

East Riding Voluntary Action Services (ERVAS)



Volunteering for Young People

SKILLUP!

A VYPER Programme by ERVAS

Evaluation Report



Proudly supporting
youth social action



Project Summary



VYPER® SkillUP!™ is a project run by East Riding Voluntary Action Services (ERVAS) Ltd. It aimed to help young people aged 13 to 16 in the East Riding to increase their employability and life skills. It introduced them to new and enjoyable social activities, including volunteering and social action projects.

Over the space of this 12 month pilot project we engaged with **52** young people over the space of **6** courses of SkillUP!™.

All **52** young people have been awarded with certificates of recognition for their volunteering and social action work and completing the SkillUP!™ programme.

The Difference



To young people:

From the feedback collected over the period of the project, young people have told us that the SkillUP!™ programme has helped them, by allowing them to come closer together as teams and individuals, and to work better together so that they can help others in their local community or school. The young people told us that they learnt new team work skills, new time management skills and new ways to fundraise for their own projects.

To the community:

The project has had many indirect benefits to the community. For instance, at Headlands School the project supported a group of peer mentors with raising awareness of bullying within the school community. At the Leconfield youth club, the project aided a group of young people to raise awareness of what its like to attend a youth club run by the Army Welfare Service.

Participation



As part of the project we engaged with 52 young people, this was the first time we had worked with most of these individuals in this way. All 52 young people completed the programme successfully.

We specifically targeted some individuals that would not normally take part in any form of volunteering or social action. We did this by working with young people that were at the cusp of being excluded from school or were undertaking a commissioned placement at East Riding College. We worked with these young people in the same way we always do, however we made the activities more engaging and game based, in order to keep the young people motivated and willing to take part.

Participation within the project was measured through the completion of Log Books, worksheets and registers of attendance.

Learning



From the delivery of the pilot SkillUP!™ programme we have had the opportunity to test how the programme works in different settings, from youth clubs to schools and colleges, with a range of young people from different backgrounds, skillsets and abilities.

From this we learnt that the programme can be easily adapted to suit young people of all abilities, and can also be delivered in different formats to keep young people engaged.

After collecting feedback from the young people the only thing we would change is the length of the programme, as the young people have told us they would like more time for the social action project at the end of the course.

Challenges



At the start of the project, during the initial planning stages of the programme delivery, we came across the challenge of fitting in the time to deliver a course into a school timetable. There were various factors that made this difficult such as lessons planned well in advance, as well as schools not wanting to take individuals out of classes.

To overcome this we ran the sessions in schools during a lunch time. This was a benefit to the project as it encouraged those that wanted to truly take part to attend. We also worked with young people that did not follow a standard school timetable, which allowed more flexibility for the delivery of the course.

Due to being unable to work with all schools identified initially, we also ran a session within a military youth club setting, which was also beneficial to young people and helped us to see that the course can be easily adapted.

Continuation



We aim to continue the SkillUP!™ programme further. As with all our programmes we are looking to source additional funding to continue the delivery across East Yorkshire. If we are unable to source further funding this will be something that will be charged out to schools and other organisations in the future.

As part of the next phase of delivery, we would like to focus on other areas within East Riding and expand the programme into the Hull area, given the success of this pilot scheme.

Organisations Engaged

Over the space of this project we have engaged with 5 organisations to deliver the 6 courses of the SkillUP!™ programme to 52 young people.

We have delivered the programme in both educational and youth club settings to a wide range of young people from different backgrounds.

We would like to thank the following organisations for supporting us to deliver this within the area:

- Headlands School
- East Riding College -
Bridlington & Beverley
- Driffield School
- ARC (Aspire Resource
Centre) - Bridlington
- Army Welfare Service -
Leconfield

Case Study



As part of the pilot project with the SkillUP!™ programme we wanted to see how it could be delivered in different settings. With this in mind we delivered a course to a group of young people at a youth club in Leconfield that's run by the Army Welfare Service. Over the course of the programme we engaged with 12 young people that all took part in the course.

As part of this they 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. They did this by painting a wall in the centre that tells the stories of the various activities the young people have been involved in during their time attending the youth club.

Photos of Social Action at Leconfield Youth Club:-





The Youth Club:-

