

Collaborating with Communities Case Study: Young People from different backgrounds working hard to improve community relations across North Kirklees

Collaborating: Maintaining an ongoing dialogue and working with communities to develop solutions



Project: Young People from Al-Hidayah Mosque in Savile Town, Earlsheaton High School and Ravensthorpe planned to host a Food for All event. The aim of the event to further develop community relationships, bring a targeted benefit to the more vulnerable members of the community and raise the profile of Dewsbury as a whole.

Design: Collaboration with partner organisations would be engaged throughout the project. The partners in collaboration included; West Yorkshire Police, the local Community Engagement and Development Worker and the Integrated Youth Support Service.

Method: An informal setting for the event and food was used in the hope of people coming along, sharing food and conversation on the culturally rich and diverse heritages amongst the communities of North Kirklees. A mobile unit of some of the young people went out into the community to deliver a hot meal and chat to the isolated and vulnerable in the community.

Results: Over 200 people from across North Kirklees were engaged with through the event. New friendships were formed, particularly amongst the young people who helped organise and deliver the event, and they acknowledged that they were from different cultural backgrounds. It was felt that barriers had been broken down, particularly with the older generation and that through the common interest of healthy food and nutrition, misconceptions or misunderstandings between some of the different communities had been address. It also raised the profile and image of young people in Dewsbury & North Kirklees.

Outcomes: The overall project promoted and developed positive inter-generational relationships through dialogue and common interest. Collaboration with local agencies and the Mosques 'grew' the young people's original idea for the 'Food for all' event. The young people took overall responsibility for the project increasing their own levels of confidence and skills in the planning and delivering of the project.

As a result of this collaboration, further events are likely to be planned and delivered by the young people, with the support of local agencies and significant community organisations.



Conclusion: It is felt that this project broke down some barriers amongst residents from Dewsbury and wider afield and misconceptions of the different communities were improved, ultimately raising the profile and image of Dewsbury and North Kirklees. The positive contribution of young people to supporting vulnerable people is a step towards improving community relations across North Kirklees and this work was strengthened and made possible through collaboration.

For more information on this project please click on this [Involve link](#)