

Northway Holiday Activities 2018 – Case Study

Introduction

The Youth Ambition programme has £138,000 budget to provide holiday activities within Oxford's regeneration areas. The team grant fund voluntary and community groups to deliver activities. Where there are gaps, the Youth Ambition team will provide the activities themselves. The Northway area was identified as requiring youth provision to engage young in secondary school age range.

During the programme we want to offer young people a host of fun, challenging, creative and engaging non-formal learning and leisure activities. We will involve young people in the planning, leading, delivery and evaluation of activities. The theme for the holiday project will be promoting equality and diversity.

The outcomes we wanted to achieve were for young people attending the programme to recognise, respect and value peoples differences, and involved in planning, leading, delivering and evaluating activities is embedded in the activities.

The program covered four weeks of the summer holidays and in relation to the theme, young people took part in activities to celebrate people's differences including diversity workshops/movies on race, gender, disability and sex orientation. They also did cooking from different continents from around the world, art by creating posters to embrace differences, photography, trips (museums and Oxford walking tours) and sports from around the world.

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

50 young people attended over the 4 weeks programme and 32 are from our following priority groups:

- 20 young people from Black and Ethnic Priority Groups
- 10 Young Girls
- 2 Young people who are disabled

Young people were involved in the planning, preparation, delivery and evaluation in this project.

2 young leaders were recruited and they took part in a training session with staff before the programme so that they were fully aware of their roles and responsibilities. Some of their responsibilities include:

- Helping to set up for the session and activities, helping to pack away, taking part in briefing and debriefing, preparing equipment for activities they led, encouraging other young people to get involved in activities
- Led a minimum of two activities per week
- Supporting with delivery through their involvement
- Evaluating after each organised workshop and end of each day

The project has helped young people improve on the following skills, knowledge and capabilities:

- Develop planning and preparation skills.
- Reflect on what they have learned and achieved.
- Able to lead activities.
- Set themselves goals and will keep going when things get difficult.

- Are able to work collaboratively with their peers and others.
- Have appropriate communication in different situations.
- Promote and celebrate difference
- No discriminating other young people on any grounds

Young people were able to share their views throughout the programme by taking part in discussions after the diversity related activities mentioned earlier and to explore their thoughts on equality and diversity issues. The daily and end of programme wallpaper walk evaluation responses, feedbacks (informal & non-formal) and session logs below outlines that our desired outcome has been met:

- Boys and girls are equal and they should all be given same opportunities, 'girls can be super heroes too'
- Treating everyone equal, not just certain people
- Not to prejudge people or underestimate them because of their disability
- It doesn't matter who you are, you can be anything you want to be
- Using the wrong language can hurt people
- Watching the moving has made me think that everyone deserves a change to part in activities
- Promoting equality and diversity is important society
- Love trying out different foods and playing different sports from other cultures
- I will respect everyone regardless of how they identify as
- Having a different skin colour does not make you less intelligent

Young leader's evaluation and feedbacks from been involved in all aspects of the holiday programme:

1. Have you enjoyed being a young leader?
 - I loved being a young leader and didn't think it was going to be this good.
 - I've really had fun because I got to be around my friends and youth workers as well as learning new skills at the same time
2. What have you learnt?
 - I've learnt how to organised activities (planning, preparation, delivery and evaluation) and how to do a risk assessment.
 - I can act as a role model for my friends and other young people
 - I've learnt how to challenge discriminative behaviour
3. What is one thing you could do to improve?
 - I need to keep on improving on my communication and time keeping skills
 - Remembering to stay focus when you are part of a staff team delivering a program
4. Will you continue being a young leader?
 - Yes would love to do it again because this has really boosted my confidence and speaking in front of people
 - Yes it was fun and didn't think I was capable of doing it because I'm a shy person most of the time and now able to lead icebreaker activities to people

Is anyone better off? Quantitative

Fourteen young people gained accreditation (11 of whom are from our priority groups i.e. BAME, young girls and disability etc.) in 'understanding diversity' and two in 'Youth Ambition young leaders'.

At end of the programme young people led and took part in a celebration event were there was a member of senior management and parents in attendance. They displayed their work (art & photography), prepared speeches explain what activities they done and enjoyed by reading them out in front of everyone.