

MGS Skills Update

Welcome to the 7th edition of the MGS Skills Update. In this edition we will be focusing on Mental Health and the upcoming sessions we have planned for the sector. We will also take a look back over 2020 and all of the fantastic things we have achieved over this challenging year. If you would like to know more about any of the work that we do, please do not hesitate to contact the Skills Team. You can find the Project Manager's contact details underneath each project update. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and learners. We wouldn't have been able to achieve as much as we have in this unprecedented year without your hard work and support. We hope you enjoy a well-earned break over the festive period and look forward to hearing from you in the New Year.

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There are 3 different sessions you can take part in, each focusing on different areas of mental health and offering support. They are: Maintaining Wellbeing, Building Resilience and Mental Health in the Workplace: A guide for managers.

The places are filling up quick. If you think this would benefit you and your organisation please sign up via [this link](#).

Whether or not Christmas is part of your life, your mental health might be affected by it happening around you. It's a time of year that often puts extra pressure on us and can affect our mental health in lots of different ways. Here are some handy resources on mental health over the festive period:

[SAMH's guide to winter wellbeing](#)

[MIND's Christmas coping tips](#)

[Festive kindness Tips](#)



Mental Health & Wellbeing sessions:

We have all have been dealt a rough hand this year and we recognise the essential need for mental health training and support within the sector. Therefore, we are pleased to offer a series of workshops focusing on mental health delivered in partnership with [SAMH \(Scottish Association for Mental Health\)](#).

Kickstart Scheme:

We are currently awaiting a response from DWP after submitting our application to become a gateway in November. Find out more about the Kickstart Scheme via [this link](#)

**KICKSTART
SCHEME**

If you have any questions regarding the Scheme, please get in touch:

markuso@musemsgalleriesscotland.org.uk

Business Support:

December has been another very busy month for the project, but we will be ending the year on a high with key decisions being made which will shape the 'Surviving to Thriving' programme going forward.

Applications to participate in the programme closed on 3 December and we received a fantastic response from a wide range of heritage organisations from all over Scotland. We are currently in the process of reviewing all applications and will soon be making the very difficult decision of shortlisting and selecting our successful participants. They will be confirmed in early January and will be announced, alongside our training and evaluation partners, in the New Year.

A massive thank you to the MGS team and project partners; BEFS, greenspace Scotland and NLHF and of course, to everyone who has shown interest in the programme and contributed to its design and development.

We look forward to updating you all again in January, with exciting news of who we will be working with and supporting through the programme!

Fiona Skiffington, Business Support Project Manager:

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Culture and Diversity:

Upskilling and Celebrating Volunteers Project:

This month, Aberdeen City Museums and Galleries successfully recruited the two volunteers for their project. The recruitment for Historic Environment Scotland and the National Trust for

Scotland is due to start early next year. We are also pleased to welcome the Scottish Football Museum to the project. They will also be recruiting for their volunteer in the coming months.

Natalie Milor, Skills Development Manager:

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Workforce of the Future Project:

All 4 Museums have their project plans in for the exciting schools project next year. We have some projects starting in January, so we look forward to having some exciting updates in early 2021. Working in partnership with DYW to engage with a more diverse range of schools has been hugely beneficial. Engage with your local DYW via [this link](#).



Markus Offer, Skills Development Manager –

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Skills for Success Legacy:

Our Trainee Assessors hosted a panel discussion chaired by Fair Museum Jobs at the Fair Museum Jobs summit at the end of November. This session was around the Skills for Success programme and their experience of traineeships and where they are now. Fair museum jobs put on an excellent event and we are all grateful for a fantastic summit.

We have had our final standardisation meeting of 2020 and we look forward optimistically to a new year in which we can continue to help people gain vocational qualifications and support entry and progression routes.



Markus Offer, Skills Development Manager:

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Modern Apprenticeships:

It has been a busy year for our Modern Apprentices at MGS. We have supported 7 Digital Marketing Modern Apprentices throughout this year. Our apprentices have been located all over

Scotland, The Devils Porridge Museum, Culture Perth & Kinross, Grampian Transport Museum, The Scottish Crannog Centre, Museums of the University of St Andrews and of course our very own apprentice, Robyn at MGS. Robyn has now completed her diploma and become our Corporate Assistant. We are delighted that 4 of our apprentices have completed and passed their qualification with the other 3 progressing well and on course to complete their studies in the new year.

The sector has told us through our ongoing engagement that there are skills gaps in Digital Marketing therefore MGS has again applied to Skills Development Scotland to continue to deliver Digital Marketing Apprenticeships. If we are successful with our application MGS will be able to offer these opportunities to the heritage sector

Our 2020 Impact:

Our team has changed quite a bit in the last year, we are now a cloud-based organisation working completely online. Like many organisations we are all working from home. Its not just how we work but who we work with that has changed - we have been able to welcome 3 new members to our team and partner with 2 new organisations. Here is a handy infographic of what we have been up to in 2020.

SUPPORTING SCOTLAND'S MUSEUMS

OUR ACTION AND IMPACT IN 2020



[View the full infographic here](#)

The office will be closed 23rd December- 6th January to give our team some time to rest after their hard work this year. We hope that you too can take some time to switch off during the festive period.

Frankie Bradley & the MGS Skills Team

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