



NEWS RELEASE

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HIGH START-UP NUMBERS PER HEAD OF POPULATION

The Western Isles have the highest number of PSYBT business start ups per head of population in Scotland. This was announced by Ann Scott, PSYBT Director of Operations at the Annual Review of the Western Isles Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) held in An Lanntair last Tuesday 21st March. The PSYBT assist over 500 young businesses per year in Scotland with advice and funding to start up or expand their own businesses. The Western Isles is one of 18 PSYBT regions and since the Trust began in 1989, over £100,000 in grants and over £700,000 in loans has been awarded by the PSYBT to young people in the Western Isles to enable them to start up and continue their own businesses. The Annual Review was attended by over thirty invited guests including PSYBT supported businesses, PSYBT volunteers and representatives from the business community.

The Review was chaired by Councillor Donald Maclean who has been Chairman of the Western Isles Regional Committee for PSYBT since 1999. Regional Manager, Jane Campbell gave a detailed insight into the Western Isles operation and Ann Scott, PSYBT Operations Director followed with an update of developments from a national perspective. Ann highlighted that as well as having the highest number of business start ups per head in the Western Isles, survival rates of PSYBT supported business are also higher than the national average. Ann gave thanks to the many PSYBT volunteers who give their time and expertise to serve as Funding Panel Members or Business Aftercare

Advisers – PSYBT are indebted to what they do for young people. Ann also invited those present to call in to see them at their new offices in Exchange Square, Glasgow.

Those attending the Annual Review were also interested to hear the individual experiences of setting up and running a business from Murdo Maciver, Techmobile and Joanne Maclean, Beutilicious. Both Barvas based businesses were very appreciative of the advice, support and financial assistance they had received from the PSYBT.

PSYBT in the Western Isles offers start-up funding and advice to young people aged between 18 and 30, with a business idea of their own. For further information contact: Jane Campbell, PSYBT Regional Manager, Business Advantage, Town Hall, Stornoway, on 01851 707475.



Photo:- Joanne Maclean, Beutilicious, Ann Scott, PSYBT Director of Operations, Murdo Maciver, Techmobile

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