



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **EXCITING NEWS FROM PSYBT FOR ALL BUDDING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN THE WESTERN ISLES**

The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust have agreed to continue with the raised age range for all budding young entrepreneurs applying to PSYBT in the Western Isles. In May 2002 the PSYBT Board increased the maximum application age from 25 to age 30 for a one year pilot period. The exciting news to continue with the extended age range was announced by Major General Mark Strudwick, Chief Executive of PSYBT at a series of Panel Reviews held in Stornoway, Tarbert, Benbecula and Castlebay on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Now that the age range has been extended indefinitely, any young person, between the ages of 18 and 30, in the Western Isles can apply to The Princes Scottish Youth Business Trust for help and advice to start their business, as well as financial assistance in the form of grants and loans.

Mark Strudwick from PSYBT, said "I am delighted to have been able to bring such good news to the Western Isles. In this PSYBT year, we were able to assist 22 young entrepreneurs in the Western Isles to start up or expand their own businesses. Only 6 of these young people would previously have been eligible for assistance. As a result of the extension in the age range granted by the Board we were able to support a further 16 businesses in the upper age range of 26-30 to turn their dream of starting their own business into a reality. It has been my great pleasure to announce that the Board have agreed to continue with the extension and I look forward to signing many more cheques for many more Western Isles entrepreneurs, age 18-30, in the years ahead."

Regional Chairman of the Western Isles PSYBT Regional Committee, Cllr. Donald Maclean said "This is excellent news for the Western Isles. We were delighted when the PSYBT Board recognised the need to increase the age range for applications in the Western Isles.

Following the success of the pilot, and the absolute evidence of demand, we are even more delighted that the Board have agreed to continue with the age range extension. Many Western Isles businesses have benefited from the extended age range in the last year and it is great news that many more young entrepreneurs will be afforded the same opportunity.”

For further information about The Prince’s Scottish Youth Business Trust, please contact Jane Campbell, PSYBT Regional Manager at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar on tel. 01851 707475 or email [jane.campbell@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:jane.campbell@cne-siar.gov.uk).

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