00:00:09:09 - 00:00:19:13

Paula Christie

Hi, I'm Paula Christie, CDN’s lead for Research and Enhancement, and I'm delighted to have Kim Reid from Forth Valley College with me today. Hi, Kim.

00:00:20:04 - 00:00:21:15

Kim Reid

Good morning, Paula. How are you?

00:00:22:16 - 00:00:45:21

Paula Christie

I'm good, thanks. Kim, thanks for taking the time to chat with us today. We're here to talk about CDN’s Step Forward program. The idea of Step Forward is being that we support our colleges through the use of a bespoke package of support aimed to turn knowledge and research into action. So really step forward. It's all about change projects.

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Paula Christie

And I wonder can if you can maybe talk to us a little bit about yourself and your role, but also about why you chose for Sally College to take part in our step forward program.

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Kim Reid

And thanks for it. Yes, my name's committed to the school partnership coordinator here at Forth Valley College AM, which means that I am the person who links and with the schools and we deliver EMD Schools, a program from AFI Foundation Apprenticeship HNC To go right up to the right down is Skills for Work a mpa's aim as well.

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Kim Reid

So we go across the board. We range from about 48 through 86 year end, but we also have a bespoke Scotts program which looks at working with the schools, targeting mainly pupils who are maybe not have a positive destination at the moment or maybe need to be in a more enhanced transition or about unsure of what they want to do after they leave school.

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Kim Reid

So it's a series. It does aim that we do. So the reason that we got involved with the Step Forward program and was the after in the last in the last year or so, we've seen a shift in the pupils who are actually coming through the door and from speaking to colleagues in other colleges as well. It seems to be a kind of a normal part and it's happening across the board, not just with us.

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Kim Reid

That led us to really, really think we needed to get a handle on who and Ulyanov was in a spot, but then became the focus for the research project. Who is a Lana? We really need to together understand and close. We had seen an increase in the salinities coming through and we wanted to understand why that was, because it wasn't just bad behaviours.

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Kim Reid

There was other reasons for it. In seen an increase in poor mental health with the students, students not being able to steer the course really, and that was resulting in some of the discipline it is. But as I said, it wasn't bad behaviour, it was more a case of the resilience. You know, when the work getting fierce, the challenge is how to achieve a total shift.

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Kim Reid

And in the the person that was coming through the door and we really wanted to get an understanding of that. So when we heard about the research opportunity was clear and it seemed like a really, really good opportunity to get involved in this and get support and actually answer this question of finding out who are newly in awards and keeping us on track and also allowing us to then see, well, what do we need to change in the college?

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Kim Reid

How can we better work with the schools to support this in this new layer we're seen so that that's why we got involved in it.

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Paula Christie

And the work that we're doing with your sales, the reins, understand in the way in and Forth Valley College is part of a bigger piece of what we're doing at Seaton was step forward working with other colleges on skill college partnerships.

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Kim Reid

I think came. I think the benefit of working with yourself is that because you're involved with other colleges on similar projects as well as good to get you an insight into what's happening in the wider area as well, and not just specifically focusing on footfall itself.

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Paula Christie

We appreciate that taking part in a project can often seem daunting for a college. And you know, just the idea of of a faith in the space to do that can feel challenged. How did this step forward helped you come in terms of driving your project ambitions forward?

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Kim Reid

I think like with everybody, you know, time is really, really tight and you have you're always up against different deadlines, different conflicting priorities and everything and sometimes things, good intentions, things that you really, really need to look at just seem to to fall down the the line of you. But the good thing about working Michigan on this is that it's actually allowing us to keep focussed on it.

00:05:17:04 - 00:05:44:21

Kim Reid

Let's keep it going. And what can we yourself, Paul has actually it's definitely for me it's kept me on target. It's pushing it forward. If we didn't have your self and the actual research project, we would have got to eventually, but probably not and the team skills that would actually enable it. So that's been the really good thing about working with Ken on this project is kept us focussed.

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Paula Christie

And where are you now with the project? Kym What's happening just now and what is going to be happening in the future with your Step Forward project?

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Kim Reid

It's actually been really, really interesting so far. So in order to find out who I learned was no, we needed to look right across the board and speak to as many people who are involved in the school college partnership program. And it became the bucket. So we've started off speaking to the school and we've introduced the concept to deal with 18 high schools and the Fourth Valley area.

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Kim Reid

So we just knew it would be impossible to speak to them all. So we've packed in seven across the across the three local authorities that deal with so well spoke to them. They're really, really keen to get involved and move. I actually started the focus group with the schools and that's with Deputy heads and key members of staff.

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Kim Reid

And so we're halfway through that. And even the information we've actually got back from that has been really, really interesting because it did experience and exactly the same. So I think whatever comes out of this will benefit the skills as well and will also. So we're also in the process of just about to start anyway, aim the focus groups with the pupils because we think it's really, really important to hear their voice as well.

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Kim Reid

So from the schools we wanted to see, well, what is your perception? What do you, what changes, have you seen it with the kids? And then in speaking to the kids, we want to see them, Right. Well, why did you choose the school college partnership programme? You know, want to kind of start to drill into their thoughts about, oh, what do they see as benefits?

00:07:33:21 - 00:07:56:17

Kim Reid

How do they feel? Do they feel ready for that shift from such a supported environment and the school to come in? And it's to this adult environment of learning because it is quite a big transition as well. Then want to go and speak to actually college staff who deal with it as well. So the lecturers and the curriculum managers who designed the programmes and with us.

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Kim Reid

So right across the board we're going to have all this information from all these different areas. And at that point it will be working closely with Paula to pull all that together to generate a report, which then we hope leads to the changes that we need to make, recognising where we are and how we can better support the pupils that are coming through.

00:08:24:07 - 00:08:41:04

Paula Christie

That is great to hear and really good that the information you're getting already is of benefit. So that idea of project, the idea of research is maybe not so scary and you're getting stuff from the work that you're doing. Would you recommend the Step Forward project for other colleagues and other colleges.

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Kim Reid

Are definitely would. When you think of the word research or projects, you immediately think of, I had I do not have the time for the speed I'm going to fit this actually. And and surprisingly enough, it's been a lot easier than expected because we've been able to take advice and we've been given guidance to what we need to do and keeping it tight.

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Kim Reid

It's actually been really, really manageable. And I think for the for the little time that we've had to invest in it, the information that we're going to get back is will be get very worthwhile.

00:09:24:09 - 00:09:48:20

Paula Christie

That's great. We're delighted that Step forward is working for Sally and working for him, and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank him again for speaking with us today. If anyone is interested and CD and Step Forward programme, please do email us research at CD1, dot AC, dot UK, or check our details on the website under the Research and Enhancement tab.

00:09:49:05 - 00:09:57:18

Paula Christie

Thanks very much.