Alexander Peden, West Lothian College

Sixteen-year-old Alexander Peden is one of thirteen males to take part in a new course designed by West Lothian College to address the gender imbalance in early years and encourage men to consider a career in Early Learning and Childcare. Alexander explained why he joined the course:

“I was doing Duke of Edinburgh and I started helping out at the Scout group I was with and enjoyed helping the younger ones there. I started volunteering at the Family Centre in Broxburn and that was good as well. I did some work experience in a primary school and decided that’s what I wanted to do. So this is my first step into that.

It’s been a lot of fun and we’ve been learning about different types of play and how children learn through many different methods, not just standard teaching. They learn through play and adventuring and things like that.

I’m still in S5 just now and I want to finish S6 and I’ve got an interview for another college course on children and development so I’m hoping to get into that. After that I’m hoping to go to university and do childcare there and then probably from that try and get into primary teaching.

The course has been a really good learning environment, I was scared at first to apply because I don’t enjoy school a lot but this is a different kind of learning and I can really get into it.”