

Rose Hill Holiday Activities 2018 - Case Study

The Youth Ambition Team work hard to ensure that all barriers to participation of young people are removed and through the grants process, fund organisations to offer holiday activities in areas of the City that need them the most. When an area is not applied for, Youth Ambition step in to run 4 weeks of holiday activities for young people aged 11 – 19.

The main outcomes of the holiday activities programme this year is to encourage young people to recognise, respect and value people's differences and to be involved in the planning, leading, delivery and evaluation of the activities provided. With the theme of diversity running through the programme, session plans were written to focus on 4 areas. These areas were LGBTQ+, Race, Gender and Disability. Each week, the young people were given the opportunity to take part in a non-formal session, an arts based project, a cookery project and a film project that focussed on one of the areas.

How much did the project do and how well did the project run?

40 young people took part in the summer holiday activities in Rose Hill from a diverse range of backgrounds and needs.

These included:

- 47.5% Female young people
- 45% BAME young people
- 3 young carers
- 2 young people who identify as LGBTQ+
- 5 young people who are involved with social services
- 1 young care leaver
- 2 NEET young people
- 2 young people involved in the juvenile justice system.

Young people were involved in the planning, leading, delivery and evaluation of the programme in several different ways.

- 2 young leaders attended training before the holidays and spent a minimum of 2 weeks working at the sessions. Tasks included; attending the morning briefing; helping to set up the activities; planning and running at least 2 activities per week; attended the debrief and contributing to the session log.
- Young people were spoken to throughout the day and at the end of the day to find out their views on how their day went. They discussed how fun it was, what they learnt and this was added to the session logs

- Young leaders worked with groups of young people to plan, lead and deliver the celebration event which included; preparing the young people to discuss each area of the diversity project; preparing young people to talk about their views of the programme; awarding all of the young people that attended with a certificate of achievement and thanking them for their participation.

Is anyone better off?

Young people shared their views of the programme with a particular focus on recognising, respecting and valuing people's differences. This was collated from information included in the end of programme evaluation (wallpaper walk) and the session logs:

- 'The films were interesting and inspiring'
- 'The information (we were given) is actually useful'
- 'We are all the same'
- 'It doesn't matter what colour you are'
- 'People with disabilities are just as good at things as others'
- 'It is easy to stereotype people because of their gender or sexuality'

Other comments about the programme in general included:

- 'We were scared to come but we really enjoyed it'
- 'The food was so good and fun to make'
- 'We really enjoyed street sports'
- 'I liked the challenges'
- 'It was fun going swimming with my friends'

Some key conversations took place during the non-formal session which provoked some great opportunities for informal education. One particular conversation occurred during the LGBTQ+ session where young people spoke about areas in which they think people from different sexual orientations would feel safe. One young person commented that 'toilets are not safe because 'if a man is sexually assaulted by a man, it makes him gay because he won't be able to have kids'. This clearly highlighted a lack of understanding that staff identified and managed to incorporate into the non-formal session that was being led by the young leaders. When asked later about his views, the young person was able to give a more accurate understanding of sexuality.

At the end of the project, nearly 50% (18 out of 40) young people achieved an AQA accreditation. This includes 18 accreditations in 'Understanding Diversity' which was gained through the participation in the non-formal sessions and the arts project, where they created posters on diversity that were pasted up on a free wall in Cowley, Oxford. 2 young people also gained accreditation in 'Youth Ambition: Young Leaders' for their continuous support in planning, leading, and evaluating activities throughout the programme.