

Evaluation of the Entrepreneurial Spirit Programme: Interim findings and issues at November 2004

Under the Framework Agreement between the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) and the Faculty of Education in the University of Glasgow, SEED commissioned an external evaluation of the Entrepreneurial Spirit Programme (ESP) in October 2003. The evaluation will run until September 2005 and is being conducted by a team from the Scottish Centre for Research in Education Centre (SCRE) and the Department of Educational Studies. The evaluation team have recently produced an interim report, which highlights certain findings to emerge from the first year of the evaluation. It should be noted that these findings and some of the issues they raise, are based upon interim findings and may vary in the final report. Overall, the findings to date indicate that:

Generally, the ESP appears to be benefiting students participating in the entrepreneurial programme and the broader PSD-based *Mindscreen Experience* course. Participants in both groups reported increased confidence, increased planning and communication skills and higher aspirations. Across the pilot schools most of the participants in the 'micro' group were able to display enterprise plans to at least the launch stage.

Teachers involved with both programmes were generally supportive of the ESP initiative and their views on the initial outcomes concurred with pupils' accounts.

These teachers however, also identified a number of practical issues that could affect the continued development and sustainability of the programme. These included: attempting to address a range of national and local priorities within the curriculum, timetabling constraints and limited funding to pay for resources.

Teachers also thought that increased communication between Mindscreen and schools would improve the sharing of information about the development of pupils undertaking ESP micro programme.