



Creating Scotland's First Training and Reuse Village





new start

HIGHLAND

17

25 years creating positive change

- Team of 90
- £3m turnover, 85% self generated
- 30,000 furniture packs distributed
- 11,000 tonnes of furniture diverted
- Over 1,000,000 items reused
- 100% solar powered
- Training and Reuse Village.



A first for Scotland

- Behavioural change
- Cost of living crisis
- Striving for a Net Zero future
- Education and training opportunities.



LOOKING AHEAD: Deena Murphy, retail adviser at New Start Highland, James Dunbar and New Start Highland volunteer Patrick Mills.

Work to start on reuse and training premises

BY ALEX BANKS

An Inverness social enterprise will spend £500,000 building the country's first "training and reuse village".

New Start Highland, which is in its 25th year, will open the facility in Caragate in the coming months.

The new premises will feature pre-loved retail outlets, a bike repair hub, tool library, cafe and training kitchen.

The project is also expected to create up to 40 training and employment opportunities each year.

New Start Highland was founded in 2000, and began supplying homeless starter packs.

It aims to support people experiencing crisis including poverty, homelessness and long-term unemployment.

"The village is a

longstanding vision of New Start Highland founder and chief executive James Dunbar.

He said: "The opening of the training and reuse village represents a pivotal point in our journey.

"It will provide an environment where people can learn, thrive and build confidence and skills that pave the way to a brighter future."

"Currently, 25% of children in Scotland live in poverty.

"We need more training opportunities open to parents so they can be supported to lift themselves out of crisis and give their children better lives.

"We are committed to driving meaningful change by providing support services, collaborating with partner organisations.

"And addressing critical issues such as poverty and

homelessness. Beyond this, we strive to foster a cultural shift from disposability to circular reuse."

"The New Start Highland training and reuse village is a testament to this mission."

New Start Highland has

community over 120,000 times.

Patrick Mills, who spent six years serving in the Army, came to New Start Highland as a volunteer to work in the upholstery workshop after suffering PTSD.

He said: "I was referred to New Start Highland through the NHS when life had become difficult, and I had nowhere else to turn.

"I knew going into mainstream employment would not be possible and through the volunteer programme I was able to pick up areas to learn and work in at my own pace."

"Having been previously taught to sew by my mum, I was drawn to upholstery and, with the unwavering support of the team, I have now grown my confidence and skills and feel like I have purpose and life has structure again."

Charity marks 25 years launching Scotland's first training and reuse village

The new project will cost £500,000.

7 April 2025 by Niall Christie

[Read more](#)

Our main concession

- One of a kind pieces
- Lovingly restored and upcycled in our upholstery workshop
- Team of artisans
- The story of Patrick
- Higher end pieces, never to be found anywhere else.



UNIQUE
NESS



A place to meet

- Barista coffee and homemade cakes
- Healthy food grown at our gardens
- Free parking, free Wi-Fi and EV charge points
- Training and education opportunities
- All under one roof next to our retail outlets
- Available for private hire.



Working together





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New Start Highland family



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