



## "CashBack for Communities" boost for Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

**For Immediate Release: 29 May 2015**

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland (OYT Scotland), Scotland's leading sail training organisation, will transform more than 480 young people's lives over two years thanks to a £375,000 award from the "CashBack for Communities" scheme - the Scottish Government's proceeds of crime fund.

The participants from disadvantaged backgrounds across Scotland will take part in 5-day long sea voyages in some of the world's best sailing waters. During the voyage, the novice sailors will gain nationally accredited qualifications, improve their communication and problem-solving skills.

The second of the 48 voyages which included 10 young people and 2 group leaders from East Dunbartonshire's "Positive Achievements" programme arrived back at the North Pier in Oban on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Nick Fleming, Chief Executive of OYT Scotland** said: "Our voyages offer young people a truly unique and life changing opportunity. Over the course of a very intense week, living together in close proximity, they not only learn to sail, they learn leadership skills and how to work effectively as a team.

"This second group have been a clear example of all that this programme aims to achieve in every participant. Our sea-staff, comprising both professionals and volunteers, understand how to get the best from each individual. This results in young people often being able to achieve things they never imagined they were capable of and changing their outlook on what the future could hold".

**Justice Secretary Michael Matheson** said: "Investing in our young people is always money well spent and I am delighted that the Scottish Government's Cashback for Communities programme is providing this valuable funding for worthy projects across Scotland.

"This Government is committed to ensuring young people reach their full potential. The vast majority of them are a credit to society but we want to prevent the small minority getting involved in crime or antisocial behaviour in the first place.

"Scotland's unique CashBack for Communities programme invests monies seized from criminals back into our communities. Since 2008, we've committed £75 million community initiatives right across the country, improving lives and helping Scotland prosper."

Over the past 50 years, Greenock-based OYT Scotland has grown to become one of the leading sail training charities in the world. With two sail training vessels, Alba Explorer and Alba Venturer, OYT Scotland completed 57 voyages with 569 young people in 2014.

**Kieran, Young person on the voyage** said: "This week has been great I have enjoyed every last minute and caught 2 fish, I also learned how to sail the boat and how to tie new knots."

**Stephanie, Young person on the voyage** said: "I loved being at the front of the boat, I thought it was an unforgettable experience."

For more information about OYT Scotland go to [www.oytscotland.org.uk](http://www.oytscotland.org.uk)

For more information on the Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities scheme go to [www.cashbackforcommunities.org](http://www.cashbackforcommunities.org)

**Ends.**

**OYT Scotland**

Dorothee Weber  
Ocean Youth Trust Scotland  
Fundraising Officer  
[dorothee@oytscotland.org.uk](mailto:dorothee@oytscotland.org.uk)  
01475 722722

**Notes to Editors**

- The Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities programme uses the ill-gotten gains of crime, recovered through the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and invests them back into communities across Scotland.
- Projects range from diversionary sporting activity to long-term potentially life-changing intervention projects, which aim to turn an individual's life around and provide them the opportunity of a positive destination such as employment, education or volunteering.
- Since 2008 the Scottish Government has committed £75 million to CashBack/Community Initiatives, funding community activities and facilities largely, but not exclusively, for young people.