

Volunteering for Employment: Building Bridges to Work in the Youth & Community sector

-Chapelton Volunteering Project-

**A Partnership between Chapelton Young Peoples' 10 - 2 Club &
Thomas Danby College**

Funded through Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Round 3

Key Findings from the Evaluation

Project Background

"The idea was to identify, recruit, groom, empower the next generation of young people that have the potential to be youth workers. It's about how soon they engage and where they start and where you feel you can make a difference and that is where the idea came from. I think it is our duty. We have the responsibility for trying to find the next generation of youth workers"

Claude Hendrickson, Project Manager

The key aims of the project were:

- To involve young people in supporting their communities through volunteering
- To provide informal learning and work placement opportunities
- To provide access to recognised qualifications
- To provide access to secure and sustainable employment

The Scheme

Over 70 Young People aged between 13 and 25 have taken part in the scheme, carrying out over 200 hours of volunteering at placements including:

- YES-Cyber
- Leeds REACH

- Chapelton Young Peoples' 10-2 Club
- CHALCS
- Sure Start

The Impact

An independent evaluation of the Project was carried out in March 2004. Copies of the report are available upon request – see contact details given at the end of the leaflet.

Many positive outcomes were identified. In addition to exceeding the targets for the number of participants, the Project had a wide impact on individuals and the community.

These positive outcomes include:

- Providing valuable work experience, which has led to permanent employment and Saturday jobs
- Giving participants a taster of different careers that they may not have previously considered and so providing direction for the future
- Increasing the confidence and self esteem of the participants through encouraging them to interact and engage with different groups of people
- Providing participants with experiences and opportunities through the 'Residentials' that they may not otherwise have been able to access

- Making young people aware of the consequences of their actions, increasing levels of responsibility and accountability
- Empowering Young People to act positively to benefit others in their community
- Providing young people with the opportunity to achieve accreditation and recognised qualifications
- Raising the profile of voluntary work and changing perceptions of what volunteering can mean to participants and to the community

In the words of the Participants, the Project's impact has been:

"You get to do lots of different types of work in different areas"

"You get to meet and talk to different people"

"Doing voluntary work opened my eyes to what I could do"

"It's given me something good to do with my time, it's good that people are seeing that I'm doing something positive and not on the streets doing something bad"

"Doing voluntary work was better than I expected. I really enjoyed working with the young people. I felt appreciated by them"

"I think the voluntary scheme has been brilliant. I wouldn't have got my job if I didn't get the experience I got volunteering at the 10-2 club"

"People look up to you"

Key Learnings

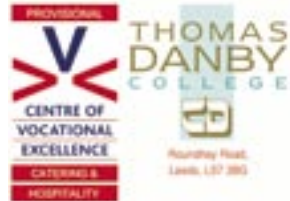
The Young People involved in this Project were unlikely to have become volunteers without this particular scheme being in place. Barriers to volunteering before the Project included a lack of confidence, particularly about schemes or agencies outside of the community, lack of awareness of the positive impact of volunteering and financial implications.

The success of this Project has demonstrated the need for a targeted approach to recruiting volunteers from BME communities, and the importance of local agencies in doing this. The role of YES-Cyber within the Project cannot be underestimated.

This Project was running for a short period of time and, although positive, it is doubtful that it would have been as effective if it had not been delivered through a well established, well respected community base. Many participants were attracted to volunteering as a direct result of YES-Cyber and its staff.

Case studies and 'real' examples of the impact of volunteering on individuals and the community are positive ways of attracting more Young People from BME communities.

As the Project has demonstrated, time needs to be taken to develop individual relationships with volunteers and potential participants in order to increase confidence and participation.



and the evaluation report or about YES-Cyber, please contact:

Claude Hendrickson

Tel 0113 2620794 / 07831 480196; claudio@yescyber.org.uk

or

Jan Gardner

Tel 0113 2846425; jan.gardner@thomasdanby.ac.uk

The evaluation was carried out by Zebra Square, and this leaflet was also produced by them. Contact details: info@zebrasquare.co.uk or 01274 531156.