

Andy Jackson Fund Report

Purpose of report:

To explain how the funding has been spent and what impact it has made!

SCA Working Group:

As Part of the funding we have worked with the SCA to set up a sharing practice day where we brought paddlesport providers from across Scotland together at Willowgate to share ideas of how we can support those needing adaptations further. This saw providers all the way from the boarders to inverness come together sharing ideas and trying out different bits of equipment, we talked about the items that had been funded as well items Willowgate & SCA already have. Making it clear to everyone these are items that are for mass use and can be borrowed from Willowgate / SCA as needed to support the most people getting on the water.

Since then the group has gone one further having an online chat set up to create more practice sharing, the SCA have set up some training with those that make the items (equal adventure) and have already had requests from other providers to use the items for groups coming up in 2024.

Paddleability Courses:

We have also been able to run some Paddleability courses using the items as an extension of this to allow people to see and try what is actually possible rather than just hearing about it. This has started educating the Paddlesports community further and giving the providers more of an idea of what can be done to support people.

Impact on the ground at Willowgate:

It has been great to have this equipment at the centre with us being able to support those with less grip be able to take part in further activities for longer. We have also used the equipment to support the SCA paracanoe programme which is focused on getting more people into Paddlesports that would otherwise not be able to.

Future projects and impact:

Since we have received the equipment we have managed to make some big steps to support access and create more opportunities for people. Working with PKC we have just received funding to put a Hoist in place at the centre meaning we will then be able to work with those with more complex needs also including support 2 ladies one who is a lower leg amputee and one who has MS. Our aim is to make Willowgate the most accessible centre in Scotland while working with others to help them to the same so everywhere becomes accessible.

We would like to thank the Andy Jackson Fund for it support. Adam Burns, Centre Manager

