel.macphail@inspiralba.org.uk](mailto:rachel.macphail@inspiralba.org.uk). For more information on applying for kickstart placements please contact your local Job centre.