



Impact Report 2024



Introducing the Community Trade Hub.

The Community Trade Hub (CTH) is a grassroots social enterprise based in Buckhaven and Methil providing skills, employability, and vocational training in a unique and fun learning environment in Fife. We are one of two CITB accredited training organisations in Fife.

We support young people between the ages of 13-24 facing multiple complex barriers to employment and further education to gain the confidence, life skills, practical training and experience they need to move forward into positive futures and career paths.

Over the past 4 years CTH has supported 2,945 young people in gaining qualifications, training, skills development, community-based work experience from 13 schools across Fife and hosted holiday camp activities, entertaining and educating an additional 288 young people.



Our Mission



“No one left behind -
filling the attainment gap”

As an area, Levenmouth has the lowest level of attainment with children between the ages of 13 - 17.

Here at the Community Trade Hub, we understand that, due to complex barriers many young people struggle to thrive and reach their potential within a mainstream education system.

Our aim as a business is to overcome these barriers and fill the attainment, through our unique and alternative route of education.

Our Aims

Our mission statement gives our business a very clear and concise foundation and makes our 3 primary aims so important.

Give everyone an opportunity to use a space to develop practical and life skills within the community.

Provide an alternative option for pupils that do not engage with School, College, or University, thus ensuring no one gets left behind.

Support school pupils early in their journey to build experience, practical skills, qualifications and helping them to secure a positive destination when leaving school.

Supporting young people from start to finish and beyond...

We believe it is essential to ensure young people are supported early on and have access to opportunities that suit their needs and aspirations.

Employability support services in the area primarily focus on supporting young people aged 16+.

This misses a huge pool of young people who have fully disengaged with education/left school early on.

To ensure young people have the option to engage in alternative education pathways we became integrated into the Curriculum of Excellence at Levenmouth Academy in 2020.

A key motto at the Community Trade Hub is to ensure that young people are not just employment ready but are life ready.

Mainstream services fail to listen to young people's individual needs and desired paths, support young people in developing life skills.

We have a key worker that works with the young people to identify their strengths to help define what path best suits their abilities.



We are also proud to continue to support A youngster who has recently launched his own landscaping business!
Good luck Kholbi!



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Exciting New Business Expansions

In addition to our Construction site in Buckhaven, August 2023 saw the opening of our new purpose built Community Kitchen in the neighbouring town of Leven.

This new premise houses modern facilities and a spacious learning environment, including 8 cooking ovens, 8, 4 ring counter top stoves, and plenty of worktop space for pupils to explore and improve their cooking skills and knowledge.

In addition, our Leven location also includes a large upstairs space which has been utilised as offices for our staff, and two 'chilled' areas where the students can choose to challenge their friends to a game of pool or table tennis, play some videos games on the playstation or simply sit around with friends and chat.



Exciting New Business Expansions cont.

We are currently working tirelessly, renovating our newest location in the hopes of opening in March of 2025!

Our current mechanical groups are learning in our STEM centre in Lochgelly.

We look forward to welcoming them into a new site in Leven where they can learn the basics of mechanics in a new purpose built environment.

With this new location we hope that we can provide a more in-depth and specialised learning experience for the pupils keen to learn about this curriculum.

We hope with building a stronger curriculum and new facility for our aspiring mechanics we can also become more appealing to more youngsters in schools in hope of bridging the attainment gap even further.

Working in Partnership

As a social enterprise it is important for us not only to work closely with the youngsters but also with other local organisations and groups within our community.

As an area of Scotland with one of the highest crime rates and disengagement with education, we think it is important to have a close working relationship with our local police force.



We have been awarded Policing Partner of the year in 2023, for all our awesome work!

This not only benefits us as a business but it also encourages the pupils to improve and develop a more positive perspective and relationship with the officers.

It has become evident to us that the first step to shaping youngsters into positively contributing adults of society, is to let them see those in authority as regular people beyond the uniform and perhaps negative associations that come with it.

There is a common connection that young people who are disengaged with school, often engage in anti-social behaviours. Our aim here is to not only close the attainment gap but to also contribute to decreasing crime and anti - social behaviour rates in our area.

Although anti-social behaviour is still a prominent issue throughout fife, and indeed the Levenmouth area, national statistics show that these rates have decreased in recent years.

Working in Partnership cont....

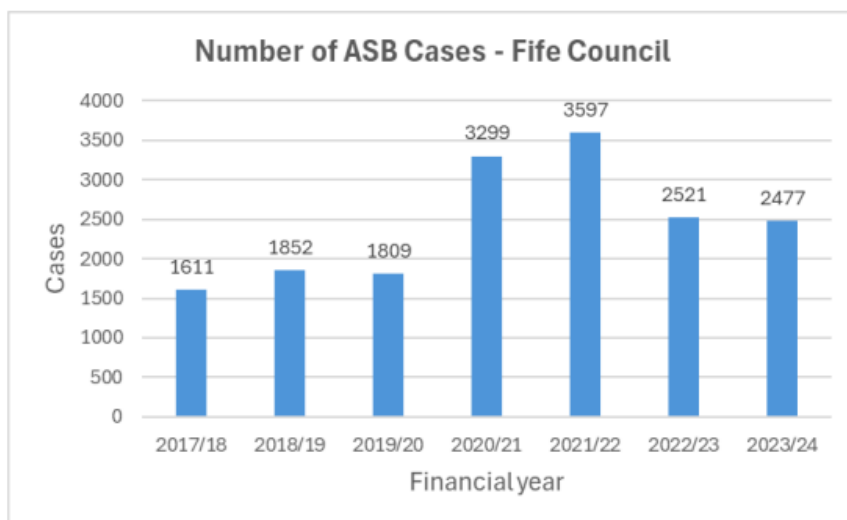
With statistics and facts

The number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents recorded throughout Fife, saw a slight reduction between 2021/22 and 2022/23, from 24,350 to 22,961. This equated to 614.7 incidents per 10,000 population.

However, over the past year the reduction in reported Anti-social behaviour complaints has reduced dramatically. Throughout 2023 to 2024, there were only 2,477 officially anti-social behaviour complaints filed throughout Fife.

Although showing a decrease from the two years where national lockdowns were implemented, reports remain at a higher level than pre-Covid reports.

In Levenmouth alone rates of anti-social behaviour have predominantly fallen the last couple of years. Reports of Anti-social behaviour are now at an all time low, with a 4% decrease since 2022. Although the statistics are still above the council and national average, we are certainly on the right path to a safer and more peaceful community.



Our Other Assets...

STEM Mobile Workshop

Our **STEM** Mobile Workshop is an extremely valuable member of our team here at the Community Trade Hub. This helps us to offer our students and clients a hands - on approach to learning across a range of curriculums, all whilst on the go!



This **STEM** Mobile Workshop boasts a spacious area in the rear that can be kitted and fitted out to meet the needs of the activities which are carried out with our students and clients.

Not only do we use our **STEM** Mobile Workshop for our existing students and clients. We also take advantage of this fabulous asset to reach our wider community, and showcase the fantastic services and courses we can provide, as well as the hard work and dedication that our staff put in to ensure the young people can get the most out of their experience.



We've had a busy year!

Each pupil that joins us here at The Community Trade Hub will learn new skills and advance their knowledge over the course of a 10 week programme. However, that does not mean that after a 10 week block our work is done!

We work tirelessly throughout the school year welcoming new students into our learning environment away from mainstream education every 10 weeks.

Throughout the 2023 -2024 period we have received a phenomenal 600 pupil referrals from all the schools that we work with throughout fife. We currently work closely with 13 of the 18 secondary schools throughout Fife, which we feel is an enormous achievement and an even bigger responsibility!

From these 13 schools we have received more than 210 pupil referrals across all three curriculums, in just one year!

From these 210 referrals we have helped our pupils to gain around 2,500 qualifications !

We've had a busy year! cont...

Not only do we see an increase in the number of pupils working towards National 5 qualifications here on a small local level. This is reflected in national statistics.

Entries for National 5 qualifications from 2019 to 2024.						
Level	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
National 5	288,550	300,640	297,975	310,170	321,360	327,950

As shown in the information above there has been a steady increase in the number of pupils who begin to work towards national 5 qualifications since 2021. However, the increase from 2023 to 2024 was much more dramatic with an increase of 6,590 more pupils.

Entries by centre type in graded National Qualifications from 2019 to 2024.							
Level	Centre Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
National 5	Education Authority	266,485	278,525	276,330	288,785	299,710	306,280
National 5	Independent	18,300	18,370	18,820	19,015	19,180	19,095
National 5	FE College	3,680	3,690	2,780	2,325	2,410	2,500

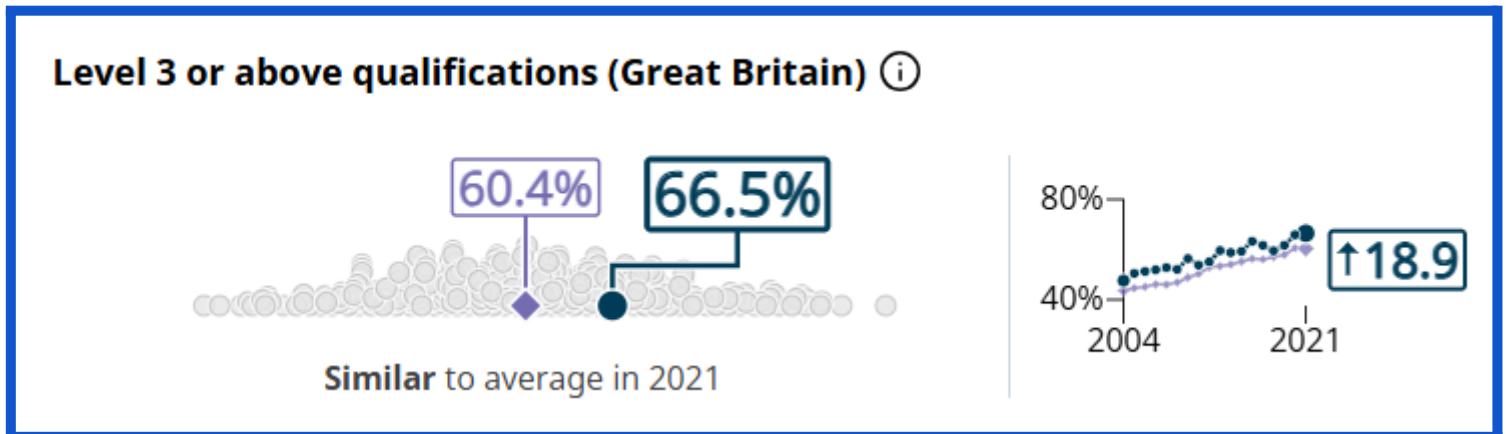
As we can see from the above data table, the level of national 5 candidates which are produced from independent learning centres continues to rise steadily since we opened our doors to pupils in 2019. We are proud to contribute to this fantastic rise in figures!

It's all in the statistics.

Over the last decade Levenmouth has been considered as one of the most deprived areas of Scotland.

Here at the Community Trade Hub we strive to provide youngsters with more accessible education and positive destinations.

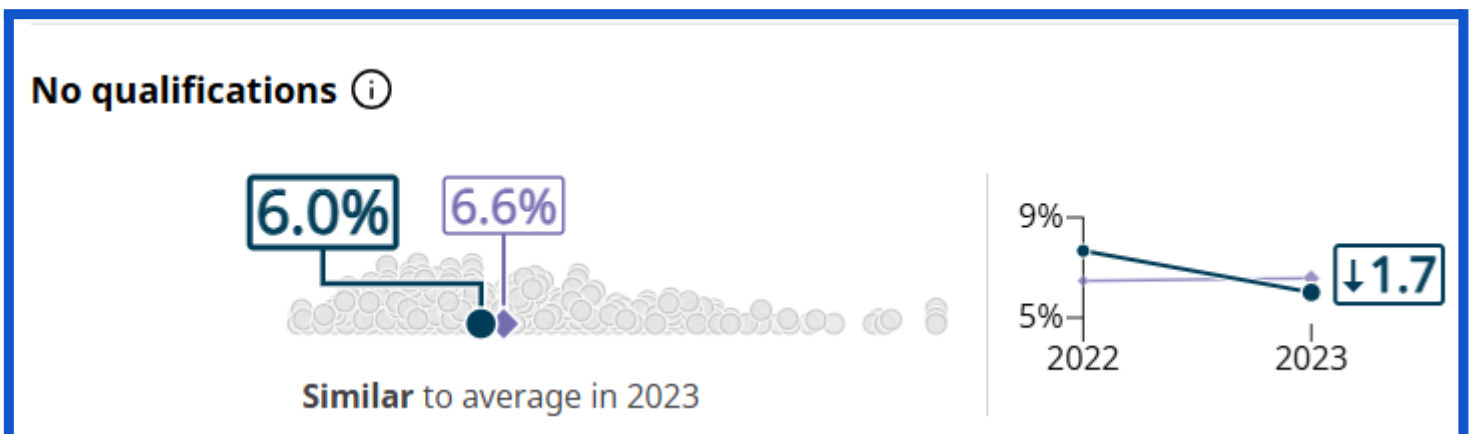
National statistics show that over the last academic year, around 66% of five school pupils achieved Level 3 or above qualifications. This figure sits at a massive 6% greater than the national average. Although these figures are not perfect and can be improved on, this is a similar average to what we saw in 2021, this can be interpreted in a way that we are contributing to a slow but steady climb in student achievements.



It's all in the statistics cont....

Fife also has a much lower average of pupils leaving school with no qualifications. Although this average has remained steady at 6% from 2023 to 2024, this average fell by 1.7% from 2022 to 2023.

The national average currently stands at 6.6%, we hope that success within the programmes that we offer will continue to drop our average by helping students to obtain qualifications outside mainstream school, and therefore creating a larger difference from Scotland's national statistic.



It has also been found that in June of 2024, there were 1,585 young people in Fife claiming out of work benefits, this at the time of data collection accounted for 4% of Fife's young population. This total has fallen by 35 claimants since June of 2023.

Levenmouth is amongst the committee areas with the highest claimant rates

In A report written by Fife Council in August 2024, it was re-iterated that school pupils within the Levenmouth area are more likely to experience household poverty and / or live in areas of high deprivation, compared to pupils elsewhere in fife.

Although the amount of National 5 and Higher qualifications which are gained by pupils within the Levenmouth area has increased significantly over the last year. The attainment outcomes in the area are still falling behind the national standard.

Following on from this , in the academic year of 2019 - 2020 only 23% of school leavers achieved 4 or 5 Highers at grades A or B. Initially this statistic may not seem overly negative, however 4 highers at a high grade of A or B is often the minimum qualifications required by companies to be considered for an apprenticeship.

Apprenticeships are often considered by society to be the lesser to university and further education, or the 'easier' way to a career. So why are 77% of school leavers within Levenmouth still unable to obtain the grades for these opportunities?

Although many pupils from the Levenmouth area struggle to obtain the grades needed to apply for apprenticeships. There was an average of 466 successfully completed apprenticeships within Fife, compared to 465 completed nationally. However, between 2023 and 2024 Fife seen an average total of 590 new apprentices, compared to an average of 578 throughout the remaining local authorities in Scotland.

Here at The Community Trade Hub, we work passionately with each student to reach their goal no matter the destination, whether it be further education, an apprenticeship or simply gaining basic life skills. We believe everyone should be encouraged to be their very best.

Reaching out.

Working closely with 13 high schools across five, may seem like a tremendously large challenge. However, for us here at The Community Trade Hub we don't want to stop there.

We hope as our business continues to grow, we can expand our customer base. We plan to take advantage of our existing strong partnerships with other local businesses, charities and organisations to help offer our services to many, more people.

We hope that by using our STEM mobile workshop to visit our local primary schools, and deliver practical workshops to young children will also help to achieve our goal of closing the attainment gap.

By introducing practical trades to children at a younger age, and making alternative learning methods more accessible, we hope this will help to build the confidence of young people to feel free to pursue a career path that they are passionate about.

More often than not young people are unfortunately taught into the mindset that university is the only "worthwhile" path after high school. We understand that this forced ideology can have a huge impact on an individual's thoughts and attitude towards traditional education. Our aim here at The Trade Hub is to change a young person's perspective, and show them that education can be enjoyable and that university is not their only option.

Holiday Camps 2024.

Throughout the year we also provide the children from local primary schools with the opportunity to join our holiday camps . We offer Easter, Summer and October holiday, which have all been massive successes with all the students!

Throughout the two weeks of easter camp we entertained around 60 primary school children.

All of the children had the opportunity to experience a range of different activities and alternated between each of them. Interacting with all of our staff and volunteers.



Easter Camp Activities include:

- ★ Cooking Pizza and Baking Cupcakes.
- ★ Painting Easter Egg murals.
- ★ Built and decorated easter bunny faces.
- ★ Litter picking throughout leven area.
- ★ Visit to local police station



Holiday Camps 2024 cont ...



We host a summer camp for six weeks whilst the schools are off on a break, to ensure that your youngsters are kept entertained and busy.

Throughout the six weeks we saw around 160 school kids come and go between lots of fun activities.



Summer camp Activities

- ★ Stripping and rebuilding a car engine.
- ★ Paddle Board Sessions
- ★ Building and painting storage crates
- ★ Cooking french toast and chicken wraps

Holiday Camps 2024 cont ...

October
Camp 2024



To round off a year of successful holiday camps, we hosted around 60 primary school children for a large variety of fun activities.

We all had an absolute blast and cannot wait to do it all again next year!

October Camp Activities:

- ★ Litter picking on Leven beach
- ★ Stripping down a Go-Kart engine
- ★ Baking Halloween cupcakes
- ★ Making Pizza
- ★ Constructing and decorating wooden boxes, Pumpkin style!

