

Hessle Road Network

Activities

October—December 2012

Networks Got Talent

Young people had requested that we hold some sort of talent contest so, alongside youth workers, they set about organising a show in a similar vein to the 'X Factor' or 'Britain's Got Talent'. The young people who wanted to perform put in many hours of practice, both during their regular youth sessions and spare time. Youth workers took on the role of 'mentors' and, at times, seemed more competitive than the young people.

On the night of the show, the Youth Room was transformed into stage and audience areas, complete with curtain, speakers, balloons and a spotlight. As this was a large event involving lots of young people we hired a professional DJ to make the event even more special.

There were eight performances including singing, gymnastics, dancing, magic and drumming.

Each act was judged by our panel of 'experts' who, of course, provided encouragement and positivity to the young people brave enough to perform in front of a large audience including parents and residents of Hamshaw Court (a local care home).

The contest was won by a group of boys who did a spectacular dance routine set to Michael Jackson's 'Annie are you OK?'. All of the young people put on a great show and one parent commented how much more confident her daughter had become since starting to attend Hessle Road Network.

Well done to everyone involved, especially the young people who took part.



Christmas Meal

Young people from our Alternative Learning Programme asked if they could take part in more projects involving the local community and an opportunity came along for them to visit residents of Hamshaw Court. Over the weeks the young people developed an understanding of and empathy with the residents whom they came to know very well. The young people wanted to invite the residents they had met to a Christmas Meal at Hessle Road Network, for which they planned the menu, made decorations and helped prepare the food.

This was a very successful and enjoyable experience for all concerned as these two very different generational groups had clearly formed a real bond and managed to build great relationships. There is no doubt that the young people will continue to visit the residents and it has also given them the confidence to get involved in more projects within their local community.



Agenda Day

Agenda Days are an opportunity for young people to provide feedback on various issues that are important to them. This Agenda Day focussed on the local area and we aimed to discuss young people's issues in general and their place in their community. Hessle Road Network believe that young people trying to understand themselves in the wider context of their community is essential to their development and future achievement.

We facilitated discussions and were able to gather feedback through various fun, interactive and engaging workshops. In addition to the local area focus there were activities designed to gather young people's thoughts and opinions on youth sessions, activities and youth workers. Again this ranged from interactive group work through to individual anonymous completion of youth worker evaluations.

We utilised the whole of Network Young People's Centre by having workshops take place in different parts of the building as per youth worker instructions. There were four workshops, each focussing on different subject matter.

We were pleased with the event as a total of 34 young people attended and we gathered a significant amount of information. Young people seemed to really enjoy being asked their opinions, perhaps due to making them feel valued and respected. One young person said the activity was the best thing he had done at Network Young People's Centre which surprised us as young people can often find these sorts of activities less exciting.



GIRL'S GROUP

This quarter the girl's group has taken part in a wide range of activities. We have iced Christmas biscuits, gift wrapped them and made cards for the girls to give to their families and friends. We have completed challenges such as the box challenge, in which the girls worked in teams to solve a series of puzzles in order to discover the combination of a padlocked box containing a mystery prize. We have had film nights, made friendship bracelets, gone on treasure hunts and played pool, Just Dance, Bingo, Dodgeball and the box game.



Christmas Quiz

After the success of last year's event, we decided to hold another fundraising Christmas Quiz, and 40 tickets were sold during November and December.

We had a licensed bar at this adults only event, and we also sold hot dogs and had a tombola to help raise funds for the project.

Everyone was in the Christmas spirit and we raised the fantastic total of £350.

It was a nice end to the year and staff worked together to put on an excellent and enjoyable event.

In addition to those shown in his newsletter the following activities/events took place this quarter: Wymerlsey Park Halloween Event/Floodlight Switch On, Hessle Road Network's Official Opening (performed by Archbishop John Sentamu and Young People's Christmas Parties).

If you would like more information on any of our trips and activities please contact:



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