**Interview Questions**

***How did you find out about the funding?***

We received a funding alert from Perth and Kinross Council which gave us information about the Tay Cities Digital Skills Project Third Sector Challenge Fund.

***How did you advertise your course?***

We advertised the project through online advertising and a feature article in the local community magazine which was the ‘Atholl and Breadalbane Quair’. We also produced flyers and posters which were displayed in the local community such as shops, church hall, doctor’s surgery, dentist and other community venues.

***Who did you work in partnership with on the course?***

We worked in partnership with Breadalbane Academy to recruit young people who were due to leave school and were likely to have a negative destination.

***What have been the successes of the project?***

The one big success was that by working with the young people in the Workshop Aberfeldy they gained practical employment skills in a supportive environment and that 6 young people gained employment by the end of the programme and 2 young people have progressed onto further and higher education. We are really pleased that we achieved a 100% success rate in progression routes.

***What have you learnt from the project?***

We have learnt a lot from the programme and evaluating it, so that we can learnt how to improve and adapt in a positive manner. Advertising a course or a programme to young people can be challenging as what we thought would work to advertise and promote the programme did not work in the initial stages. For example, young people do not really use Facebook for social media, and we were not confident to use other forms of social media such as Instagram or Tictok. What we did find was that by putting up posters and leaving leaflets in Breadalbane Academy was a very good method of recruiting young people.

***If you were to do the project again, what would you change?***

Upon reflection and feedback, we would start the advertising and recruitment further in advance and work more productively with Breadalbane Academy. This way there would be better communication and more effective use of social media channels that young people access. We would also have more of an emphasis on practical learning and experiences in conjunction with digital skills.

***What did you learn from the group that stands out?***

One thing that stood out was seeing the participants learning from having practical hands-on learning and experiences in the workshop as they seemed to blossom and really enjoy the hands-on element rather than the digital learning. However, they did enjoy making designs using the software and then seeing the laser machine engraving their design into wood and seeing the finished product.