

TRANENT

Teaching boys key life skills

By Marie Sharp

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A PROJECT to help young boys learn life skills is being launched in Tranent.

Charity EPIC Assist has teamed up with Tranent Colts and Sanderson's Wynd Primary School to launch Lothian Boys Group, an after-school club which will tackle the challenges youngsters face growing up and choices they have to make.

It is the first time the charity, which has run a girls' group in Edinburgh, in the past, has turned its support to young boys.

EPIC Assist's Simen Jordmyr Holm said the charity was keen to set up a boys' group in an area of social deprivation and looked at Tranent as a possibility.

He said: "We realised Tra-

nant Colts FC had a strong community link and they would be ideal partners and spoke to the school as well.

"Players from the club as well as pupils from the school will be recruited to participate in the project."

The new group is due to

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start in September once the schools return after the summer break.

It will hold seven sessions at the school, offering boys the chance to receive mentoring



Sanderson's Wynd, Tranent Colts and EPIC Assist have teamed up for the new project

to help encourage each other to make informed choices regarding their mental, physical and emotional health.

A different topic will be tackled each week; some issues which will be looked at more with the boys than previous girl projects tackle in-

clude anger management and emotional awareness.

Phil Purves, Tranent Colts chairman, said: "We've had planning meetings and we are excited to be involved in this project at Sanderson's Wynd. It is something fresh and something new and we

hope that a lot of boys take up this opportunity."

EPIC Assist says its main aim is to strengthen communities and support disadvantaged groups in removing the barrier to an inclusive lifestyle, gainful employment and full engagement with society.

A spokesperson said: "Topics such as emotional awareness and anger management will receive more attention in the boys' version of the project. Nevertheless, the content is flexible and will be thoroughly tailored and adapted to the needs of the participants."

The new project is being funded by John Watson's Trust, which supports projects which educate young people who have a physical or learning disability or who are socially disadvantaged.



The signed shirt

Golf star Rory McIlroy gives shirt to Help Luke

GOLF star Rory McIlroy has donated a signed golf shirt to the Help Luke campaign for auction.

The former world No 1 sent the signed shirt to campaign supporter Greg Pearson after he was told the story of Tranent youngster Luke Stewart, who was diagnosed with a rare inoperable cancerous brain tumour called Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) in January last year.

Supporters of the Stewart family have raised nearly £200,000 to help fund pioneering treatment which Luke is receiving in Mexico, after doctors in the UK admitted they had only limited options at home.

The eight-year-old has shown remarkable progress since receiving treatment abroad but it is expensive and ongoing.

Greg said he had been sent the signed golf shirt after approaching McIlroy through a friend and telling him about Luke.

Posting it on social media in an online auction, he said: "Rory does not sign stuff without good reason. If you look around the internet there are barely any signed golf shirts and anything with Rory's official signature sells for top dollar, with shirts going for excess of £1,000."

The auction attracted bids of hundreds of pounds within hours of being announced. It was due to close yesterday (Wednesday) at 6pm.

The campaign described the auction as "absolutely amazing".

Budding sports stars' awards

ROSS High School holds its annual Sports Personality of the Year (SPOTY) reception and Awards on Tuesday evening.

Four nominees for SPOTY have been named as Lucy Cameron, Sam Walker, Leeroy Makovora and Vangel Kacori. Voting closes tomorrow (Friday).

The awards are held in the main hall from 7pm and recognise the efforts, success and achievements of pupils and volunteers.

Among the awards handed out on the night are volunteer of the year, player of the year, staff volunteer and pupil volunteer, and coach of the year.

There is also the Ross High FutureStar award, which represents a significant achievement.

Chance to give blood at school

POTENTIAL blood donors are being encouraged to head along to Ross High School.

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service is visiting the Tranent secondary school next Sunday (June 17).

Two donor sessions are held from 10am to 12.30pm and also from 2pm to 4pm.



There was plenty on offer at the fair's stalls

Huge £2,000 total is raised at school's fair

THE Annual Windygoul Primary School May Fair raised a whopping £2,345.

Organised by the parent council, the fair welcomed local businesses and groups and had plenty of fun on the day, including a chance to soak headteacher Bruce Murray using a frame borrowed from Tranent Amateur Swimming Club.

Lyn Taylor, parent council chairperson, thanked everyone who went along and supported the fair.

Lyn, who steps down from the role after the summer, said: "I'd like to say thanks to everyone who came along and gave up their time, as well as the local companies including Cut Price Timber,

enjoyleisure, Tranent Amateur Swimming Club, Bisset and Steedman and A S Gardner & Sons Butchers to name just a few for the donations and support they gave us.

"It is lovely to finish the year and my time on the parent council on a high note."

Muirpark area now all set to get permanent 20mph speed limit

A 20MPH speed restriction will come back into force in part of Tranent this week after objections were thrown out by East Lothian Council.

Signs in Muirpark were covered up last year after East Lothian Council received complaints about them still being on the streets after an

18-month trial of the reduced speed limit had expired.

However, the council said it had now looked into the objections, which are understood to have come from one person, and ruled that a permanent introduction of the speed reduction can go ahead. Plans were being made this

week to uncover the 20mph signs, which were obscured during the dispute, and make the new speed limit official.

The 18-month trial of the reduced speed began in August 2015 and was part of a county-wide initiative.

At the end it was expected that council officials would

look at how it had worked and, if they felt it had been a success, apply for a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

However, that move had to be put on hold after objections were lodged over the Muirpark reduction.

The move also held up at-

tempts to introduce a permanent speed reduction in North Berwick and Cockenzie. Officials covered the signs in Muirpark in the wake of the objections.

The move to reduce the speed was spearheaded by Muirpark and Steading View Tenants and Residents As-

sociation, which said the streets were being used as "rat-runs".

A spokeswoman for East Lothian Council confirmed the changes would be introduced from this week.

She said: "The 20mph speed limit will be permanent and the signs will be restored."