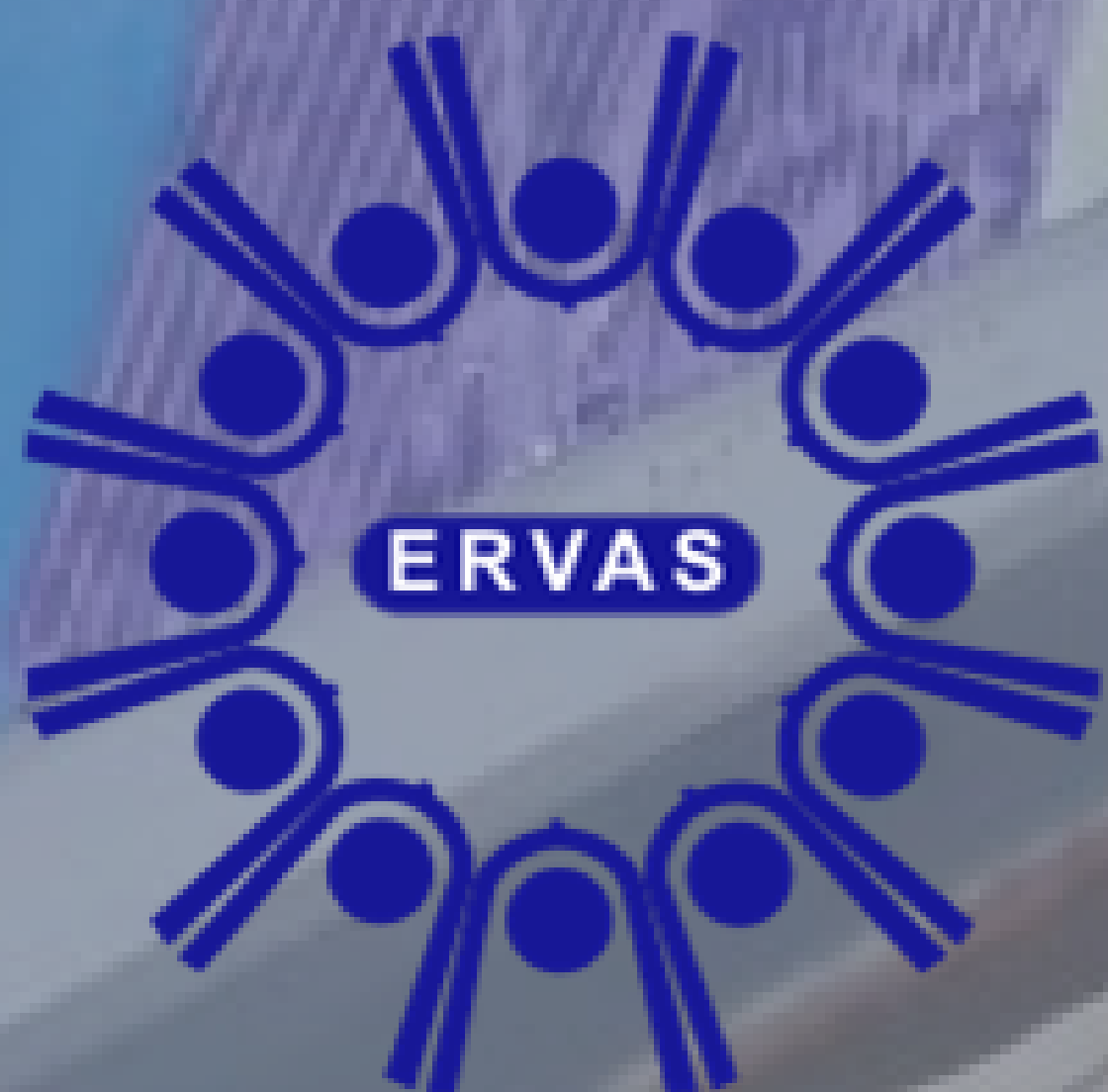


Volunteer Plus Evaluation Report

18 September 2017
to
30 November 2020



VOLUNTEEN PLUS EVALUATION REPORT

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WORDS FROM OUR

Chief Executive Officer



East Riding Voluntary Action Services (ERVAS) Ltd

Volunteer Project Evaluation

| **Sian Broughton**

ACMA, CGMA, DChA, MAAT, ASET

As an infrastructure organisation providing support to communities and in particular the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector, we have really valued working and developing young people. Our youth projects and the Volunteer programme have had a particular focus on supporting young people to take part and get involved in good quality volunteering placements and social action activities within their own communities.

Young people have been engaged to have an active involvement in a wide range of activities which has included community arts projects, training, engaged with local services through our WisER programme, as well as volunteering in their local communities to make a difference. This has had many positive effects for both the individuals and the communities in which they live.

We all have a duty to ensure not only that we listen, but that we actively work with young people to develop and improve local services and communities. We have been encouraged and thrilled to see such commitment and passion by both the young people and the many partners and agencies that we work with across the East Riding, that have enabled us to make this happen over the last 3 years.

There is however, still much more to do, from making links at a national level to enable young people to influence policy, to tackling issues young people have identified on a local level. By working with young people we can ensure that society can meet the needs of all and that young people thrive and become active citizens within their communities.

We are committed to continue working with young people and will face challenges together.

OUR PROJECT

Staff Team



Detty Tyler

*Children and Young
People's Services
Coordinator*



Devan Witter BEM

*Volunteer® Plus
Support Officer*



Gemma Wallace

*Volunteer® Plus
Support Officer*



Lisa Harris

Sessional Worker



Dave Brown

Sessional Worker



Andy Broughton

Sessional Worker

The project has been supported by a number of staff members of the 3 years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, three additional staff members were appointed on a sessional basis to support the delivery of an adapted project.

During the time of the project, Devan Witter moved roles from the Volunteer Plus Assistant Support Officer to become the Volunteer Plus Support Officer when Gemma Wallace left the team in September 2019.

PROJECT

Introduction

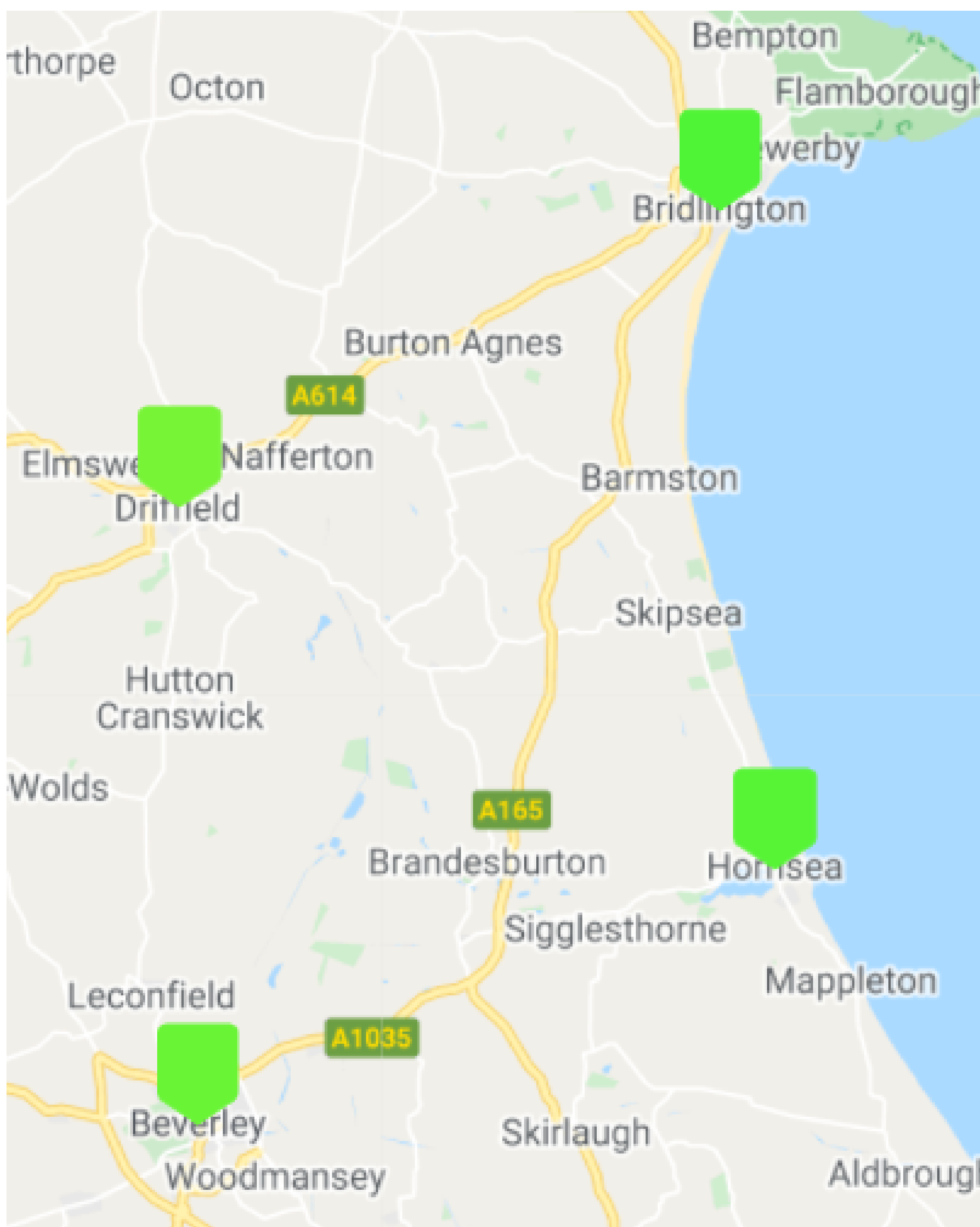
What the project set out to do Who the project worked with What Volunteen Plus wanted to achieve

The Volunteen Plus project set out to engage and work with vulnerable young people such as those:

- being in/or leaving the care system
- having mental ill-health
- having special educational needs and/or disabilities
- engaging in anti-social behaviour/offending
- being excluded from school
- being at risk of/already homeless
- living in poverty

Volunteen Plus worked with young people aged between 13 - 18 who live in the north area of East Riding of Yorkshire (including Beverley, Bridlington, Driffield and Hornsea), supporting them to volunteer within their local community.

The project aimed to enhance their potential for a successful transition to adulthood and increase their chances of furthering their education and gaining future employment.



Methodology

In determining the methodology for this work, the evaluator discussed with the project staff to ascertain what they thought would be the best way to evaluate the project in terms of beneficiaries' responses. Due to the size of the geographical area and restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was recommended that a range of virtual methods would be the most effective.

To successfully evaluate the project, the following quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods were used:

- Surveys with project staff, beneficiaries, parents and professionals
- Case studies
- Monitoring reports
- Previous feedback forms
- Conversations with staff and young people

"Volunteen Plus has helped students to develop vital employability skills, develop their confidence, become more organised, more responsible and more aware of their own community. Many have continued to volunteer locally and therefore it has had a wider impact."

Ruth Mortimer - Driffield School and Sixth Form



Who's been involved?

3163

Young People

116

Parent / Carers

510

Professionals

50+

Organisations

ERVAS has worked closely with a number of organisations and services across the sectors, including:

- The Hinge
- Bridlington Clubs for Young People
- RNLI
- Cherry Tree Community Centre
- Leco Kidz
- Refugee Council
- National Citizen Service
- Girl Guides East Yorkshire
- East Riding College
- Education & Skills Partnership
- Headlands School
- Bridlington School
- Driffield School
- Longcroft School
- Beverley Grammar
- Beverley High
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Youth Offending Service
- Youth and Family Support Service
- Cardigan Road Children's Residential Home
- The Hang Out
- Pathways Team
- Looked After Children's Services
- Humberside Police
- Humberside Fire
- Bridlington and Beverley Town Council's
- Army Welfare Service
- **And Many Many More!**

Outcomes and Indicators Review

**Outcome 1:**

Vulnerable young people will have increased self-esteem, confidence and social skills to improve their future prospects and help enter education/employment

**Outcome 2:**

Vulnerable young people will have increased practical skills and related knowledge to improve their future prospects and help enter education/employment

**Outcome 3:**

Vulnerable young people will gain a range of relevant qualifications/accreditations to improve their future prospects and help them enter education/employment

**Outcome 4:**

Professionals will have increased knowledge and understanding of how volunteering/social action improves vulnerable young people's future lives and education/employability prospects



"I think this project has made a huge impact to young people. For me and my role personally, the project has allowed the NHS to communicate and engage with young people in a way it has never done before. I think it has been invaluable at building new relationships and empowering young people to have a voice in the development of their local health services."

Samantha Page

NHS East Riding of Yorkshire CCG

Outcomes and Indicators

Review



Outcome 1:

Vulnerable young people will have increased self-esteem, confidence and social skills to improve their future prospects and help enter education/employment

Over the space of this project, many young people have developed their character and their confidence has grown. For some young people, they would not naturally engage in large group activities or speak to members of the public that they did not know. However, from being involved in some of the projects, young people have been supported to expand their comfort zone, speak more openly in group sessions, and speak up to have their say when its needed, such as delivering a presentation to professionals or peers.

This project has engaged with a number of organisations where young people are involved. As part of this project 3163 young people have been supported across:

- 7 secondary schools
- 6 council youth services/departments
- 5 voluntary sector youth clubs
- 4 geographical areas
- 3 college sites



"Volunteer Plus has allowed our most vulnerable students to work with other professionals outside of the school and gain further insight into their own behaviours and attitudes towards others and how they view themselves"

Sarah Bone
Headlands School



Case Study - As part of the work with Headlands School, Volunteen Plus worked with The Hub (an alternative provision within the school). Students in this setting felt that they did not have a voice when in the Hub and they told the project staff they felt forgotten about within the wider school community. The project staff worked with the senior leadership team within the school to address this issue and develop a platform for the students to be heard and included. They were able to communicate messages between the students and the school in a different way and highlight the opportunities for everyone involved. This led to a meeting with school staff and students to address these challenges and provided the young people with the confidence and ability to raise their concerns in future. This support created policy changes in the school and the young people reported being happier and more engaged in the future.

“My experience with Volunteen is that I got to see Beverley in a different way to others and I got to help loads of different people in the community. Volunteen has helped me...because in the past I was a quiet girl that sat in the back of the classroom and now I am a bubbly girl who talks about anything and not hold back. Volunteen has shaped my future because it has helped me realise that I want to go to college and study health and social care and be a social worker.”

Young Volunteer aged 16

One young person who had low self-esteem, has now got a part-time job and has joined the Humberside Police Cadets, they told us: "Volunteering has given me confidence to do things I never could have done before. I love helping others it makes me feel good"

Young Person aged 16

"This has been great for my son he doesn't do anything usually out of school and he has been worrying about final exams. This has been a great distraction for him and he has loved it. It has been a really difficult time for us all at home; this has been a welcome distraction and has helped to keep things normal. It was brilliant. Thank You." - **Feedback from a parent after taking part in the Humber Street Christmas market event.**

Outcomes and Indicators Review



Outcome 2:

Vulnerable young people will have increased practical skills and related knowledge to improve their future prospects and help enter education/employment

As part of the Volunteer Plus project over the last 3 years young people have been involved in a number of activities including:

- Graffiti Arts Projects
- WisER & SkillUP! sessions delivered in schools
- Music and Video Productions
- Food Festivals & Leaflet Drops
- Community Clean-up's / Beach Cleans
- Community Events / Festivals
- Humberside Police Lifestyle & Night Challenge
- Virtual Support via drop-in's and online activities
- Community Consultations & 1:1 support

These events have contributed to the personal skills development of young people involved in many ways, including the completion of WisER & SkillUP!



"I have witnessed a wide range of environments in which young people have been fully engaged as a direct result of this project, which has led to lots of interesting conversations and improved my opportunities for direct engagement on behalf of the OPCC. The increase in personal growth and confidence in some of these young people enabled by this project is actually visible."

Debbie Fagan
OPCC - Humberside



Case Study - Working with The Refugee Council, Volunteer Plus had 3 Syrian young people that regularly attended the Cherry Tree Youth Club, it created a space where they could feel safe and meet up with other young people their age. At the time of working with these young people, they had been in the UK for 7 months, 2 of the young people were attending East Riding College to learn English one day a week and their younger sibling was attending a local secondary school full time. Over the space of their time with the project it was noticed that their English had improved and they had also developed great relationships with the staff and young people at the youth club. The project supported one of the young people to gain a volunteering role at Oxfam, another was supported to attend a local boxing club and they all became Young Ambassadors for the project. As part of this role they were able to meet with more young people their age and contribute to developing the project. They were issued with volunteering recognition awards for all the hours they had put in to the various projects, and this will help them in the future.

As part of the project, the Beverley Cherry Tree centre were supported to set up and establish a youth club for young people in the area. These young people continued to attend the youth club and became involved in a number of other activities on offer.

As part of the project students attending East Riding College on commissioned placements were also engaged, at both the Beverley and Bridlington sites. These individuals took part in the WisER and SkillUP! programmes to gain as many skills as possible whilst working on a social action project. These projects included a rap project about substance misuse and anti-social behaviour, a poster project to promote the WisER project as well as a website project to cover some of the issues we had discussed.

Outcomes and Indicators Review



Outcome 3:

Vulnerable young people will gain a range of relevant qualifications/accreditations to improve their future prospects and help them enter education/employment

A large part of the delivery for the Volunteer Plus project included that of the WisER and SkillUP! programmes.

WisER - This is a 6-12 week programme focused on respect, the role of the police, substance abuse awareness, first aid and mental health, healthy relationships and online safety, bullying and cyber bullying as well as aspirations. The programme was tailored to cover the needs of the young people, and further sessions also covered child exploitation, knife crime and offending behaviour.

SkillUP! - This is a 3-6 week programme which provides the additional sessions covering teamwork, time management as well as delivering a social action project. 52 young people over the space of 6 courses took part within the SkillUP!™ programme.



"I enjoyed making up our own projects, as it helped us come together to use all of the sessions so that we could make our ideas happen. Building the spaghetti tower in session 1 helped to build teamwork skills."

Young Person from the SkillUP! project



Case Study - The pilot project of the SkillUP!™ programme combined with the delivery of the WisER programme was tested as part of this project to see how it could be delivered in different settings. As part of the Volunteer Plus project young people at a youth club in Leconfield run by the Army Welfare Service took part in the programme. Over the course of this particular programme, the project engaged with 12 young people.

The young people decided that they wanted to carry out a social action project that would really benefit new young people that have moved onto the camp and welcome them into the youth club. The young people did this by painting a wall in the centre, which tells the stories of the various activities the young people were involved in during their time attending the youth club.

This same group also continued to take part in the WisER programme and chose to focus on raising awareness of bullying and its effects it has on young people. The young people did this by developing a number of scenarios that they acted out in front of the rest of the youth club. All of the young people taking part in this activity were encouraged to share how this issue has affected them in some way. This prompted some discussions about how the young people could become involved in further volunteering and social action projects relating to this and mental health too.



Outcomes and Indicators Review



Outcome 4:

Professionals will have increased knowledge and understanding of how volunteering/social action improves vulnerable young people's future lives and education/employability prospects

To support this outcome, the project team developed a range of materials and training sessions to support professionals within their roles. They identified and trained 36 professionals as Volunteering Champions and Mentors in the ability to support and signpost young people into finding, or undertaking a volunteering placement.

In addition to this, a youth worker training programme was developed and delivered. This was to support and encourage youth workers in delivering community based social action projects.

Over the last 3 years, 2 youth conferences were held, which provided opportunities for youth workers and wider professionals to find out more about the various schemes available within our local area. 362 professionals have engaged with these events.



Youth Work Training Feedback

"The training involved other professionals to provide other session ideas as well as having their own session activities. I liked that most tutor led session ideas were practical and required limited resources."

"Maybe create a hand book or a web page with some of the session ideas on it and continually add to it or create a newsletter with it on it."



In order to meet this outcome, the Volunteering Plus project has been promoted regularly at local partnership meetings, including East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership, Youth Board, Vulnerable Children and Young People's group, Post 16 Virtual School group. Membership of these boards/groups includes senior directors and managers from all sectors and services that work with young people.

In addition to the project being represented at local partnership meetings, the project has also had a presence at the youth coalition meetings and a number of other networking events to raise awareness of the project, and encourage more organisations to support the development of volunteering and social action opportunities.



The project was promoted at two East Riding wide Youth Conference's. These were attended by professionals from a wide range of services, which enabled discussions to develop partnerships and opportunities for young people, as well as building links to further referral pathways for young people.

Unexpected Outcomes

Over the last the 3 years the Volunteen Plus project has observed a number of unexpected outcomes, which are outlined below.

During the delivery of the project, the staff team needed to diversify the delivery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this resulted in the need for a virtual youth hub as well as virtual activities for young people too. During this period, it was identified that a number of groups would benefit from virtual skills sharing workshops, i.e. parents/youth workers. In addition the need for detached and youth outreach work took place due to COVID-19.

Young people have highlighted that there are not many opportunities for them to have a say in the development of services and that they are not represented nationally as part of the youth parliament. Young people have shown us the need for more youth voice work in the future.

On 14 May 2019, ERVAS experienced another proud moment, and were delighted to receive the East Riding Chairman's Award for Community in regard to the Volunteen Project. This prestigious annual event was held at the Bridlington Spa and attended by over 200 guests from a wide range of services and organisations, including local dignitaries, senior managers and key decision makers, all of which provided an excellent platform to highlight the fantastic work being undertaken by Volunteen Plus with young volunteers across the area.



COMMUNITY - GROUP



Chairman's Community Award 2019



Unexpected Outcomes (cont'd)

The Beverley Cherry Tree Centre is a local community charity that offers a variety of services to a cross section of the community in Beverley, however there was little provision specifically aimed at young people. The Cherry Tree Centre Manager was aware of this and approached Volunteen Plus for support to set up a youth provision at their centre, offering their building as a base in an evening. Therefore Volunteen Plus officer's developed a plan to initially set up youth focused evenings where they could engage with local young people to gather ideas on what kind of provision they would like in the area, as well as providing staff support and helping to recruit additional youth worker volunteers and secure funding for a permanent youth worker, who would eventually lead the youth club and be employed by The Cherry Tree Centre.

Volunteen Plus and Volunteen Social Action Officers still support the Cherry Tree Youth Club by initiating social action projects with the young people, and being available to arrange volunteering opportunities as part of the ongoing youth offer.



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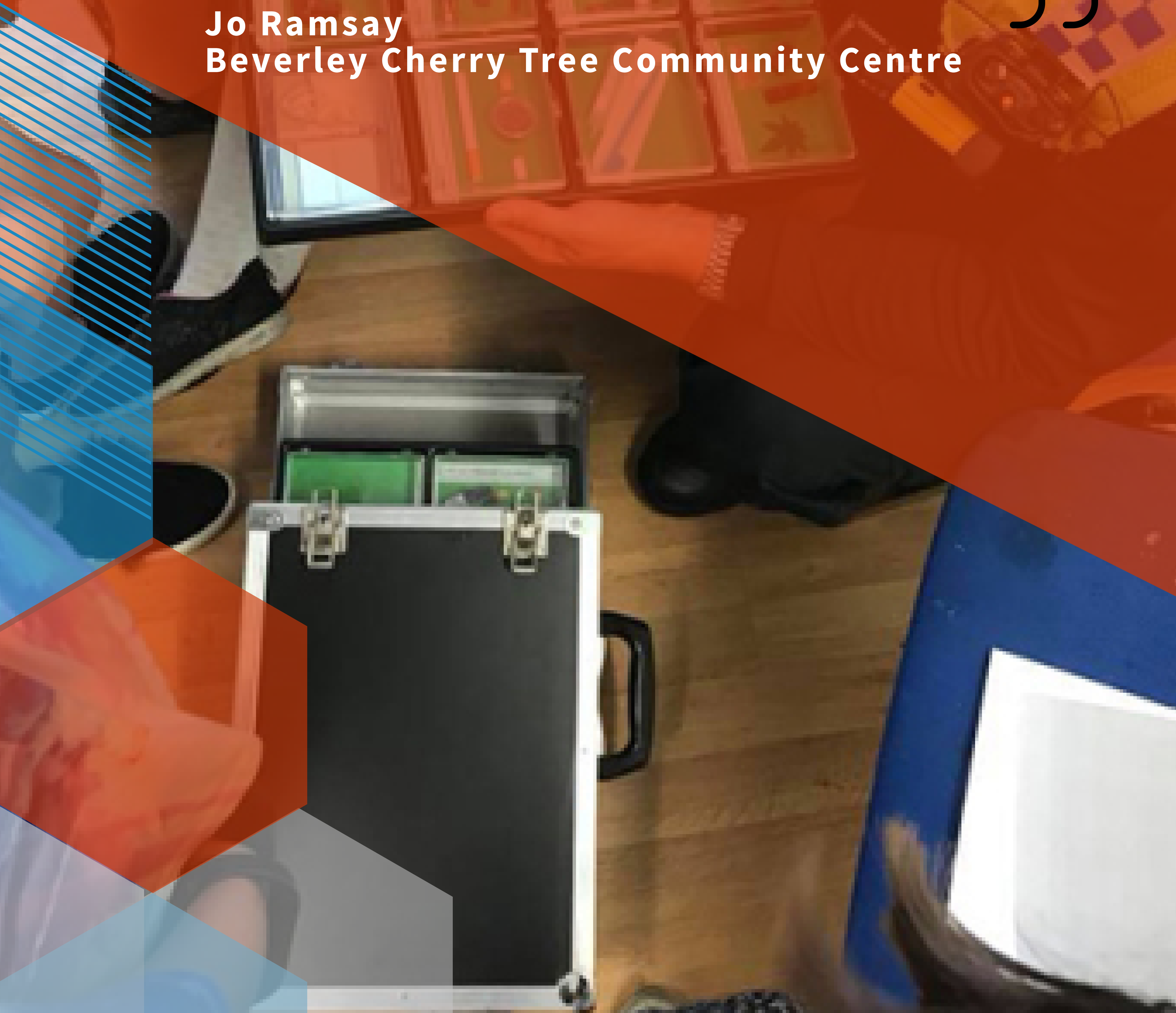
We are extremely grateful for the support of ERVAS in supporting the Cherry Tree Centre Youth Club. The sessions you provided, especially the WISER project was extremely popular with the children that attended the youth club, especially the night when the local police came and allowed the young people to sit in the police car!! Also we heard that one of the children that had attended our youth club had gone to school with a knife you focused on educating the young people about knife crime, this was once again very successful and was extremely informative to the youth club children.

Many of the older children volunteered by supporting the staff run the youth club. One girl in particular had a difficult home life but she gave up her time to help support the younger children and helped with the tuck shop, it was great to offer her the volunteer certificate and trophy, this really empowered the young girl. The certificates, pens and trophies have been a fantastic incentive to give the young people an incentive to give back to the group.

This project was an asset to our youth club. Once again thank you.

Jo Ramsay
Beverley Cherry Tree Community Centre

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66 Volunteen has supported us in developing our Strategic Priorities and has been invaluable at understanding young peoples thoughts and priorities when it comes to local health service provision.

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Samantha Page
NHS East Riding of Yorkshire CCG

Challenges



Over the space of the project the following challenges were apparent in regard to the delivery of the project:

- Lack of communication across staff working with young people in external agencies
- External staff not supporting the Volunteen Plus team to deliver sessions in organisations i.e. schools & youth clubs
- Young people not engaging in the project when referred from external services
- Young people not maintaining their interest in volunteering/social action
- Young people displaying challenging behaviour when they're in groups
- Lack of available volunteering/social action opportunities when young people wanted

In order to overcome and address these challenges the following was carried out:

- Encouraged attendance at local youth coalition meetings to facilitate better communication between youth services and external agencies
- Provided more youth related information within the ERVAS bulletin that is distributed to managers and practitioners within external agencies
- Attended team meetings for council services to highlight the level of support the project can provide to operational staff
- Requested that schools and youth clubs ensure appropriate staffing was in place to compliment our work
- Encouraging referring agencies to take the lead role in supporting young people with their opportunities, and providing them with training and support on how to support volunteering and social action as mentors and champions
- Promoting and delivering a variety of volunteering and social action opportunities that were based on feedback from young people
- Encouraging voluntary and community sector organisations to involve young people in a wider range of possible volunteering opportunities

Challenges



As part of the evaluation we asked the project staff about the challenges they faced.

They told us:

I feel the biggest challenge faced by the project was that of COVID-19, over the last 3 years, the project had grown from strength to strength, and was able to support many young people. The last few months of the project however were the most challenging, as we were working in the unknown. I feel however that we were quickly able to come up with solutions to the many challenges that COVID provided, and we have since developed new ways of working that I feel will be of benefit to future projects in the long term.

Although our drop in sessions worked well for some young people, others didn't like this way of communicating or didn't have access to a computer and/or the internet. Other distractions included poor internet signals and people getting cut off. Using Zoom or Teams can also be challenging when everyone is trying to talk at the same time. When you are face to face you can usually pick up on these signals and allow for others to speak. This was not always the case when doing online drop-ins. It was also a harder to communicate with young people via our usual networks as schools and youth clubs were closed, therefore messages regarding what we had on offer may not have been received. I found the 1:1 work was sometimes more difficult to do via the phone as it is less personal.

Covid-19 was one long challenge, trying to engage with young people online instead of the traditional outreach work was difficult, at times we had technical issues to overcome, we had some successes, the popularity of the online music festival included.

I feel the only real challenge has been unable to do certain projects and activities with groups of young people due to Covid restrictions.





Recommendations

This project has provided some valuable outcomes and also highlighted some areas that could be improved to further support children and young people in our area.

The following recommendations have been made for further exploration and to continue building upon the successes of this project:

- Developing youth voice opportunities and activities further within East Riding to ensure that young people can be involved and engaged in developing services, providing feedback and evaluating/improving services for others.
- Developing a coordination mechanism for all youth voice within the area, to ensure that all partners are able to engage with young people and are representative of young people within the East Riding.
- Ensure that partners are able to embrace and understand the support youth voice work within their services and organisations.
- Developing and working with partners to providing more training for youth sector / education professionals about youth voice and the importance of social action.
- Training of more Volunteer Champions and Mentors to ensure that organisations have at least one individual that understands the work of the project.
- Ensure enough information is provided to professionals about youth social action and volunteering to support with further project sustainability.
- Engage and support young people to have their say or find a volunteering / social action opportunity.



Feedback From Staff



As part of this evaluation, we asked the project staff 3 questions, what worked well, what didn't work so well and what could be done differently in the future. The majority of staff involved were providing additional support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic:

What worked well?

I feel that engagement with young people over the last 3 years of this project has been key, working with the young people to shape and develop the various projects and other services and activities has been something, which has provided a real benefit to all involved.

The team pulled together to source ways of working with young people when Covid-19 hit the UK. The main success was the virtual drop in sessions. It was great to be able to keep young people connected through challenging times.

Trying different things to engage with young people was good, the willingness of all colleagues to try different things was impressive.

The growth of Youth Voice and Influence, and the environmental social action has led to further successes with funding and partnerships across the whole of East Riding, enabling many more young people to participate in volunteering and social action.

I felt that the drop-ins via zoom during lockdown worked really well and the virtual youth festival, this really helped with young people's mental health and well-being.

What didn't work so well?

Overall I feel the project was a great success, however COVID-19 had a slight impact on the delivery of this project whilst also providing us with vital learning, which has given us the tools needed to change the projects ways of working in the future. I feel at times some of the other project staff were not as fully experienced in delivering some activities during the first stages of the pandemic, however as the guidance has changed I feel this improved towards the end of the project providing some great outcomes for the young people.

The youth forum didn't appear to work as well as we had hoped.

I don't feel that the online drop-ins worked very well, they were a good idea in principal but the young people didn't engage as much as we thought. I feel that the drop-ins became an extension of lollipop held on a Monday evening.

It is sometimes challenging to engage all services and organisations with Volunteen due to their work commitments and existing caseloads, therefore we could not work with all the partners we would have liked to.

I felt that most things worked well in these difficult times but not being able to do more face to face projects was definitely a struggle for the young people and staff.

What could be done differently in future?

I wouldn't change anything about this project, as we are unable to plan for the unknown, I feel we have gained vital learning throughout the project, and young people have supported with the development of activities, and really took the lead in shaping this for the future.

I think that in the future we could carry out a mixture of traditional outreach and online work, it might be good if we could do some online workshops as well as well as face to face contact.

Moving forward, Volunteen could deliver more training to Volunteen Mentors and Champions in order to inform more professionals across the sectors of the benefits that volunteering and social action brings to young people, including youth voice, and encourage more services, organisations and communities to get involved.

I feel if we had a more structured plan of each session this would help but I feel considering the circumstances and lack of time to plan we did fantastic.

Feedback from Partners

As part of the evaluation, we asked key partners to share their feedback using 4 questions:

What difference do you feel the project has made to your young people?

I think this project has made a huge impact to young people. For me and my role personally, the project has allowed the NHS to communicate and engage with young people in a way it has never done before. I think it has been invaluable at building new relationships and empowering young people to have a voice in the development of their local health services.

They have developed vital employability skills, developed their confidence, become more organised, more responsible and more aware of their own community. Many have continued to volunteer locally and therefore it has had a wider impact.

Gained valuable experience and new employability skills

Significantly improved their communication and team working skills and a sense of responsibility in the local community

I have witnessed a wide range of environments in which young people have been fully engaged as a direct result of this project which has led to lots of interesting conversations and improved my opportunities for direct engagement on behalf of the OPCC.

Is there anything you feel we could do to improve the project for the future?

Increased focus on health and opportunities for young people within the health and social care sector - this may inspire them to begin a career in health or social care filling much needed vacancies.

To run it for a longer time span and introduce more services to the students such as Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, and more diverse volunteering opportunities.

In what way has the Volunteen Plus project provided a benefit to your organisation?

It has supported us in developing our Strategic Priorities and has been invaluable at understanding young peoples thoughts and priorities when it comes to local health service provision.

It has opened our students, staff and parents/carers eyes to the value of volunteering and the positive impact on our local community. It has taught our students vital skills such as first aid, anti bullying, and excellent employability skills.

Giving young people an opportunity that they may not have been able to access through other means

It has allowed our most vulnerable students to work with other professionals outside of the school and gain further insight into their own behaviours and attitudes towards others and how they view themselves

This project has provided an open door for me to engage with young people in a natural, safe environment which I would have had to try and create myself. This has enabled Young People to have a voice in keeping safe and local policing. It also provides a link in a comprehensive chain of youth engagement networks across the East Riding.

Have you got any further comments or feedback you would like to share?

Just a HUGE thank you to Devan and everyone at ERVAS. I think the work you do is amazing and I hope the Volunteen continues as it truly is a valuable local resource.

The ERVAS team have been excellent and the impact has been v beneficial to our entire school community. Many thanks for all your hard work.

Thank you ERVAS for all the help and support you provide for our care leavers

Thank you to Devan and the team - you have been brilliant!

The increase in personal growth and confidence in some of these young people enabled by this project is actually visible.

Feedback from Partners (cont'd)

Feedback collected over the time of the project:

"Excellent project, from the Youth Offending Service perspective was really positive we could be involved in preparing the building for the Graffiti Art and a fantastic outcome with the graffiti it looks really good" - **Sarah Sherwood**
Restorative Justice Officer

"Brilliant. These lot never stop surprising me!!!" - **A Edwards AST Behaviour, Headlands HUB**

"I don't think you can underestimate how the project you have run with these boys has made to their behaviour in school and outside - what a turnaround! Great photos - lovely to see them just looking happy! Thanks so much again" - **Sarah Bone, Headteacher - Headlands School**

"Our young people have gained valuable experience and new employability skills, giving them an opportunity that they may not have been able to access through other means. Thank you ERVAS for all the help and support you provide for our care leavers " - **Mel Warren, East Riding of Yorkshire Council - Pathways Team**



Conclusion

The Volunteen Plus project set out to engage and work with vulnerable young people aged between 13 - 18 who live in the north area of East Riding of Yorkshire (including Beverley, Bridlington, Driffield and Hornsea), supporting them to volunteer within their local community.

The project has successfully increased the self-esteem, confidence and social skills of the young people, as well as increased their practical skills and knowledge and to gain qualifications. In addition to this, the project has also increased the knowledge and understanding of volunteering and social action for professionals, which enabled the delivery of better opportunities for young people.

Throughout the evaluation key stakeholders have explained how this project was a success from informing funders and commissioners at the East Riding Clinical Commissioning Group and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside to supporting teachers and school staff with the delivery of courses. Partners and beneficiaries have been involved in the co-design of the project, helping to shape and develop the project whilst ensuring it meets the outcomes it set out to achieve.

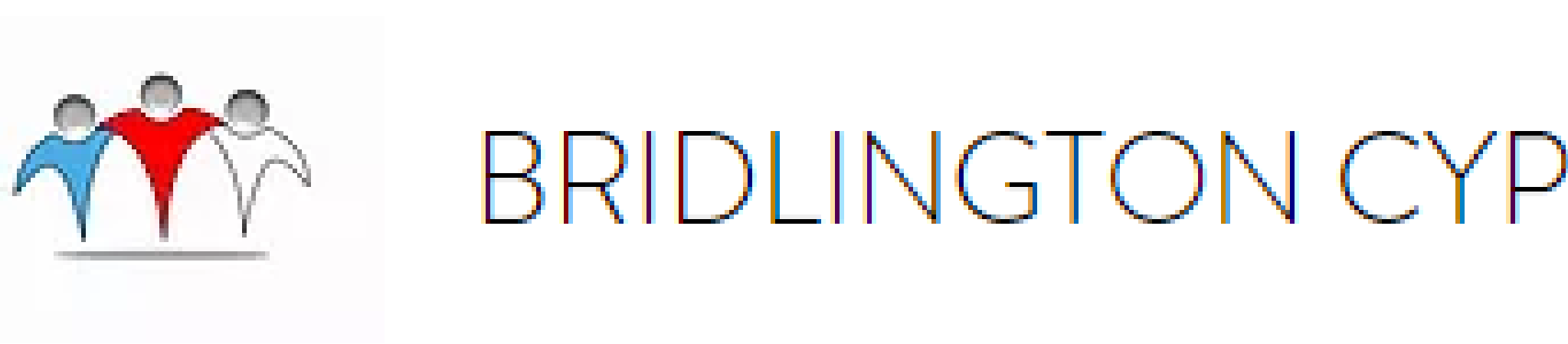
The project provided a number of unexpected outcomes, however the most unexpected result was the project being awarded the East Riding of Yorkshire council's chairman's award. This award provides the recognition of the projects achievements towards enhancing the East Riding area.

The work of the project has outlined a number of recommendations for the future, with a key focus on ensuring that youth voice is put at the heart of youth work within the East Riding.

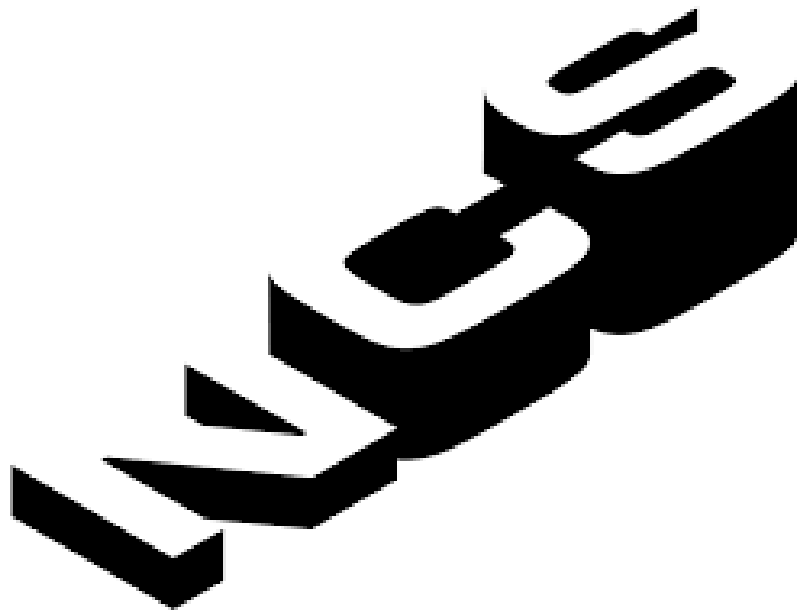
It was also refreshing to see how the project was able to adapt and still deliver in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and adhere to the government restrictions that were put in place. This has added value to the project and shown how diverse delivery can be when needed to still support young people in difficult times.

Overall, the aims have been successfully delivered over the lifetime of the project and supported a vast number of beneficiaries, partners and external agencies.

THANK YOU



Registered Charity No: 1163226



And everyone else for your support!

Volunteer

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Volunteer Plus

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