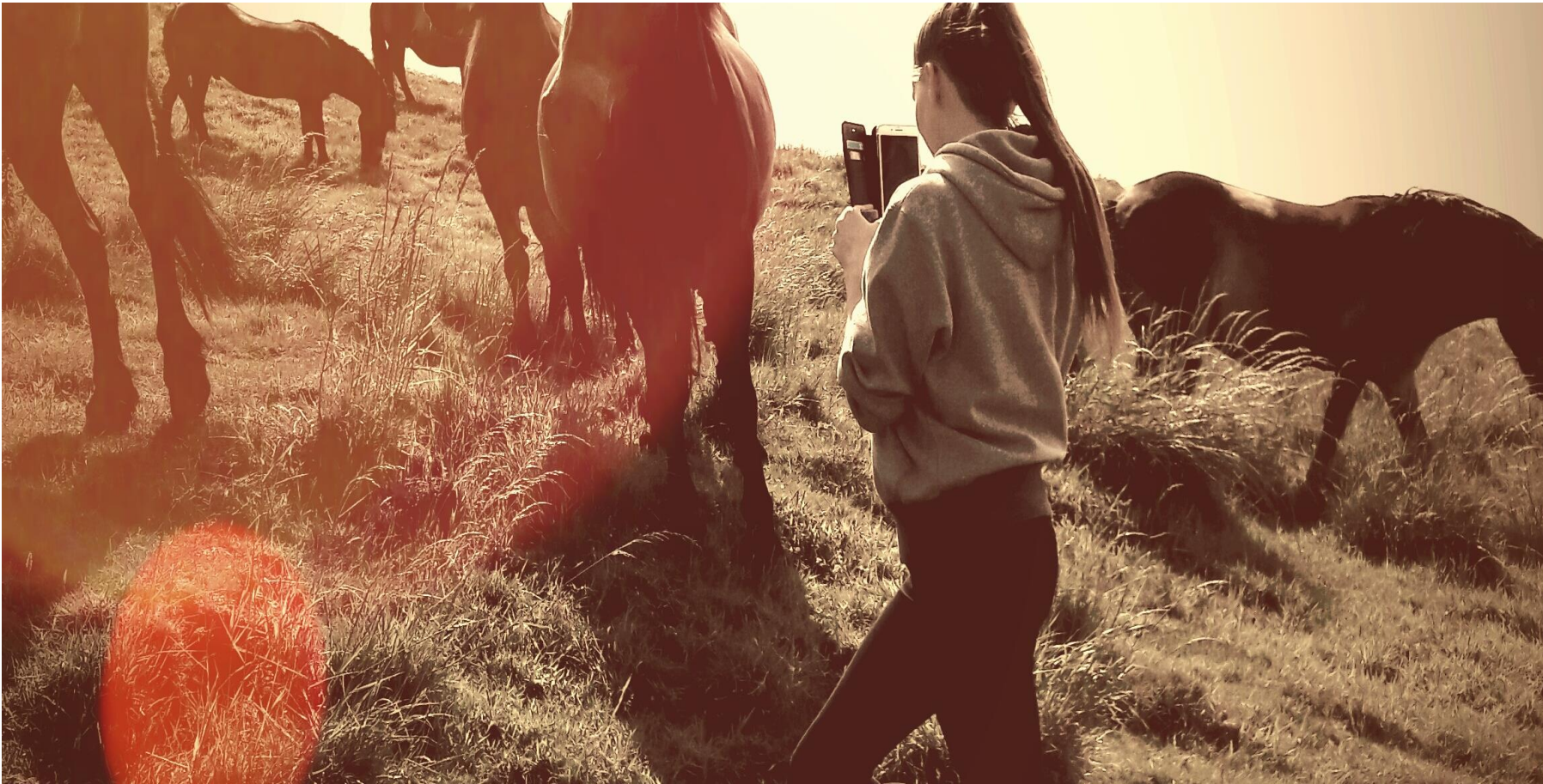


Activity Agreement

Activity Agreement is funded by Scottish Government and supports young people aged 16-19 who do not have a positive destination after they have left school. They may start aged 16, having been referred by school, who will have concerns about them not having a positive onward step.

It could be that they have gone to college and dropped out, or have had some other adverse life experience and so they are looking for support at an older age.



Flexible Support

Each young person is allocated a 1-1 support worker (a 'Trusted Professional') and, after a 6 week assessment of needs, commitment, and appropriateness of service they will complete an Action Plan which will address areas where they need to work on skills to enable them to access employment or training.



onwards and upwards

Many of the young people on AA have suffered adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) We know that these can have a damaging and long term impact on future situations. An individual's ability to cope with these or the ability to use support to their advantage is key to the successful futures.

Issues may include;

poor mental health; disability; autism spectrum disorder; young carers; ill health; family issues; drug or alcohol abuse; poor education/qualifications; anger management; social anxiety; chaotic home life; poverty; independent living; eating disorder; poor literacy/numeracy skills; returning from residential school/prison; Domestic violence/abuse

Film and media; outdoor education; cooking; art; music; counselling/therapy; gardening; textiles; literacy/numeracy; work experience/volunteering; equine assisted therapy; aromatherapy; care taster sessions; first aid; gardening

We try to deliver a bespoke service around young people's interests to support them to engage in small groups







Living in a rural area is beautiful but not without its challenges. Public transport can be difficult and expensive and college courses can be up to 36 miles away for some young people on the outskirts of the county, meaning extra early starts and expensive fares.

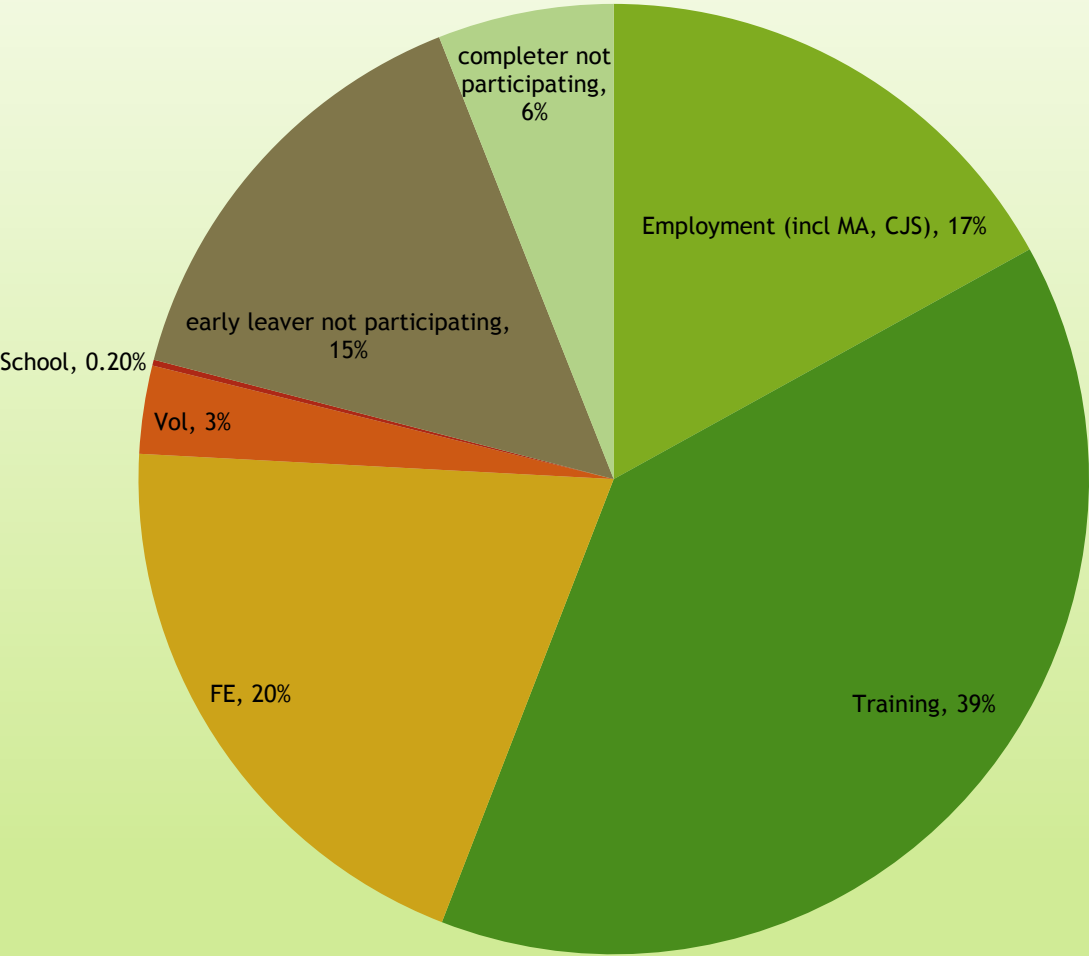


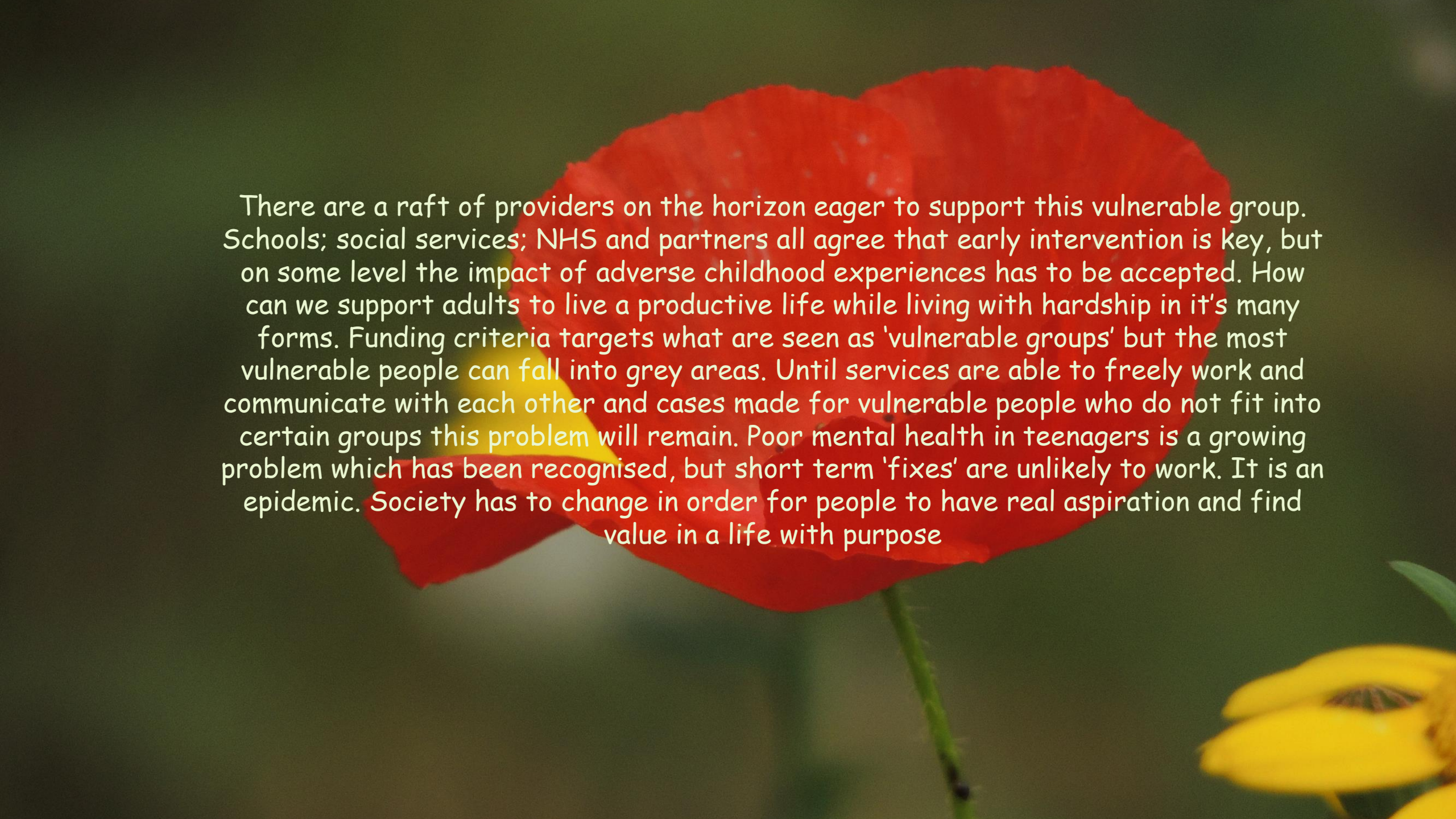


Progression routes from AA can be varied but the most important impact on sustainability is that we offer 6 months aftercare which supports young people in the transition period. Typically the progressions are to EF 2 training or college. EF stage 3 can also be a progression but is generally too big a jump from the close support of AA for most young people.

This picture was taken by a young person suffering from social anxiety. She was exceptionally talented and is now studying photography at college. Her targets included working in a group and communicating with others. These were her challenges. Not her educational abilities

Destinations of Leavers Q4





There are a raft of providers on the horizon eager to support this vulnerable group. Schools; social services; NHS and partners all agree that early intervention is key, but on some level the impact of adverse childhood experiences has to be accepted. How can we support adults to live a productive life while living with hardship in it's many forms. Funding criteria targets what are seen as 'vulnerable groups' but the most vulnerable people can fall into grey areas. Until services are able to freely work and communicate with each other and cases made for vulnerable people who do not fit into certain groups this problem will remain. Poor mental health in teenagers is a growing problem which has been recognised, but short term 'fixes' are unlikely to work. It is an epidemic. Society has to change in order for people to have real aspiration and find value in a life with purpose

"The Bushmen in the Kalahari Desert talk about the two "hungers". There is the Great Hunger and there is the Little Hunger. The Little Hunger wants food for the belly; but the Great Hunger, the greatest hunger of all, is the hunger for meaning...

There is ultimately only one thing that makes human beings deeply and profoundly bitter, and that is to have thrust upon them a life without meaning.

There is nothing wrong in searching for happiness. But of far more comfort to the soul is something greater than happiness or unhappiness, and that is meaning. Because meaning transfigures all. Once what you are doing has for you meaning, it is irrelevant whether you're happy or unhappy. You are content - you are not alone in your Spirit - you belong."

Laurens van der Post