

vinvolvedderby city

A brief report covering the period April 08 to September 09

The youth volunteering team, vinvolved Derby City, based at Community Action, exists to inspire young people aged 16-25 to volunteer around Derby. The team supports young people to access local volunteering opportunities and also helps young people to gain national recognition for their volunteering under the national vInspired awards. The team also works closely with volunteer-involving organisations to help with best practice advice and to explore ways to involve and support volunteers in their work

The team is funded by the national charity v and it is currently funded up until March 2011. This report highlights the key pieces of work done by the team from the start up to the 18 month stage (September 09). The full mid-term report is available to view on the Community Action website (see link at the end of this report).

Brokerage (placing volunteers)

The team has many challenging targets to meet during its lifetime. A key target for the team is to broker young people into volunteering – see table below. The team has met their brokerage targets for year 1 and is currently on target to meet brokerage targets for year 2.

| Year | Existing vols target | Existing vols actual | New vols target | New vols actual |
|------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 60 | 61 | 250 | 292 |
| 2 | 120 | | 350 | |
| 3 | 120 | | 400 | |

Total number of volunteers brokered by the team over the three years **1300**

Recognition for young people

For the period April 08 to September 09 the team has processed, validated and awarded the following national vInspired awards for young people in recognition of their volunteering.

| | |
|------------|-----|
| vthank you | 250 |
| vfifty | 67 |
| vimpact | 1 |

Volunteers can apply for their v50 and vimpact awards online via the www.vinspired.com website or they can be completed in a hard copy format with the support of the vinvolved Derby City team. These excellent awards add value to a young person's volunteering. They are very much achievable,

provide qualitative outcomes, and are recognised by national agencies such as UCAS.

Support for organisations

Since April 2008 the team has designed and delivered several volunteer management training and network sessions in the form of the Volunteer Co-ordinator Forum (VCF). The bi-monthly session topics have included:

- How to engage young volunteers
- Tools for creating innovative volunteering opportunities
- Volunteering and the Compact

The team often supports volunteer involving groups on a range of volunteer management topics, usually on a one-to-one basis. Between April and September 2008 the team had supported 129 individual volunteer-involving organisations on a range of matters including:

- Planning – helping an organisation to draw up a volunteer policy
- Recruitment – helping organisations to plan for recruitment
- Supporting volunteers – helping organisations to develop tools, policies and procedures for supporting volunteers

Strategic engagement

Strategic engagement is key in enabling involved Derby City to reach its targets and in providing positive outcomes for young people through volunteering. The team currently sits on and influences the following strategic groups in the city:

- Make a Positive Contribution outcome group as part of the Governments Every Child Matters initiative
- Children and Young People's Participation Network – a forum for staff who are working directly with children and young people in participatory activities
- Voices in Action - representative group of young people from Derby City aged 11 to 19 who give their views to influence decision makers to improve services for children and young people in Derby
- Children and Young Peoples Network (CYPN) – key group in Derby representing the Voluntary sector for Children and Young People's Services.

Involvement in these strategic groups has enabled the team to develop a number of creative partnerships. The team works closely with public and voluntary sector groups and services operating in the city to ensure that youth volunteering remains high on the agenda. Partnership agreements have been established with many young people's service providers in the city with an aim to provide positive outcomes for young people through their volunteering.

Youth Action Team (YAT)

The Youth Action Team (YAT) is an integral part of the involved Derby city team. YAT members are young volunteers themselves and they champion

youth volunteering at every opportunity. YAT members come from all walks of life and each one brings something positive to the group. Their work since April 2008 includes:

- Attending a launch residential in March 2008 to help shape the whole project.
- Designing and delivering youth volunteering presentations to young people out in the community
- Applying for external funding to run their own youth led projects – such as the Youth Volunteering in Derby film resource for youth workers and tutors (due to be launched in October 2009)
- Designing promotional materials to encourage more young people to volunteer
- Designing surveys and gathering information from young people and organisations about their youth volunteering programmes and experiences
- Helping local volunteering involving organisations to develop new volunteering roles

Next steps

The team has worked hard over the past eighteen months in attempting to establish itself in the city. It is important that the team maintains the excellent partnerships formed in addition to developing new working relationships with similar service providers, with the aim of continually raising the profile of youth volunteering in Derby. The team has also recently taken on the role as v regional lead for the East Midlands region.

The initial v funding for the vinvolved team covers the period April 08 to March 2011. The current pressures on public sector spending do make things appear uncertain for the future of the existing programme beyond 2011. A final impact assessment will be undertaken in September 2010 with a report published in January 2011.

Main priorities for the team October 2009 to March 2011.

- Ensure programme targets are met
- Continue to promote and validate the national v awards
- Continue with existing partnerships and develop new strategic and operational partnerships with relevant service providers
- Focus on sustainable funding
- Support the v regional network

“We are building robust links from our staff and the vinvolved team. So far this is proving a positive exchange that is ultimately helping young people. We have increased our referrals to vinvolved considerably since April 2008. We now have visual displays in our centre including the regular promotion of specific volunteering opportunities. The exchange of information between us has helped our service gain a greater understanding of youth volunteering and subsequent issues around this.”

Jonie Centro, Team Leader, Centre Delivery, Connexions Derbyshire Ltd

“The working relationship which we have formed with vinvolved has to date proved to assist us in our aims. We are continually kept updated with local and national volunteering news, which includes useful guidance and funding opportunities. In addition, our project regularly attends the local Volunteer Co-ordinator Forum (VCF) meetings organised by the vinvolved team. The innovative speed volunteering event in April this year ably demonstrates the passion the vinvolved team has in working within a local community.

The test of any organisation is how it fulfils its basic role. vinvolved constantly achieves high standards in the way it promotes our volunteer opportunities for us to its young clients and this is reflected in the high numbers which show interest in our programme.”

Lee Parry, Senior Volunteer Officer, Sport and Leisure, Derby City Council

The full version of this report, including surveys and feedback from organisations and volunteers is available to view on the Community Action website:

www.communityactionderby.org.uk/volunteering/vinvolved-derby-city/v-news-and-events

For more information contact the team:

Simon Hancox
Youth Volunteer Development Manager
01332 227718
Simon.hancox@communityactionderby.org.uk

Thom Kellogg
Youth Volunteer Adviser
01332 227736
Thom.kellogg@communityactionderby.org.uk

vinvolved Derby city
Community Action Derby
4 Charnwood Street
Derby
DE1 2GT