EMPLOYABILITY REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2025

In 2025, Wright Business Centre and Queenslie Workspaces significantly increased funding for the promotion of training and employment, with the introduction of the GEM Employability Fund and a doubling of GEM Community Fund Grants.

GEM COMMUNITY FUND

During 2025, the Community Fund awarded thirteen grants, supporting a range of educational and employment-focused initiatives across the local area. The majority of funding was directed towards educational and developmental trips for primary schools in Easterhouse, including St Maria Goretti, Haghill Park, Avenue End, Our Lady of Peace, Sandaig, St Pauls, Sunnyside and Cranhill Primaries, helping pupils access enriching experiences beyond the classroom. An additional award was made to Lochend Community High School, facilitating access to alternative training opportunities outside the traditional school setting.

Alongside this, four charities - Freedom from Torture, Greater Easterhouse Supporting Hands, The Calvay Centre and Reidvale Adventure Play Association - received grants aimed at enhancing employability and improving long-term prospects for the people they support.

LOOKING AHEAD

2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of Wright Business Centre, a milestone that will be celebrated through a further expansion of our training and employability work. Alongside continuing our collaboration with Career Ready, Connect Community Trust and Celtic FC Foundation, we have agreed to extend support to the employability programmes delivered by Easterhouse Sports Centre, Street League, FARE Scotland and Parkhead Citizens Advice Bureau, strengthening our commitment to improving access to opportunity across the community.

GEM EMPLOYABILITY FUND

Our new Employability Fund, focused on larger grants, made its first awards in 2025, disbursed to support the work of three charities:

CONNECT COMMUNITY TRUST

This award enables Connect to provide financial support for individuals in northeast Glasgow to access industry-specific training and certifications, facilitating them to enter or progress within the labour market. Primary areas of support include high-demand qualifications such as construction skills and security certification, and forklift and HGV training.

CAREER READY

Our grant facilitates the delivery and growth of the Career Ready Programme in Glasgow, with a new focus on Greater Easterhouse. Working with local secondary schools, Career Ready seeks to empower young people and remove barriers to boost their social mobility by connecting them with employers who provide access to quality paid workplace experiences, people and opportunities. The intention is to improve the life chances of young people, developing their confidence, skills, knowledge and support network so they can thrive in education, employment and life.

CELTIC FC FOUNDATION

Many of the individuals engaged with the Celtic FC Foundation face significant barriers to progression, including a lack of qualifications, life skills and guidance. Our grant has allowed the Foundation to hire an Opportunities Advisor to provide bespoke, one-to-one support, acting as a bridge between individual participants and external training providers, educational institutions and employers. The advisor will guide participants through college and job applications, interviews, and the transition into the workforce or an alternative positive destination.

In 2026 the two GEM funds will be rebranded the WBC COMMUNITY FUND and the WBC EMPLOYABILITY FUND.

The Wright Business Centre and Queenslie Workspaces are operated by GEM Workspaces Ltd (Company no. SC105693, charity no. SC011810).